

Christ Church Information

L e n t 2 0 0 2

**Revd Celia Thomson,
Christ Church Vicarage, 16 Copse Hill, London, SW20 0HG
020 8946 4491 / email: cthomson@dircon.co.uk**

Dear Friends,

Christmas already seems long ago, yet this newsletter appears as we celebrate the 40th day of Christmas with the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (or Candlemas) with an All Age Communion service. The liturgical year now points us towards Lent and this year we only have one Sunday between Candlemas and Ash Wednesday - the shortest time it can ever be because Easter is so early this year.

Once again, I'm afraid I shall be away on Ash Wednesday, so there will be a service of Holy Communion here at 11 am, and you are warmly invited to the Wimbledon Team Sung Eucharist at 8 pm at St Matthew's. Ash Wednesday is an important day in the Church's year so please do try to attend one or other of those services. Our Lent Course this year is entitled "In the Wilderness" and will be on Wednesdays at 7.45 for 8 pm in the Truman Room.

My visit to Zimbabwe from 4th - 20th February is at the invitation of Bishop Wilson. I hope to be given an overview of the diocese of Matabeleland and to learn more about how our fellow Anglicans worship in such different and often difficult circumstances. I'm also hoping to be taken to see our windmill at Filabusi - and of course I'll have my camera with me! On my way back through Harare I shall be visiting Tsungirirai, a charity that the PCC supported this year in its annual giving. On Tuesday 26th February at 8 pm in the Truman Room I shall be talking about my visit to anyone interested.

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

Thought for the Season



Lent is a time for renewing our relationship with God, and perhaps this might include a resolve to spend more time in prayer. Often we find it very difficult to pray, but sometimes single words or simple phrases repeated continuously can offer a way for us to rest in God's presence.

Words like "Abba", the word Jesus used to address the Father may be helpful; or "Come, Lord Jesus", or "Be still and know that I am God". Or there's the Jesus Prayer "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." This has been said for centuries in the Orthodox tradition, which has always taught that it sums up the whole gospel. Perhaps the words of St Patrick's Breastplate may be helpful: "Christ be with me, Christ within me" and all of that verse ending with "Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."

And of course there is always the Lord's Prayer. To pray this slowly and reflectively can open up its meaning and power and lead us into new depths of prayer. This is what the poet Edwin Muir discovered. He wrote in his autobiography: "Last night, going to bed alone, I suddenly found myself ... reciting the Lord's Prayer in a loud, emphatic voice, with deep urgency and profound disturbed emotion. While I went on I grew more composed ... and my soul grew still; every word had a strange fullness of meaning which astonished and delighted me ... meaning after meaning sprang from it, overcoming me again with joyful surprise; and I realized that this simple petition was always universal and always inexhaustible, and day by day sanctified human life."

Celia Thomson

FROM JUBILEE TO JUBILEE

Saturday 25th May 2002



*Please put the date in your diary now!
We're planning to mark the Queen's
Golden Jubilee with a celebration of the
life of the parish between 1897 and 2002.*

The church will be open all day on the Saturday, with activities for all age groups, and we hope that many people who live in the neighbourhood will come. Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be served in the hall, or outside if the weather permits. At 5 pm on Saturday 25th May the local historian Richard Milward will give a lecture in church and we will offer hospitality afterwards.

We will have an exhibition in church of the life of the parish so please look out any interesting photos you may have. Many details have yet to be decided but we hope that everyone who wants will have the opportunity to participate during the day and that Christ Church will be seen to be a vibrant and integral part of the neighbourhood.

The Sunday morning services will be as usual on Sunday 26 May (Trinity Sunday) but we will end the weekend by having a special *Songs of Praise* service at 6.30 pm.



HOW MUCH ROMEWALK RAISED

Peter Clifton, who walked 1,068 miles from London to Rome from July 13 to October 12, raised £19,917 for CHAS (The Catholic Housing Aid Society), £3,811 for Shelter and £50 for Let the Children Live, as at January 15. He thanks all the parishioners and clergy at the seven Churches together in West Wimbledon for their support, and especially Patsy Banks and Father Gerard Mitchell.

CHURCH PATH

Following the survey we took in the summer we discovered that many people had strong opinions on the future of the path. Some were in favour of keeping the stone, others felt tarmac would be a better and cheaper option, although some of these were sorry to see the stone go; but the main concern was safety and the result was two thirds to one third in favour of removing the stone and replacing it with tarmac. As a result the PCC passed a resolution to that effect and applied to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for a faculty.

The committee considering our application were reluctant for us to lose the York stone. They suggested that it could be relayed in such a way that the water would more easily drain from it, and that if we regularly power-hosed or steam-cleaned it that would make it non slippery. The committee also suggested we consult the church architect. We did so and she agreed with their recommendations and also felt that the difference in cost between relaying the stone and laying tarmac would not be great.



Before Christmas Jenny Tomlinson and I power-hosed the path and it does seem to be less slippery. At their last meeting on January 17th the PCC did feel that the path was now much safer, although in need of levelling and so, taking into account the views of the diocesan committee and the church architect it was decided to apply for a faculty to relay the York stone and a resolution was passed.

We hope that those who voted in favour of replacing the stone with tarmac will understand this decision. It is obviously going to be a costly business, and it would be an enormous help if those who offered to contribute towards the cost of relaying the stone are still willing to do so.

Sue Rocksborough Smith

MONTHLY READING GROUP

Members of the congregation at Christ Church have recently set up a reading group. We share a pleasure in reading and welcome the opportunity to discuss what we have read with others. It will be informal in style, hosted and chaired by different people; we plan to meet about once a month in various homes on a weekday evening. We hope that the house-group setting will help the talking and the sharing. It will be nothing like an evening class.

