

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

18 January 2004

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.*

The annual Week of Prayer is a constant reminder that the unity of the Church is something which is not something to be sought for (or schemed for) but something to be recovered. Such was the title of a book written some thirty years ago by a distinguished Church of England scholar. The book was simply called *The Recovery of Unity*. Although the 'ecumenical imperative' is seen by many as being an essential element in the Church's mission and evangelism, it is in the end a theological rather than a practical matter. The 'Oneness' of the Church of God is something which we proclaim whenever we recite the Creed, and it is significantly the first in the list of the four so-called 'marks of the Church.' In other words it is something to do with the nature of the Church, rather than with its activity. We cannot be certain what in the will of God is the nature of that unity for which we strive. It is presumptuous to say that it is all to do with the joining up of various ecclesiastical organizations. What this week puts before is the priority of prayer in the quest to recover that unity which has been lost from the very earliest periods of Christian history. St John is the one who gives us the Christ who prayed before his passion that his followers 'might all be one' in much the same sort of way as he is united with the Father. A tall order indeed, as one contemplates the nature of the contemporary Church, with all its commissions, boards and committees, and all of them constantly talking and seldom listening. The Week of Prayer is at least an annual reminder that human cleverness alone will not heal the divisions in the Body of Christ, which is his Church; but the grace of God can do so, and the priority of this week's prayer is for an outpouring of that grace upon our human endeavours in recovering that unity for which our Saviour prayed long years ago.

In our prayers today we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. In the diocese we pray for the work of Churches Together in Surrey, as Unity Week begins. In the parish we pray for the work of Churches Together in Ewell and for our growth in unity and fellowship, and for the people who live in Chelwood Close.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 384

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. *Many thanks to those who opted in last week, but could we have lots more this week?* 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 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.

The 0800 Epistle readers' rota has now been revised, in the light of some new volunteers joining the band of readers. The new version is out today. It is on pink paper, so as not to get confused with the earlier ones, which should now be discarded.

The rose-coloured Eucharistic vestments in memory of *Frank Cannon* were blessed for use on the appropriate Sunday in Advent. There is in fact a second set, which has now arrived, and which will be blessed and used on Sunday, 8 February at the Sung Eucharist. They are in the somewhat unfamiliar liturgical colour of blue, a colour which in the old English service-books was often used in Advent and pre-Lent (instead of purple), and also, rather strangely, also served as an alternative to green. We shall use the new vestments during the pre-Lent season this year.

The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins today, and lasts until next Sunday. 'Churches Together in Ewell' will be marking the occasion with an opening service at All Saints, West Ewell, tonight at 1800. On Friday there will be a Vigil of Prayer for Unity at Stoneleigh Baptist Church: the church will be open all day, with structured times of prayer at 0800, 1200, 1600 and 2000. The concluding service will be taking place at Stoneleigh Methodist Church next Sunday, 25 January at 2000. There will be evening worship as usual at the United Reformed Church at 1830; the later time for the Ecumenical Service is presumably designed to allow people to go to their own churches first. (We are due at the URC next week.)

Shrove Regday. There will be a Pancake Party on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, 24 February, not just as a final fling before Lent, but more importantly to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of *Reg Saunders* as a Reader. Tickets will be available from Sunday, 1 February, but book the date now.

Next Sunday. The festival of the Conversion of St Paul. There are normal Sunday arrangements in the morning, with the additional monthly 1200 Eucharist. Evening arrangements are as noted above.

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

Wayfarers and Crèche: 'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall.
Order 1: page 167.
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201
Setting of the Eucharist: *Stanford* in C.

Note: The highlighting and reminders will last for just two or three weeks to get us all back on track after a few 'odd happenings' of late.

Introit hymn on *Readings paper*: A Song of the New Jerusalem
[Metrical version of Epiphany Canticle (Isaiah 60) from *Common Worship*; Tune: 214 ii]
Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison* [Tune: 338]
Metrical Gloria in excelsis: at **HYMN 363** *Readings on separate paper.*
Collect of the Day: page 384
New Testament Reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans.

Gradual Hymn: 57
The Holy Gospel Reading from St Luke.
Sermon by *the Vicar* Nicene Creed: page 173
Intercession, followed by the Greeting of Peace
Offertory Hymn: 295
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201; turn back to page 178 for Lord's Prayer, etc.
Hymn at the Invitation: 280, *verses 1 and 4.* [PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN]
Anthem during Communion: *Ego sum panis vivus.* *Esquivel*

English version: I am the living bread which came down from heaven.
Whoever eats this bread shall live for ever. Alleluia. (St John 6: 58)

Post-Communion hymn: on *Readings paper*: A Song of God's Light. [Tune: *Guiting Power*]
Post-Communion Prayer: page 384
Children's Hour and Choir Awards and Presentations.
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.

SUNG EUCHARIST *Book of Common Prayer rite*
Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in F
Nicene Creed: *Merbecke* [in the lilac-coloured leaflet]

Sermon by *the Vicar*
Introit hymn: 403 [tune: 128 ii] Then green Prayer Book: page 31
Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33
Greeting and the Collect of the Day
(*There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings*)
The Epistle from St Paul's letter to the Romans Page 251
Remain seated for the Gradual Psalm 96
All stand for the Holy Gospel Reading from St John.

Nicene Creed: page 34, followed by Prayer Biddings and the Offertory Sentence.
Offertory Hymn: 433
After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration [OEH 335 and Amen]
Hymn at the Consecration: 313
During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)
Anthem: O sacrum convivium. *Croce*

O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur: recolitur memoria passionis ejus, mens impletur gratia, et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.
O sacred banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of the passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

After Communion: The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44
All stand for Gloria in excelsis
The Blessing Hymn 239

1830 Evening Prayer, said in the Parish Room.

In church this week
Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion (*Votive Eucharist for Unity*)
Other events and notices
Monday 1930 Estates Committee of the Parochial Church Council
Tuesday 1200 Epsom Deanery Chapter
Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. 'Have a break; have a coffee.'
Saturday Vicar at the Surrey County Annual Conference of the Royal British Legion (at Cobham)

Saturday 1930 Organ Recital.

The Friends of St Mary's Music will be presenting this *Organ Recital*, at which the recitalist will be *Simon Gregory*, a colleague of Jonathan Holmes at Emanuel School. Tickets, at £6 (under 16s free) will be available after services in church today, 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 Service Planner for this term is now available, and a copy was enclosed with last week's Notes. There are further copies in the Welcome Area for those who missed out last week. The Music List is out today, and full of good things: it contains information about the services up to and including Easter Day.