

Hymnathon 2005. The year's sponsored *Hymnathon* in aid of the Village Fair will take place again on Saturday, 26 February, in the Parish Room around the piano. There will be two sessions: 1000-1300 and 1400 to 1600. It will involve singing at least two verses of every hymn in *The New English Hymnal* beginning at Hymn 251 and ending at 500. (The remainder of the Hymnal has features other than 'straight' hymnody.) Sponsorship forms will be available in the Welcome Area as from today for those willing to take part. Please indicate on the Rota the time you would be willing to cover. No one will be asked to sing alone (a false rumour to that effect was doing the rounds last year), and you do not have to be a 'singer' to take part. Those who took part last year will all say that we had good fun, and we certainly raised lots of money. There will be refreshments available to keep everyone's voice in good working order. Many thanks (and further details, if necessary) from Rosemarie Henson.

A reminder that the familiar **blue box** is once again position, this time to receive replies to Mr Rothwell in connexion with the invitations to the Parish Funding Programme Presentation in church on 6 February. Anyone who has not received an invitation should not hesitate to ask for one; the Vicar, the churchwardens, Mrs Varney and Mr Rothwell will be able to provide.

Funerals. This is a strangely busy week for funerals. There are two on Monday (one in church), another in church on Tuesday, which will be conducted by the Vicar of Chessington, because the Vicar is conducting another one in Dorking and Guildford; and then there is Molly Hirst's funeral at Stoneleigh on Friday. There are another two already scheduled for the following week.

The Vicar will be at the Ecclesiastical Law Society's annual Conference during the latter part of the week. (Our new Bishop is the Chairman of the Society.) He will be back for the Candlemas Evensong on Sunday evening. There will be a *servers' rehearsal* at 1800 next Sunday for those taking part in the Candlemas rite.

Church Keys. It is many years since we had a major check on church keys, and we think the time has come for this to happen again, not least for security and insurance purposes. Would all key holders please provide the office with a signed note saying; 'I hold the following church (and hall) keys', and giving the relevant details? We need this information sooner rather than later, so might it be done this week, if at all possible? Otherwise, as soon as possible. (This is the third time of asking' (and therefore the last). Many thanks to all those who have already notified the office. I said in church last week that there is a general 'amnesty' for unauthorized possession of keys, but we do need them all back now. Keys may be posted through the office letter-box, if necessary. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. The Second Sunday before Lent, and also kept as Sexagesima. The 0800 and 0930 services are of the Sunday; at 1100 there will be a Christian Family Praise Service for Candlemas, and in the evening at 1830 there will be **Solemn Evensong and Candlemas Procession**. The choristers will be singing a 'new' setting of the evening canicles (i.e. one they haven't done before). The setting is by Geoffrey Burgon, and the *Nunc dimittis* is a haunting melody which many may well remember as the tail-piece to the 'Smiley' programmes *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, which starred Alec Guinness some ten years or so ago.

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

23 January 2005

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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Septuagesima

On the Sunday in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, instead of the Weekly Paragraph, here is the Prayer for Unity from the Accession Service:

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all; so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[The word 'one' comes, significantly, twelve times in this prayer for Unity. W.R.H.]

Our prayers today. On this Sunday we give thanks for the essential unity of all Christian people through their common 'acknowledgement of one baptism for the remission of sins' (*Nicene Creed*), and we pray for the recovery of unity within the Church of God in accordance with his will, in his time and in his truth. In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in Nigeria. In the diocese we pray for the members of the Bishop's Council, and in the parish we pray for the governors, staff and pupils of Nonsuch High School, and for the people who live in Nursery Close.

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

0800

HOLY COMMUNION

The Prayer Book rite, which we have about quarterly at 0800, can now be followed (with about 98% accuracy*) in Order 2 of '*Common Worship*', beginning on page 229. Unlike the monthly Prayer Book Sung Eucharist in the Mattins slot, the BCP rite at 0800 follows the 1662 order without any deviations from the actual text, except for the omission of the long exhortations. In order to achieve this, the simple rule is to *disregard any indented material* in the text. Collect and Readings are on a separate paper.

[* I can detect two very minor discrepancies so far. W.R.H.]



'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall; it is 'Bring a Friend Day' at Children's Hour today.
 Crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167.
 Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Harris* in F

Introit Hymn: 200

[Tune: 5]

Introduction, the Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* melody).

Collect of the Day: 385
Readings on separate paper.

New Testament Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

Gradual hymn: 353

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Short sermon by the Vicar

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

Parish Funding Programme: Presentation by the Ringers.

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: 294
 Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196

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

At the Invitation: *Agnus Dei*.

During the Communion: Hymn 276 (ii)

Anthem: Paris angelicus.

Franck

The Latin words are a meditation on the nature of the eucharistic presence and on the grace received in the Blessed Sacrament.

All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer, followed by the Parish Funding Prayer (*said together*):

*Lord, bless our parish church,
 and bless what we seek to do:
 for the good of your Church,
 for the people of Ewell,
 and to your greater glory;
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing and Dismissal.

[Coffee in the Church Hall.]

Hymn 466

CHORAL MATINS

Book of Common Prayer rite

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Responses: page 8

Music: *Rosemary Field*

Venite (shorter version)

[Tune: *Deganwy*]

Office-Hymn: HHE 100

Psalm 8 In praise of God's creation and the role of humankind. Page 149

First Lesson from the Book Genesis.

Blue book: page 400

Hymn 146

Second Lesson from the Revelation to St John.

Te Deum: page 10 (Congregational chant setting)

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

the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 58).

Anthem: The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester. *Martin How*

O Holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother: may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Prayers. Hymn 433; Collection.

The Blessing.

1200 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

The monthly 1200 Eucharist is this Sunday, not next.

Order 1: page 167

Collect of the Day: page 385

Readings on separate paper.

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216

1800 Evening Prayer (said in the Parish Room).

Note: The service will take a simplified form of what used to be known as Vespers of the Dead. This is to mark the passing of Molly Hirst, who was a faithful member of our Evensong congregation. Anyone who would like to come on this occasion would be very welcome, particularly any who cannot get to Molly's funeral in Stoneleigh on Friday morning.

In church this week.

Monday 1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Conversion of St Paul 1200 Parish Prayer with some structured prayer-time

Wednesday 1200 Parish Prayer with a Litany

Thursday 1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office

Friday 1200 for 1220 Parish Prayer with **Holy Communion**

(The Eucharist should last no more than twenty minutes.)

Also on Friday: The funeral of *Molly Hirst* will take place at 1100 at St John Baptist, Stoneleigh. The Vicar will give the homily at the service.

Other events and notices

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Everyone welcome for coffee (or tea) and biscuits and *conversazione*.

There will be a Bring-and-Buy at the Coffee Morning this week.

Saturday 1000-1200 Open Day at Grove Cottage (see below)

Many thanks to **Iain McKillop** for leading us so sensitively in the devotion of the *Stations of the Nativity* last Sunday before the 1100 service. I was very glad to see that a fair number of 0930 stalwarts stayed on for Stations, and I am sure they all found it very worthwhile. A few also had what was (for them) the novel experience of attending the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist, or rather the second half of it. All sorts of different things happen at services which people do not normally attend, and life can be full of surprises at St Mary's. **W.R.H.**

On Saturday there will be an Open Day at **Grove Cottage (Abbeyfield)**, 10 Cheam Road, between 1000-1200. Everyone is warmly invited to come and see the house, and to meet the committee over a cup of tea or coffee. St Mary's links with Grove Cottage have been strong for many years.