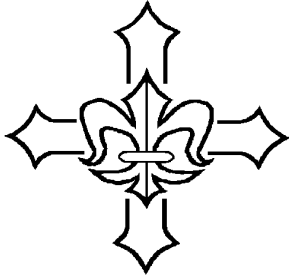


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 2nd March 2008

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)

Holy Communion

President & Preacher: David Busk

Sung Eucharist

President & Preacher: David Busk

Deacon: Linda Watson

Reader	Colin Thirlwall
Reading	1 Samuel Ch 1 vv 20-end
Gospel	Luke Ch 2 vv 33-35
Intercessions	Trevor Weedon
Hymns	285 (incl v6), 387, 369, 413
Communion	273, 467

Sung Evensong

Gillian Bathurst-Hoile

Hymns	457, 294, 389
Psalm	31: 1-8

Collect

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Street Prayer Mission: Cambridge Road, Cambridge Villas, Meadow Way,
Harcourt and Almond Close

Charity of the month: The Smile Train

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

Ruby, Ruby, Ruby, Ruby!

Congratulations to Olwyn and Robert Hurd on today's celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary that would, had there not been so many other items to squeeze into this Newsletter, have been turned into a much, much longer sentence than this one.

Children's Church Refreshments

Children's Church will provide refreshments in the Church Hall after the 9.45 service. Any money raised will go towards our Lent Appeal. There will also be a display of some of our work and the resources we use: please come and see what we do.

Cake and Fairtrade Stalls Today!

The youth group have been busy again baking cakes for sale in the Church Hall after the 9.45 service this morning. We aim to raise money for group funds and environmental projects. Many of our cakes contain organic or Fairtrade ingredients. Do please come along and support the group by either enjoying a slice of something lovely with your coffee or purchasing something to take away. The Fairtrade stall will also be running alongside this, so you can replenish your stocks of ethical chocolate too. We are now halfway through Fairtrade fortnight - see <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/> for more information. Jen Weedon.

Carol Godley

The funeral of Carol Godley will take place in church at 11am on Tuesday 4th March.

Mothers' Union

Please note that as the QE School hall will be in use on Tuesday 4th March, the meeting of the Mothers' Union will now take place at the home of Jean Morgan, 2A Earning Street. At this meeting, the Reverend David Busk will be leading a meditation for Lent. Linda Page will be talking to us in April. If you need a lift please contact Megan MacDiarmid on 437278 or Jean Morgan on 417502.

Men's Social Group

The AGM of the Men's Social Group will be held at the White Hart on Tuesday 4th March at 7.30pm. Please come and help the committee draw up the programme of events and visits for the coming year - there may be a little liquid refreshment to aid the process! Contact: Peter Dawe (392188).

Bible Group

The Bible Group meets at 10 East Chadley Lane, on Wednesday 5th March, at 8pm.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer. The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana is this year's lead nation. For further information visit the website at www.wwdp-natcomm.org. The day will be celebrated locally at two venues; Huntingdon Methodist Church at 2pm and then Godmanchester Quaker Centre, 48a Post Street, at 7.30pm. Men are also most welcome to join in these wonderful services. For further information contact Stella Howard (458730).

Lent Concert

Next Saturday 8th 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 the Fauré Requiem as the main item in the programme. It will be conducted by our Organist and Choirmaster, Ken Diffey, with Paul Bryan (organ), Caroline Dyson (mezzo-soprano) and Tony Burnley (Baritone). The Hemingford Ladies' Choir is also contributing three items to the programme. Tickets at £6 (£5 for senior

citizens) are on sale after the 9.45 service today, or are available from Ken Diffey at 1 The Maltings (458846).

Annual Frugal Lunch

The annual frugal lunch will take place in the Church Hall at noon on Sunday 9th March. Tickets are available from Val Pithey (454851) and the cost is Adults £3, Children £1.50. We will be grateful for any donation of prizes for the raffle.

