

The church door speaks

"Hello. I am the door to your parish church. My first name is 'WELCOME'. I draw you to the sacred meeting with your God and with each other.

Newborn babies pass through me on their way to the font. Those born into everlasting life pass through me on the way to their place of rest. Beginnings and endings and resting places along life's journey: I am part of them all, because I am the door to the assembly for worship. That is why I rejoice to take my place in a distinguished family of doors:



- ◆ the door to the home at Bethany, where Lazarus, Martha and Mary offered hospitality to the Lord Jesus
- ◆ the door to the tax collector Zacchaeus' house, where that repentant sinner welcomed the Lord Jesus
- ◆ the door to the house in Capernaum, where the sick came for healing from the Lord Jesus
- ◆ the door to the upper room, where bread and wine became the sacred Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus
- ◆ the door to the empty tomb, where angels announced the resurrection of the Lord Jesus

Yes, all those doors were hallowed by the Lord Jesus as he passed through them. But today, the members of his Body in this world, his holy sisters and brothers, pass through me, the door to their church, to meet Jesus there.

And I welcome you, all of you, to this service and worshipping assembly. Yes, all of you, especially those who might be overlooked and ignored."

What have we forgotten to say?

Please let us know what other things you might like information about or questions you might like answers to.

If you would like to know more contact:

Fr Paul Williamson
The Rectory, 7 Blakewood Close,
Hanworth. TW13 7NL

☎(020) 8844 0457

email: rector@s-george.org.uk

or visit: www.s-george.org.uk

Saint George Hanworth Park

WHAT'S IT LIKE GOING TO CHURCH?



April 2009

The hardest bit

Is walking through the door. But then it is open! And everyone inside has to walk through the door for the first time sometime.

When you get inside -

It's a beautiful place, we are proud of it. It speaks of the things of God in a troubled world. It is a place of stillness. It is open for you to use on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (10am-11pm) as well as to come to on Sundays.

What happens during services?

We gather, listen to the word of God as it is read in the Bible and try, while the priest preaches, to make the connections between what God is saying in the scriptures and what is going on in our lives.



Then the priest takes and consecrates bread and wine. The bread and wine represent all that we have and are. The wheat had to be crushed to make bread, the grapes had to be bruised to make wine – and we often feel bruised by life as we live

through a difficulty or illness or get hurt by life.

They also represent our joys (the bread rose in the oven as it was baked, the wine bubbled as it

fermented) and we come here with our joys when we are feeling good or happy. No wonder Jesus (who understands all this and knows us better than we know ourselves) took bread and wine and said, '*This is my Body... this is my Blood*' and told us to do this in remembrance of Him – so we could receive Him in our lives.

When people first come to church it is a good idea not to try to follow every word of the service, but just to let themselves be surrounded by it.

After the 10am services there is tea or coffee in the West Room – it's a good way to meet other members of the congregation.

Receiving Communion?

If you have been confirmed and wish to receive Communion, please do so. If you haven't been confirmed come to the altar with the service sheet and receive a blessing (then after he has blessed you, return to your seat). If you are not sure whether you have been confirmed or not, please speak to our priest, Father Paul.

Where shall I sit?

Wherever you like, though you may feel more at ease toward the back so that you can see and follow what other people are doing.

What are the people who go to church like?

They are people like you, people who are trying to make sense of their lives with God's help. They do not claim to be perfect, or to have all the answers, or to have 'got it all right', but they are making an effort.

Come and join them!

Can I bring children?

Yes, they are part of the Church of today (not the Church of tomorrow) and we welcome children and babies as well as adults.

The children's area

In the West Room of the church is a children's area, with toys and books, coloured pencils, things to do and draw. We have tried to make it as child friendly as possible. Children are really welcome and they can go and play rather than sit still. Feel free to sit there with them.

What the Church offers

- ◆ Sunday School for small children
- ◆ Classes for Baptism & Confirmation
- ◆ Youth work (see separate sheet)
- ◆ Choirs for children and adults
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Religious education lessons
- ◆ House Blessings
- ◆ Spiritual guidance
- ◆ Servers at the Altar
- ◆ Fellowship and social outings