

WEEKLY NOTES

5 June 2005

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

We have a longer than usual Trinity season this year, because Easter was so early. The 'green Sundays' begin today, and there is a general note of normality about everything in church. Green is the colour of the natural order, at least when all is going well, for it vanishes when the land turns barren. The green of the season seems to say something about the sheer freshness of God in creation, and, we Christians say, in re-creation. Eleanor Farjeon's well-known words in *Morning has broken* say much the same sort of thing, when she writes,

'Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.'

A sonnet I wrote some years ago about this will be used as the Introit at the Sung Eucharist today. (It is in *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*, but will be on a small slip today, to avoid extra books being given out.) We now return at the Eucharist to the continuous pattern in Year A of readings from the Gospel according to St Matthew, a book which has over the years generally been seen as the gospel account most suitable for reading aloud in church. In most of the ancient missals, and indeed in the Book of Common Prayer, it is St Matthew's gospel which is most frequently in evidence. However, we also embark (until mid-September) upon one of the more hefty New Testament books: St Paul's Letter to the Romans, and that is not at all easy to read aloud. I have asked those on the Epistle rota to take extra preparation and care over the Romans readings; sometimes it is not very easy to convey the sense of the text in such a carefully reasoned document. Nevertheless, it is perhaps the seminal work in the New Testament for our understanding of the nature of faith, the Person and work of Christ, and of our own human condition and the need for salvation through Christ. There will probably be one or two sermons on Romans during this period, but it will not be overdone. In any case, after a long run of preaching myself at the Sung Eucharist, we are having a period of four Sundays in a row, when others are occupying the pulpit: Dr Miller last week, Wendy Varney today, Reg Saunders next week, and the Bishop of Guyana the week after. This will be a good change for us all.

I mentioned recently that I cannot recall ever having given a course of sermons on the Lord's Prayer, though I preached 'one sermon in two parts' on the Lord's Prayer a few years ago. There is much to discover in the Lord's Prayer, and I plan to begin the course in July. However, doing it clause by clause would take some time and could become tedious, so I do not intend to make it a continuous affair, perhaps one or two in July, and the same again in September (after the Patronal Festival) and so on. Eventually it will all be covered. W.R.H.

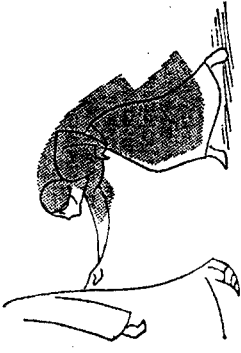
Praise for Praise. There was some remarkably fine congregational singing at the services last Sunday morning, and this was particularly noteworthy (no pun intended) in view of the general half-term feel to things, and the smaller than usual congregations. The Auxerre melody to the first hymn at 0930 was especially fine, once it got under way. Today there is the congregational *Merbecke Gloria* and Creed at 0930, which many of us have known from childhood, and which is regularly sung at the 1100 Sung Eucharist. There are also some eminently singable hymns at all the services today, so please keep up the good work. Although the choir is back today, the hymns and some other obvious parts of the service are clearly 'the people's liturgy'; and, whilst the choir is meant to be giving a confident lead in these parts of the service, it is still only meant to be 'a lead'. Last week's fine congregational singing shows what can be done.

Internal Affairs. The mention above of a preliminary meeting about this new group prompts me to mention that there are other meetings fairly imminent, which have followed on from decisions made recently at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council. The new Finance Group will be meeting for the first time in just over a week's time. Every so often we need to look at our structures to see how far they need to be adjusted or changes to meet our current needs, and after the Parish Funding Programme it is now possible to approach some of these areas with a clearer sense of direction. W.R.H.

Archdeacon of Dorking. Our new archdeacon is to be *Canon Julian Henderson*, who is at present the Vicar of Claygate. He will take up his appointment some time in the autumn. Canon Henderson stands very much within the Evangelical tradition in the Church of England. The new Archdeacon of Surrey, Canon Stuart Beak, comes from the Diocese of Coventry (though I understand he is a Surrey man), where he is a Canon Residentiary at the Cathedral. I usually invite new dignitaries to preach on Remembrance Sunday (for a variety of reasons) early in their time of office, but it may be some time before our own archdeacon gets here (if he wants to come, of course), because the new Bishop of the Diocese is coming this year, and in any case I usually arrange to preach myself in alternate years. However, we may well see Archdeacon Henderson on some other occasion. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. A change to our normal routine, with the monthly Prayer Book Sung Eucharist being brought back a week from 19 June. This is to give the 11 o'clock congregation the chance to hear Bishop Randolph on the following Sunday, when there will be shortened Matins. Otherwise, normal Sunday arrangements in church next week. The Vicar will be conducting the annual wreath-laying service at the Memorial to the Missing at Brookwood Cemetery in the afternoon.

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



Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. In the diocese we pray for the two newly-appointed archdeacons of Surrey and Dorking. Within the parish we pray for those who worship at St Mary's but who live outside the boundaries of the geographical parish, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those who live in St James' Avenue.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 408

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; crèche available.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 408

Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Sunison* in F

Introit hymn: Sonnet for the Green season (*on small slip*) [Tune: 255]

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.

Gloria in excelsis: *Merbecke* melody; **hymn book: page 830 (or 559)**

Collect of the Day: page 403

Readings on separate paper.

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Gradual hymn: 369

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*

Nicene Creed: *Merbecke* melody; **hymn book: page 833 (or 562)**

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Collection

Offertory hymn: 378

Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.

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

After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 283

During the Communion: Ave, verum Corpus. *Mozart*

Ave, verum Corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine, cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine, esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered: offered on the cross for mankind; from whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be food to us in death's hour.

All stand after the anthem. Post-Communion Prayer today on page 182.
The Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn 235.

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.

1100

CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders, Reader*

Responses: page 8

Music: *Field*

Venite (shorter version)

Office-Hymn: HT 9

Psalms 8. The glory of God and the glory of man. page 149

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 6: 17-end. Blue book: page 648.

Te Deum: page 10 (Congregational setting to chants today)

Second Lesson: St John 15: 5-11. Blue book: page 649

Hymn: HT 55

The Creed (page 12) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 73).

Anthem: Jesu, joy of man's desiring. *J S Bach*

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,

Holy wisdom, love most bright,

Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring

Soar to uncreated light:

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,

With the fire of life impassioned,

Striving still to truth unknown,

Soaring, dying, round thy throne.

Prayers.

Hymn: HT 11 [Tune: NEH 466] Collection.

The Blessing

1800 Evening Prayer (Parish Room)

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.

Wednesday

1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall: Friendship, fellowship, fun and fine blend.

1400 Preliminary meeting in connexion with the Internal Affairs Committee.

Saturday Vicar at the Annual Festival of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament at St Alban's, Holborn.

There may well be some additional announcements at the services today, since these Notes were compiled at the beginning of the week, and the Vicar has since then been away for a few days in the Land of his Fathers, and only got back yesterday.