

## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



### Christmas at St Stephens

Sunday December 21 <sup>st</sup>	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 Holy Communion (Christmas Day)
Sunday December 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am Holy Communion (Feast of St Stephens)



St Stephen & St Thomas  
Church

21 December 2008  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

### Collect of the Day

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading

Romans 16.25-27

(p.455)

<sup>25</sup>To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

### Gradual Hymn

### GOSPEL

Luke 1.26-38

(p.455)

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be

called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*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**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Recessional Hymn**

*Coffee in Church after the service*

## THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHEN'S

**TODAY: Children's Crib Service – 4pm**

**Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>** 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Christmas Eve)

**Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>** 10am Sung Eucharist (Christmas Day)

**Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup> - Holy Communion (St Stephens Festival)**

**10 am COMMUNION SERVICE**

Celebrant and Preacher – The Reverend Dr Bob Mayo  
Galatians 4.4-7 (p459), Luke 2.15-21 (p461)

## NOTICES

### Thursday – Christian Meditation Group – 6.30 pm

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

### 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, 31<sup>st</sup> 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.**