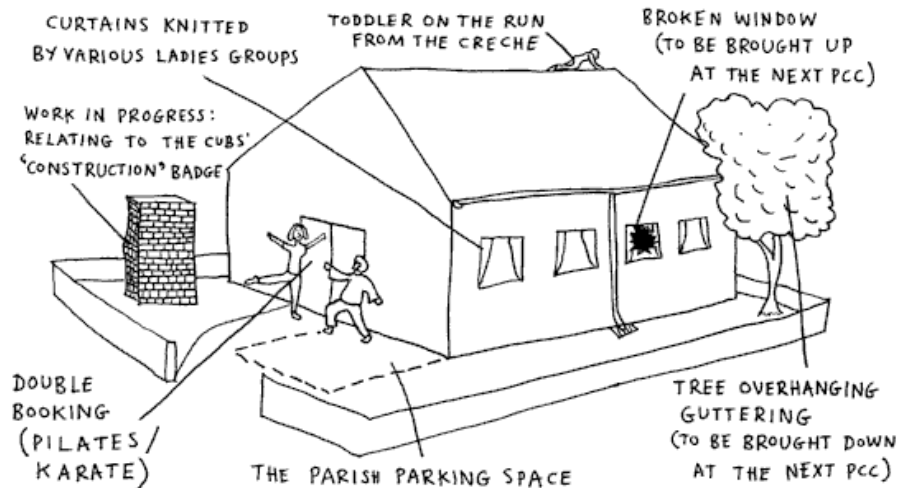


THE CHURCH HALL

DEFINITION: A PEW-FREE ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDING ENTIRELY SURROUNDED BY RESIDENTS WHO DON'T LIKE NOISE. TYPICAL FEATURES INCLUDE:



CartoonChurch.com

Christmas Services 2008

Sunday 7th December
10am Christingle

Monday 15th December
9 am St Stephen's School Christmas Service

Sunday 21st December
10 am Sung Eucharist
4 pm Children's Carol Service

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December
10 am Sung Eucharist
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December
10 am Sung Eucharist

Festival of St Stephen

Sunday 28th December
10 am Sung Eucharist



St Stephen & St Thomas'
Church

12 October 2008
Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

Baptism of Finlay Micheal Askins

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

Processional Hymn

Collect of the Day

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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

Philippians 4.1-9

(p.388)

1My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. 2I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gradual Hymn

GOSPEL

Matthew 22.1-14

(p.389)

1Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: 2The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." 5But they made light of it and went

away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. 7The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." 10Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 14For many are called, but few are chosen.'

*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, 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

Father of light, in whom is no change or shadow of turning, you give us every good and perfect gift and have brought us to birth by your word of truth: may we be a living sign of that kingdom where your whole creation will be made perfect in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Recessional Hymn

Coffee in Church after the service

NEXT SUNDAY: 19th October 2008 22nd Sunday after Trinity

10 am SUNG EUCHARIST and Baptism of India Fleur Akers-Douglas

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 (p395), Matthew 22.15-22 (p396)

THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

Wednesday – Holy Communion – 6 pm

Thursday – Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm.

- ✓ **Christmas choir:** Would you like to take part in a choir to sing Christmas Carols. We are planning a children's Servers at 4pm on Sunday December 21st. Please let Rev Bob know if you would be able to help with this.
- ✓ **Mother and Toddlers:** There is a group of Mums meeting in the church at 9am tomorrow to set up a Mother and Toddlers group. Come along if interested – talk to Rev Anne
- ✓ **St Stephen's Christmas Party** is on December 6th
- ✓ **Confirmation classes** start this week – after this service. See Father Bob if interested. There is a **confirmation service** at St Pauls Cathedral on 1st November.
- ✓ **Servers** – We need people to help serve on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested?
- ✓ **Playroom (not crèche)** – Our new room is designed for parents who want time out with their children. There is a speaker system set up so that you will be able to hear the service while sitting in the room with your children
- ✓ **Sunday School** – This is for children 4 years old and above. Younger children can stay with their parents on the colouring table or go into the playroom.
- ✓ **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 18th October - 10am to 1.00pm (Second session of a two session training course)
- ✓ **Prison Ministry Conference** 7th November at Holy Trinity Brompton
- ✓ **Introducing the New Testament** – a four session course on Monday evenings 7.30 -9.30 pm starting 10 November at the Kensington Area Office, Isleworth. Contact Parish Secretary for details if interested.
- ✓ **The Time of Your Life** – a celebration of ageing well. Hammersmith Town Hall Friday 17th October. Contact Parish Secretary for details if interested.
- ✓ **Public debates at St Pauls.** 14th, 21st and 28th October. Seeking Truth: science, mystery and human identity Leaflets at back of church.
- ✓ **International Student for Christmas HOST** is a well-established charity, backed by the Foreign Office and many universities, which links adults studying in the UK with hospitable volunteers throughout Britain. Guests come from all over the world, including many from China. They speak English, are keen to share their own culture, while longing to know more about our way of life. Welcoming a student who might otherwise spend Christmas on a deserted campus, fosters international understanding, and will make Christmas special. See www.hostuk.org or call 0207 254 3039, for more information.