



CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

*Dave Walker - CartoonChurch.com*

#### THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

**Wednesday** – Evening prayer – 6 pm

**Thursday** – Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008 Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

#### 10 am SUNG EUCHARIST

**Commissioning Service for Anne Cowley as Curate**

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo

Philippians 1.21-30 (p369), Matthew 20.1-16 (p369)

**Followed by Bring and Share lunch**



14 September 2008  
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to St Stephen & St Thomas Church  
Visit the church web site at [www.ststephensw12.org](http://www.ststephensw12.org).  
You can read all the latest news about the parish.  
You can also read the sermons which are posted each week

#### Today is Racial Justice Sunday

#### Processional Hymn

#### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### First Reading

Romans 14.1-12

(p. 361)

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

#### Gradual Hymn

## GOSPEL

Matthew 18.21-35

(p. 362)

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

*Amazing love, oh what sacrifice  
The Son of God, given for me  
My debt He paid, and my death He died  
That I might live, that I might live*

## INTERCESSIONS

### Please pray for

- The sick and suffering: especially Felix Okike, Lucilda Bernard, Joan Andrew, Elizabeth Dorsett, Ivy Smith, Susie Leach, Norbert Edwards, Brother Paul Anthony, Sylvia Steed, Caroline Nevill, Tracey Davies, Esmay Young, Roger Cox, Althea Ferns, Dorian Henry, Detroy Henry. Mary Rodney, Esme Hoyte, Esme Fairburn

### Offertory Hymn

### Communion Hymn

### Post Communion Prayer

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Recessional Hymn

*Coffee in Church after the service*



**Old Vestry** - The old vestry is being renovated over the summer to be used as a band practice space for hire and for a crèche for under 3s. We need religiously themed under 3 books, toys for the new crèche as well as helpers - please contact Nathalie on 07967967307

**Sunday School teachers- Core Skills Children's Work Training**, led by Sam Donoghue, Diocesan Children's Ministry Adviser at St Francis of Assisi Church, Great West Road, Isleworth 20th September and 18th October - 10am to 1.00pm (This is a two session training course)

**Twyford Church of England Secondary School** in Acton are having an open evening for parents and possible students, Thursday 25th September 5.30 – 8.30pm

**Kensington Area Conference 2008 "Mission Shaped Church committees"** - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am - 4.00pm. This day will be led by John Truscott, a professional church trainer, and held at St. Augustine, Queensgate. All parishes are being asked to invite their committee members to attend, although the day is open to everyone.

**Servers** – We need people to help serve on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested?

**St Paul's Cathedral** are running a series of public debates on science and religion (7, 14, 21 and 28 October). Talk to Father Bob if interested.

**New Church Officers Evening** - 25th September at 8.00pm St Mary's, Spring Grove, Osterley TW7 4PW .



**Sunday Youth recommence on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**