

Last Sunday was a particularly busy day at St Mary's, with a large number of visitors. Many thanks to *Kathie Burgess* and *Vicky Gocher* for all their work in connexion with the 1100 service, and also to our Sub-Organist, *Jonathan Holmes*, whose choir from Emanuel School at 'Evensong and Recital' produced a truly magnificent sound. It is good to see that there are still some schools which can achieve such vocal excellence; I have heard adult choirs give considerably inferior performances of at least three of the works sung last Sunday evening. W.R.H.

A peaceful week. (So we hope.) Last Sunday's Notes and the various enclosures used up a fair amount of paper, but that was perhaps inevitable on a very complicated day. This week's notes are quite puny by comparison. However, we might as well make the most of it, because the Church calls us to do a lot next week. The Great Week is always spiritually demanding, and it is as well that this week is reasonably peaceful, one way and another. There is much on in church during Holy Week, and full details are on the Lent Leaflet. There are many copies of the leaflet still available, so there is no need to spell things out yet again on the Weekly Notes. However, at the end of the Notes there will be a reminder about next Sunday's arrangements, which are different from what has been the case in the past.

The Watch of the Passion. The chart for this annual act of devotion on Maundy Thursday night is in position today. I hope it will be initialled (or ticked) by many people today. This is an opportunity for silent prayer with one another, as together we kneel before, and in communion with, the Christ of Gethsemane. Last year, for the first time ever, and to my grief (I have to say), I found myself alone for about 40 minutes of the Watch. If anyone is a bit unsure of what one might actually do during the Watch, please have a word with me. However, there are always guidelines and books available on the night. Whilst there is always a decent number at the start of the Watch, it invariably tails off later on, though there are always some who come towards the end. Please think about this today, and sign up if you can. The Lord said to his disciples then, and still says it now, 'Could you not watch with me one hour?' Or even half? W.R.H.

Next Sunday. Palm Sunday, and Holy Week begins. The morning timetable next Sunday is in fact the regular Sunday morning one. For many years, and for very good reasons, we have only had one service mid-morning on Palm Sunday. Last year, in particular, Palm Sunday saw an extraordinary tract of liturgy, but it was a very remarkable one, and also the last time we had Bishop John Gladwin and Lydia with us for a specifically parish occasion. It may be that the one service will be reinstated next year, after our south porch ramp has been installed, and we can have a re-styled Palm Sunday Procession. We were expecting it to have been installed by now, but the work is now not scheduled to start until 10 May. So it seems sensible this year to have a 'straight' Sung Eucharist (with the so-called Solemn Entrance) at 0930, and Choral Mattins at 1100. At 1100 the choir will be singing the attractive *Procession of Palms* by Malcolm Williamson. Technically we should have finished with the palms after the Entrance at the Sung Eucharist (the Palm Sunday Eucharist is the Mass of the Passion), but then in theory Mattins should really be before the Eucharist in any case, as it is, by exception, this Sunday. So we can get around it that way!

There is an ecumenical service, organized by Churches Together in Ewell, on Palm Sunday evening at Stoneleigh Methodist Church at 1830. This is a follow-up to the CTE Lent Course on specialized ministries, but it is a good opportunity for the local churches to do something together at the start of Holy Week.

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
020 8393 2643
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WEEKLY NOTES

28 March 2004

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Before the modern liturgical reforms, it was quite usual to put up the 'Passiontide veiling' ready for this particular Sunday. Crosses, pictures and statues were all veiled in purple, as the Church moved towards Holy Week. After the flowers and rose-coloured vestments of the previous Sunday the church looked even more stark than in the earlier flowerless weeks of Lent. In medieval England they went even further; such things were veiled right throughout Lent, and not in purple but in unbleached linen or fustian, embroidered with symbols of the Passion. (In some places they still do this; it has sometimes been unkindly called 'British Museum religion' by trendy liturgical purists.) Part of the fun of the Easter Vigil, I use the word 'fun' advisedly, used to be the pulling off of the Passiontide veiling by the altar servers, who scampered around the church during the *Gloria*. The veiling may have gone, but this Sunday effectively turns our attention firmly towards the Passion of Christ. The 'seasonal material' in *Common Worship*, the Sunday scriptures and the chosen hymnody all serve to make today a liturgical amber-light, reminding us that something very special is going to be put once more before our eyes. Tonight's service is a devotional foretaste of what is to come; I hope it will be well supported.

