

Christ Church Information February 2001

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Dear Friends,

As you probably know by now, I shall be away on Study Leave from 19 February until 28 March.

Throughout this period Sunday services will be as usual; the 8 am and 10 am services are being taken by kind clergy colleagues, and our Readers will be taking the Evensongs.

On the first Tuesday of March, there will be an 11 am celebration of Holy Communion as usual. However, the 9.30 am Thursday communion service will be suspended whilst I am away, resuming on Thursday 29 March. Please remember our Churchwardens and Readers in your prayers during this period, as they will be having to bear extra responsibility. And don't forget that members of the Pastoral Team are available to help as well (phone number 8946 9516).

Lent will soon be upon us, and on Ash Wednesday, 28 February, there will be a said celebration of Holy Communion at 12 noon. For those of

you who cannot manage a daytime service on Ash Wednesday, you will be warmly welcomed at the Wimbledon Team Sung Eucharist at 8 pm at St Mary's. On Wednesday Evenings in Lent there will be a Lent Course, 7.45 for 8 pm in the Truman Room. Please do support this.

I am very much looking forward to my Study Leave, and thank you all for making it possible and for your generous contributions. It should be a very stimulating and refreshing time, but I suspect I shall miss you all at Christ Church!

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

Thought for the Season

Spring 2001

The period of this newsletter spans the end of the Christmas season, through Lent and Passiontide until Easter and beyond. What a very great richness of themes is contained in this time.

With our celebration of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple on 4th February we bring to an end the forty days of Christmas celebrations, and the end of that service marks a turning point. We now look from the narratives of the beginning of Jesus' life towards those of the end, as we turn in our liturgy to Lent and Passiontide.

Lent is a time of renewal. It's not meant to be about metaphorical self-

flagellation, but about renewing our right relationship with God. Yes, that does involve repentance, but the more literal translation of the Greek word metanoia that we translate as repentance is turning away from. And there is room for joy in that turning away from the not-so-good aspect of ourselves, because we are turning back to God and receiving new life through God's grace.

To my mind the new Common Worship Lent preface to the Eucharistic prayer we shall be using is very helpful to our understanding of the purpose and significance of Lent. It may be useful for you to keep and meditate upon this Lent:

*For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels for ever praising you*

Celia Thomson

ROMEWALK

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT?

PETER CLIFTON, MODERATOR OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST WIMBLEDON, IS WALKING TO ROME THIS YEAR - FOR THE HOMELESS

Romewalk is what my fund-raising project for the homeless is called, and it starts in earnest when I set off to walk to Rome from the headquarters of Shelter in London on the 13th July, 2000. I'm writing each month about the progress towards my plan for a sponsored walk, cycle-ride and thirst - it's all for the homeless across the countries I shall be crossing.

Last Friday I was out with the Sacred Heart Church sandwich run, and talking briefly, again, to John. He sleeps rough in a collection of cardboard boxes in the same place, and has been on the street for over two years, since being made redundant in Bristol. Very courteous, badly educated but well spoken, he would never appear in a photograph for fear that his family should recognise him. Should I start my walk by sleeping in a shop doorway somewhere close to him? Should I sleep out in Brussels and Paris, too?

But I made progress in November and December. John Kelly gave me a mountain bike for the cycling part of the triathlon, and I had a lesson on how to swim the crawl. They're very expensive, those bikes. Breathing for the crawl is very difficult if you're an old marathon runner like me, used to exercise with my chin dropping open. Breaststroke is bad for old knees. But the biggest thrill was getting a response from two radio stations in Brussels, to which I had written in order to get their email addresses.

In case you've not heard this before, I want to do the whole money-raising bit on the Web - www.romewalk.org is my address. I am begging for sponsors for Shelter, Poverello (Belgium), and the Joel Nafuma hostel for refugees in Italy. A big charity in France called Les Restos never responds to my offers to raise funds for them, so now I am trying l'Armée de Salut. Yes, that's the French division of the Salvation Army. Will they respond?

One of the first test letters asking for sponsorship has been very successful - Tony Blair has written to say that the Romewalk Project '... is a *challenging event for a worthwhile cause, which I hope will receive the public support it deserves.*' I had some help from my son Dan for that, and my son Pat, together with son Paul's wife Lucy, have been trying to find me a brewer - they got a contact.

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MAKING THE EUCHARIST A SIGN OF UNITY

WHAT UNITES? WHAT DIVIDES? THE EUCHARIST

These powerful and challenging words were used in the opening address of the Christian Unity Week Study Day held at the Raynes Park Methodist Church on Saturday 20th January, 2001.

If the Eucharist divides, how can

we unite? The packed audience, which included several members from the congregation of Christ Church, waited for the day to unfold and we were not disappointed by what we heard, experienced and shared.

the 'Sacrament of the Kingdom'. He explained and expanded on four New Testament roots for our Eucharistic practice.

Next, the Revd David Chapman steered us through 'The Evolution of The Theology of the Eucharist'. His talk commenced by telling us that there is often a lack of common understanding on the nature of the Eucharist - and he went on to outline the historical reasons behind this thinking. His talk concluded on a very positive note by saying that there is now a 'convergence of thinking' affirming us together in a more common understanding of the Eucharist.

Our final speaker of the morning was Gerard Hughes who led us through a guided contemplation of 'The Place of the Eucharist in Christian Living' - God with us now. Gerard explained that as God manifested himself in Jesus, *this is me, given for you*, so at the Eucharist we are called to be at one with God. God is our ultimate identity, our identity is in God.

