



St Mary the Virgin
 EWELL PARISH CHURCH
 (020 8393 2643)

WEEKLY NOTES

19 September 2004

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The gospel reading at 0800 and 0930 (though not at 1100, where they have a more kindly passage from the Sermon on the Mount) is the extraordinary parable of the Unjust Steward. No doubt Mr Saunders will give us some new insights in the sermon! One interesting feature of this strange passage is a famous New Testament conundrum: *who* commended the unjust steward? The problem is that in the Greek the word *Kurios* is used, the word normally translated as 'Lord.' So was it the lord of the steward, or was it the Lord who told the parable? We might not like the thought of Jesus commending somebody who fiddled the books, but it is at least a 50% possibility; it could only have been the one way or the other. The reason for the commendation was in any case not the fiddling of the books but of the exercising of prudent judgement. Whichever interpretation is correct the fact remains that Jesus sometimes seems to have chosen illustrations in which not all the characters were whiter than white. The prodigal son was a rascal, the unjust judge was lazy, the man in bed was a bad friend, and there were nine ungrateful former lepers. Jesus' parables were seldom 'holy tales.' Jesus met people where they were and still does so: he tells of real life situations and fills the stories with real life characters. The parables were meant to make people sit up and take notice, and usually (though not always) they did not need a punch-line like 'Go and do thou likewise.' He must have been a wonderful story-teller; small wonder so many of the parables were retained in the memory of the early Christian community, long before they were ever written down.

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 Burundi. In our diocesan prayer we pray for our twinned Diocese of Evry, near Paris. In our parish prayer we pray for our twinned parish of Corriverton in Guyana, and for Fr Marcus Simon, the parish priest and his people; and we pray too for the people who live and work in the High Street.

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.

Other events and notices.

- Monday 2000 Parish Funding Group meeting.
- Tuesday 1200 Epsom Deanery Chapter at St Mary's, Chessington.
- Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for coffee, relaxation, and pleasant *conversazione*.
- Thursday 2015 Meeting of Pro Musica.

The old red hymn-books are in use today at the Eucharist. The reason is simple: one of the hymns is only in the red book (and it's a good one), and another hymn is in a shorter version than in the New English Hymnal. As far as possible we try to avoid too many books at any given service, though sometimes this is unavoidable, for no one book has got precisely what we want.

Weddings. There are two weddings in church on Saturday, at 1400 and 1500. Members of the 0930 congregation will wish to know that the second wedding is the double wedding of Tiffany and Amber.

The Christmas Market will be held this year on Saturday 20 November in the church and the hall from 1030 to 1330. Further details in due course.

I am grateful to those who have in the past heard my 'appeal' in connexion with our Choir Club, but in order to spread the load we really need about another half-a-dozen volunteers (at least) to enable a not-too-demanding rota to be drawn up of those willing to be present on Friday evenings, thereby ensuring that we are acting in accordance with the parish's stated Child Protection Policy. There is a paper in the Welcome Area for names. *There is nothing to do other than to be present*, though that does not mean that one cannot do anything else if one wishes to do so. The Choir Club lasts from 1800-1900 on Friday evenings. W.R.H.

'Churches Together in Ewell' are in great need of volunteers to join their committee which organizes the *Alone at Christmas meal*. There are two or three meetings between September and Christmas, and a de-briefing session in January. Further details from Mrs Geetha Srinivasan on 8393 7767 or (work) 7878 1243.

The Wintershall Nativity Play. There is some information about this in the Welcome Area, and also about another play, *The Acts of the Apostles*, which is being performed in the third week of October. I understand that the Wintershall plays are particularly good; they are partly indoors and partly out of doors. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. There are normal Sunday arrangements next week, with the monthly 1200 Eucharist. The week after is our Harvest Festival.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800

HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. *Common Worship rite*
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Collect of the Day: page 417

0930

SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Children's Hour in the hall; crèche available in church.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 417
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Harris* in F
Hymns from the old *red* hymn-books today.

Introit hymn: AMR 258

Introduction, the Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*

Metrical Gloria in excelsis: at Hymn 363

Collect of the Day: page 417

New Testament Reading from First Letter to Timothy.

Gradual Hymn: AMR 231

The Holy Gospel reading from St Luke

Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders*. *Reader*.

Nicene Creed: page 173

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: AMR 405

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184

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

Hymn at the Invitation: AMR 416

During the Communion:

Antiphon: Litany to the Holy Spirit.

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess:
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When I lie within my bed
Sick in heart and sick in head
And with doubts discomfited:
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drowned with sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep:
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

Post-Communion Hymn: 207

Post Communion Prayer: page 417

The Blessing and Dismissal.

1100

SUNG EUCHARIST

Setting of the Eucharist: *Merbecke* [on the lilac-coloured leaflet]

This is a congregational setting.
Sermon by *the Vicar*

Introit hymn: HCE 37 'BLESS THE LORD'

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*)

The Epistle: Galatians 6: 11-18

Gradual hymn: HCE 38 'GREAT AND WONDERFUL'

The Holy Gospel: St Matthew 6: 24-34

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Biddings to prayer, and the Offertory Sentence.

Offertory Hymn: HCE 48 A SONG OF GOD'S DESCENDING

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:

Father, see thy children bending at thy throne,
Pleading here the Passion of thine only Son,
Pleading here before thee all his dying love,
As he pleads it ever in the courts above.

Not for our wants only we this offering plead,
But for all thy children, who thy mercy need.
Bless thy faithful people, win thy wandering sheep,
Keep the souls departed, who in Jesus sleep.

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

Antiphon: Litany to the Holy Spirit.

After Communion:

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

The Blessing

Hymn HCE 31

A SONG OF PRAISE

Evening Prayer in the Parish Room.

In church this week

Tuesday *St Matthew* 1000

Holy Communion

[Tune: NEH 397]

[Tune: NEH 315]

[Tune: NEH 283]

[Tune: NEH 366]

[Tune: NEH 366]

[Tune: NEH 366]

[Tune: NEH 366]

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