

WEEKLY NOTES

18 September 2005

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

There is some doubtful 'poetic justice' in finding the parable of the labourers in the vineyard as the gospel for the day on the Sunday following the TUC Conference. We resume the readings from St Matthew's gospel today after the break for the Patronal Festival. We are also now into St Paul's letter to the Philippians, one of his gentler works, and one which contains at least two well-known 'purple passages': 'Let this mind be in you' and 'Rejoice in the Lord always' (the old version is perhaps more recognizable as a reference, but the computer keeps on trying to add an 's' to always), and both these passages come up in the next few weeks. I am grateful to all those who have tackled some quite difficult passages from Romans in the first part of the Trinity season; next year it will be 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and the vigorous letter of James during this period. Reading the lessons is an important and responsible task, and I know that most people take it very seriously. I am always ready to answer queries about awkward names and that sort of thing. Might I ask that readers at the Sung Eucharist arrive at the lectern in time for the *Collect of the Day*, so that there is no delay in starting the reading as soon as people sit down? In other words, please be there by the end of the Gloria (or the *Kyrie* in Advent or Lent). The basic liturgical principle is that the Eucharist is an 'action', and it should follow without any real break in the continuity, and this explains why it is not usual to have constant 'next item on the programme' announcements at a Sung Eucharist. I am very conscious of the time factor at 0930; it is not possible to prune the official text any further (we are already, I think, at the minimum point), and every little bit of time-saving helps. Also, would those bringing up the elements please bring them up straightaway, once the hymn has started, and the collectors please operate a working rule that if the last verse of the hymn has started they must come up then, and not wait for any who have not completed the job (as might happen at a greater festival). Musical items too need to happen without delay; this is particularly important with hymns (the first of which should start at 0930) and, more particularly, the *Sancus*. All these are comparatively minor points, and there are one or two more on the back page, but on the first ordinary Sunday of a new term they are perhaps worth taking on board. It might be an idea if this paragraph were to be kept with any appropriate rota by those concerned. If all this sounds fussy, it is only meant to be in keeping with St Paul's famous guiding principle for all Christian worship laid down at 1 Corinthians 14, 40: 'Let all things be done decently and in order.' W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we are praying today for the many Churches seeking to provide a Christian presence and witness in the Holy Land. (Some of these Churches are of great antiquity.) In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the work of the Department of

The white altar cloth. For the next three weeks the High Altar will be covered completely with the beautiful 'fair linen' cloth, made many years ago by the mother of Eve Myatt-Price. It was made to the measurements of the altar, and was obviously a great labour of love. It is most unusual for a fair linen cloth to be so large, and obviously the seasonal altar frontal will be almost lost to sight, but it is good to use the cloth from time to time. Now that the Patronal Festival is over it seems just the right time to use the cloth, as we settle down once again to the routine of 'Ordinary Time.'

Last Sunday was a busy time at St Mary's, and many people (too many to list individually) deserve our thanks for the particular contributions they made to our worship, either by way of preparation or actually at the services. The services were all very different, and it says something for St Mary's that we can lay on something like the Choral Eucharist with its St Mary Procession, and then have an enormous congregational service of Mattins and Holy Baptism immediately afterwards. There were, in fact, over two hundred at 1100. However, we cannot expect everything to be perfect, and there were several unfortunate hitches last week, though very few were noticeable, except to a limited number of those concerned. I have to plead guilty to misleading everyone by giving a wrong hymn-book reference on the Notes (HHE instead of HCE), but that was mercifully noticed in time by the shrewd eye of the Choir Administrator. What I did find worrying (if that is the right word) was the fact that there was a very clearly printed request in a little box at the end of the 0930 service, asking people to leave by the south porch for once, because of the known size of the incoming congregation, and as far as I could tell, scarcely anyone did so, and the confusion at the change-over between the services was very considerable. May I make a plea that people look at the Notes before the services begin in order to see if there is anything out of the ordinary on a particular day? The alternative is for yet more announcements which gobble up more service-time. I would also ask sidesmen at the Sung Eucharist to check on the details given in the little box on the Notes *before* doing anything else. Sometimes a particular hymn-book or leaflet is specified, and several times I have had to point out that the wrong items were being given out. Please ask me if there is any doubt on this sort of thing. W.R.H.

