

St.tees bulletin

14th March 2010

TODAY

We welcome Andy Smith and musicians from the Message Trust who will leading worship at Encounter this morning and at our 6.15 service this evening.

Sermons for March

March 14th

- 10:30 am **Holy Communion** Hearing Jesus speaking to his church (5) Revelation 3:v1-6 - Sardis
- 6:15 pm **Service of the Word** with Andy Smith and some musicians from The Message Trust.
Set free from slavery (6) Exodus 12:v1-end. The angel of death passes over where the blood of a lamb has been spilled.
- 8:15 pm **After Hours.** Reflection and social time

March 21st **Tearfund Sunday** The services today will focus on the work of Tearfund and will be led by Mike Chesterton, Tearfund's Church Relationships Manager.

- 10:30 am **Service of the Word** Matthew 25:v14-30
- 6:15 pm **Holy Communion** Matthew 5:v13-16

March 28th **Palm Sunday**

- 10:30 am **Service of the Word** John 12:v12-18
- 6:15 pm **Holy Communion**

After Hours Aimed at students and young adults aged 16 - 30. We meet in the downstairs centre following the Evening Service. **Please note** The last meeting this term will be tonight, Sunday 14th March. There will then be a four week break.

THIS WEEK

ONE GENERATION FROM EXTINCTION? How can the church connect with the unchurched child? Are we one generation from extinction as a witnessing community? In a compelling and thought provoking presentation, Mark Griffiths examines how the church reached the unchurched child in the past and details how many pioneering groups are seeking to do the same in the 21st century. **In St Thomas's Church, Monday 15th March 7:30 - 9:45 pm.** Entry £5.00 including refreshments.

Extra Time meet in the Church Centre on **Tuesday 16th March** at 10.00 am for 10.30 start. Spring has arrived at last, and those garden birds that have survived our long hard winter are already starting to pair off and nest. In his talk on Tuesday, Jeff Butcher, a keen local bird watching enthusiast, will help us to identify and befriend the birds to be seen most commonly in our parks and gardens at this time of year. Using dvd and other material, Jeff will re-awaken our interest in the bird life that is such a feature of this beautiful part of the UK. If you have time on your hands why not come along and join us for a cuppa about 10am, and bring a friend if you can. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

PRAYING TOGETHER

A series of prayer meetings to encourage us to join together as a church to pray and to focus on different aspects of the church - 7:30 pm in church -

- **Thursday 18th March** led by Sally Pidd and Tony Bell
- **Tuesday 25th May** - to be led by members of PCC
- **Wednesday 16th June**
- **Thursday 15th July**
- **Tuesday 17th August**

If a date falls on a house group evening, please consider meeting as a group with the church community. If you are unable to make any of those dates, do pray as triplets, or individuals in your own home. **Please put the dates in your diary!**

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TearFund Sunday - next Sunday 21st March TearFund is a Christian relief organisation that uses the local church around the world to distribute resources that have been given. Many church members save up their planned giving to God to give to TearFund. This year Mike Chesterton, Tearfund's Church Relationships Manager will be speaking at both the morning and evening services. As a church we will be forming a link with Uganda through Tearfund and Mike will launch this project on 21st March.

EVENTS COMING UP

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

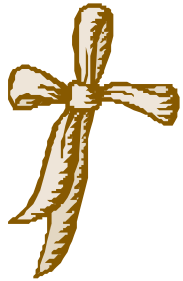
Palm Sunday 28th March to Easter Day 4th April, including Meditations each morning and evening and a Passover Celebration on the Wednesday evening. Tickets for Passover are now available price £2 adults and £1 children

For more details see back page or pick up a leaflet from the welcome desk.

Can you help? Volunteers needed for Holy Week, including Passover:

- moving chairs either prior to or following events
- setting up church / rooms
- organising and helping to serve a simple breakfast following the morning meditations.

If you can help at all with anything practical, we would appreciate your involvement. Contact the church office.



JUNIOR CHURCH

We urgently need more help with our regular childrens groups!!!!

Ladybirds for 1 and 2 year olds meets for the first hour of the Sunday morning service, except for All Age weeks. We need more people to join the rota to help care for our little ones.

Buzzy Bees for 2-4s also meets for the first hour of Sunday morning services. After Easter we will need somebody to take over leadership of this group. How about coming along to see what's involved and if this is something God is calling you to do?

Fusion for 8-11 year olds meets Thursdays from 6:30-8pm. First half - tuckshop, games, craft and a chance to chill. Second half - games, stories, talking and a chance to find out more about God. We need more people to join the team.

Please think and pray about this and contact Sarah Evans sarah@st.tees.org.uk or 01524 590418 to find out more. Thank you.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - Monday 19th April.

Nominations are required for six people: two Churchwardens and four PCC members (to serve for three years), plus Sidespersons. Pick up a sheet from the welcome desk explaining the various vacancies and procedures.

CONFIRMATION 6:15 pm Sunday 13th June

in St Thomas's with Bishop Geoff Pearson, Bishop of Lancaster. Being Confirmed is an opportunity to affirm your baptismal vows and commit yourself to Christian ministry in the wider church and world and would be for those from 12 years old, including adults. Have a word with Saju or one of our Youth Pastors if you are interested.

