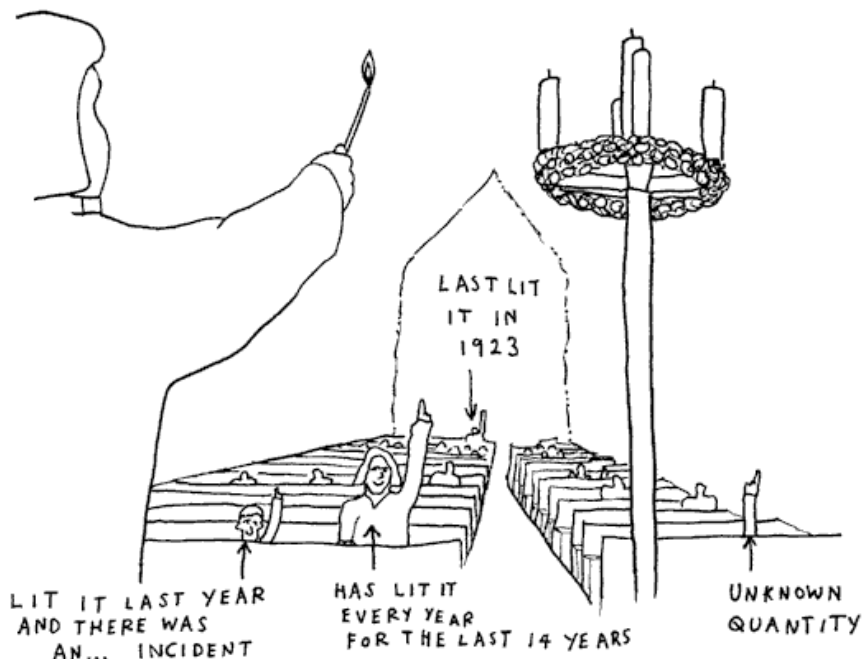


ADVENT

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT THE VICAR MUST CHOOSE SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE. IT IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS



Christmas at St Stephens

Saturday December 6 th	St Stephens Christmas party from 4pm
Sunday December 7 th	10am Christingle Service for Children
Tuesday December 9 th	6.30pm BBC Carol Service (by popular demand)
Monday December 15 th	9am St Stephens School Carol Service
Sunday December 21 st	10am Sung Eucharist 4pm Children's Crib Service (Sunday school)
Wednesday December 24 th	11.30pm Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)
Thursday December 25 th	10am Sung Eucharist (Christmas Day)



St Stephen & St Thomas'
Church

30 November 2008
First Sunday of Advent

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

Christmas at St Stephens kicks off in the weekend of December 6th & 7th. On Saturday there is the Parish Christmas party. This will be held at the vicarage starting at 4pm. Come for as little or as long as you are able.

On Sunday (7th) we are having the Christingle Service as a part of our All Age Service at 10am.

On Tuesday December 9th we have the BBC Carol Service

On Sunday December 21st we have our Children's Nativity Service

Please take some of the Christmas publicity. We have put them in packets of 10. Please take a packet and either distribute them to your friends or post them through the houses near where you live. I am having a Sunday away before Christmas settles in and I am delighted

Processional Hymn

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

(p. 442)

My brothers and sisters: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gradual Hymn

GOSPEL

Mark 13.24-37

(p.443)

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

*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, Sylvia Steed, 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

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Recessional Hymn

Coffee in Church after the service

THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

Wednesday – Holy Communion – 6 pm

Thursday – Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm.

NEXT SUNDAY: 7 December 2008 Second Sunday of Advent
10 am ALL AGE WORSHIP WITH CHRISTINGLE
Celebrant - The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo, Preacher – Edd Stock
Mark 1.1-8 (p447)

NOTICES

Christmas

December 6th St Stephens Christmas Party - It starts at 4pm and goes on till 11pm. Food and mulled wine provided – please bring your own drink.

December 7th Christingle Service (10am)

December 9th BBC Carol Service

December 21st 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 21st. Please let Bob know if you would be able to help with this.

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

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

****Believing in the Creeds** - beginning 19th January - A new four session course on Monday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm. This course will provide an introduction to the doctrinal developments in the early church that led to the acceptance of the Creeds we still use today. We will particularly study: the Canon of Scripture, the Person of Christ, The Trinity and Salvation. Please complete the booking form which can be downloaded from the Intranet and send with your cheque to the address on the form - *Items marked with ** have a booking form or further information which can be downloaded from:*
<http://gabriel.london.anglican.org/open/Area/Kensington/>