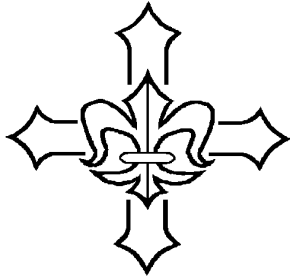


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 8th March 2009

Lent 2

Holy Communion

President: David Busk *Preacher:* Jerry Craddock

Sung Eucharist

President & Preacher: Jerry Craddock

Deacon: Mary Jepp

Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Reader

Peter Dawe

Gospel

Mark 8:31-end

Intercessions

Nicholas Leigh-Smith

Hymns

338, RP 103 (536), 379, 76

Communion

72, 382

Shalom

President: Mary Jepp *Preacher:* David Busk

Separate order of service

Sung Evensong

Minister: Gill Bathurst-Hoile

Readings

Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Hymns

337, 434, 246

Psalm

135 vv 1-13

Hymns: please omit any * verses

Collect

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Street Prayer Mission: London Rd, Martin Close, Roman Gate

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.

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 are holding an afternoon Lent Group as on previous years. This meets in the Vicarage from 1.30 to 3.00 pm on five Wednesdays in Lent, beginning on March 4th. As last year we are using 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)

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).

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 God's 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 if books go straight there. More news nearer the time.

Peter Irving (382144)

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***

Wanted by Mothers' Union!!

Balls of double knitting wool are needed for making squares for blankets. Please give any you may have to Linda Weedon or Jean Morgan. Thank you.

Annual Report Reminder

Deadline for receipt of reports is Monday 16th of March please.

Dai Morgan (417502)

Gift Aid It

You will no doubt have noticed the yellow envelopes at the end of each pew. These have been provided to allow anyone who pays income or capital gains tax to 'Gift Aid' their donations to the Church. Gift aid is tax relief on money donated to UK charities and we can reclaim this tax at the basic rate to increase the value of your donation by 20%. To claim the tax you must have paid sufficient income or capital gains tax to at least cover the donation and we need your name, home address and the date given on the envelope as we are required to main a record of all gifts.

If you wish to give regular donations to the church please consider either a monthly bankers order or our free-will offering envelopes both of which can be gift-aided on a single 'one-off' gift aid form. If you have any questions about any aspects of personal donations please speak to our Treasurer, **Peter Ballantine (450432)**, or Chair of the Finance Committee, **Colin Thirlwall (457018)**.

Newsletter Compiler for February and March is **Jean Morgan (417502)**

morgan_01339@msn.com

Prayer Corner

"Today is International Women's Day. We think of women throughout history who have helped transform the world. We give thanks for their courage and persistence in the face of many injustices and sacrifices. We pray for women in leadership positions today; may the Holy Spirit guide them in their decision-making. We pray also for all women who are unable to be leaders because of inequalities and discrimination in their communities."

DIARY

Sunday 8th March Lent 2

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 11:30 *Shalom*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong*
- 18:45 *Youth Group – Prayer Workshop (Church Hall)*

Monday 9th March

- 13:30 *No Stepping Stones*
- 20:00 *Signing Group (18 Windsor Rd)*
- 19:45 *Fabric Committee Meeting (Vestry)*

Tuesday 10th March

- 07:30 *Morning Prayer*
- 18:30 *Wives' Group - Visit Hotel Chocolat, Huntingdon*

Wednesday 11th March

- 10:30 *Holy Communion (Oak Tree Court)*
- 13:30 *Lent Group (Vicarage)*
- 19:30 *MAP Lent Groups (Various)*
- 19:30 *John Barnard Choral Workshop (St George's, Chesterton)*

Thursday 12th March

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

Friday 13th March

- 19:30 *Choir Practice (Church Hall)*
- 20:00 *Rehearsal for Lent Concert*

Saturday 14th March

- 19:00 *Mayor's Charity Concert (Church)*

Sunday 15th March Lent 3

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 12:00 *Frugal Lunch (Church Hall)*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong*
- 18:45 *Youth Group – Games Night (Church Hall)*

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

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org