The three speakers of the morning had stimulated and energised us all. After lunch we went into small groups, mixing with people we did not know, to share any personal thoughts from the morning sessions. This was such a valuable exercise and I think greatly appreciated by all of us. An opportunity to talk with other Christians from the seven Churches Together in West Wimbledon.

Our thanks must go not only to the speakers, but also to Peter Clifton, Moderator, Churches Together in West Wimbledon and Chairman for the day.

A very refreshing experience.

BRENDA THURGOOD



Bruno Bear News

If you are under 5 and would like to have fun on Thursday mornings come along and join us between 9:30 and 11:30 am - bring your parent or carer and give them a chance for a coffee and a chat whilst you play.

Bruno Bear Club
half-term closure on
Thursday 22nd February

Bruno Bear Club
closed for Easter:
no club on the
12th and 19th April
Reopen on
Thursday 26th
April

Bruno
Rules

Bruno Says...
Please remember:
**Mothering
Sunday Service**
at 10:00am
Sunday 25th March
followed by
Cake Stall in Hall
in aid of
Guides in the
Ukraine

For More Details Phone:
Louise Roberts (020 8879 0971) or Clare Pickard (020 8947 2196)

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You see, I would like to find a European brewer that is willing to sponsor my thirst, because I have resolved not to drink any alcohol until I reach Rome on October 8 2001. I can hear the click-drop of a bottle opening, in a bar in Rome next October. I am thinking about that glass of beer today, a year ahead of drinking it. I can hear the slight sound of fizz as I lift the glass towards my lips - noisy? - not so that you can't hear a beer sing!!

I'll be reporting daily when I start along the Pilgrim's Way next summer, and there will be an opportunity for anyone who wants to join me, especially on Sunday July 15 on the North Downs. I have to get hundreds of letters begging for sponsorship from large companies I will pass in London and abroad, so if you can help with writing - and with the name of someone you know in a company in London - it would be very welcome. Send me an email at romewa1k@easynet.co.uk if we've clicked.

*I want to raise £720,000
for Shelter and other charities
and it takes planning.*

**Bran
Tub**

PANCAKE PARTY

lollies

3:30pm 27th February

*Pastoral Team Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party
in the Church Hall to raise funds
for hospital visits*

Children Welcome

Christ Church 'Information'

C H U R C H D I A R Y
F e b r u a r y t o A p r i l 2 0 0 1



- 4 Feb *THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST*
11:30am Auction of Promises
12:45pm Parish Lunch
- 6 Feb 11:00am Holy Communion
8:00pm Churches Together in West
Wimbledon
8:00pm Deanery Synod
- 8 Feb 9.30am Holy Communion
- 11 Feb *The Third Sunday before Lent*
- 13 Feb 8:00pm THINK TIME - A Strategic
Planning Evening for the Parish
- 15 Feb 9:30am Holy Communion
- 18 Feb *The Second Sunday before Lent*
- 25 Feb *The Sunday before Lent*
- 27 Feb 3:30pm Pastoral Team Pancake Party
in the Church Hall to raise funds for
hospital visits
- 28 Feb *ASH WEDNESDAY*
12 noon Holy Communion (said)
8:00pm Sung Eucharist St Mary's
Wimbledon
- 4 Mar *The First Sunday of Lent*
- 6 Mar 11:00am Holy Communion
- 7 Mar 8:00 pm Lent Course
- 11 Mar *The Second Sunday of Lent*
- 14 Mar 8:00pm Lent Course
- 16 Mar 12:30-2:00pm Soup, bread and cheese
lunch in aid of The Bishop of
Southwark's Lent Call
- 18 Mar *The Third Sunday of Lent*
- 21 Mar 8:00pm Lent Course
- 25 Mar *Mothering Sunday*
Cake Stall in Hall after 10:00 am
service in aid of Guides in the Ukraine
- 26 Mar 8:00 pm PCC Meeting
- 28 Mar Lent Course
- 29 Mar 9:30am Holy Communion
- 1 Apr *The Fifth Sunday of Lent*
- 3 Apr 11:00am Holy Communion
- 4 Apr 8:00pm Lent Course
- 5 Apr 9:30am Holy Communion
- 6 Apr 12:30-2:00pm Soup, bread and cheese
lunch in aid of The Bishop of
Southwark's Lent Call
- 8 Apr *PALM SUNDAY*
6:30pm Music and Readings on the
Passion
- 9 Apr 8:00pm Address and Compline
- 10 Apr 8:00pm Address and Compline
- 11 Apr 8:00pm Address and Compline
- 12 Apr *MAUNDY THURSDAY*
No 9.30am Holy Communion
8:00pm Sung Eucharist with the
stripping of the altars and Watch until
midnight.
- 13 Apr *GOOD FRIDAY*
10:30am Service of Witness, Raynes
Park
12 noon Two Hours Reflection
The Revd Canon Philip Crowe
2:00pm The Liturgy of the Passion and
Death of Our Lord
- 14 Apr 9:30am Decoration of the Church for
Easter
- 15 Apr *EASTER DAY*
- 19 Apr 9:30 am Holy Communion
- 22 Apr *The Second Sunday of Easter*
- 26 Apr 9:30am Holy
Communion
8:00pm Annual
Parochial Meeting
- 28 Apr Cake and Book
Sale
- 29 Apr *The Third Sunday
of Easter*

BUT hallow the
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts.