



St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
 (020 8393 2643)
 www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

6 February 2005

THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Quinquagesima

The Sunday of the launch of the

PARISH FUNDING PROGRAMME

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

This is very much a Parish Day today, with just one principal service, followed by a special occasion to look at, and plan for, our future at St Mary's. The readings at the Eucharist on this Sunday take us to the Mount of Transfiguration, and then bring us down again. So indeed is the pattern of our Sunday Eucharist at Ewell Parish Church. If we come in through the lych-gate, we do in fact have a very slight climb into church - a slope and some steps. If we come in through the south door, we have a more leisurely route, but it is still a slight climb up a slope. When we are actually in, we are at the top of our own Mount Tabor (or, as I think more likely, Mount Hermon) for a regular occasion of Transfiguration: for in sign and sacrament we are taken to the heart of the divine, in order to meet the Lord Jesus and to be filled with the sacramental grace of God. This is a real part of the transfiguring of our human nature through the process of sanctification, being 'made holy'. It is always worth recalling that the adjective *Holy* is regularly prefixed to the words *Communion, Eucharist* or *Mass*. Eastern Christians go one step further, and talk about the *Divine Liturgy*: it is *that* holy. The Mystery of Faith which is the Christian Eucharist has constantly transformed and transfigured human lives throughout Christian history. Yet all this is to enable us to live the Christian life in the reality of God's world, and like the disciples in the Transfiguration story we have to go 'down' the slope and steps, and bear Jesus in our hearts and lives. Today, we 'come down' in a more figurative sense, since we shall not be leaving the church straightaway. Instead, we are brought down in spirit from the transfiguring Eucharist to the sheer practicalities of looking at our parish church, and its current needs. This parish church is meant to be a power-house of grace, and a spiritual focal-point for Ewell; and the Presentation this morning is designed to enable those of us who worship here to face the important practical issues put before us today by the members of the Parish Funding Group. W.R.H.

However, we also need to keep on regular tracks as well today. It is the Sunday before Lent, and personal plans for Lent should be getting sorted out. Details about *Ash Wednesday* are on the Notes, and some other Lenten points as well. W.R.H.

Thursday
 Friday
 1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
 1200 **Holy Communion**
 (The Friday Eucharist throughout Lent will include the serial reading of the Passion of our Lord according to St Luke.)

Other events and notices.

Monday
 Wednesday
 2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council
 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. (Sugar still provided during Lent!). At 1100 **Mr Geoffrey Berry** speaks on 'A Hundred Years of Rotary.' The Coffee Morning is, of course, conveniently placed between the two Ash Wednesday morning celebrations of the Eucharist.

Lenten details are given in full on a centre-page spread in Ewell Parish News. However, it is perhaps worth mentioning here as well the Tuesday evening Lent Course. Many people found last year's sessions on Tuesday mornings in Lent, led by the **Reverend Dr Patrick Miller** on 'Objections to Christian Belief' immensely helpful and stimulating. Several people expressed regret that they could not attend because of normal work commitments, so this year Dr Miller has kindly consented to lead a related course on Tuesday evenings. This year the sessions will have the somewhat more positive title of '**Reasons for Christian belief.**' There may be some people who would like to come, but who might find it difficult to venture out on a dark evening. If anyone is in this position, would he or she please contact the office, and we can try and arrange transport? The first of these sessions is **next week** on 15 February, and is entitled, '**The proper place for doubts.**'

This year's sponsored **Hymnathon** in aid of the Village Fair will take place 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 rest of the book has features other than 'straight' hymnody.) Sponsorship forms are available in the Welcome Area 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 mischievous 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**.

