

Choir Club Adult Cover. We need cover on two Fridays: 12 March and 26 March. It just involves being there from 1800-1900, but cover is essential, or the club cannot function. Volunteers to David Crick, please.

Service papers, etc. This is a time of year when several different leaflets appear for one reason or another, and it is very easy for things to get mixed up. *Leaflets containing the readings for 0930 and 1100 are nearly always the same colour (for ease of filing), so it is a matter of some importance that care is taken – and not just by sidesmen – when they are handed back in by those who do not wish to take them away.* Most Sunday evenings involve some time in sorting out service papers, and much of this could be avoided if people went by content and not by colour earlier in the day. It would be a great help if this point were generally taken on board.

The Village Fair. A reminder that the next planning meeting for the Fair will be held on Monday week, 8 March at 2000 in the Parish Room. Everyone is welcome; there is as usual a lot to sort out and arrange.

The Electoral Roll. It is once again time for the annual revision of the Roll, and this will be taking place between Monday, 1 March and Saturday, 13 March. There are certainly some regular members of the congregation who are not on it, and now is the time to remedy this. Any baptised person over sixteen, who has been worshipping at the church for a period of at least six months, is eligible to be on the Roll. The Electoral Roll is the working register of a parish church, and all regular worshippers *should* be on it. ('Passengers' are another matter; they cost us money.) Members of the Electoral Roll who do not live in the geographical parish have two interesting perks (shared with other geographical but non-churchgoing residents): they can get married here, and they have rights of burial in the churchyard. That might be worth knowing!

Confirmation. I know of one or two adults who are making inquiries about getting confirmed, and this seems a suitable time to find out whether any others are likely to be interested. It would be sensible to gather names at this point, and then we can see what is the best way ahead. Name, address and telephone number on a slip of paper, please, and handed directly to the Vicar; oral communications – particularly on Sundays – are quite easily forgotten.

Lent boxes. These were available last week, but the boxes were not additionally plugged, and not all that many were taken. Could lots of them be taken today? Our Lent Project always relies heavily upon what is put in the 'self-denial' boxes, and this year's project for a Children's Hospice deserves a fair measure of support.

Lent leaflets are available on the book trolley in church, and also two 'fixture lists' which might be worth having: firstly, the dates of the 1100 Prayer Book Sung Eucharist and of the 1200 'plain' Eucharist, and secondly the dates for Christian Family Praise services. A reminder too that the **sacristy** and **altar servers** rotas are available on a table by the double-doors leading into the Parish Room.

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

29 February 2004

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The Litany in Procession is a well-known Lenten feature, and in my home parish (and indeed in my title parish) it was sung in procession before the Sunday Eucharist on every Sunday in Advent and Lent. The Litany combines penitence and intercession in a formal structure, which is somewhat more in keeping with the restrained nature of worship in the 'purple' seasons of the liturgical year. Occasionally one hears moans about the Litany, but then not every Sunday is meant to have the jollity of the harvest festival, and Lent is Lent. The Litany is a devotion which has stood the test of time, and its modern and rather more clinical form in *Common Worship* has much the same sort of content as the old Prayer Book Litany. The older form is, in fact, the oldest piece of reformed English liturgy, ante-dating the First Prayer Book by some five years. Current patterns of worship have moved away from what they once were, as far as the Litany is concerned, but we have this solemn act of devotion at St Mary's on Ash Wednesday, and on one occasion each at 0930 and 1100 on the Lenten Sundays. The Litany's statement that we are 'miserable sinners' ought not to conjure up a dislike for ungenial reminders; indeed, the word means 'wretched' rather than 'long-faced.' But such we are, and an important point of our Lenten discipline is that it gives us an annual opportunity to deepen the penitential side of our devotional life, as well as offering us so many other opportunities to grow in the Life of the Spirit and in Christian knowledge and service.

The curious hymn by J M Neale, 'Christian, dost thou see them?' (on at 0930 at the Offertory), *might* be a translation of a Greek original, but there is some dispute about this. However, it is a particularly fine hymn about the Christian warfare. The first three verses form a dialogue with a sort of *Pilgrim's Progress* flavour (those who have read Bunyan's great book will recall that his hero is also called Christian); part of the battle of life is spelt out, the enemy being personified as Israel's traditional foe, 'the hosts of Midian.' Then half-way through each verse the mood suddenly changes, with encouraging words to the soldier of Christ. There is a particularly serpent-like tempter-*feel to verse 3*, with its insinuation about the foolishness of trying to live a disciplined Christian life. The last verse, by contrast, represents Jesus speaking encouraging words to his battle-scarred soldier. In some ways it is a good picture of Lent, as well as of the Christian life as a whole, for at the end of both is the Easter message of Christ's victory and triumph. The seventeenth-century tune* is vigorous (and just slightly vulgar), and the hymn is ideal for the First Sunday in Lent. Over the years it seems to have only been on at Mattins; I hope this year everyone at 0930 will enjoy singing it. **W.R.H.**

[*Some older members of the congregation may possibly have memories of a truly dreadful tune to this hymn by the Victorian priest-musician, J B Dykes.]

