

Ferryhill Parish News

March 2010

For delivery by 7th March

Saving the Planet

Are you interested in the environment and “green” issues? We have set up a new group in the church in order to work towards becoming an eco-congregation. We feel that it is the responsibility of a church to be aware of environmental issues in church buildings and grounds, in finance and purchasing and in all our activities whenever possible.

We would like to work with the community for a greener world through our personal lifestyles, community projects and global links. There is a lot of scope for exciting and challenging projects and we hope that some of you would like to join us informally to give us your ideas and expertise. If you think you can help or would like to be involved, please let Ann Ralph know and a meeting will be arranged. Tel: 01224 575520 or email agralph@btinternet.com

Tips to cut your carbon footprint, save energy and money

In the home

- If you have a loft, check the insulation: is it 270mm thick? Fitting this amount of insulation could save up to £150 a year on heating bills
- If you have a hot water tank fit an insulating jacket at least 75mm thick and save up to £30 a year
- If you have cavity walls save up to £120 a year by installing cavity wall insulation.

Find out more at: <http://campaigns2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home/in-the-home.html>

Look out for some more eco-tips in next month's Parish News.

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

Mabel Kelman, (Postal ACT) 30.1.10

SERVICES IN MARCH

Sunday 7th March

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children are welcome to participate fully under the guidance of their parents or guardians in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Sunday Club will however meet during this service for those children who do not wish to participate in the Sacrament. Crèche.

Sunday 14th March (Mothering Sunday)

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and crèche.

Tuesday 16th March

12.10p.m. Mid-week service of approx 15 minutes.

Sunday 21st March

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and Crèche.

6 p.m. Informal worship in the Memorial Chapel. Holy Communion.

Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday)

N.B. BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS!!

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and crèche.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday (1st April)

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion

Good Friday (2nd April)

7.30 p.m. Good Friday Meditation

EASTER DAY SERVICES

Sunday 4th April

7.30 a.m. Service in the Duthie Park followed by breakfast in the Halls

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Memorial Chapel

11a.m. All-age Family Service Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Services in

the Nursing Homes

Wednesday 3rd March at 11 a.m.

in the Cowdray Club

Sunday 14th March at 6 p.m.

in Devanha Nursing Home

Sunday 21st March at 6 p.m.

in Maryfield East

The Co-ordinating Committee

meets on Thursday 11th March
at 7.15 p.m.

The Kirk Session meets on Thursday 18th
March at 7.15. p.m.

The Kirk Session and Congregational

Board will meet on Sunday 21st March
after morning worship to receive the
accounts for 2009.

The **Stated Annual Meeting** will be held
after the morning service
on Sunday 28th March.

Message leading up to Easter 2010

You may have wished that Winter (especially this one!) had gone quickly or completely, unfortunately it keeps coming back. Well, the truth is that no matter how it behaves, the Spring is just here, a period during which many plants bring forth flowers. The countryside everywhere will be in full bloom. It is a time of renewal, a time of new growth and regeneration for God's creation. It is a time that sends great signals or signs of hope and life everywhere where God's creation has been in an apparent state of despair, death, chaos, gloom, duff, you name it. These expected signs of new beginnings around us remind us of our God as the God of hope, God of future, the One who is able to bring life from despair and make a broken-heart sing joyful songs again.

As we welcome the Spring time, in the Christian tradition, as you may be aware, we enter into a period called "**Lent**" - a time leading up to Easter. For this year 2010, this period has started since the 17th of February. Traditionally, besides many other things, "Lent" used to be a time when followers of Jesus used to think of the 40 days and nights when Jesus was tested and overcome the devil and his temptations of trying to block God's purposes for our life via Jesus' mission on earth-*to die for our sins and give us the opportunity to be free and have eternal life*. If Jesus had given in, his mission for our benefit would have been lost. With this in mind, the time of "Lent" is a wonderful opportunity for us to *think, reflect, and/or meditate* on what Jesus went through for us. You may decide to meditate on his temptations at the time when he was most susceptible to pride and most vulnerable under physical or emotional stress (Matthew 4:1-13). In addition to this, you may also think on the seven last sayings of Jesus on the Cross: (1) "*Father, forgive them, for they don't what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34); (2) "*I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise*" (Luke 23:43); (3) Speaking to Mary and John "*Dear woman, here is your son ...Here is your mother*" (John 19:26,27); (4) "*May God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*" (Matthew 27:46/Mark 15:34); (5) "*I am thirsty*" (John 19:28); (6) "*It is finished!*" (John 19:30); and (7) "*Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!*" (Luke 23:46). Among many other thoughts that are revealed in these words, it is also worth seeing that they capture the last moments of all that Jesus went through to gain our forgiveness.

Through Jesus' suffering, death at the cross and resurrection we were given new life and hope to embrace the future. With this in mind, I hope that you look forward to Good Friday and Easter where such messages of hope, new life, and new tomorrows will be spoken again and again. Until then, I wish you a wonderful time of reflections, prayers, and actions throughout "Lent".

Abi Ngunga

Count your blessings 2010

A life-changing experience for Lent

Make Lent meaningful this year. Instead of giving up wine or chocolate, join Christian Aid to look again at the good things in your life – and change the lives of others living in poverty across the world. It's simple. Download the Count your Blessings calendar and put it on your notice board or fridge. It will show you the world afresh each day. Then record your responses daily in the boxes as you walk with Christian Aid from Ash Wednesday through to Easter. Sign up for emails to help you keep Lent's journey in mind – and you'll be sent meditations, reflections and powerful stories. Visit www.christianaid.org.uk/lent for more information.

Plans for this year's **Summer Club** are under way. The Summer Club runs every morning for a week during August for all Primary School aged children. It is a fun filled week of crafts, games, stories and songs enjoyed by around 60 children and 20 adults. The first planning meeting for all those interested in helping will be held after the morning service on Sunday 7th March in the Upper Room. If you wish to find out more, please come along or phone Fiona on 590806.

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2011

Rev John Watson former minister of St Mark's is planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October/November 2011. If any persons are interested would they please get in touch with John with their details either on 01569730604 or e-mail drjohn@johnmutchwatson.wanadoo.co.uk or watson-john18@sky.com. A group meeting for all those interested will be held in April sometime.

Everyman - a **Medieval Morality Play** presented as an act of worship. St Margaret of Scotland Episcopalian Church, Gallowgate at 8pm on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 March 2010. Admission Programmes (£5 donation) available at the door or, in advance, by phoning Carole Phelan (895033) or Verna Ward (212801). Net proceeds to St Margaret's.