



United Benefice News

for the churches of St George's and St John's



20th June 2010 - Trinity 3

Come, you who have much faith and you who have little, and you who have not been for a long time, you who have been here often, you who have tried to follow and you who feel you have failed. Come, not because I invite you, but because God does; and, as you are welcomed, go, and welcome others.

We welcome you to our worship today. We hope God's Holy Spirit will touch your heart and that you may be strengthened by Word and Sacrament.



Faith can be maddening too!

Today's is a difficult gospel! Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac but in the process kills a herd of pigs and is forced to leave the area. It is a story which appears to set Jesus' compassion for the man against compassion for the Gentile pig owners of the region. Perhaps it a garbled story of a person with severe mental illness being healed after his frantic outcries had panicked the pigs? Or did Jesus fail to convince the unbelieving Gerasenes who had lost their pigs of God's compassionate love? And why is Luke telling us a story of a seeming failure of Jesus' ministry? As we read this strange story perhaps it reminds us, that even for the sanest among us, the struggle to believe can be tormenting. The Gerasenes and their pigs might help us to take heart.

Saint of the Week

On June the 24th the Universal Christian Church celebrates the **Birth of John the Baptist** (who incidentally is known by those of the Muslim faith as Yahya in Arabic and in the Qur'an). He is absolutely pivotal in the work of God's plan of salvation, St John bridges the Old Testament to the New Covenant and it is essential to recognise this if we are to understand how all God's planning comes together. We shall say the Eucharist at St Georges on Thursday at 6.30pm then.....

Sunday 27th June. The **Patronal Festival** at St John's, with the choir, who will lead the Sung Eucharist and the service will conclude with Solemn Benediction. The preacher will be **Fr Charles Sargent** and this will be his last visit to us before he leaves his present post as Chaplain to Brunel University. I hope as many as possible will be at St Johns for this occasion.



From the Children and Youth Worker:



With the end of the year coming up, it's time to plan our Sunday School picnic! The date is July 18th, at noon, location TBC. We're planning a "classic games" theme, so if anyone has a croquet set, a game of pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, or another game they'd like to contribute, please get in touch with me in person or by email. Also, if you'd be willing to provide food (juice, sandwiches, un-iced fairy cakes so children can decorate their own, etc.), please let me know.

Also coming up is our summer programme, "Rivers of Living Water," from August 23rd to August 27th. That's a Bank Holiday weekend, so the Friday session will let out at 1 p.m. to allow for travel arrangements. The programme will include worship, storytelling, art, drama, music, and outdoor play. Unfortunately, at the moment, we are only able to take children from age 5 to age 11 - however, if we have demand for a nursery group to be included, and enough adults who are willing to help out, we can add on a younger group. Please let me know if you'd like your child to attend the summer programme or if you (or a teenager in your family) would like to help out in any way. There is no cost to families for this programme.

Garden Party

Our annual Garden Party will be held on the 14th July in Campden Hill Square Gardens, I do hope you will put this date in your diary now?

United Tuesdays Education Programme

Tuesday June 22nd Time: 1900-2030 Venue: Social Space, St George's

This week is the final session before the summer break.

We complete the course 'Growing in Prayer' with a book group evening. There are a couple of copies of *How To Pray*, by John Pritchard still available. These are at the back of church and cost £8. To celebrate the end of our year of courses we will go out for dinner after the group. Contact Father Robert for details.

People

We send our love and prayers to Minh-Tam, Roland, Andrew and Serena on the sad news of the death of Minh-Tam's mother. We continue to remember in our prayers Vanessa Riley who is making slow progress after her recent operation. I would like to thank all of you who have enquired after the condition of my brother, Stanley Fuller. He is currently undergoing a new intense course of chemotherapy, which is experimental. We also continue in our prayers to uphold Stephan Rogge as he prepares to return home after well over a year in hospital. Whilst his mobility is severely limited we trust in God's work of healing to give him that peace which is God's promise.

The Kensington Council of Churches AGM will be held this year on Thursday 24th June. 7pm at the Church of St Philip's, Earl's Court Road.