We have been encouraged in our plans by *The Church Times*, which proposes titles and authors, gives a brief introduction to each book and suggests questions to start discussion. It also prints feedback from groups. However, each group makes its own programme as it goes along. Choices alternate between spiritual and more general titles, but we are letting ourselves in gently with two past choices, one fiction and the other autobiography. Our February selection is *Death in Holy Orders* by P.D. James, followed in March by *Bad Blood* by Lorna Sage. In April we shall discuss *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracey Chevalier, which is the recommended book for that month.

Membership of the group is open and flexible. Though based around folk at Christ Church, we shall welcome others, provided we do not grow too big for easy discussion. If you are interested to join, please telephone Colin Holloway for further information (020 8946 9930).





Notice Board



ASH WEDNESDAY

11 am Holy Communion (said)
Christ Church
 8 pm Sung Eucharist
St Matthew's, Durham Road

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LENT COURSE **Wednesdays in Lent** **7.45 for 8 pm** **Truman Room**

"In the Wilderness"

1. *Jesus, Satan & the Angels*
 2. *The Wilderness Today*
 3. *The Church in the Wilderness*
 4. *Prayer, Meditation & Scripture*
 5. *Solitude. Friendship & Fellowship*
- A short tape at the beginning of each session provides topics and questions for discussion.

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QUIZ NIGHT **Saturday 2 March** **7 - 10 pm**

Tickets £10 to include supper and drinks.

SOUP, BREAD & CHEESE LUNCHES

Fridays

22 February & 15 March
12.45 until 2 pm

Soup, bread and cheese lunches in aid of the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call

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MOTHERING SUNDAY **Sunday 10 March**

10 am All Age Communion
 Guides and Brownies
 Cake Stall

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CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

This has to be completely renewed in March/April this year.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING **Wednesday 24 April** **at 8 pm**

THANK YOU to all who contributed to our FABRIC FUND

Church Diary continued from page 12 ...

13 Mar 7:45 pm Lent Course -
"In the Wilderness" 4
Truman Room

14 Mar 9:30 am Holy Communion

17 Mar *The Fifth Sunday of Lent*

20 Mar 7:45 Lent Course - 5
"In the Wilderness"
Truman Room

21 Mar 9:30am Holy Communion
8:00 pm PCC Meeting
Truman Room

24 Mar PALM SUNDAY
10:00 am Procession of
Palms and Passion Reading
12 noon Children's Stations
of the Cross
6:30 pm Music and
Readings on the Passion

25 Mar *Monday in Holy Week*
8:00 pm Reflection and
Night Prayer

26 Mar *Tuesday in Holy Week*
8:00 pm Reflection and
Night Prayer

27 Mar *Wednesday in Holy Week*
8:00 pm Reflection and
Night Prayer

28 Mar MAUNDY THURSDAY
8:00 pm Sung Eucharist

29 Mar GOOD FRIDAY
10:30 am Act of Witness
Raynes Park
12 noon Three
Hour Reflection
St John's Spencer Hill led by
Canon Helen Cunliffe
2:00 pm Liturgy of the
Passion Christ Church

30 Mar 9:00 am
Decoration of
the Church
for Easter

31 Mar EASTER DAY



The Bruno Bear Club

Bruno Bear News

Please Contact Clare or Louise for details/dates for Bruno this term.

Louise Roberts
(020 8879 0971)
Clare Pickard
(020 8947 2196)

Christ Church 'Information'

CHURCH DIARY February to March 2002



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| <p>3 Feb THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
10:00 am All Age Communion followed by Entertainment and Parish Lunch</p> <p>5 Feb 11:00 am Holy Communion</p> <p>6 Feb 8:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting</p> <p>10 Feb <i>The Sunday before Lent</i></p> <p>11 Feb 8:00 pm Accompanied Prayer Group <i>Truman Room</i></p> <p>12 Feb 3:00 pm Pancake Party <i>Hall</i>
8:00 pm Book Club at 3 <i>Durrington Park Road</i></p> <p>13 Feb ASH WEDNESDAY
11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Christ Church</i>
8:00 pm Sung Eucharist <i>St Matthew's</i></p> <p>16 Feb 11:00 am Walk along the Embankment</p> <p>17 Feb <i>The First Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>19 Feb 8:00 pm Deanery Synod</p> <p>20 Feb 7:45 pm Lent Course - "In the Wilderness" 1
<i>Truman Room</i></p> | <p>21 Feb 9:30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>22 Feb 12:45 pm Soup, bread and cheese lunch <i>Hall</i></p> <p>24 Feb <i>The Second Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>26 Feb Zimbabwe Evening
<i>Truman Room</i></p> <p>27 Feb 7:45 pm Lent Course - "In the Wilderness" 2
<i>Truman Room</i></p> <p>28 Feb 9:30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>2 Mar 7-10:00 pm Quiz Night <i>Hall</i></p> <p>3 Mar <i>The Third Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>5 Mar 11:00 am Holy Communion</p> <p>6 Mar 7:45 pm Lent Course - "In the Wilderness" 3
<i>Truman Room</i></p> <p>7 Mar 9:30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>10 Mar <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
10:00 am All Age Communion</p> <p>12 Mar 8:00 pm Accompanied Prayer Group <i>Truman Room</i>
8:00 pm Book Club at 3 <i>Durrington Park Road</i></p> |
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