In our prayers today we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion – on the eve of St David's Day – for the Church in the Province of Wales. In the diocese we pray our Diocesan Synod. In the parish we pray for the Tuesday House Group and the Lent Course there (led by Iain McKillop), and for the people who live in Conaways Close.

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Proper Preface on page 308.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 393

Collect of the Day: page 308.

0930 LITANY IN PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Crèche; 'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 393

Other Lenten material on page 308

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191 with Extended Preface: page 309

Setting of the Eucharist: *Viadama*, Missa l'hora passa

The service begins with the Litany in Procession (see note below, and the Sunday paragraph above). The Litany also 'does duty' for the Intercession and also for the prayers of penitence, so they are all omitted today. *Gloria in excelsis* is also omitted during Lent; it returns at the Easter Vigil.

The Litany (on page 115) goes as far as 'O Christ, hear us' on page 119, and the Sunday Eucharist begins with *Kyrie eleison* (which ends the Litany and starts the Eucharist). It is usual to stand for the Litany in procession, but do feel free to kneel or sit after the Procession moves off at 'Remember not Lord our offences.' After *Kyrie eleison*, all stand, and the Eucharist begins with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.

Greeting and the Collect of the Day: page 393 *Readings on separate paper.*
 Old Testament Reading from the Book Deuteronomy
Remain seated for Gradual Psalm 91, sung by the choir.

[This is the psalm quoted by Jesus in the accounts of the temptations.]

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

All stand for the 'classic' Lenten Hymn 67: Forty days and forty nights.

The Holy Gospel Reading from St Luke.

Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders* on the Sunday after the 40th anniversary of his being appointed a Licensed Reader in the Church of England.

The Nicene Creed: page 173, followed by the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: 65
 Collection

[There is a note about this 'dialogue hymn' in the Sunday paragraph.]

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191, but *beginning with the Extended Lenten*

Preface on page 309. Turn back to page 178 for Lord's Prayer, etc.

Hymn at the Invitation: 71 [PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN]

Anthem during Communion: Call to remembrance. *Farrant*

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindness, which have been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth, but

according to thy mercy think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

(Psalm 25:3,4)

Post-Communion hymn: 449

[Charles Wesley's familiar hymn has the same basic message as J M Neale's.]

Post-Communion Prayer: page 393

Lenten Blessing and the Dismissal.

[Tune: *From strength to strength*]

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

Book of Common Prayer rite

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Music: *Byrd*

Responses: page 8

Venite (full version during Lent)

Office-Hymn: 59 (ii)

Psalm 25. An alphabetical prayer for forgiveness. *Page 167*

First Lesson from the Book of Jonah *(on separate paper)*

Benedictus: page 11 (Congregational chant setting)

Second Lesson from the Gospel according to St Luke

Hymn 64

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

Responses and the three Collects: first Collect on page 61.

Anthem: Hide not thou thy face. *Farrant*

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servants in

thy displeasure, for we confess our sins unto thee, and hide not our

unrighteousness. For thy mercies' sake, deliver us from all our sins.

Prayers Hymn 76 (Collection) The Blessing

1830

Stations of the Cross (in the Parish Room)

Note: Much of the information for this week is already published in the Lent Leaflet, and to list it all out again week by week during Lent would indeed be an unnecessary weariness of the flesh. There are plenty of copies of the leaflet still available, and if they run out we can print some more. The compromise is to list *services*, and to indicate the other events without going into the level of details that can be found on the Lent Leaflet.

In church this week

Monday **Yr Offeren** (*Eucharist in Welsh on St David's Day*)

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Wednesday 1100 **'Objections to Christian Belief'** with Dr Patrick Miller

Friday 1200 **Stations of the Cross**

1200 **Holy Communion**

Other events and notices

Tuesday 2000 Bellingers' Annual General Meeting in the tower.

2000 House Group at 68 Castle Avenue with Iain McKillop

2000 CTE Lent Group: *Hospital Ministry* (St Paul's, Howell Hill)

Wednesday 1030-1200 **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall: The Delight of

the Bean and the Conviviality of Congenial Company. So 'have a

break; have a coffee.'

Friday 1400 Women's World Day of Prayer service at Ruxley Church.