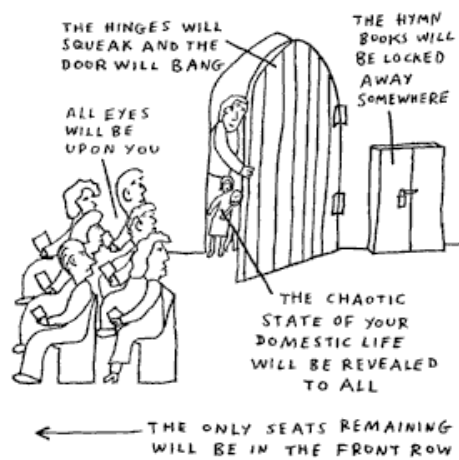


ARRIVING AT CHURCH

THE PERILS OF ARRIVING AT CHURCH TOO EARLY:



THE DANGERS OF ARRIVING AT CHURCH TOO LATE:



CartoonChurch.com

Christmas at St Stephens

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)

Stille Nact
Christmas Music from Germany!
St Peter's Singers
Sunday 14th December 2008 at 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith Doors Open at 7pm
Tickets £10; concessions £8; under12's £1
Booking by email @ saintpeterssingers.org
or Phone 0208743 6897



St Stephen & St Thomas Church

14 December 2008
Third 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

Processional Hymn 58

Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 (p.450)

My brothers and sisters, ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; ²¹hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gradual Hymn 29

GOSPEL John 1.6-8,19-28 (p.451)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' ²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Make straight the way of the Lord”, as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ ²⁶John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*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 32

Communion Hymn 54

Post Communion Prayer 41

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Recessional Hymn

Coffee in Church after the service

THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

Wednesday – Holy Communion – 6.30 pm

Wednesday 18th December will be the last service for this year and that we shall start again on Thursday 10th January 2009 (from Anne)

Thursday – Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm

We meet every Thursday at 6.30pm. We have all agreed that the meeting on Thursday 18th December will be our last for this year and that we shall resume on Thursday 10th January 2009. Happy Christmas to you all (from Sue)

NEXT SUNDAY:

10 am HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo
Romans 16.25-27 (p455), Luke 1.26-38 (p455)

4pm CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

As you all know already, on Sunday 21st December at 4pm we have the St Stephen's Crib Service, which should be a lovely way to get us properly up and running for Christmas – if we really needed another thing to do that!! Anyway, I really hope that those who are still in London are able to make, which brings me onto help – is there anyone around on 21st who will be able to help me with the children before from 3pm and during the service? We also have a practice with the children on Saturday at 4pm for those who are around too. I would love as much help as possible so please email me if you are able to. If I don't see some of you before, I hope that you all have a wonderfully happy Christmas and New Year (from Mhairi)

NOTICES

Flower Arranging - A six week course to be held in St. Nicholas Church on Saturday afternoons at 1500 - 1700 hours on the following dates: 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st January, 7th, 28th February 2009. Equipment needed: strong apron with pocket on front, pair of florist scissors, note book and pencil (items for Christmas lists!) The aim of this course is to encourage new members to join the team of flower arrangers at St. Nicholas but the course is open to anyone from Churches Together in Chiswick, from age sixteen.

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
<http://gabriel.london.anglican.org/open/Area/Kensington/>

Dorothy Ramsey, who was a member of this church for a number of years has left us £7000 in her will. This is a fantastic amount and we are deeply grateful to her and to her family. I would love to hear any stories about Dorothy from people who knew her so that we can make sure that the money is spent as she would have wished.