

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

25 January 2004

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

The flowers today have been sponsored by **Audrey and Freddie Melrose**, whose fifty-seventh wedding anniversary occurs today.

Although there were many apocryphal Gospels and Acts in circulation during the early Christian centuries, not all that much credibility can be attributed to the majority of them, though that is not to say that everything about them is worthless. An example of something quite interesting can be found in *The Acts of Paul and Thecla*, a fairly early work (mid-second century), since it preserves an extraordinary description of St Paul, which somehow has the ring of authenticity. Here it is.

‘Onesiphorous went to meet Paul, that he might receive him into his house. Titus had told him what manner of man Paul was in appearance, for Onesiphorous had not seen him in the flesh. And he went by the king’s highway, which leads to Lystra, and stood expecting him, and looked upon those who were coming along the road, looking out for someone who answered Titus’ description. And he saw Paul coming: a man little of stature, thin-haired upon the head, crooked in the legs, of good state of body, with eyebrows joining, and nose somewhat hooked, and full of grace: for sometimes he appeared like a man, and sometimes he had the face of an angel.’

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 Kenya. In the diocese we pray for the right choice of a new Bishop, and for Bishop Ian and his responsibilities during the Vacancy-in See. In the parish we pray for all the local cultural organizations; and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for the residents of Chessington Road.

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 **HOLY COMMUNION**

Order 1: page 167

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196, but starting with extended Preface: page 329

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 500

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196, but starting with extended Preface: page 329

The mention above of the meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Monday evening can also serve as an opportunity to say that some six members of the PCC are due to retire this year, after completing a three-year stint. They will, of course, need to be replaced. It would be good if members of the congregation reflected upon whether they might care to be nominated for the PCC when we get to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29 March. The meetings are about quarterly. The duties of PCC members are not onerous, but they are important, and there are several exciting things around the corner which will no doubt result in some interesting and stimulating discussion, and possibly some quite important decisions.

The hymns today at the Sung Eucharist come from various sources, which is why they are all for convenience printed out on the Readings paper. Of the five hymns, two are from *The New English Hymnal*, one is from *Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised* (the one with the pleasant but unfamiliar tune printed out), one is from *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*, and one is a new translation of an eleventh century Latin hymn making its *début* today. There was another new one last week, and there will be a new verse (yes, just a verse) next Sunday at Mattins. (This year – 2004 – there have already been three new hymns from me, but this supply of new material is certainly not destined to continue at the same frequency, and will in fact now dry up for a while.) Clearly we don’t want to have four hymn-books at one service; it is difficult enough with *Common Worship* and just one other book. However, it is seldom the case – apart from on ‘green Sundays’ – that any one of our books contains an ideal selection for the particular day, which is why the Readings paper is sometimes used as a convenient way of dealing with the matter. The only snag is that it is not always possible to produce the tune as well, either for reasons of space or for reasons of copyright. Even though we have a licence to reproduce both words and music, it does not cover everything. W.R.H.

The **Service-planner**. There are still some copies of this term’s planner on the book trolley, and there are copies of the **Music List** on the old wooden trestle table by the south door. There is, in fact, a **complete service-planner** for the whole year available on request at the office. Not many people are likely to want or need it, but a limited number of copies is available. There is a *large* copy on the notice-board in the Welcome Area just to the left of the west door.

Next Sunday. It is the festival of The Presentation of Christ, commonly called Candlemas. There will be the Candlemas Procession at the Sung Eucharist. Our Candlemas arrangements vary from year to year; this year we shall be having once again the procession to the west window, where the Candlemas scene is depicted in some fine Victorian glass, and we shall be singing some of our local hymnody, including the hymns written for the occasion last year by Promilla Mullen and Eve Myatt-Price. There will be Evensong and Holy Baptism at 1630, and we could, as usual, do with some supporters to welcome the newly-baptized, not least because there may be only one family this time, and, if so, there will only be a fairly small family group. Please come, if you can.

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.
 Collect of the Day: page 500. Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.
 Preface of the saints: page 328.
 All hymns are on the Readings paper today.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Palestrina*, Missa Aeterna Christi munera

Introit hymn: A heavenly splendour from on high. [Tune: 221 ii]
 Introduction and the Prayers of Penitence; *Kyrie eleison*.
 Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211. *Shaw* melody.
 [Please don't try singing this to the words on page 171. They don't fit.]
 Collect of the Day: page 500 (Readings on separate paper)
 New Testament Reading from the Acts of the Apostles
 Gradual Hymn: 'For Missionary Saints.'
 The Holy Gospel Reading from St Matthew
 Sermon by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*
 Nicene Creed: page 173
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory hymn: Lord your saints all stand in glory. [Tune: NEH 201] Collection
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Preface of saints: page 328
 The Lord's Prayer, etc. on pages 178-180
 At the Invitation. Hymn: The Church triumphant in thy love. [T:NEH 198]
 [PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN]

Anthem: O sacrum convivium.

Croce

O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur; recolitur memoria passionis eius,

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.

Post-Communion hymn: In shining vision came the call. [Tune: NEH 493]
 Post-Communion Prayer: page 500. The Blessing and Dismissal

1100

CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Responses: page 8

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254.

Office-Hymn: 171, verses 1,4 and 6

All sit Psalm 119: 41-56 In praise of the law of the Lord. Page 282

First Lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Readings on separate paper)

Metrical Te Deum: Leaflet K, No.8

[Tune: AMR 40]

Second Lesson from St John's Gospel

Hymn 215

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,
 the Responses and the three Collects (first Collect on page 82).

Anthem: Exsultate justi.

Viadana

English version: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous, for it becometh well the
 just to be thankful. Praise the Lord with harp, sing praises unto him with the lute
 and instrument of ten strings. Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing praises
 lustily unto him with a good courage. (Psalm 33:1-3)

Prayers Hymn 155 (Collection) The Blessing

1200 HOLY COMMUNION (Side chapel).

Common Worship rite

Order 1: page 167. Collect: page 500 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

1830 Evening Worship at Ewell United Reformed Church

2000 Ecumenical Service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 at *Stoneleigh Methodist Church*.

In church this week

Monday 1915 Holy Communion

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Wednesday 0900 Ewell Castle Junior School service

Other events and notices

Monday 2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Come and enjoy a
 nice cup of coffee (or tea), bite a nice biscuit or two, and have a
 nice natter. There will be a Bring-and-Buy Sale this week.

Saturday 1500 At Epsom United Reformed Church: the Induction of *the*
Reverend Pat Hall as the Minister of the United Reformed Church
 in Epsom and Ewell.

Intercessions at the Sung Eucharist. A reminder to those who take part in leading
 the Intercessions that the proper 'form' during the vacancy-in-see is to mention the
 Archbishop by name. I don't think that anyone other than myself has been doing
 this, but the regular mention of the Bishop by name during the Sunday Eucharist is
 an acknowledgement of our own position as a part of the wider Church, for we are
 'in communion' with our bishop, and he should normally be prayed for by name as a
 matter of course. When the diocese is vacant (as now), mention is made instead of
 the archbishop of the Province - in our case, of Canterbury. So the correct form for
 the time being is 'Rowan, our Archbishop.' This will no doubt be the case for
 several months yet.

El-Dorado, the magazine of the Diocese of Guyana, has arrived, and there are
 several copies in the Welcome Area. *They are free*, so could they all be taken
 today? El Dorado gives us a picture of a Church in a very different situation from
 our own.

Rotas: Sacristy and Altar Servers. We are getting near the time when new rotas
 are due to be compiled. The Vicar would be grateful for information in the next
 couple of weeks about known absences.