

Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd February - 7th March. The theme this year is THE BIG SWAP. The Fairtrade Foundation is encouraging people to switch to buying a fairtrade product, e.g. start buying fairtrade bananas instead of ordinary ones. Their aim is for 1 million “swaps” to be registered during Fairtrade Fortnight – visit their website to register your swap (www.fairtrade.org.uk).

Children's Society Collection 10-24th April 2010. There are still a number of roads in the parish where a collector is needed in order to help support the Society's important work. If you feel able to give a little time to call on houses and collect please contact Audrey Taylor on 01707 325678.

Children's Society Boxes -Please bring your boxes to the Community Café coffee morning in New Church House on Tuesday 16th March when Diane Petty will be there to receive them.

Spring's Ladies' Lunch - Saturday 17th April at 12 noon - 'War and Peace - not Tolstoy's' We are delighted to welcome Madeleine Phillips as our next guest speaker. Madeleine has been a member of St Mary's congregation for many many years. She will tell us about her life in German occupied Belgium during WW2 and also about early married life in peacetime Britain in the late 1940's. Please join us for this interesting talk -we hope to see as many of you as usual. We are keeping the price of tickets at £8.00 and these will be on sale on Sunday 21st March and again on 28th March after the 9.30 service from NCH. When all tickets will be sold, we will, as usual, have a waiting list for ladies who would like to listen to the talk only in return for a small donation. Our profits are shared between church funds and a charity of the speaker's choice. In view of the fact that the Wellington may well have reopened by then, could we please ask you not to use their car park. We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that there will also be a wedding taking place at 3pm that afternoon so the talk will exceptionally start at 12 noon and lunch will end at 2.30pm. Could everyone please use NCH only both for entrance and exit and keep noise to a minimum from 2.30 onwards in room 1 of NCH. Many thanks for your understanding. Once again, could we appeal to all those who have not helped previously and feel they're able to offer help on this occasion tell us at the time of purchasing their ticket - your efforts will be much appreciated. We look forward to seeing many of you on the day.

If you remember the Broom family you may be interested to know that David Broom is running the London Marathon this year and raising money for Christian Aid. If you would like to sponsor him he would be very grateful; it would make those 26 miles feel worthwhile! You can give online via his Virgin Money Giving site: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/davidbroom> and you can also see how his training is going via his blog: <http://daveslmblog.blogspot.com/>, which also has a link to the sponsorship site. For further details please see Stephen Jupp.

For details of weekday services please see the notice in the porch.



The Residents of: Twin Foxes; Wickfield; Wickfield Close, Woolmer Green

The Sick: Muriel Taylor; Yim Lon Chong; Connie Udale; Dawn Tilley; Bryan Tipping; Peter Brooks; Penny Wakefield; Ann Gurney; Brian Evers; Anne Humphreys

Those who have died recently: Kit Trevena; Edna Challis; Joe Poulton and please pray also for their families and friends

This week please pray for:

Our Clergy, Coralie, Diane & Stephen

Our readers Colin, Usha, Catherine & Mick

Our Lent Groups and their Leaders

The PCC Meeting on Monday

The Relate Training Course on Tuesday

The appointment of a new Team Rector

All the churches of our Team Ministry during this period of a vacancy

Next week's readings: Joshua 5: 9-12; 2 Corinthians 5: 16-end; Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-end

St Mary's Church Office:
open weekdays 10am-12noon Tel: 01438 840964
e-mail secretary@welwyn.org.uk
Parish Web site www.welwyn.org.uk

St Mary the Virgin,
Welwyn

Sunday 7th February
The Third Sunday of Lent

We welcome all our visitors to this
Service of **Parish Communion**
and hope you will stay behind afterwards
for a cup of coffee.

For those with a hearing aid an induction loop is fitted in this church for your use. There are also large print versions of the service and the hymn books available. Please ask one of the sidespersons.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' 6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" 8 He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." ' Luke 13: 1-9

Opening Hymn: 376 'I heard the voice of Jesus say'

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9
(Read by Vernonne Allan)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
(Read by Peter Lee)

Gradual Hymn: 414
‘O for a closer walk with God’

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

Offertory Hymn: ‘Beauty for brokenness’
(During this hymn a collection will be taken)

1) Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord in your suffering world this is our prayer:
bread for the children, justice, joy, peace;
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!

2) Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can’t speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

3) Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share;
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4) Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned - our future our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

5) Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

During Communion the Choir will sing **Psalm 21-**
Barry Rose

Communion Hymn: 282
‘Faithful shepherd feed me’

Final Hymn: 368
‘Guide me, O thou great Redeemer’

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You are warmly welcomed to
"40 minutes"
at 11.15am after this service
in St Mary's New Church House
This is a friendly and informal service,
designed to inspire and challenge all, whatever
your age and wherever you are in your faith.

There will be **Evensong** this evening at 6.30pm in St
Peter's, Tewin led by Usha Hull.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** to support the
work of the Mothers' Union on Monday 8 March at 11
Mardley Avenue, Oaklands, Welwyn from 10.00 am
to 12 noon. There will be a Sales Table and Bring and
Buy. Coffee/tea and cake - £1.50. Chris Allday 716859.

The next meeting of the PCC is on Monday 8th March
at 8pm in New Church House.

The next meeting of the **Church Women's Fellowship**
is on Tuesday 9th March at 2.30pm in Church House.
Mrs Sue Keach will give a talk entitled ‘Climate
Change -Sisters of the Planet’.

A quiet reflective service of
Prayer and Meditation
Wednesday 10th March
8pm
in New Church House
led by Coralie McCluskey

Spring Fairtrade Sale Saturday 13th March 10-11.30am.
New Traidcraft Spring/Summer catalogue is out. For
more details contact Maggie Varco 01438 715450.

Next Sunday, 14th March, is Mothering Sunday.
Stephen Fielding will preside at Holy Communion at
8.00am. There will be Family Communion at 9.30pm.
Diane Whittaker will preside and preach There will be a
service of Evensong at 6.30pm in St Mary's led by
Stephen Fielding.

14+ invite you to attend a showing of the much hyped
climate change docudrama "The Age of Stupid" in New
Church House on Sunday 14th March at 19:00. Please
book your free place with James Finlay, 01707 896464 /
james.finlay@welwyn.org.uk, as soon as possible. There
will be a collection in aid of our charity this year, the
Haitian appeal. Places are limited to a maximum of 40 in
the hopes that you will all be able to see!

Rev. Jenny Fennell (Pavyer) will be licensed as Priest
in Charge of St. Francis, Welwyn Garden City on
Wednesday March 17th at 8.00pm by the Bishop of
Hertford. Everyone is very welcome to attend this service
which will be followed by refreshments.

**Snowdrop Planting in the Churchyard on Saturday 20th
March 10.30 - 12.30** Can you help plant snowdrops that
morning? We are short of effort, it isn't difficult and there
will be help available. (See articles in this magazine and
the last). **Please let us know** if you are available and if
you have snowdrops you can spare from your garden.
Small clumps can be split up and will spread over the
years. **Should it be too wet** on 20th March we will hope
to do the planting on the following Saturday, 27th March.
With thanks. Etain Petty (01438 714211) or Mary Greg-
ory (01707 323854).