



St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

5 February 2006

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

[Fourth Sunday before Lent.]

This week the local Deanery Synod will be meeting at St Mary's, and anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. By a coincidence the General Synod of the Church of England will also be meeting in London this week. As many will know, I spent ten years on the General Synod from 1990 to 2000, having been elected as a 'Proctor in Convocation,' together with three other priests, to represent the clergy of the Guildford Diocese. Many hard things have been said about the General Synod, and some with a fair amount of justification, and during my time it became necessary for other structures to be set up, most notably The Archbishops' Council. It has also been trimmed in size since my time, because it had become a somewhat elephantine body, not least in respect of a notable superfluity of archdeacons. Yet, on balance, I think the system has served the Church of England well. Clerical and lay members alike take their responsibilities seriously, and most serve on various Synodical bodies in addition to their basic membership. I did ten fascinating years as a member of The Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England and Chairman of its grants committee, and also as a Governor of a theological Institute, and as a member of the quite important Business Committee. I had, in effect, a second ecclesiastical 'life', which was lived outside the boundaries of the parish. The General Synod is the only body outside parliament which can actually legislate; ecclesiastical law is part of the law of the country. In that respect the General Synod is clearly a powerful decision-making body. One cannot say the same for Diocesan and Deanery Synods, which are often largely concerned with local ecclesiastical house-keeping and fellowship. Although they are asked to discuss important theological issues from time to time, they have no real clout, and many have questioned their value and have asked whether other structures are more appropriate. Indeed at the local level there may well be more agonies over compiling the agenda than satisfaction in being part of some 'wider process.' However, each parish has its own lay members of the local Deanery Synod, elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and the lay members of the Deanery Synods form the electorate for the diocesan representation in the General Synod's House of Laity. W.R.H.

Our prayer today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in Melanesia. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for our representatives on the General Synod of the Church of England, meeting this week in London. In our parish prayer we pray for the work of the Ewell Parochial Trustees, and for the people who live in Boleyn Avenue.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1, page 167.
 Eucharistic Prayer G, page 201.

Common Worship rite
 Collect of the Day, page 388

As mentioned last week, 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 £500. It is a very relaxed and pleasant affair, those taking part coming and going throughout the day, and with tea and coffee being served. There are 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. *The New English Hymnal* alone has already taken us two years.

Sponsorship forms are 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 Heison on 020 8224 2713.

Blue is the pre-Lent liturgical colour at St Mary's, and on the Sundays of this month we are using the very fine set of blue vestments and hangings given to St Mary's by Barbara Cannon in memory of her husband Frank. On weekdays in the Parish Room we shall be using the more usual colour of green, because we only have the one blue set, and it is better not to use all that frequently. Also the pulpit and lectern falls will be covered by a neutral colour when the church is not in use, because blue is a colour which fades very easily. All vary practical. The colour blue remains in use until Ash Wednesday, when we go into Roman purple.

The Monday Eucharist before the meeting of the Parochial Church Council is not just for members of the PCC. Anyone can turn up. The service is usually a **Votive Mass** of the Holy Spirit, though if the day is special in some way the appropriate **Collect** and **Readings** are used. This week we shall be using the material from the **Accession Service** in *The Book of Common Prayer*, it being the anniversary of the day when Her Majesty became Queen. The Queen will be distributing the Royal Maudy at our own Cathedral this year, and our Bishop will be in attendance in his new rôle as 'Clerk of the Closet.'

St Mary's Website. It is important that full use is made of our website, not least in connexion with *all* forthcoming events, which should certainly appear on the site, since that is one of the main reasons for its existence. Please contact the Webmaster, David Crick, with any information of this sort. There is also a closed section of our website, which includes, amongst other things, details of rotas and the like. There is a password to the closed section, and those who require it should ask at the office in the first instance.

Next Sunday. Normal arrangements for Sunday services: It is Half-term for the choir, and all the services will be congregational.

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

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 388
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Mathias* in C
 All the hymns at this service are from 'More Hymns for Today.'

Introit hymn: 187

[Tune: 475]

Greeting, Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*.

Metrical Gloria in excelsis: *on reverse side of Readings paper*.

Collect of the Day: page 388. *Readings on green paper*.

New Testament Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

[Tune: 315]

Gradual hymn 130

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark.

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*

Nicene Creed: page 173.

[On the Sundays when the Creed is being said, rather than sung, we are now proclaiming the Creed really confidently and vigorously. Please keep up the good work.]

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn: 129. Collection

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184

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

Hymn at the Invitation: 106

[Tune: 389]

During the Communion:

Anthem: My eyes for beauty pine.

Howells

My eyes for beauty pine,

One splendour thence is shed

My soul for God's grace:

From all the stars above;

No other care nor hope is mine;

'Tis named when God's name is said;

To heaven I turn my face.

'Tis love, 'tis heavenly love.

And every gentle heart

That burns with true desire

Is lit from eyes that mirror part

Of that celestial fire.

After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 388

The Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn 177

*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.*

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Responses: page 8

Music: *Field*

Venite (shorter version)

Hymn 232

Psalm 8 The power of God and the dignity of man. Page 147

First Lesson from the Book of the Proverbs. Blue book: page 480

Hymn 394

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 58).

Anthem: Litany to the Holy Spirit. *Hurford*

In the hour of my distress,
 When temptations me oppress,
 And when I my sins confess:
 Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When I lie within my bed
 Sick in heart and sick in head,
 And with doubts discomfited:
 Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When the house doth sigh and weep,
 And the world is drowned with sleep,
 Yet mine eyes the watch do keep:
 Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

Prayers.

Hymn 239; Collection.

The Blessing

1800 Evening Prayer (in the Parish Room).

In church this week.

Monday 1915 Holy Communion (See note below)

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Routine events are not usually mentioned on this weekly list: they include such items as the Toddler Groups, the Tuesday House-Group, bell-ringing practice, Choir Club and Choir Practice. Further details may be obtained from the Office.

Monday

2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

Tuesday

1300 Second Meeting 'about the Terrier.'

1930 for 2000. The Epsom Deanery Synod meets at St Mary's.

In addition to routine synodical business there will be a speaker:

Sgt Michael Jones, the Surrey Police Crime Reduction Officer.*

1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A warm

welcome to anyone who cares to join us. This is a regular

weekly slot for members of the congregation to have a nice

period of quality time together, and to welcome anyone else who

might drop in. This week, at 1100, there will be a talk by PC

Jane Bellingham, Crime Reduction Adviser, entitled 'Security

at Home.'*

2000 at St John's, Stoneleigh. Our MP, Chris Grayling, will be

speaking at a meeting arranged by Churches Together in Ewell.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Thursday

* A curious coincidence. W.R.H.

Copies of *El Dorado* have now arrived and are available in the Welcome Area. This is the Guyana Diocesan magazine: we are twinned with a parish there. For some reason we never got the previous issue. However, the current number is full of interesting things. The magazines are free, so please collect one, if you wish.