

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000 Meeting of *Pro Musica*.

Wednesday

1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall: **Mr Geoffrey Berry** speaks about The Abbeyfield Society.

The lovely blue vestments, blessed today at the Sung Eucharist in memory of Frank Cannon, fill one particular gap in our sanctuary kit. Indeed there are very few gaps left now. Over the years we have been given many such gifts by kind benefactors, and our vestments at St Mary's are now something to be proud of. The adornment of the sanctuary has much Biblical precedent (everyone has, of course, heard of Bezaleel and Oholiab — no? look it up then!), and St Mary's sanctuary has seen many such adornments over the years, both in terms of vessels and textiles. We could do with someone to make up some cloth-of-gold material into a burse and veil. This is a comparatively simple job (basically just lining, hemming and covering), but would cost a lot of money if it were done professionally. Any offers to the Vicar.

IAIN MCKILLOP

Consider this as an invitation!

Dedication of Iain's

Lady Chapel Altarpiece

Gloucester Cathedral

Sunday 22nd Feb. 3.00

Sat 14th & Sun 15th February 2.00 -5.00 pm
PREVIEW for all who can't be in Gloucester for the dedication of the **Lady Chapel Altarpiece** at 10 Hopfield Avenue Byfleet. 01932 341687 (It's not necessary to book but for catering purposes it would be good to know that you're coming!)

The flowers in church today are sponsored by Edna Attwood.

Shrove Regday. Tickets for the Shrove Tuesday Party are available in church today, or they may be obtained from the churchwardens. They cost £5. Mr Reginald Saunders has already been given Ticket No.1. Early application for tickets is advised. There are lists in church for those needing or offering lifts. There is also a print at the back of the church, which is doubling-up as a greetings-card, and everyone is invited to sign. Any contributions towards a gift for **Reg the Ruby Reader** may be given to the churchwardens.

The **Lent Leaflet** should be out next Sunday. Some details in EPN are not quite accurate, because of some hastiness in getting the copy in, but the leaflet will rectify things. It will as usual be a busy time with much on offer.

Sacristy and Altar Servers Rotas are due out in a couple of weeks. Many thanks to all who have so far indicated dates of known absence. Any other information to the Vicar this week, please.

Next Sunday. Services are as usual. It is an 'ordinary Sunday' for a change. The Prayer Book Sung Eucharist will be at 1100.

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

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
020 8393 2643
www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

8 February 2004

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

SEPTUAGESIMA

The Sundays before Lent have tended to irritate liturgical purists, and various devices have been employed in modern revisions to stop them being in some way distinctive. The current provision in the Lectionary is simply that of 'ordinary time' and offers nothing distinctive at all; they are just 'ordinary' Sundays, though rather perversely the traditional subject for Septuagesima partly appears in the material for the following Sunday. When Sunday themes were all the rage, as in the *Alternative Service Book* of 1980, they were given three interesting and related topics, which were not all that inappropriate, because they dealt with various aspects of Christ's ministry: *Christ the Teacher*, *Christ the Healer*, and *Christ, the Friend of Sinners*. It was an ingenious way of plugging a gap in the short no-man's land between the Christmas and Easter devotional cycles, and at least made a particular liturgical provision for Christ's largely Galilean ministry, which is otherwise absent from the calendar as it is from the Creed. However, there is a still older devotional pattern for these three Sundays, and in some way this is nothing less than a brief refresher-course in the whole span of creation and redemption, for the three traditional topics for the 'gesimas are (in order) *Creation*, *the Fall*, and *the Love of God*. This is nothing less than the gospel in miniature: God creates in love; the created order with humanity at its head is turned away from obedience to God through the human misuse of God's gift of freewill (which is seen as the gift of freedom to choose the good); and it is the love of God which in Christ restores, renews and recreates. The Book of Common Prayer kept this pattern to some extent, though the relevant readings were not always at the Eucharist (except for Quinquagesima) but at Mattins or Evensong. In the interests of some liturgical propriety a systematic yearly glance at these rather basic areas of the faith has been swept away, and after twenty years the brief concentration on the nature of the Galilean ministry has also been discarded, though perhaps this is less of a problem, since it is in any case proclaimed more generally throughout the year.

