

WEEKLY NOTES

25 April 2004

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 2; 'Good Shepherd' Sunday)

Actually the present Lectionary provision gives us the Good Shepherd *next* Sunday, but since there is a Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist today with the traditional readings it might be as well to reflect on this imagery today. For all its simplicity (and sometimes the rather milk-and-water pictures of Christ on the rather old-fashioned Sunday School posters which some of us remember), the figure of the Good Shepherd is not an easy one to expound, not least because it is multi-faceted. Of course we can see Jesus as the pattern for 'caring', and we can grasp the metaphor of the Good Shepherd laying down his life for the sheep. However, attractive as it is to see Our Lord as the Shepherd, the converse of seeing ourselves as the sheep is not quite so attractive. The *Venite* gives us the image of being looked after: 'we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand', but, on further reflection, being called 'sheepish' is hardly a word of praise. The sheep is generally a follower of others, it panics easily, and it will rush about apparently quite aimlessly, and has to be rounded up by a well-trained dog. It might do us no harm to ponder how far the sheeplike qualities of prevailing whiteness (in most British sheep at least) and of trust in our Shepherd are uppermost in our life in God's pasture-land, or whether we just wander about without much sense of direction or purpose in life. One thing is clear enough: the Good Shepherd himself is also the Lamb of God, and the flock of Christ has to be prepared for real incorporation into that sacrificial role of the Shepherd-Lamb.

Our prayers today. In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Spanish Episcopal Church. In the diocese we pray for the work of the Department for Social Responsibility. In our own parish we pray for those who have been married at St Mary's during the past year, and in our systematic prayer for those who live in the parish we pray today for the people of Elm 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

0900 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207

Other Easteride texts: page 316.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 473

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216

There is also some information about a mighty service at the cathedral on **Whitsunday afternoon**, when the new statues on the west front are to be dedicated. Each parish is invited to send a couple of representatives. That doesn't count me, because I shall be 'up front.' There is, in fact, a general fiesta atmosphere at the cathedral throughout the day, not least because it is their Patronal Festival, and there is going to be a Choral Eucharist and also an elegant lunch for those who want it. However, with our own busy morning timetable here, I only plan to arrive in time for the afternoon service. Anyone who would like to go should have a word with me.

It was good to see a fair number of parishioners joining the large family group at **Gladys George's funeral** on Monday last, and particularly those from the 'early service', which Gladys regularly attended with Charles in recent years. I am sure that Charles was very appreciative of this support at this sad time.

The Tuesday morning Eucharist during Easteride will be at the Nave Altar, next to the Paschal Candle and the Easter Garden. We shall return to the Parish Room on Whit Tuesday.

Here are one or two reprints from recent Weekly Notes, the points being worth making once again:

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.

Church and Hall cleaning. Our new cleaners have now been working for over 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.

There is a display of Lenten Knitting at the back of the church, the caps and scarves made for the Waterloo Christian Centre for the homeless. We are very grateful to those who took part in this very worthwhile task, and to Edna Atwood for arranging it all.

Next Sunday: Normal Sunday arrangements in the morning. In the afternoon there is Evensong and Holy Baptism at 1630, and as usual we would be very glad of 'supporters' who will represent the Welcoming Church for the new young Christians and their families on this their baptismal day.

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

Children's Hour in the Church Hall; Crèche available.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 401.
 Other Eastertide texts: page 316
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 [Omit responses in red brackets.]
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells* in E flat

Easter Greeting: Christ is risen.
All reply: He is risen indeed.

Introit Hymn: 114
 Easter Greeting, Introduction and Prayers of Penitence (page 168).
 Metrical Gloria in excelsis: Hymn 363 [t. 338]
 Collect of the Day: page 401. *Readings on separate paper.*
 New Testament Reading from the Revelation to St John
 Gradual Canticle: A Song of Praise ('Glory and honour')
printed on readings paper. [t. 47]
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John
 Nicene Creed: page 173
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace
 Offertory Hymn: 106 Collection
 Eucharistic Prayer: page 184; Eastertide Preface: page 316.
 Turn back to page 178 for Lord's Prayer, etc.
 Hymn at the Invitation: Come let us our praises sing [t. 242]
On readings paper. (HHE 80; words by Edith Vincent)
 Communion Anthem: Verily, verily I say unto you. *Tallis*

Verily, verily I say unto you: except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me, and I in him. (*St John* 6: 53-56)

Post-Communion hymn: MHT 122 (*on readings paper*).
 Post-Communion Prayer: Easter Blessing and Dismissal.

1100 SONG EUCHARIST

Book of Common Prayer rite

Setting of the Eucharist: *Merbecke*, *Missa Semplicior*
Merbecke is a congregational setting, and the melody is available on the lilac-coloured paper.

Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Introit hymn: 107 Then green Prayer Book: page 31
 Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33
 Greeting and the Collect of the Day
(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)

Remain seated for the Gradual Psalm: 23. Page 166

The Lord, the Good Shepherd

All stand for the Holy Gospel: St John 16: 16-22

Christ, the Good Shepherd

Nicene Creed: page 34; Prayer Biddings and the Offertory Sentence.

Offertory Hymn: 116 Collection

After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the

Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration

Hymn at the Consecration: 269, part 2

During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)

Communion Anthem: Verily, verily I say unto you. *Tallis*

[See above at the 0930 Eucharist.]

The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44

All stand for Gloria in excelsis

The Blessing Hymn 457 (ii)

1830 Evening Worship at Ewell United reformed Church.

In church this week

Tuesday *St Mark* 1000 Holy Communion (Nave Altar)

Other events and notices

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.

Wednesday 1030-1200. Coffee Morning in the Church Hall.

Koffee Kwaffing, Kongenial Kompany, and Koinonia*.

*Although the plug for the Coffee Morning is just someone being funny, that word '*koinonia*' is in fact one of the really great New Testament words, and contains various shades of meaning, most of which are reproduced in the English word 'communion.' It has notes of 'fellowship in the truth', of deep personal commitment, of something to do with unity, love and brotherhood. The 'fellowship of the Holy Spirit' in the familiar words of the Grace (cited from the end of 2 Corinthians) is, in the Greek, the *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit. Whilst it is a 'serious' word of Christian theology, it can also take into its meaning something as simple as a group that meets on a Wednesday morning, and who are always ready to extend their fellowship to others.

Ewell Parish News for May is available today.

There are some fliers available at the back of the church in connexion with the **Guildford Diocesan Summer School**, a selection of 'learning opportunities' taking place in July at various venues and on a wide range of subjects. My old college Principal once described Summer Schools as 'Institutes of Further Stupefaction,' but there are over three dozen things on offer this year, and some of the topics may well be of interest to some. Do take a brochure, if you are interested. W.R.H.