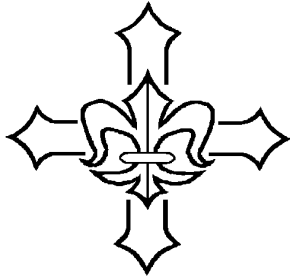


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 1st March 2009

Lent 1

Holy Communion

President: David Busk *Preacher:* Pat Saunders

Sung Eucharist

President: David Busk *Preacher:* Pat Saunders

Deacon: Pat Saunders

Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Reader

Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

Intercessions

Jim Heeley

Hymns

67, 357, 70, 333

Communion

299, 83

Sung Evensong

Minister: David Busk

Readings

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19

Hymns

63, 64, 445

Psalm

119 vv 17-24

Hymns: please omit * verses, if any

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord..

Amen.

Street Prayer Mission: Riverside Mill Flats, Bridge Place

Charity of the month: Care Network

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.

Invitation

All members of the congregation are invited to join Jean and Dai Morgan for a glass of wine and a slice of cake to celebrate their 'coming of age' in the Church Hall after the 9.45 Eucharist **this morning**

Lent MAP Groups

Everyone on the electoral roll should have received an invitation to these, but if you are a regular worshipper who is not on the roll (you will know if you are on it) and would like to be involved in praying and planning for the mission of the church, you would be most welcome. Please contact me as soon as you can if you would like to take part. The groups meet on four Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm, beginning on March 4th. There are various locations, and we will assign individuals to their starting points once we have an idea of numbers. For more information, please see my letter in this month's Parish News, or speak to me.

David (436400)

Afternoon Lent Group

In addition to the special MAP Lent Groups we will be holding an afternoon Lent Group as on previous years. This will meet in the Vicarage from 1.30 to 3.00 pm on five Wednesdays in Lent, beginning on March 4th. As last year we will use material from the mission society USPG, which this time looks at what is happening in the world and the church today and relates that to the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome to this, and no prior notice is necessary. The evening Lent Group has been replaced by the MAP Groups.

David (436400)

Frugal Lunch

The Frugal lunch this year will take place on Sunday 15 March in the Church Hall.

Tickets will be available this weekend from Val Pithey. Adults £3.00, non adults £1.50. The proceeds will be given to a charity.

Val Pithey (454851)

Mothers' Union

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will take place on Tuesday March 3rd at 2pm in the Queen Elizabeth School Hall. At this meeting Charles Dixon will be talking to us about using sign language. If you need a lift please contact Jean Morgan (417502).

Lent Concert - 21 March

On Saturday 21 March at 7.30 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 Stainer's 'Crucifixion' as the main item in the programme. It will be conducted by our Organist and Choirmaster, Ken Diffey, with Paul Bryan (organ), Peter Cook (Tenor) and Tony Burnley (Baritone). There will also be a solo by Hannah Reed (soprano) and items by the Hemingford Ladies' Choir.

Tickets at £6 (£5 for senior citizens) are available in advance after the 9.45 service each week or from ***Ken Diffey (458846)*** or [***diffey@homecall.co.uk***](mailto:diffey@homecall.co.uk).

Children's Church Lent Appeal

As part of our lent appeal the children will be given a tube of Smarties after today's service, which they can eat and share. They have been asked to do small jobs and be kind and considerate for a small donation from family and friends. The donations will be collected in their empty Smartie tube and then handed back after Good Friday. The money from the tubes will be given to Save the Children. The Smartie tubes have been kindly donated by Godmanchester Co-op.

Deb Watts (374991)

A Passover Celebration

Our understanding of the Eucharist is greatly helped if we can share regularly in the uplifting experience of a Passover meal. Familiar signs and symbols take on new depths of meaning, and the Last Supper is seen in the context of Gods saving love stretching from creation over the whole course of human history.

As Christians we share common roots with our Jewish brothers and sisters, and the festival of PASSOVER is part of our shared faith heritage. Celebrating the meal like this together is a wonderful opportunity to discover a fresh way of telling the story of God's love, and finding it to be our own story.

