



WEEKLY NOTES

29 January 2006

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD.

CANDLEMAS.

The festival of Candlemas can be observed in many ways, and at St Mary's we have several different ways of doing so. This year it will be one of our simpler options: the morning services will be as on a normal Sunday morning, though of course with the Candlemas readings about the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The candle-lit procession – the distinctive liturgical feature of the day – will take place at Evensong. So this year we shall not be involving our largest piece of iconography in the church, our great West Window which actually depicts the Candlemas scene (has anyone not noticed that?), since we need plenty of daylight to use that option. However, the procession at Evensong will be all the more striking and meaningful in the darkened church. The light of Christ comes into the darkness of a world in which life is lived apart from God, and 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness overcomes it not.' Candlemas is an attractive festival, a last look back at Christmas, and a conscious turning towards the principal feature of the entire Christian Year, the celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. The words of Simeon to Our Lady, 'A sword shall pierce your own soul,' are the hinge of this devotional door. The next few weeks will lead us into Lent, which will be as usual a busy time at St Mary's. More about that in due course.

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 Korea. In our diocesan prayer we pray for the three who exercise an episcopal ministry: Bishop Christopher, Bishop Ian, and Bishop Keith Newton. In the parish we pray for the work of the External Affairs Committee, and for the people who live in Bluegates.

*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

Order 1: page 167

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188

Common Worship rite
Collect of the Day: page 386
Other Candlemas details: page 306

The Service-planner (not the same thing as the Music List) has been available for a while, but a few adjustments have since been made, mainly towards the end of this term, and affecting Holy Week in particular. It is available in the Welcome Area, and is in pink. Older copies in another colour should be disposed of, as they are now inaccurate. The **Service Lists**, which include all the music details, are next to the service-planners.

Re-imbursements. The new Finance Committee met for the first time last week. An early result has been the production of a user-friendly claim-form for use when things have been bought for the church and reimbursement is needed. Copies may be obtained from the office as required; an authorization signature is normally needed. This arrangement will make for greater efficiency, and will be a considerable help to the Treasurer.

A reminder that a clearly-presented **Statement of our own financial position** is in the Welcome Area, on the blue notice-board, and copies of the Report of the Parish Finance Review Group are available on the table opposite the book-trolley.

Hymn requests. A reminder that such things are always possible, and we had one at the Sung Eucharist last week. The name of the person requesting the hymn can either be stated or not. Any such requests, on paper please, to the Vicar, who will normally find an appropriate slot, in most cases this will probably be in 'Ordinary Time.' There are, of course, some hymns which are on the secret list of the banned: they include such gems as 'Art thou weary, art thou languid,' 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,' and 'We're going for a trip on the Alleluya ship.'

A reminder about the **Shrove Tuesday party** on 28 February at 1830 for 1900 in the Church Hall, and entitled '**HALL TOGETHER.**' Tickets are available from the churchwardens in church today, but, hurry, since they are going like hot cakes. The clever title (*not* thought up by the Vicar this time) reflects the fact that a tremendous amount has been done in the hall during the past year, and it is a time to celebrate this, and indeed to thank those who have done so much to bring this about. There will be food – probably with an Italian flavour – and some form of cabaret. A vegetarian option will be available. It should be a splendid last fling before we settle down to Lent on the following day.

Barbara Cannon thanks everyone for their prayers and kindness, and looks forward to being back in church again. She is in hospital this weekend, having her shoulder sorted out.

Next Sunday. Normal services and at the usual times; in fact the first of four basically ordinary Sundays, and the chance to have a less demanding period for a whole month, before Lent is upon us at the beginning of March.

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

Wayfarers, Children's Hour, and Crèche.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 386.
 Other Candelmas material: page 306.
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Millington*, Missa. Alme Pater.
 The hymns are all on the 'Hymns for Candelmas' leaflet.

