



WEEKLY NOTES

9 November 2003

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The old rhyme 'Remember, remember the Fifth of November' is mainly noteworthy for the fact that the actual circumstances of the Gunpowder Plot have either been totally forgotten, or never actually been learned, by the majority of the revellers who enjoy the bonfires and fireworks. It was a cruel age, and the famous plot to blow up Parliament was all part and parcel of the religious animosity which disfigured the Christian world in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. To this day, so I understand, they still burn an effigy of the Pope in Lewes on 5 November. Today's *Times* (I write these words on the evening of 5 November) carries a feature which illustrates very graphically the sheer extent of the damage which would have been caused if the plot had actually succeeded. The amount of gunpowder was apparently twenty-five times more than was actually required to do the job. Yet we may well ask what claim have we to vault a superior society and culture in an age which has seen armed conflict on a global scale not even dreamed about by our forefathers in Stuart times. The hard truth is that the lessons of history are seldom learned, and one of the reasons for the annual act of National Remembrance is that the lessons learned by peoples and nations the hard way should be constantly hammered home, and brought to mind on a regular basis. Peoples and nations have an extraordinary capacity for forgetting such lessons. It was, after all, a mere twenty-one years between the two World Wars of the last century, and then they were at it again. We may indeed 'remember' – because of modern media coverage – that fateful 11 September 2001, for it is of comparatively recent memory; but there is a sense in which the enormity of that particular outrage is now more of an event of yesterday than a lesson for today. And who had ever heard of places like Tikrit until this year? If 11 September brought international conflict for the first time to the mainland of the USA, this present year has once again brought us in the UK to the harsh reality of 'our boys' dying in strange lands. As I listen to the loud bangs outside the Vicarage, and attempt to pacify the three dogs, I must also think of other places where loud bangs only herald terror and fear, and where this night will bring death and carnage in those lands where such things are a daily part of life. 'Give peace is our time, O Lord' is the constant twice-daily prayer of the Church of England, a daily reminder of our fallen human nature, and of the constant failure of the nations to live in harmony and peace.

Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the World, with the people of Ewell.

forward to, and enjoy coming to church to sing 'For all the saints.' This year, for some strange reason, the Sunday congregations were all significantly down from what is normal on an average Sunday. I hope that 'saving it up for Remembrance Sunday' wasn't the motive. It concerns me quite a bit that in the Church as a whole there seems to be a growing disregard for the basic liturgical Calendar of the Christian Year, with its times and seasons and its feasts and fasts. Ascension Day and Ash Wednesday have fared worse than most. The Calendar is there so that the mysteries of the Christian faith can be put before us on an annual and systematic basis, and for the joys and sorrows of our redemption through Christ to be experienced in turn through the ongoing worship of the Church. Whilst I appreciate that in the present climate of the Church the traditional picture of 'the Lord's people being in the Lord's house at the Lord's service on the Lord's day' is not exactly descriptive of normal practice these days, the fact remains that the highlights of the Calendar really ought to exert some sort of devotional pull. The whole pattern will start to unfold again in three weeks time, as Advent begins. A good time to do some thinking on this side of things. W.R.H.

Last week's additional announcements are being issued again today, partly because of the point made at the beginning of the above paragraph (and there are a lot left over), but also because we shall have many visitors today, and some of the points may be of interest to them.

Christmas Market. Donations of groceries, cakes, toiletries and prizes for the Tombola and Grand Raffle are all needed to make this event a success. All proceeds go to this year's four Christmas Charities. Please leave any items at the back of the church, or else contact Ruth and Frank Stockwell for collection (020 8393 0650).