So, what shall we do? Well, this year we shall have the Prayer Book passages (in a modern translation) at the early service, and the Lectionary provision as usual at 0930. However, the hymns at the Eucharist will largely be about *Creation* on Septuagesima, and about *the Fall* on Sexagesima, and at Mattins on Quinquagesima about *the Love of God*. (It has been said that congregations learn their theology more from the hymns than from sermons, something which should be a warning to preachers, hymn-writers, and — more importantly — hymn choosers.) The Eucharist on Quinquagesima will also have hymns about the Transfiguration of Christ, since in the Church of England the gospel reading on the Sunday before Lent is about that particular Mystery. It is perhaps



worth mentioning that the *Revised Common Lectionary* is far from being all that 'common', even though it was loudly trumpeted as such when it first came out. Hardly a single Sunday contains exactly the same provision of scripture for use in the various churches. It was originally a Roman Catholic production, but almost every Sunday has been tinkered with by the Church of England, and in point of fact the Roman Catholics have the reading about the Transfiguration on the Second Sunday in Lent.

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 Myanmar (Burma, as was). In our prayer for the Diocese we pray on 'Education Sunday' for the Diocesan Board of Education and the seven education officers and all their support staff. Our parish prayer today is for those who have lapsed from regular Christian worship, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we remember today the people living in Church Street.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 389
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201 [This prayer lays much stress on God as Creator].

Note: The pre-Lent Sundays have a variety of traditional themes. At the 0800 service we shall be using the 'gesima readings from the Book of Common Prayer, but in a modern translation.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

The children are at the 1100 service today. Crèche as usual.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 389
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201 [The prayer lays much stress on God as Creator]
Setting of the Eucharist: *Leighton* in D
All the hymns are from *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*

The pre-Lent Sundays have a variety of traditional themes. At the Sung Eucharist we shall continue with the Lectionary readings, but the hymns will mainly follow the traditional Septuagesima theme of *Creation*.

Introit hymn: HHE 100 [t.457 ii]

Blessing of new blue vestments in memory of Frank Cannon

Metrical Gloria in excelsis: *words on reverse of readings paper*. [t. 139 i]

Collect of the Day: page 389 *Readings on separate paper*

New Testament Reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Gradual Hymn: HHE 29 [t.250; repeat last two lines for last verse.]

The Holy Gospel reading from St Luke

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed: page 173

Intercession, Prayers of Penitence (Confession on page 169); then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Hymn: HHE 81 (Collection)

[t.388 ii in E flat]

All sit for the Offertory Anthem: O thou the central orb of righteous love. *Wood*
[The words of the anthem are on a small slip.]

Eucharistic Prayer G: page 188; Proper Preface: page 201

Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.

During the Communion: Agnus Dei

Leighton

Communion hymn: HHE 79 PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN. [t.237]

Post-Communion hymn: HHE 19: verses 1-6 and Doxology. [t.478]

Post Communion Prayer.
The Blessing and Dismissal.

The **Organ Voluntary** today, on a Handel theme, is sponsored by **Eve Myatt-Price**, in loving memory of her father, Charles Edward Price, who died on 6 February 1985, at the age of 98.

*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

CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE: 'SPRING INTO LIFE'
All-age Worship arranged by St Mary's Wayfarers.

1830

CHORAL EVENSONG *Book of Common Prayer rite*

The hymns at Evensong are all Biblical Canticles and on the readings' paper.
Like the readings and psalms they generally relate to the theme of Creation.

Responses: Green books, page 18

Music: *Byrd*

Office-hymn: No.1 'A Song of God's Glorious Name' (Psalm 8) [t.490]

Psalms 29 and 93. Two psalms praising God as Creator. pages 171 & 249

First Lesson from the Book Genesis (*Readings on separate paper*)

Magnificat: page 19

Byrd, Second Service

Second Lesson from the Revelation to St John

Nunc dimittis: page 20

Byrd, Second Service

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

Anthem: O Lorde, the maker of al thinge.

Joubert

[The words of the anthem are on a small slip.]

Prayers

Hymn No.2 'A Song of the Holy City' [t.447] (Based on the Second Lesson)

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Hymn No.3 'A Song of God's Righteousness' (Collection) [t.440]

(From Psalm 103: the Psalm of the Lovc of God.)

The Blessing

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**