Introit hymn: 1 The Temple gates. [Unison as on leaflet; OEH 151 ii]
 Introduction, Prayer of Penitence, and *Kyrie eleison*
 Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* melody)
 Collect of the Day: page 386. *Readings on separate paper.*
 Old Testament Reading from the prophecy of Malachi. [Tune: NEH 288]
 Gradual hymn: 7 Hailed by the prophets.
 The Holy Gospel reading from St Luke.
 Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional language text on page 213.
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory Hymn: 4 Hail to the Lord who comes. Collection. [Use NEH 157]
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Proper Preface: page 304.
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 Hymn at the Invitation: 5 As Simeon held the holy Child. [Tune: 89 ii]
 Anthem: Nunc dimittis. (Words on page 813) *Burton*
All stand after the anthem for the Post Communion Prayer.
 The Blessing and Dismissal.
 Hymn 6 We sing of a Mother and Babe. [Tune: NEH 377]

1100

MATTINS

Congregational service today.

Responses: green book, page 8.
 Metrical Venite: Card B, No. 1.
 Psalm 122. The pilgrim arrives at the Temple of the Lord. Page 291
 First Lesson from the prophecy of Malachi. Blue book: page 757
 Metrical Benedictus: Card B, No. 2.
 Second Lesson from the Gospel according to St Luke. Blue book: page 758
 Hymn. [Tune: AMR 539]

Nunc dimittis.

When Simeon in his arms
 Received the infant boy,
 He saw the Christ, he blessed the Lord,
 And sang his hymn of joy:
 For now mine eyes have seen
 Salvation of great might,
 Prepared by you, Almighty Lord,
 In full and open sight.
 (2) Lord, let your servant now
 Depart this life in peace,
 According to your gracious word,
 Your promise of release.
 And this will be a light
 To lighten every land,
 And Israel's glory shall shine forth -
 Your ancient chosen band.

All glory be to God.
 The Father and the Son,
 And Holy Spirit evermore,
 Thrice-blessed, Three in One. Amen. [W.R.H.]

Creed (page 12), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects (first one: page 83)
 Hymn 341 Prayers Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders*, Reader
 Hymn: 206 (Collection) The Grace

1200 HOLY COMMUNION (Side Chapel) Details as at 0800.

1830 SOLEMN EVENSONG AND CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

There is a special leaflet for this service.

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion
 Wednesday 0900 Ewell Castle Junior School Assembly

Other events and notices.

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound
 1300 Terrier and Inventory meeting.
 1930 Estates Committee
 Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A time for
 drinking coffee, and for relaxation and pleasant *conversazione*.
 2000 External Affairs Committee

When **Mattins** is congregational (as today) the canticles are sung to metrical texts from *A Hundred Canticles for Ewell*. Beginning today some of the more regularly used texts, like *Venite* and *Benedictus*, will be available on coloured cards, and this will avoid having to use another book, and having to turn pages; and it will also help to prolong the life of the books.

It is time for **The Annual Hymnathon** once again. It will be on **Saturday, 18 February** in the Parish Room. The purpose is to raise money towards the expenses incurred in setting up the Village Fair. It is certainly a much less exhausting enterprise than mounting a Jumble Sale, and it has certainly raised a lot of money: last year we made about £600. It is a very relaxed affair, those taking part coming and going throughout the day, and with tea and coffee being served. There will be two sessions: 1000-1300 and 1400-1600. There will be an hour's break for lunch. This year we shall aim to sing the first 300 hymns from *Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised*. Usually we sing about two verses from each hymn. With six hymn-books in use at St Mary's, this money-spinner can go on for years: it took us two years to polish off *The New English Hymnal*.

Sponsorship forms will be available in the Welcome Area for those wishing to take part. A rota listing the times each singer can cover will also need to be filled in. No-one will be asked to sing alone (a false rumour to the contrary was doing the rounds the first time we did this), nor do you have to be a chorister or be blessed with a wonderful voice to take part. Please come and join us: the more the merrier, and the more the resulting loot. We all had a good time last year. If you need any more information, please contact Rosemarie Henson on 020 8224 2713.