

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AT BISHOPS' MEETINGS



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### Christmas Services

Sunday December 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am Christingle Service for Children
Tuesday December 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm BBC Carol Service (by popular demand)
Monday December 15 <sup>t</sup>	9am St Stephens School Carol Service
Sunday December 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am Sung Eucharist 4pm Children's Crib Service (Sunday school)
Wednesday December 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30pm Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)
Thursday December 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am Sung Eucharist (Christmas Day)

### THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

**Wednesday** – Holy Communion – 6 pm

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

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 23 November 2008 Christ the King

### 10 am SUNG EUCHARIST

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Ben Humphries  
Ephesians 1.15-23 (p438), Matthew 25.31-46 (p438)



St Stephen & St Thomas  
Church

16 November 2008  
Second Sunday before Advent

Including Baptism of  
William Stephen Reid,  
Edward James Diggle  
Euan Montgomery Murray

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

Processional Hymn 29 Hills of the North Rejoice

### Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 (p433)

1Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gradual Hymn

411 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

GOSPEL

Matthew 25.14-30

(p.434)

Jesus said to his disciples, 14‘The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” 21His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” 23His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” 26But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

## INTERCESSIONS

### Please pray for

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

### Offertory Hymn

**251 All things bright and beautiful**

### Communion Hymn

**308 Just as I am without one plea**

## Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## Recessional Hymn

**362 Tell out my soul**

*Coffee in Church after the service*

## NOTICES

### Christmas

**Come and meet the Sheep – We plan to have a sheep for our December 21<sup>st</sup> Children’s Nativity Service – put it in your diaries!!**

**Christmas choir:** Would you like to take part in a choir to sing Christmas Carols. We are planning a children’s service at 4pm on Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please let Rev Bob know if you would be able to help with this.

**St Stephen’s Christmas Party – ‘SAVE THIS DAY IN YOUR DIARIES’** This is on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the vicarage. It starts at 4pm and goes on till 11pm. Food and mulled wine provided – please bring your own drink.

**Advent Quiet Day-**‘God in His Time’-reflections on the patience of God, led by the Rev Rachma Bush at St Mary’s Convent, Chiswick on 13<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am-4 pm. Cost £5, includes hot drinks but bring a packed lunch.

Organised by Kensington Area of our diocese. To book a place please contact Father Bob.

### Children at St Stephens:

**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.

**Playroom (not crèche)** – Parents who want ‘time out with their children during the service. 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

**Colouring table** – parents can sit with their children during the service

**Mother & Toddler group** – meets on Monday from 9-11. Ring the door on the Coverdale Road side to get in

### Other notices

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

**Activities at St Michael’s** Tuesday. 7.30 pm Prize Bingo evening to raise funds for the church