



WEEKLY NOTES

11 January 2004

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

'Plough Sunday'

The flowers today have been sponsored by Wendy and David Hill in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

We do not observe 'Plough Sunday' at St Mary's for fairly obvious reasons, but in an agricultural context it is a formal beginning to the annual pattern of 'seedtime and harvest.' Christ's baptism – the greater celebration for today – also represents a formal beginning: it is the point at which his ministry effectively begins, and represents his messianic anointing. He is, for Christians, 'the first-fruits of the harvest of the dead', but his own harvesting work still goes on as the centuries unfold. Our own baptismal life also had a formal beginning, possibly a very quiet affair, but we can still see ourselves as 'growing' like the seed in its various stages of development, with some years being either more or less fruitful than others. Then one day, for us all, it will be harvest-time: 'for we know our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home' (as the hymn says). That harvest-call will come to us all, and there is no escape; but by the grace of God we shall find that call to be a joy, even if we leave others weeping behind. For the destiny of our baptismal life is for it to find its final harvest-joy, when after the pilgrim-journey of our earthly life, it finds its true fulfilment in the nearer presence of God.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the wider Church we pray in the Anglican Communion for the Church in Japan (the Nippon Sei Ko Kai). In our prayer for the Diocese we pray for the ordinands in training. Our parish prayer today is for the editors and all others involved in producing *Ewell Parish News*, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we remember today the people living in Cheam Road.

The Service Planner for this term is now available, and a copy should be enclosed with these Notes. Otherwise there are copies in the Welcome Area. The Music List may also be out today; but, if not, then it will be available next Sunday.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

Order 1: page 167 Collect of the Day: page 383 Other details: page 304
Eucharistic Prayer A: starting on page 305, then continuing on page 184.
[Omit responses in red brackets]

The running-order on the Weekly Notes. A few points in the light of one or two recent 'peculiarities' in church. Particularly in the case of the Sung Eucharist the running-order is carefully laid out, and members of the congregation would in fact be very much helped if they actually glanced systematically through the listed items of the Eucharist *well before* the service begins, and where necessary to bookmark any appropriate pages. Last Sunday, even something in large bold print (the page for the Gloria, which was a number in the hymn-book) seemed to cause a considerable measure of confusion, when it suddenly happened, even though a preceding ninefold choral *Kyrie* offered the chance of turning it up in plenty of time. It is simply not possible with the modern liturgies to expect everything to be on the next page, and only to leave the service-book when there is perhaps a hymn in a separate book. Older members of the congregation will remember the time when life was easy, the readings were in the same book, and even the hymn-book was bound up with the Prayer Book; but those days are never coming back, except (at St Mary's) for the quarterly Prayer Book Eucharist at 0800. If some feature of the running-order on the Notes seems confusing, please mention it to the Vicar, because if improvements can be made we should do so, and try to make things easier wherever possible. However, some form of running-order is unavoidable, and regular worshippers ought not to come to the Sunday service almost as if it were always a completely new experience. After all, the basic structure of the Eucharist is simple enough: Ante-Communion with Readings, prayers and sermon, followed by the Ministry of the Sacrament centred on the Eucharistic Prayer. All other features are basically devotional enrichments: hymns, anthems, seasonal material and the like; and these obviously vary week by week, and often come from different sources, which is why it is important to follow the running-order as given on the Weekly Notes. We have not had a 'Teaching Mass' for some years; perhaps the time is ripe to do this again, on an occasion when Dr Miller or another priest is the celebrant. We might possibly do this some time after Easter. W.R.H.

The Friends of St Mary's Music will be presenting an *Organ Recital* on Saturday, 24 January at 1930. The recitalist will be *Simon Gregory*, who is a colleague of Jonathan Holmes at Emanuel School. Tickets, at £6, will be available after services in church, or at the door on the night. The evening Organ Recitals are generally more 'meaty' (a more appropriate word does not immediately spring to mind) than the lunchtime ones, and so we should expect another splendid evening, as a skilled musician brings out the best in our fine instrument.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is once again just around the corner, it runs from 18-25 January. 'Churches Together in Ewell' will be marking the occasion with an opening service at All Saints, West Ewell, next Sunday at 1800. On Friday, 23 January, there will be a *Vigil of Prayer for Unity* at Stoneleigh Baptist Church at 0800, 1200, 1600 and 2000. The concluding service will be taking place at Stoneleigh Methodist Church on Sunday, 25 January at 2000.

