



St Thomas News

Volume 3, Issue 3

8th March 2009

March Worship

**March 8th, 9:00 am
Holy Communion
Lent 2**

**10:30 All age Service
The Fall**

Readings: Gen 17:1-7, 15-16; Rom 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

**March 15th, 10:00 am
Holy Communion
Lent 3**

Readings: Ex 20: 1-17;
1 Cor 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

**March 22nd, 10:00am
Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday
Lent 4**

Readings: Ex 2:1-10;
2 Cor 3:1-7; John 19:25-27

**March 29th, 10:00 am
Messy Church
Passion Sunday
Lent 5**

Readings: Psalm 51: 1-13;
John 12: 20-33

**Messy Church is
Informal, starting with
refreshments!**

**April 5th, 10:00am
Holy Communion
Palm Sunday**

**April 9th, 8:00pm
Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday**

Preparation for the passion of Christ through observing Lent

We require clarity and wisdom to affect change - change not only for us, but with and for others. We do not have all the answers, but we are engaged in the knowing of God's will for our lives together in humility and without arrogance. Arrogance lets us assume that we know enough already and therefore the choices for change are easy to determine. But such a position flies in the face of all that Christ teaches, demonstrates, endures, and fulfils. We are faced today with the contradictions for those who have placed their hope in having more and more! There are some who seemed to have achieved huge amounts of wealth, but they are not the most popular people on the planet, are they?

Jesus tells us quite clearly that where your treasure is, that is where your loyalty will lie, Matt 6:21. That is, people signal quite clearly where their intentions are and where they are going to spend a lot of their energy. So it should not surprise us that this way of living is possessive, grabbing and greedy. The problem is that there will always be casualties from this attitude because that sort of single mindedness results in many being denied their basic needs being met.

Earthly goods are there to be used, not to be collected! So writes Dieter Bonhoeffer in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*. So where are we to draw the line between legitimate use and unlawful or immoral accumulation? One of the most memorable sayings of Mahatma Gandhi is this one: 'The world has enough to meet everyone's needs, but not enough for everyone's greed'.

Lent gives us the opportunity to actively look for and embrace the extraordinary and simple gifts of grace which sustain daily life, bringing us riches without calculation or snatching, enabling others to share in these with us, not left out but included. Our hearts, attitudes, responses have room only for one all-embracing devotion – one Lord, as revealed in the love of God in Jesus. That is core belief, and pattern for living. Therefore we must walk with Christ to his passion, in order to face out and refute evil in all its manifestations.

Building Project

Gerald Barrett, our architect, received our comments about storage, small room and office space and now he has written to us with provisional costs for the West end of the church-hall, toilets, kitchen and for the chapel. The costs are high, as might be expected and we need to discuss together what we wish to do and what we want to do. The vision we have had is to use the building better, both for worship and for the community. Please do not hesitate to make your views known. Plenty of people are thinking and talking, and we need to take all view before God and move.

Careforce Worker

A Careforce worker is a young person who gives a time to a specific church to encourage and stimulate the work amongst children and young people. The church has been invited to help pay for such a worker through specific donations, which will enable us to apply to Careforce for such a worker much sooner than later. We have been encouraged to see the work at Parents and Toddlers being sustained and for new people coming to Tiddlywinks which is mid-week church by another name and in a different format to Sunday worship.

What's On

March 12th Mother's Union 2:00pm
Bring & Buy and Quiz

March 14th Counsellor's Surgery 10am-12pm

Parent and Toddlers 9.45am every Monday
Tiddlywinks 9.30am every Wednesday
Line Dancing 9.45am - 10.45am every Tuesday
Music group 7.30pm every Friday
Beavers 5.15pm - 6.30pm every Wednesday

April 10th Good Friday 11:30am Walk of witness.
St Thomas/St Vincent to Morrison's with other churches.

Rainbows Tuesdays 4.30 - 5.30pm
Cubs Mondays 6.30 - 7.45pm
Brownies Meets Tuesdays 5.45 - 7.15pm
Guides Meets Thursdays 7.30 - 8.45pm

Fund-raising

I stated last month that we have to believe that our generous God will supply all our needs and cited 2 Corinthians 9: 7-8:

Each one of us should give what s/he has decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Community Garden

Peter and I met Gareth Wynn, who works for LBB, on February 21 to look at the churchyard with a view to improving the area into a community garden. This idea is being pursued and there are generous grants to make this happen. You can see the idea in a drawing on the church notice board, and we hope to see this improvement take place!

Christians against Poverty Debt Counselling Centre

We have sent off three applications to funders, and have just received from Christians against Poverty (CAP) the partnership agreement to sign and go forward with interviewing for a centre manager and for training. We have written to LBB for a meeting regarding the project so that they can be assured of the project and help us to move forward with the grant.



Please Pray!

Please pray for

- Those who are sick
- Bill Mitchell
- For Valence, Becontree and Henry Green schools
- For Debt Counseling project
- For building project
- For a Careforce worker
- For the community Garden project
- For people who have lost their Jobs

Recently Bereaved

Please pray for those who mourn the death of:

Barry Neal
Ernie Hawkins
Ron Ramsey
Gladys Oakes
Ella Cornwell
Bonnie Leary
Ken Chandler
Anne Sanders
Pat Butler