Sidespersons

A report for the annual meeting, which includes the list of sidespersons to be re-elected, will shortly be submitted. If anyone on the existing rota wishes to stand down, or hopefully if you would wish to be included on the rota, please advise me as soon as possible. Peter Hartwell 01480 453336 or peter.hartwell@btinternet.com thank you.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to buy an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, these will cost £3:50 each. They will be arranged in the nave pedestals for everyone to enjoy. Please give money to Linda Weedon and sign the book of Temperance, which will be placed on a desk in the St. Anne's Chapel nearer to Easter Sunday. Jean Miller.

Easter Flowers

The Flower Guild would be very pleased to receive donations towards the cost of decorating the Church for Easter. Please give these to Vera Arnold or, if you would prefer, put your small change in the Flower box on the book table. Jean Miller.

Godmanchester in Bloom

Following the first public meeting we so far have 32 people helping - which is great, but don't feel left out! Come to the next meeting, on Thursday 6th March, 7.30pm, at the QE school. Janie and Simon Prince, and youth group, are going ahead with their plan to raise the funds and plant English bluebells

beneath trees in the Churchyard. They would love a contribution, however small. £140 gets them 1000 plants. Mike and Jen Weedon, with their team, are looking to help Betty Turner and residents of Rectory Gardens, who have the plants, or will have, but need some assistance in the planting. Dave Brown, Alison Mackie, Nina Collier, Mary Stokes, John Thackray (Committee).

Riyyko Chapel Choir visit

April's issue of *Parish News* will carry a review of the choir's Evensong and Concert held on 26th February, but it would be splendid if we could extend this article to include feedback on the visit from parishioners, particularly host families. The choir's two days here were quite special and it would be a pity to lose these precious memories. A single sentence will suffice, but write something longer if you wish. As a starter here are some thoughts of mine. "Loved the descant in *Abide with me*"; "I warmed instantly to the way these young people pick up a tea towel without being asked!" Editorial deadline is 14th March, but earlier contributions welcome. Peter Irving (382144).

Blue Peter Disc Drive Appeal

Katie Lunn will be placing a Blue Peter box in the south door entrance of the Church. She is collecting any unwanted CDs, DVDs or computer games to help Blue Peter raise money for young carers who have to look after their parents. When we have all had a chance to help, Katie will take the box to a local collection point for Blue Peter. Visit www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/discdrive/home to get more information on how your old discs can be used to help young carers.

Newsletter Compiler

Jim Heeley is the Newsletter compiler during March. Contact jsc@btinternet.com (412264). Please have all contributions in by 6.30pm on Thursday.

DIARY

Sunday 2nd March Lent 4

Mothing Sunday

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist (followed by Youth Group Cake Stall)*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong (No Youth Group)*

Monday 3rd March

- 13:30 *Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)*
- 20:00 *Communications Committee (23 Earning Street)*

Tuesday 4th March

- 11:00 *Funeral of Carol Godley*
- 12:15 *Churches Together Prayer (All Saints Church Huntingdon)*
- 14:00 *Mothers' Union (2A Earning Street)*
- 19:30 *Men's Social Group AGM (White Hart)*

Wednesday 5^h March

- 11:00 *Holy Communion (Chestnuts)*
- 20:00 *Bible Study Group (10 East Chadley Lane)*

Thursday 6th March

- 09:45 *Holy Communion*
- 10:00 *St Mary's 0-5s (Comrades Club)*
- 20:00 *Evening Lent Group (Quaker Centre)*

Friday 7th March

- 13:30 *Afternoon Lent Group (Vicarage)*
- 19:30 *Choir Practice (Church Hall)*

Saturday 8th March

- 09:30 *Walk Through The Old Testament (Baptist Church Centre)*
- 19:30 *Lent Concert*

Sunday 9th March Lent 5

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 11:30 *Grassroots and Baptism*
- 12:00 *Frugal Lunch (Church Hall)*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong*
- 18:45 *Youth Group Chillout (38 London Road)*

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

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org