Next year's Village Fair. The first planning meeting was held on 21 October to review the last Fair, and to think about the next one. We are very pleased to report that plans are already in hand, and Ewell Castle School has once again offered us the use of the grounds as the venue. New ideas for raising money to fund the Fair include a *Sponsored hymnathon** on Saturday 7 February, and a *Guest of Honour at the Fair* lottery, as well as the annual *Bake-in* on 27 March. Exciting new attractions are also being looked into, with a view to making next year's Fair even better. As usual we shall be asking for volunteers, especially for the hymnathon, which will work on a rota basis. (The finer points have yet to be worked out.) In addition we are looking for volunteers to run the very popular 'Break up the 'appy 'ome'. If you can help with this or any of the stalls or side shows, please speak to Rosemarie or Mike Henson on 020 8224 2713. The next Planning Group meeting will be on Monday, 8 March at 2000 in the Parish Room. Please don't forget to put these dates in your new diaries. Many thanks. *Mike and Rosemarie Henson.*
* *The hymnathon will involve singing at least two verses of each of the first 500 hymns in the New English Hymnal.*

Next Sunday. For once this is a 'normal' Sunday. It is also the Sunday with the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist at 1100.

Our prayers today. We pray for this church and parish, remembering particularly today all those who fell in the two World Wars. In the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for the Church in Brazil. In the diocese we pray for Ian, Bishop of Dorking, as he assumes additional responsibilities during the Vacancy-in-Sec. In the parish we pray for the Ewell branch of the Royal British Legion, and in our systematic prayer for all the parish we pray today for the people who live in Bevan Park.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 424
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Other material: page 326

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST OF REQUIEM for those from the parish who fell in the two World Wars. *Common Worship rite*

Children's Hour in the hall; Crèche in the Choir Vestry.
Order 1: page 167. Collect: printed below today
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188
Setting of the Eucharist: *Fauré*; Requiem
Hymns from the small red hymn books at this service.

Introit hymn: 274 [tune: NEH 425]
Introduction, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*
Collect of the Day:

O God the maker and redeemer of all, grant to the faithful departed all the sure benefits of your Son's Passion: that when you gather up all things in Christ they may enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings on separate paper.

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans
Gradual Hymn: 165 [tune: AMR 345]

At this particular service each year this hymn is sung to the tune which was normally used for these words in the eighteenth century, and which was written (or possibly arranged) by William Tans'ur, organist of St Mary's at the time.

The Holy Gospel reading from St John
Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Intercession, then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: 585 Collection [tune: NEH 458]

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Preface of the Dead.

During the Communion:

Hymn at the Invitation: 384 part 2 [Use NEH 269 ii]
Agnus Dei and Lux aeterna
Fauré

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant them rest eternal.
Let light perpetual shine on them, O Lord, for endless ages with your saints,
for you are gracious. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

Post-Communion hymn: 296 ii
Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life, raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that at the last, with all the faithful departed, we may come to your eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

Final response (*sung*): May they rest in peace. (*All reply:*) **A-men -.**

Note: As is usual on Remembrance Sunday there will not be 'après messe' coffee in the hall today, due to the robing arrangements for the next service. Apologies to any visitors or newcomers in particular.

1030 WREATH-LAYING AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

1050 ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AND CHORAL MATTINS
attended by the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, the constituency Member of Parliament, members of the Borough Council, members of the Armed Forces, members of the Royal British Legion and other ex-Service organizations, and representatives of other uniformed and local bodies.
There is a special leaflet for this service.

Preacher: *The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*

Responses: *Morley* Service: *Sumston* in G

Anthem: And I saw a new heaven. *Bainton*. Organ: Chant heroique. *Langlais*

1830 Evening Prayer said in the Parish Room

In church this week
Tuesday *St Martin* 1000 **Holy Communion**
Wednesday 1100 **Prayers at '11.11.11'**

Other events and notices

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound
1930 Estates Committee of the PCC.
Tuesday **CHURCH OPEN** from 0930-1400.
Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall.
Mr Ian West gives an illustrated talk entitled, 'A Walk around Old Ewell.' The talk begins at 1100.

All Saints and All Souls. It was good to see that the numbers at the three services on All Souls Day were significantly up on last year's figures. But what happened to All Saints? I do not often moan about this side of things, but All Saints Day is one of the great 'Joy Days' of the liturgical calendar, a day which one should actually look