



St Mary the Virgin
 EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

7 March 2004

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

We are now well into Lent, and it is good that some of our Lenten activity has taken off so well. This has been particularly the case with Dr Patrick Miller's Tuesday morning course on *Objections to Christian Belief*, the first session of which attracted about thirty people, who had a stimulating and rewarding time in the Parish Room. I suspect that as word gets round the number might well increase further. Last week the subject was approached from a historical perspective; this week it will be from a psychological one. It is clear that a morning time for something of this sort is very convenient for some people, in a way in which an evening slot is not. Whilst it is inevitable that meetings and the like generally take place in the evenings, there is clearly a place for daytime activity too, and we may well explore other possibilities in due course.

Some may remember the story of 'The sly fox and the little red hen' from younger days. In today's gospel reading Jesus is represented as calling Herod a fox, and then he goes on to compare himself to a hen. The image is picked up in 'The Song of St Anselm', which is being sung at the Offertory at the Sung Eucharist today. (This is one of the new canticles in *Common Worship*, and has been versified by me.) We live in a period when there is in fact much feminist theological activity, and whatever view one holds about such an approach the fact remains that a feminine analogy is quite often an appropriate one. Anselm (a cloistered monk as Abbot of Bec until he was more or less compelled to be Archbishop of Canterbury) was clearly no feminist, but in this 'song' we see him as the theologian and mystic, and not as the ecclesiastical statesman, using the beautiful analogy of the caring love of Jesus being exercised in the same way as that of a nursing mother; and there is also room for a mention of the 'hen parallel' as well. W.R.H.

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 Nigeria (with which our own diocese has links). In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the Department of Ministerial Training and the Guildford Diocesan Ministry Course, and for the right choice of a new Bishop for us. In the parish we pray for Glyn School and Ewell Castle School, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for the residents of Corbet 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.

Lent boxes. There are still many boxes not yet taken, and they can be found in the Welcome Area. Might the remainder 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 to attract a fair measure of support.

The Gradual Psalm at the 0930 Eucharist in Lent takes several forms this year. The traditional posture for the Gradual Psalm is to *sit*, because in this slot the psalm is not so much a hymn as 'the Lesson from David.' (This is what happened last week, when the choir chanted the psalm.) However, common-sense says that if it is being sung to a *hearty* metrical tune then we should stand; if it is a gentle tune we might as well remain sitting down. So, *unless* it actually says 'Remain seated for the Gradual Psalm,' we should all get up - as today - and sing the metrical version heartily. In fact, about half the Gradual Psalms this Lent are metrical.

The Notice Board to the left of the lychgate is now full of gaily-coloured posters of one sort or another, and it makes quite a pleasant sight. Normally only the details of the following Sunday are on the right-hand notice board, and any other variable matter is on the other one. Because the boards need to be opened with a key, it is not possible for people to put up notices at will. The board will normally be changed on a Monday morning, so any material which needs to go up should be in the office at the very latest on the Sunday before. (Monday is too late, because the arrangements on the board will have been planned by then, and we need to 'look good' with the new board, for it is quite conspicuous.) Our new boards certainly make the place look much more welcoming and cheerful, and ought to last a very long time.

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. The Roll is then 'frozen' until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 28 March. This is not the major six-yearly thing, when everyone has to opt in again, so if you are already on the Roll there is nothing to do. *However, 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!

Next Sunday. The Third Sunday in Lent. The monthly Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist is next Sunday (by exception); in the evening at 1830 there will be Stations of the Cross in the main church.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

0900 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 466
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 219. Other Lenten material: page 308
 Second sermon in the Lent Course on 'Mother Church.'
 This week: 'From heaven he came and sought her.'

Common Worship rite

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Crèche; 'Children's Hour' in the church hall.
 Collect of the Day: page 394. Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191
 Other Lenten material: page 308.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Batten*, Short Service

Introit hymn: 74

Greeting, Opening Prayer, and *Kyrie eleison*

(The Gloria in excelsis is omitted in Lent.)

Collect of the Day: page 394

Use Readings paper until after the Gospel.

(Readings on separate paper)

Old Testament Reading from the Book Genesis

Metrical Gradual Psalm 27

[Tune: Guiting Power]

New Testament Reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians

Hymn: verses from 'Light's abode, celestial Salem.'

[Tune 401]

The Holy Gospel Reading from St Luke

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed: page 173

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn: A Song of St Anselm (*on Readings paper*) Collection [t.49 i]

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Lenten Preface: page 308

The Lord's Prayer, etc. on pages 178-180

At the Invitation. Hymn 276 (ii)

[PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN]

Anthem during Communion: Remember not, Lord, our offences. *Purcell*

[Words from the Litany: bottom of page 115.]

Post-Communion hymn: 453. Post-Communion Prayer: page 394

Lenten 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 CHORAL MATTINS

Book of Common Prayer rite

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Responses: page 8

Music: *Byrd*

Venite (full version in Lent)

Office-Hymn: 60 [t. OEH 66]

All sit Psalm 142. A prayer from a troubled heart.

Page 305

First Lesson from the Book Genesis

(Readings on separate paper)

Hymn 416 (i) [The hymn is based on the content of the First lesson.]

Second Lesson from the Gospel according to St Luke
 Cantic: The Lamentation. *Bairstow* (text on back of Readings paper)
 The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,
 the Responses and the three Collects (first Collect on page 62).
 Anthem: 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*)

Prayers. Hymn 353 (Collection) The Blessing

1830 Evening Prayer

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 on the book trolley. 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

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion
 1100 **Objections to Christian Belief** with Dr Patrick Miller
 Wednesday 1200 Stations of the Cross
 Friday 1200 Holy Communion

Other events and notices

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.
 2000 Village Fair planning meeting in the Parish Room. Everyone is invited; plenty of jobs available.
 Tuesday 2000 House Group at 68 Castle Avenue. Lent Course led by Ian McKillop.
 2000 Churches Together in Ewell Lent Course: Ministry in the Armed Forces (at St Clement's)
 Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. At 1100 *Iain McKillop* talks on 'Resurrection Paintings.'
 1230 Epsom Deanery Chapter
 Friday 1000 Visit by pupils of Wallace Fields School
 Saturday 1930 Concert by the Epsom Choral Society. *Handel*, Dixit Dominus and *Charpentier*, Messe de Minuit. There are posters with further details. This should be a splendid concert.

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.