



St Thomas News

Volume 3, Issue 10

4th October 2009

October Worship

October 4th, 10:00 am Holy Communion

Theme:

Truth and Reconciliation

Readings: 2 Corinthians

5: 11-21; Matt 18: 15-20

October 11th, 9:00 am Holy Communion

Readings: Amos 5: 6-7,

16-17; Hebrews 4: 12-16;

Mathew 10: 17-31

10:30 all age service

Theme— *The Persecuted
and Enabling Church*

Readings: Luke 21: 10-18;

2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Preacher: Chigor Chike

October 18th, 10:00 am Holy Communion

Theme - *Clean and dirty
fighting - Justice in
families*

Readings: Proverbs 22:1-9;

Ephesians 6:1-4; Mathew

18:1-10

October 25th, 10:00 am Holy communion

Theme —*Christians*

*Against Poverty,
Opening of Life After
Debt Centre*

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-10;

John 1:1-14

Preacher: Susan Sadler
(CAP)

Fair justice or just revenge

The contrast between each one's set of rules and principles or values was illustrated by MPs' behaviour. MPs protested that they had done nothing wrong according to the rules that they had set. This flew in the face of common decency because their behaviour was self serving though they are public servants.

The need to challenge a set of rules by community values is very important, e.g. in school there have to be common values in order for the school to operate! The same principle applies to those who work with huge investment risks without considering the community impact of those decisions.

Where the issue is more one of mutual obligation between partners in a relationship, it is for the injured party to determine whether the relationship is to be ended because of the other's breach of faith or sustained despite of it. For Christians, it is the sustaining love on the part of God which he displays to all people in the work of Jesus –that the sinner is justified by grace which is highly controversial! See Romans 5:1,2

This helps us steer a path away from doing this for us to doing it for others, and also steers us away from revenge. Matt 5:38-42 is about taking the power out of demand and replacing it with grace, as also described in Romans 12:9-21!

Waste, Hunger and Plenty

Love Food, Hate Waste

- 18-20 million tonnes of food wasted in the UK every year
 - Up to 50% of food in US is wasted
 - Food wasted by farms (5%), distribution (7%), shops (10%), us (33%)
- The food we waste could feed 3 billion people on 2,600 kcal a day!

What does the Bible say?

In Exodus 16, the Israelites moaned about lack of food, so God provided manna and quails. Each family collected enough for their needs and everyone was satisfied. Some collected too much and it went rotten. Collecting too much food from earth ruins— for example over fishing, dustbowl in America. Convenience food disconnects us from the real value of food, and therefore we buy too much and waste it. God also provided the Sabbath—a chance to have rest and recognise our limitations, and a chance for creation to have a rest too.

What can we do practically?

- **VALUE** food—then we will waste less, by planning our shopping better and eating leftovers
- **VOTE** for it—campaign for and vote for political change—eg a tax on supermarkets waste food
- **VENERATE** the Sabbath. Enjoy our rest and let creation have a rest too

What's On

Oct 7th	Launch of Friends of St Thomas Wildlife Garden. 7.30pm (Open to all church members and residents)	Oct 13th	Service at Bennetts Castle Care Home at 2.00pm (volunteers needed to help)
Oct 8th	Mothers Union with guest speaker from Daybreak. 2.00pm	Oct 14th	Just Men group 7.30pm at Eva Hart pub, talking about Parent or Push-over? - being a dad or granddad in the 21st century
Oct 10th	Councillors surgery	Oct 21st	Launch of Life After Debt to local community at 1.00pm
Oct 10th	Clear out the "tut" day clearing out rubbish and reorganising to improve our church building	Oct 25th	At 10.00am we welcome Susan Sadler from Christians Against Poverty to be our preacher at the opening of our Life After Debt centre and she will be accompanied by her husband
Oct 11th	International service followed by a shared lunch		
Oct 11th	10.30am we welcome Rev Chigor Chike to be our preacher at the International service		
Parent and Toddlers	9.45am every Monday	Rainbows	Tuesdays 4.30 - 5.30pm
Tiddlywinks	9.30am every Wednesday	Cubs	Mondays 6.30 - 7.45pm
Line Dancing	9.45am - 10.45am every Tuesday	Brownies	Meets Tuesdays 5.45 - 7.15pm
Music group	7.30pm every Friday	Guides	Meets Thursdays 7.30 - 8.45pm
Beavers	5.15pm - 6.30pm every Wednesday		(Groups term time only)

Wildlife Garden

We are pleased to say that wildlife garden project has started last week. We have also just ordered about 13,000 bulbs to be planted in the Autumn. They will look absolutely fantastic when they come up - daffodils, bluebells, wood anemones, crocuses, snowdrops - but they do need putting in the ground first! So we are planning to have several days where you can help out by lending a hand and planting some bulbs - many hands make light work. These will be in late October when the groundwork has been done. In the meantime, we are having a meeting to launch the Friends of St Thomas Wildlife Garden on Wednesday 7th October, at 7.30pm in the church. So come along and find out what it's all about.



Please Pray!

Please pray for

- Bob and Lorraine Phillips as they care for his father and her parents
- Joyce Hill in hospital on Angelica Ward, King George's Hospital
- Eddie and Mille Wilson
- Those with very young babies: Femi and Emi; Chima and Obi; Kenny and Helen
- For the children and the young people of the Sunday groups that they will follow Christ

Recently Bereaved

Please pray for those who mourn the death of:

Blossom Kiene
Rita Brooks
Ivy Byfield
Ron Gutteridge
Paula Clark
John Wright