Our PASSOVER SUPPER will be celebrated in the church on Wednesday 8th April at 7pm and followed by a service of Compline.

Tickets will be on sale after the 9.45 service from 15th March at £3 each.

Gill Bathurst-Hoile (465442)

Church Book Sale

After a gap of several years people have been enquiring about holding another sale in the Queen Elizabeth School. This year's sale will take place on **Saturday 25 April**, 10am to 4pm, with all the usual trimmings – refreshments in the small hall, a book raffle, and amazing discounts in the happy hour at the end! Two things: (1) If you have lots of books for disposal, please phone me and I will come out and collect them. If you have only a carrier bag full, please bring them to church and leave them in the appropriate box near the pigeon holes. I will ensure this box (in place from Sunday 15 March) is emptied at regular intervals. (2) *Please do not bring books to my house!* I have been offered accommodation for storage and sorting, and it will be better that the books go straight there. More news nearer the time.

Peter Irving (382144)

Pancake Races

Thank you to everyone who supported and entered the pancake races on February 22nd - we all had a very enjoyable time! We raised £71.18, which makes an excellent start to our Children's Church Lent Appeal this year. We are collecting money for the Save the Children Fund.

Victoria Richardson

Children's Society Boxes

If you would like your box emptying during March please bring it to church or contact me to arrange collection. Thank you.

Kate Steed (382101)

Women's Discussion Group

Four months ago I started a monthly women's discussion group as a possible way to reach women who might not be ready to set foot in a church but were interested in finding out more. Meetings, held at a pub in Elsworth, start at 7.30pm and comprise a fixed-price two course supper at 8pm, a Christian speaker at 9pm and discussion from 9.30 to 10pm. They are open to anyone, regardless of geographical location, Response so far has been very good, with attendances between 20 and 40, age range from 30 to 80, the majority of them, so far, are practising Christians. The next meeting is on Monday 2nd March when the speaker will be a representative from CHASTE, a Christian organisation set up to combat people trafficking. Forthcoming meetings:

- 23rd March: Leo Change a plastic surgeon who works on Mercy Ships off the coast of Africa.
- 27th April: Lorna Warrener from Tear Fund on reconstruction in the developing world

Please contact me if you would like receive details each month,

Christina Sheppard (01480 831454) or sheppard4@dsl.pipex.com

Newsletter Compiler for February and March is **Jean Morgan (417502) morgan_01339@msn.com**

Prayer Corner

"The most famous story about St David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him. Today, we give thanks for him and all our Welsh friends.

DIARY

Sunday 1st March Lent 1

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong*
- 18:45 *Youth Group – Stop frame animation (Church Hall)*

Monday 2nd March

- 13:30 *No Stepping Stones*
- 20:00 *Signing Group (18 Windsor Rd)*
- 20:00 *Communications Committee Meeting (23 Earning St)*

Tuesday 3rd March

- 07:30 *Morning Prayer*
- 14:00 *Mother's Union (QE School)*
- 19:30 *Men's Social Group – AGM (White Hart)*

Wednesday 4th March

- 11:00 *Holy Communion (The Chestnuts)*
- 13:30 *Lent Group (Vicarage)*
- 19:30 *MAP Lent Groups (Various)*

Thursday 5th March

- 07:30 *Morning Prayer*
- 09:45 *Holy Communion*
- 10:00 *St Mary's 0s – 5s (Comrades' Club)*

Friday 6th March

- 10:30 *Funeral of Heather Huggins*
- 14:00 *Women's World Day of Prayer (All Saints, Hartford)*
- 19:30 *Women's World Day of Prayer (GMC Baptist Centre)*
- 19:30 *Choir Practice (Church Hall)*
- 20:00 *Rehearsal for Lent Concert*

Saturday 7th March

- 14:00 *Wedding – Thomas Lowden/Cheryl Adams*

Sunday 8th March Lent 2

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 11:30 *Shalom Service*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong*
- 18:45 *No Youth Group – Prayer Workshop (Church Hall)*

Refreshments are served after the 9.45am Eucharist. Everyone is welcome

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org