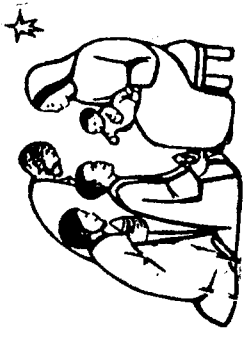


The box in church for the late Canon Howarth's seat, together with some other income, has now raised over £356. The box has now reverted to its normal use as an occasional 'alms-resource', and we shall now be investigating the next steps towards installing the seat as a lasting memorial to this great priest.

Next Sunday. It is the festival of The Baptism of our Lord. Eucharistic arrangements as normal, but later in the morning there will be Mattins and Holy Baptism, and in the evening there will be Choral Evensong at 1830.

St Mary the Virgin
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WEEKLY NOTES

4 January 2004

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The word 'Epiphany' or 'showing forth' covers more than one thing. Most of the seasons in the liturgical year tend to home in on one particular item, such as penitence in Lent, or the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is different with Epiphany. There are various Epiphany themes to illustrate this basic 'showing forth' of the Christ. Hymns like 'Songs of thankfulness and praise' and 'Why, impious Herod should'st thou fear?' emphasise this point with their catalogue of scriptural 'showings.' In the west the principal Epiphany feature tends to be the visit of the Wise Men; in eastern Christian circles it is the Baptism of Christ (for us, next Sunday) which is the key Epiphany theme. The Book of Common Prayer had as the rather cumbersome alternative title for Epiphany 'The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.' What it all means is that almost as soon as we recall the birth of Christ at a particular place and time (2000 years ago in a specifically Jewish milieu) we are reminded - first of all by the visit of the non-Jewish Magi - that it is all about Christ for the whole world. The great passage from Ephesians, read at Epiphany, tells how the Gentiles are to be 'fellow-heirs' with the Jews to all the promises of God. It is perhaps worth remembering that it is this particular doctrine which is the basic justification for all Christian missionary activity. It is good news for all, and it is there to be shared and proclaimed in season and out of season, no matter what politically correct views are generally held in our own culture in respect of a 'pluralistic society.' Christ is meant to be shown forth in the lives, the witness, and the devotion of those who profess and call themselves Christians, and Epiphany is a yearly reminder of this. The Wise Men came seeking Jesus; others are searching in our own day. We may remind ourselves that such people may expect to find Him in us.

Our prayers today. In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray for the Church in the Province of the Indian Ocean. In the diocese we pray for the right choice of a new Bishop. In the parish we pray for the work of the External Affairs Committee under the chairman, Julian Varney; and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for the residents of Chatsfield.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167
Other Epiphany material: page 304.

Common Worship rite
Collect of the Day: page 383
Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196

0930

SUNG EUCHARIST and THE PROCESSION OF THE THREE KINGS
Common Worship rite

'Children's Hour' in the church hall; Crèche in the Choir Vestry.
Collect of the Day: page 383. Other Epiphany details: page 304
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Separate leaflet for 'Three Kings' section.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Sunston* in F

Introit hymn: 52

Introduction and the Prayers of Penitence; *Kyrie eleison*.

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text ; *Merbecke* melody at Hymn 542.
[Please don't try singing this to the words on page 171. They don't fit.]

Collect of the Day: page 383 (*Readings on separate paper*)

New Testament Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

Gradual Hymn: 48 Collection in *this* hymn today.

The Holy Gospel reading from St Matthew

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Nicene Creed: page 173

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

The Procession of the Three Kings (*on separate leaflet*). [50; tune 338]

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Epiphany Preface on page 304

The Lord's Prayer, etc. on pages 178-180

Hymn at the Invitation: 47 (verses 1 and 2 only)

During the Communion:

Anthem: Bethlehem Down. *Peter Warlock*

[Words on separate paper.]

Post-Communion hymn: 49 (first tune)

Post-Communion Prayer: page 383.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services

1100

CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *the Vicar*
Responses: page 8
Jubilate: *Ireland* in F
Office-Hymn: 46 (ii)

All sit Psalm 72 'All kings shall do him service'
[There is a doxology built into the text of the psalm, so there is no *Gloria* at the end.]
First Lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah (*Readings on separate paper*)

All stand Te Deum (*Congregational chant setting today*): page 10

Second Lesson from St John's Gospel

Hymn: 47

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,

the Responses and the three Collects (first Collect on page 56).

Anthem: Bethlehem Down. *Peter Warlock*

[Words on separate paper.]

Prayers

Hymn 36 (Collection)

The Blessing

[Cfor C I: 38]

1830 Evening Prayer, said in the Parish Room

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices

Wednesday The Wednesday Coffee Morning resumes today. Come and enjoy a nice cup of coffee (or tea), bite a biscuit or two, and have a nice natter.

Bishop John Gladwin will be enthroned as Bishop of Chelmsford on Saturday.

The Notes for this particular Sunday were mainly compiled well before Christmas, so it is quite possible that there are some omissions, and so there may well be some additional announcements at the services today.

Many thanks to all who remembered us at the Vicarage over Christmas with greetings and gifts. It was most kind.