The Monumental Brasses of St Mary's. Eve Myatt-Price, St Mary's honorary Archivist and Archaeological Liaison Officer, has recently written an article about the brass figures (effigies) and wall tablets, which date from the early sixteenth century to the twentieth. It has been published by the Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society as a 'Nonsuch Extra' paper, and a copy has been put on the small lectern in the Welcome Area. Newcomers to St Mary's may like to know that copies are still available of the guidebook to the church, which Eve wrote in 1998 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Mary's. The price is £2.50.

Next Sunday. Normal Sunday arrangements in the morning, with the additional monthly Eucharist at 1200. (It does not 'partake of the nature of sin' to have a lie-in now and again on a Sunday morning, if one intends to do something about it later, and at St Mary's the 1200 service once a month is always worth bearing in mind.) In the evening we shall be welcoming back some old friends on the occasion of the Old Choristers' Reunion. They will be singing Choral Evensong at 1830. The Vicar will be there to greet them, but will not be at the service. It is the evening for installing new honorary canons at the Cathedral (the first lot since the Vicar was installed, so it's quite a long gap, and it is the first installation conducted by the new bishop), and all the goodly fellowship of the canons are expected to be on parade.

our three Toddler Groups, and all who are involved in running the groups. In our regular prayer for those living in the geographical parish we pray today for the people who live in The Orchard, Tayles Hill.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. *Common Worship rite*
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 Collect of the Day: page 490.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 418
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198
Setting of the Eucharist: *Sumson* in F (Gloria & Creed: *Shaw*)

Introit hymn: 467

Greeting, Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*.
Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211.
Collect of the Day: page 416. *Readings, as usual, on a separate paper.*
New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Gradual hymn: 18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Sermon by *the Vicar*

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

Installation of *Kathryn Allen* as Head Chorister.

Intercession, then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: 435 [Tune: *Rachiel* Collection.]

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198 (*omit* responses in red brackets).

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

After the Invitation: *Agnus Dei*.

During the Communion: Hymn 391, followed by

Anthem: O salutaris hostia. *Franck*

[English words at Hymn 269, part 2.]

All stand after the Anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 419

The Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn 468

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today.
Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in
the church hall after the 0930 service.*

1100 SUNG EUCHARIST

Book of Common Prayer rite

Setting of the Eucharist: *Harris* in F
(Creed and Gloria: *Merbecke*)

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Introit hymn: 346

Then green Prayer Book: page 31

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33

(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)

The Epistle: Ephesians 4: 1-6

Gradual hymn: 315

The Holy Gospel: St Luke 14: 1-11

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Offertory Hymn: 295 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: 313

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

Anthem: O salutaris hostia. *Franck*

[English words at Hymn 269, part 2.]

After Communion:

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

All stand for Gloria in excelsis

The Blessing Hymn 475

1800 Evening Prayer in the Parish Room.

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Wednesday

Churches Together in Ewell Prayer Walk. The second of these events takes place on Wednesday evening. There will be three separate walks, all starting at 1930 at three separate gathering points, and converging eventually at *St Mary's* to finish with united prayer and worship. The gathering points will be at St Paul's Howell Hill, Stoneleigh Methodist Church, and Ruxley Church. There will also be a 'stay and pray' option at St Mary's for those who prefer not to walk. Once again the vision is to raise a united voice to God for our community, and for the whole of Christ's Church in this area.

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000 External Affairs Committee

Wednesday 2000 Meeting of 'Pro Musica'

The evening meeting at Bourne Hall, sponsored jointly by St Paul's Howell Hill and St Mary's, has been well advertised by now, but there are still some handbills available for those who did not get one last week or the week before.

The hymns. After all the seasonal material for the last two Sundays, the hymns at the morning services today are almost entirely old favourites: of the tunes at 0930 two are English, two are Welsh and one is German; at 1100 two are English and three are French.

Harvest is once again just around the corner, on 2 October, in fact. There are posters and handbills about what are the best things to bring to church on that day. Once again our harvest gifts will be going to the Waterloo Christian Centre and to Vaughan House in Guildford (a young persons' rehabilitation centre).