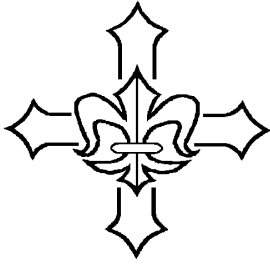


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester
Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 25th February 2007
Lent 1

Holy Communion *President & Preacher: David Busk*

All-age Eucharist *President & Preacher: David Busk*
Deacon: Paul Sibley

See Separate Order of Service

Sung Evensong *President & Preacher: Jerry Craddock*

Hymns 358 (ii), 385, 445
Psalm 116 vv 1 - 2 & 10 - 16

Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Street Prayer Mission: Carnaby Close, Rushes Walk, Field Walk and Merton Walk

Charity of the month: Corrymeela

Holy Communion. All are welcome at the altar rail. If you are a communicant member of your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here. Or if you would like to receive a Blessing, please come forward with a hymn book, kneel at the rail and bow your head.

Notices

Lent Appeal

The PCC has decided to adopt this year's Diocesan Lent Appeal as our own. The appeal is for the Church Urban Fund, whose work is not limited to large cities and which supports many projects in this diocese, including some in Huntingdon. Despite its name, the Fund also acts to alleviate poverty in rural areas, and there are many such areas virtually on our doorstep where the Fund is at work. There are leaflets by the South Door with more information. The proceeds of the Frugal Lunch on Sunday March 4th will go to this appeal - please do consider coming and help make a real difference to the lives of our neighbours.

Lent Courses

Lent courses will be held this year with the title of *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. They will be based on the book of the same name by Henry Nouwen and will also make use of colour copies of the painting by Rembrandt depicting this moving parable of Jesus. There will be a choice of afternoon or evening sessions, both on Wednesdays. The afternoon sessions will be in the Vicarage from 1.30pm and parents or guardians with young children will be welcome to bring their charges with them. We would aim to finish before 3.00pm. The evening sessions will be at 8.00pm in the Friends Meeting House (Quaker Centre) in Post Street, to finish by 9.30pm. The relevant Wednesdays are February 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. No need to sign up – just come along. It is not essential to read the book beforehand but it is highly recommended in its own right. It is published by Darton, Longman and Todd.

Preparation of New Electoral Roll

The date for the next preparation of church electoral rolls has been moved forward a year from 2008 to 2007 by the General

Synod. The date that governs the timetable for the preparation of the new roll is that of the annual parochial church meeting. This year, our annual meeting will be held on 15th April. The notice for the preparation of the electoral roll is affixed to a notice board in the south porch. Under the rules, the new electoral roll must be completed not less than 15 days, nor more than 28 days, before the annual meeting. You are, therefore, invited to have your name included on the Church Electoral Roll by completing the application form enclosed and placing it in the electoral roll box on the table at the south door, returning it to the Parish Office, or to the Churchwardens. May I thank you in anticipation of early completion of your application form. *Trevor Weedon.. PCC Secretary.*

Church Forums

There is a new addition to the Church website. We now have our very own forums - sometimes known as a bulletin board. We are running the latest version of 'Invision Power Board', one of the market leaders in commercial forum software. It's a powerful system, with a great deal built in to make the forum experience as safe and pleasant as possible. Do please consider joining the forums if you have access to the website. If you have any problems with the registration process, or there are questions you would like answering about the forums, do feel free to contact me.

www.stmarysgodmanchester.org/forums/index.php
Paul Sibley(380754)
paul.sibley@stmarysgodmanchester.org

Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday 2nd March, the world will celebrate the 75th anniversary of Women's World Day of Prayer. This year the theme is "United under God's Tent" and has been prepared by the Christian women of Paraguay. There will be a service in Peterborough Cathedral at 2pm on Friday,

Speaker: Revd Margaret Fleming. There will also be an evening service held in Godmanchester at the Quaker Centre. This service will be at 7.30pm, where our own Felicity White will be playing keyboard. Speaker: Eileen Campbell from GBC. Do come and take part in the celebration. Contact Stella Howard for further details on these events. For further information about Women's World Day of Prayer, visit their website <http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org/>

Parish Annual Report

A reminder to those preparing group or activity reports for inclusion in the Parish Annual Report that the closing date for contributions is Monday 5th March please.

Dai Morgan (417502)

Fairtrade News

The Fairtrade Stall will be available after the 9.45 service today (25th February) and again on 4th and 11th March in the Parish Hall.

This is an ideal time to support the Fairtrade Stall at the start of Fairtrade Fortnight. For those who have given up chocolate for Lent, there are non-chocolate Fairtrade products available, or the comforting words of Ally; "It's okay to eat Fairtrade chocolate during Lent."

Frugal Lunch

Early notice for forthcoming frugal lunch on Sunday 4th March at 12.30pm. Tickets, £3.00 & £1.50 available from Val Pithey (454851). Proceeds to Christian Aid.

Lent Concert

On Saturday 10th March at 7.30pm, choirs and singers from the Huntingdon area will be combining in our church to give a concert of music for the season of Lent, with Eric Thiman's 'The Last Supper' as the main item in the programme. It will be conducted by Ken Diffey, with Paul Bryan (organ), Caroline Jones (soprano) and Tony Burnley (Baritone). The Hemingford Ladies' Choir is also contributing two items to the

programme. Tickets at £6 (£5 for senior citizens) will be available after the 9.45am service each Sunday, or from Ken Diffey on 458846. This annual event is not only a significant contribution to our worship in Lent, but also a major source of income for our church funds. Please do try to support it if you can.

St Mary's 0-5s Group

Help needed! We are looking for volunteers to join the committee for this successful playgroup held at the Comrades Club on Mondays from 9.30 to 11.30 am. This involves mainly getting out toys and arranging craft activities etc. Some of the current committee are standing down at Easter and any offers of help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Donna Atkin 417282.

How is it done? Who would know?

We are thinking of trying to compile a useful fact file about church events, to be kept in the Parish Office, probably in a large ring binder. If you know key details about a church activity in which you have often been involved, e.g.

Preparing Christingles

Putting up the Christmas tree

Organising breakfast on Easter morning

Making bouquets for Mothering Sunday

- to name but a very few! Please jot them down for others to share. Entries could include the most recent key contact(s), where to order materials and quantities, where equipment is stored, key deadlines in preparing the event, hints for any publicity etc etc. Please let Jules Shelley have your contributions, either via the pigeon-hole, or email: christopher.shelley1@ntlworld.com

Newsletter Compiler

Jim Heeley is the current Newsletter compiler on jaskc@btinternet.com (412264). All contributions please by 18.30 on the Thursday.

DIARY

Sunday 25th February Lent 1

- 08:00 Holy Communion*
- 09:45 All-age Eucharist*
- 16:00 Rectory Gardens Ecumenical Service*
- 18:30 Sung Evensong (Lent Sermon Series 1)*
- 18:45 Youth Group – Ramble in the dark / marshmallows at the Vicarage*

Monday 26th February

- 13:30 Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)*

Wednesday 28th February

- 09:45 Holy Communion (McCartney House)*
- 19:30 Bellringers' Practice*

Thursday 1st March

- 09:30 St Mary's 0-5s (Comrades Club)*
- 09:45 Holy Communion*

Friday 2nd March

- 19:30 Choir Practice*
- 20:00 Rehearsal for Lent Concert*

Sunday 4th March Lent 2

- 08:00 Holy Communion*
- 09:45 Sung Eucharist*
- 18:30 Sung Evensong*
- 18:45 Youth Group*

Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the morning Eucharist. Everyone is welcome

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org