It sometimes confuses people that the title *Passion Sunday*, which was the old popular title for Lent 5 and still unofficially used by many Church of England folk, is now used by Roman Catholics to denote what we call *Palm Sunday*. As a title, *Passion Sunday* has disappeared in the Church of England – just like the veiling – but old habits die hard. W.R.H.

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 the Philippines. In our prayer for the Diocese we pray for the ministry to those in prison. Our parish prayer today is for God's guidance and blessing to rest upon our Annual Parochial Church Meeting today, and upon those who will be elected to office today. In our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we remember today the people living in Curnnor Gardens.

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 after the 0930 service.

0700 MATTINS

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207

Collect of the Day: page 469

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 219; other proper material: page 312

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers, Children's Hour and Crèche.
 Order 1: page 167.
 Collect of the Day: page 396
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 201 [This prayer emphasises the Passion of Christ]
 Other proper material for the season: page 312
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Wills*, *Missa Passiois Christi*.

Introit hymn: 79

[L. 128 ii]

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*

Readings on separate paper

Collect of the Day: page 396

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Remain seated for the Gradual Psalm 126, sung by the Choir.

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

Hymn 379

The Holy Gospel reading from St John

Sermon by *the Vicar*: 'With Jesus in Jerusalem now.'

[A sermon for the Sunday before Holy Week; no sermons next Sunday.]

Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional language text on page 213

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Hymn: 86 (Collection)

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 188; Proper Preface: page 312

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

Hymn at the Invitation: 313 [PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN.]

Anthem: God so loved the world. *Stainer* (from *The Crucifixion*)

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

God so loved the world. *St John 3: 16-17*

Post-Communion hymn: *Anima Christi* (on *Readings paper*)

Post Communion Prayer: page 397

c.1110 MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CHURCHWARDENS.

o/c THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

It is necessary to be on the church's Electoral Roll in order to speak or vote at the second meeting.

1830

THE READING AND MUSIC OF THE PASSION

This annual event is an opportunity to prepare ourselves for Holy Week within a prayerful, scriptural and musical setting. The Passion according to St Matthew will be read continuously, but episodically, with suitable choral music and congregational hymns interspersing the actual reading. It is meant to be a liturgical, personal and musical scene-setter for what is to come, as the services of Holy Week once more bring the Passion of Christ before our eyes. In recent years this particular service has somehow grown in length; this year it has been considerably pruned. *There is a separate leaflet for this service, and it is available in advance from the book-trolley after the morning services.*

The Lent Leaflet, still available on the book-trolley, carries fuller details about the various services and other Lenten activities than appear on the Weekly Notes. Holy Week and Easter details are also given on the leaflet.

In church this week

Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion
	1100	'Objections to Christian Belief' with <i>Dr Patrick Miller</i> . 'Philosophical Objections' this week.
Wednesday	1200	Stations of the Cross
Friday	1200	Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Tuesday After the 1000 Eucharist: 'Weave-in' for Palm Sunday.

2000 House Group at 68 Castle Avenue, with *Iain Mc Killop*.

2000 Churches Together in Ewell Lent Group: 'Ministry in Universities and Colleges' at St Mary's, Cuddington, with the Vicar of Cuddington, Dr Harvey (formerly Chaplain of the University of Surrey) and the Rev Stan Brown, formerly Minister at Stoneleigh Methodist Church, and now Chaplain at Kingston University.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. There is a Bring

and Buy sale at the Coffee Morning this week.

1215-1345 Lent Lunch in the Church Hall in aid of our Lenten

Project, the Shooting Star Appeal for a Children's Hospice at Hampton.

Next month's **Ewell Parish News** is available today.

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes for May-August are now available for collection by members of BRF at the back of the church. New members are always welcome. Further details from Evelyn Jarrett (020 8393 4502).

Weavers Wanted. Is there a chance that we might have some new faces at the weave-in on Tuesday morning? People are eager enough to want their palms on Palm Sunday, but over the years have not been terribly keen on helping to weave the palm leaves into palms. The most expert tuition is available, and the oil from the palm leaves will make hands that do dishes feel as soft as your face (as one might say).

Church and Hall cleaning. Our new cleaners have now been working for two months. We want to maintain a high standard. So, if anyone notices anything that needs attention, would he or she please tell one of the churchwardens, or write a comment in the note-book in the Welcome Area.

Those towels. There have been a few volunteers who have answered the churchwardens' call to form a rota for washing up to six tea-towels per week. A few more would help spread the load. Offers please to Gilda Everson.

Knitting for Lent: Please bring your finished scarves or caps to church next Sunday 4 April ready for display on Easter Day. Edna