Next Sunday. Services are as usual. It really is an 'ordinary Sunday,' though it also marks the opening of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. At the 0930 Eucharist there will be Choir and Children's Hour presentations and awards, towards the end of the service. The Prayer Book Sung Eucharist will be at 1100. The week after is the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Unlike the year 2003, when an unusually large number of saints' days fell on Sundays, this year sees only two: St Paul in January and St James in July.

Children's Hour and Crèche.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 383
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Epiphany material on page 304
Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in F

Processional hymn: 56

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Choral setting*)
Collect of the Day: page 383 *Readings on separate paper*
New Testament Reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Gradual Hymn: 58
The Holy Gospel reading from St Luke
Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed (sung): traditional language text on page 213 (*Shaw* setting)
Intercession, Prayers of penitence; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace
Offertory hymn: 55

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Proper Preface: page 304
Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.

At the Invitation: Hymn 318 [PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN]

During the Communion:

Anthem: *Sicut cervus.*

Palestrina
Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.
Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
(*Psalm 42:1*)

Post-Communion hymn: 431

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

MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM

There is a special leaflet for this service. Congregational service. **Common Worship rite**

1830

CHORAL EVENSONG

Responses: Green books, page 18

Office-hymn: AMR 74

Psalm 89, verses 20-30 and Gloria. The anointed king. page 244

First Lesson: Isaiah 55 (*Readings on separate paper*)

Magnificat: page 19

Second Lesson: Romans 6: 1-11

Nunc dimittis: page 20

Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.

Anthem: Like as the hart.

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God? (*Psalm 42: 1-3*)

Prayers

Hymn: The Son of Man from Jordan rose.

Tune: Coe Fen

(*Hymn on reverse of Readings paper.*)

Sermon by *the Vicar.* Hymn: AMR 331 (Collection) The Blessing

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall: A Kind of Koffee Kwaffers' Koinonia and Konversation.

(All right, all right!)

2000 External Affairs Committee meeting.

The Christmas Collections resulted in over £800 being raised for this year's two Children's Charities ('CHICKS' and the Rainbow Trust), and almost £200 was also put into a retiring collection plate at the Midnight Mass, after the Vicar pointed out that we had received on Christmas Eve our assessment at St Mary's for next year's Diocesan Quota - at just under £54,000.

The misprints mentioned by the Vicar last week in his EPN letter are: for 'they' read 'we' eight lines from the bottom of the first paragraph, and 'Christmas' instead of 'Christian' in the 19th line of the second page. There is also something not quite right in the second sentence of the last paragraph, but the gist of it is clear enough. None of this is all that vital, but it might as well be said!

The Christmas Alone Lunch, held this year at St Paul's Howell Hill, was once more a happy and successful occasion. In the afternoon, the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, who had made our lunch at Ewell and also the one in Epsom objects of his Christmas Appeal, came to tea, accompanied by the Mayoress. M.E.H.

The planned Hymnathon to raise funds for the Village Fair in July is now starting to take shape, and sponsor forms are available in the Welcome Area. The idea is to sing two verses of each of the first 500 hymns in the New English Hymnal between 1000 and 1630 on Saturday 7 February. It will be an informal affair in the parish Room, around the 'boudoir grand,' so no-one should feel intimidated in any way. In fact it ought to be a very pleasant and light-hearted occasion. Exquisite voices are not a necessity. There will be facilities for a brew-up. Further information from Rosemarie Henson or from the Vicar. Some years ago the choir did a 'Psalmathon' - a much more demanding exercise. The Hymnathon will be a much simpler affair, so please take part, if you can, and get lots of sponsorship, so that the initial expenses of the Fair will not cause the organisers too much of a headache. It should be an enjoyable day.

Our new cleaners have started work, and last Wednesday a major spring-clean took place in the church. The nave gratings were pulled up, revealing the accumulated dust and filth of many years; all this has now been cleared away. The monuments around the church also received some unaccustomed attention. Our best thanks are due to the small number of regular worshippers who have helped to keep the church clean during December, and particularly to David Slattery, who alone has shouldered the heavy task of keeping the hall clean during this time.