Next Sunday. This will be the First Sunday in Lent. The services are normal next Sunday, except that it is half-term Sunday for the Choir Juniors. This regular tail-piece to the Weekly Notes will normally give a reminder of the special topics at the Sunday services during Lent. So next Sunday: at 0800, a Reading from **Bishop Thomas Ken**, at 0930, the second 'Bible Animal', **The Dog**; at Matins the first of three lecture-sermons on **Christ and Time**: No.1, '*In him was Life.*'

Then all stand after the Anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 391, 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,
and to your greater glory;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing and Dismissal.
Hymn: Loving Father, we remember (HHE 87) [Tune 185]

PRESENTATION OF THE PARISH FUNDING PROGRAMME
Introduced by *John Wharton*.

1100

The Invitations to the Presentation were issued in order to contact as many people as possible, but a few may have slipped through the net. If anyone has not received an Invitation to today's Presentation, and would like to be present for it, then he or she is most welcome to attend the proceedings. When the Presentation is over, everyone will be asked to remain seated in order to receive a Parish Presentation Pack, which will be handed out to all present. There will then be refreshments at three locations, and members of the Parish Funding Group will be moving around in order to be available to answer any questions people may have.

1630 **Evening Prayer**, said in the Parish Room.

In church this week.

- Monday 1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
- 1915 **Holy Communion**
- Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
- Shrove Tuesday* [This will be the Month's Mind Requiem for *Edith Vincent*.]
- 1200 Parish Prayer with some structured prayer-time

Wednesday	<i>Ash Wednesday: the First Day of Lent</i>
0940	The Litany (Book of Common Prayer text)
1000	Holy Communion (Nave Altar)
1200	Holy Communion (Nave Altar)
2000	Sung Eucharist with the Ash Wednesday ceremonies: the Liturgy of Penitence and the Imposition of Ashes. (There will not be the Imposition of Ashes at the earlier services.)
	First sermon of the Lent Course at the Sung Eucharist: Five Bible Animals: No.1, The Cat

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish on this special day, but we do not forget the wider Church in our prayer. So today in the Anglican Communion we pray for the Church in Pakistan. In our regular prayer for the Diocese we pray for the work of Continuing Ministerial Education. Within the parish we pray for the work of the Parish Funding Group, and for the people who live in Old Schools Lane.

There are completely different arrangements this Sunday at St Mary's, and all normal services are cancelled. Instead, there is **Parish Eucharist** at 1000, a service intended for all members of the congregation here. It is expected that the service will end at 1050, to allow for a few minutes in which the necessary changes can be made at the front of the church in readiness for the **Parish Funding Group Presentation**. This will also allow for a 'Comfort Stop' in the church hall, for anyone who requires it.

Evening Prayer will be said as advertised at 1630, but it will not include Holy Baptism.

Common Worship rite

PARISH EUCHARIST

Children's Hour in the hall; crèche available in church.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 391
Eucharistic Prayer A page 184; Proper Preface: page
Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells* in E flat.
The hymns at the Eucharist are (with one exception) all from our local book, *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*, but all are printed for convenience today on a separate leaflet.
All the tunes are familiar.

1000

- Introit hymn: The Church's one foundation (HHE 85) [Tune 453]
- Introduction (page 167) and the Prayers of Penitence.
- Metrical Gloria in excelsis (HHE 9) [Tune 139 i]
- Collect of the Day: page 391. *Readings, as usual, on a separate paper.*
- New Testament Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.
- Gradual hymn: 'Tis good, Lord, to be hear. (NEH 178)
- A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.
- Short sermon by *the Vicar*. Nicene Creed: page 173
- Intercession (page 286). [This version is based on ancient Eastern Orthodox texts.]
- Then all stand for the Greeting of Peace
- Offertory Hymn: Great and glorious (HHE 84); Collection. [Tune 201]
- Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184
- Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
- After the Invitation: Behold, I stand (HHE 74) [Tune 182]
- During the Communion: Anthem: O nata lux. *Tallis*

English version:
O Light of light, by love inclined,
Jesus, Redeemer of mankind,
With loving-kindness deign to hear
From suppliant voices praise and prayer:
Thou who to save our fallen race
Our human nature took through grace,
Grant to us, Lord, when life is done,
In thy fair body to be one.