Special Delivery Holiday Club

for children in Reception to School Year 6

Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th April

It's going to be amazing ... pick up your registration form from the welcome desk.

Forms and money need to be returned to Sarah Evans by tomorrow, Monday 15th March at the latest.

NOTICE BOARD

GROWING LEADERS COURSE AND MENTORING *If you are on the Growing Leaders Course or mentoring someone taking part, there are packs of useful information and guidance available to support you. Please contact the Church Office if you would like a copy.*

ST THOMAS'S PRE SCHOOL *are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. If you would like to donate vouchers, please leave them at the church office or put them in the silver box on the Welcome Desk in the church lounge.*

HELP WANTED, *ladies or gentlemen, to paint the upstairs room in church following it's repair and replastering, and other areas including the centre. Please give your name to David Dawson if you would like to help.*

ACCOMMODATION/HELP NEEDED - We have had a request from the USA from a lady who needs to come to Lancaster for urgent treatment on her eyes as she is going blind. We do not know the lady but have checked the information she has given us and it appears to be a genuine request. We believe she is an Anglican. The treatment is very specialised and not available in the USA nor on the health service here, so will need to be done privately. One of the doctors researching the very rare condition she has is based in Lancaster, hence her visit. It is not clear exactly when she will need to come over or for how long, but it needs to be soon. She has funds to pay her way over and for the treatment, but would struggle to pay for accommodation. If anyone feels they may be in a position to help please contact the office as soon as possible so we can put you in touch by email.

SPONSORS WANTED - **Alice Crabtree is doing a sponsored walk and sit for a quarter of a mile on Morecambe Promenade on March 27th in aid of the Cardiac Unit at Blackpool where she had her by-pass. Would anyone who would like to sponsor her please sign up at the Welcome desk.**

CELEBRATING 2010 - Calling All Singers! The Edinburgh World Missionary Conference of 1910 is widely regarded as the birth of the modern Ecumenical movement - which makes 2010 a significant birthday! **Churches Together in Lancashire** are looking to recruit enthusiastic and joyful singers to join our celebrations of this important centenary. Could you be part of the choir at either of our County 'Songs of Praise' Events in Lancaster and Leyland. See notice board for details.

SHORT-TERM MISSION FUNDING is available from St Thomas's Mission Support for those who plan to be involved in short-term Christian work during the summer. If you would like to apply for funding please ask for a form at the welcome desk, complete this and return to the church office. Deadline 20th May 2010.

COMPASSION CHILDREN Following on from our recent Compassion UK meeting, we have been given biography information sheets on some children in the Philippines that are waiting for sponsors to support them. If you would like to consider 'adopting' one or more of these needy children through Compassion UK at a cost of £21 per month, please contact Brian Robinson for more details (phone 69303 or email brian.robinson.davao@gmail.com).

THE INTERNATIONAL CAFÉ - for overseas students and families. Pick up information from the welcome desk of events happening this term.

WEEKLY FOOTBALL Sundays 9:00 - 10:00 pm at the University of Cumbria Sports Centre on the astroturf. All Welcome. For more information contact Phil on 07900 037 590.

Holy Week & Easter 2010

Palm Sunday 28th March	Service of the Word 10.30am Holy Communion 6.15pm (Service with a difference)
Monday 29th	7.30am and 7.30pm Meditationth
Tuesday 30th	7.30am and 7.30pm Meditation
Wednesday 31st	7.30am Meditation 6.30pm Passover Celebration
Thursday 1st April	7.30am Meditation and 7.30pm Meditation and Communion
Good Friday 2nd	10.30 - 11.30am Meditation
Easter Sunday 4th	10.30am All Age Communion and 6.15pm Evening Praise

A simple breakfast will be served in the Church Centre after the morning meditations Monday to Thursday.

Meditations will be 30 minutes long except Thursday evening which will be 45 minutes.

Passover will include a bring and share meal, with tickets costing £2 for adults and £1 for children under 12 years. The evening will finish by 9.45pm.

REFRESHMENTS TEAM

Today	14 Mar	10:30am	Judy Dyer's Housegroup
		6:15pm	Richard and Doreen Silman's Housegroup
Sunday	21 Mar	10:30am	Mike Wong's Housegroup
		6:15pm	Peter and Myrtle Morgan's Housegroup

For general information & further details about St Thomas's activities, do visit our website www.st.tees.org.uk

Office hours: usually 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon - Fri

☎ 01524 590 410
e-mail admin@st.tees.org.uk

Charity No 113 0550

WELCOME.

If you have recently come to St Thomas's, or even if you've been coming for a while, we would like to welcome you and get to know you better. Please fill in this tear-off slip and hand it in at the Welcome Desk or put it in the church letter box in the St Thomas Centre behind the church (The letterbox is at the top of the concrete external stairs).

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First name	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>	Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/...	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>			If a student tick box	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>	Tel No	<input type="text"/>	age ? 20+, 30+, 40+, 50+	<input type="checkbox"/>
		e-mail	<input type="text"/>		
I would like more information about....			I am interested in house groups <input type="checkbox"/>		