The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation



A tall order this Sunday as we deal with two sacraments in one week! But that is because both Baptism and confirmation belong together. They form two parts of the process of Christian initiation – how we become Christians. At heart both sacraments are about Christian identity. They are about who we are. Christians are those who are in Christ. In Baptism we are joined to Christ. The outward signs of this are



the anointing with the oil of Catechumens and the washing of the water. In Confirmation we are sealed with God's love using the oil of Chrism. There have been many changes in the modern period in how these two sacraments relate to one another. And also in how they link to receiving communion for the first time. The traditional pattern in the Church of England since the Reformation has been infant baptism, followed by confirmation as an adolescent and then admission to the Eucharist. But in today's Church there are increasing numbers of people baptised and confirmed as adults. There is also the practice of admission to Holy Communion before confirmation (about age 7 or 8). These changes should be welcomed as a response of the church to our contemporary society. The patterns have varied over history as the church expanded and theology developed in particular cultural contexts, and many of the modern developments are in fact a recovery of some of the earliest structures.

No matter what our opinions are about these changes Baptism and Confirmation grant us the grace to know that we are God's in Christ and that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. For more information see:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/baptismconfirm/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catechumen>

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07421b.htm>

Chronic pain - problems and solutions. Tuesday 29 June 2010



The ROYAL
SOCIETY of
MEDICINE

Venue: St. Paul's Cathedral, The Chapterhouse, St. Paul's Churchyard, LONDON, EC4M 8AD organised by the Royal Society of Medicine and St Paul's Cathedral

Background: Both doctors and clergy regularly seek to help people with chronic pain. Doctors know that there is a lot more to chronic pain than acute pain that goes on a long time. And clergy know the difficult pastoral challenges that they face in helping these people. Both groups have specific contributions and skills relevant to the care of people with chronic pain. Can we work together?

One of the speakers on the day will be our very own Fr Robert. Further details and booking form can be found at www.rsm.ac.uk/academ/stpauls2010.php



Your Vicar: Fr Michael Fuller 020 7727 9486, fax: 020 7681 2766

Email: frmichael@stgeorgescampdenhill.com

Associate Priest: Fr Robert Thompson 07792 564869

Email: frrobert@stgeorgescampdenhill.co.uk



Youth Worker: Margaret Houston 020 7221 6546 margaret@stgeorgescampdenhill.com

Parish Administrator: Piotr Blak 020 7221 6546 stgeorgew8@btconnect.com

St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, Campden Hill, www.stgeorgescampdenhill.com
Kensington, London W8 7JG

Church Wardens:

Angela Lascelles 020 7229 5504

Christopher Buckmaster 020 7229 7508

Organist: Andrew Wells 07885 133817

Services:

Sundays:

8:00 Holy Communion (Prayer Book);

10:00 Sung Eucharist & Sunday School

Weekdays (Tuesdays to Fridays):

8:00 Morning Prayer;

18:00 Evening Prayer; 18:30 Holy Eucharist

Mondays:

18:00 Prayer and Meditation

Additionally on Wednesdays:

12:00 Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

Saturdays:

8:00 Morning Prayer; 8:30 Holy Eucharist;

18:00 Evening Prayer



St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road,
Kensington, London W14 8AH

www.stjohnthebaptisthollandroad.com

Church Wardens:

Jenny Davenport 020 7912 7656

Julian Metherell 020 7610 4254

Organist: Paul Joslin

Services: Sundays: 18:30 Sung Mass

Confessions in both churches are heard by appointment.

facebook

United Bene fice
of Holland Park



Next week readings:

1st: 1 Kings 19, 1-4

2nd: Galatians 3, 23-29

Gospel: Luke 8, 26-39

This week readings:

1st: 2 Kings 5

2nd: Galatians 2, 15-21

Gospel: Luke 7,36—8.3

THE PIGS
DON'T COUNT?
THAT'S
SPECISM!

NO- IT'S
SYMBOLISM
OF JESUS
BRINGING LIFE
EVEN TO ...

THOSE FURTEST FROM
GOD. AND IT'S A
REMINDER TO TALK
ABOUT THE FALSE GODS
AND WORRIES THAT
THREATEN TO TAKE
POSSESSION OF US.

I'D RATHER
TALK ABOUT
SPECISM.



LUKE 8: 26-39

G. NETZSTEIN 2010