

12 February 2006

SEPTUAGESIMA

[Third Sunday before Lent]

Although the old titles for this Sunday and the next two are no longer found in the modern calendars and lectionaries, they still remain in the Book of Common Prayer, which enjoys permanent authorization in the Church of England. In any case, they act as a devotional amber light, reminding us that Lent is around the corner. Until modern times the themes for these three Sundays were a sort of refresher-course in the what it is really all about – the gospel in miniature – since the three subjects were Creation, the Fall, and the Love of God. The love of God creates and then restores and re-creates what has fallen. Even the Alternative Service Book (the memory of which is now fading fast – it's been gone these six years), which transferred Creation and the Fall to a pre-Advent slot, used these Sundays to give us a welcome picture of Christ in his ministry: we had Christ the Teacher, Christ the Healer, and Christ, the Friend of Sinners. There was a value in using these three Sundays either as a short period of a recall to fundamentals, or as a chance to reflect on the nature of Christ's earthly ministry, which, surprisingly, perhaps, is not otherwise singled out as a specific feature in any liturgical calendar. (Nor is it in the Creed, for that matter, but there are cogent reasons for that.) There was a value in all this, which has now been lost. Not all the liturgical renewal in our own time has been totally constructive. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for our fellow-Christians in Mexico. In the diocese we pray for the Church Schools on 'Education Sunday.' In the parish we pray for those who have lapsed from regular Christian worship, and for the people who live in Bradford Drive.

*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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167  
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188

Common Worship rite  
(Collect of the Day: page 389)

**The Lectern Candles.** Rather reluctantly I have decided to remove these, at least for the time being. The point of the candles at the lectern is to emphasise during service-time the basic point made in Psalm 119 about the Holy Scriptures: 'Thy word is a lantern unto my feet, and a light unto my paths.' Unfortunately, the candlesticks are being increasingly used as sort of grab-handle by readers as they step on the lectern platform. Since they are not fixed to the floor, they wobble every time this happens, and a shower of wax goes either all over the floor, or else on the damask lectern falls, and this can be very difficult to remove. At the end of last Sunday I discovered that the new blue lectern fall was already covered in wax on its first day in regular use and this has concentrated the mind. Although this clutching of the candlestick is a comparatively new phenomenon, we cannot simply ask people not to do it, because presumably it happens more or less instinctively. So the only thing to do is to remove the candles. If someone can think of an alternative solution, I should be glad to hear of it. W.R.H.

**The Induction Loop System** is meant to make life much easier for those who have an appropriate hearing aid. From time to time there seem to be problems with the system. If anyone who is relying on the loop system finds that all is not well, he or she should have a word with the Vicar or the churchwardens. It is clearly important that the system is operating properly, and unless we are told about it we cannot put it right.

**Knitting for Lent.** Edna Attwood's knitting plan this year is to provide a blanket for the Sutton unit of the Salvation Army. For those who wish to take part in this, the plan is to knit 6" squares in double knitting wool; 30 stitches on No.7 needles. There will be a box in the Welcome Area for completed squares. Any further enquiries about this to Edna Attwood.

**The Vicar** will be away for a few days this week, attending to matters in Wales. Also, **the office** will not be open on Friday this week, though the Vicar will almost certainly be back in time for the usual Friday evening 'open office' session.

**Next Sunday.** The choir returns next Sunday, and normal arrangements for Sunday morning resume. The monthly 1100 Sung Eucharist to the Book of Common Prayer rite takes place next Sunday. The service-lists wrongly state that the 8 o'clock service next week is the Prayer Book rite; it will happen the following Sunday, 26 February.

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

Nave Altar service today. Crèche available.  
 Order 1: page 167. Collect: page 389  
 Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196 [omit responses in red brackets.]  
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Shaw*, Folk Mass  
 The Parish Choir, Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour' are all on holiday today. All the singing is congregational, and all the tunes are easy. The Vicar is doubling-up at the organ.

Introit hymn 359 [tune: 322]

Introduction and the Prayers of Penitence

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* melody)

Collect of the Day: page 389. (*Readings on separate paper*)

New Testament reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Metrical Gradual Hymn 18: *on Readings paper*. [tune: 420]

The Holy Gospel reading from St Mark

Sermon by **Mr Reginald Saunders**, Reader

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

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: 324. Collection

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

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

Holy Communion is at the front of the nave only. Please return to your seats *via* the side aisles, after receiving the chalice on your 'own' side.

After 'Let us pray' *all stand* for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 389.

The Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn 235.

## 1100

## MATINS

*'Village Mattins' today. The service is 'said with hymns.' The traditional theme for the Sunday called Septuagesima (though no longer in 'Common Worship') is that of Creation, and this will be the theme at Mattins today.*

Responses: page 8.

Metrical Venite: HCE 8 [tune: NEH 388 i]

Psalm 104, verses 24-end. 'The Creator-Spirit'

Old Testament Lesson from the Book Genesis.

Metrical Benedicite: HCE 13, parts 1 & 2 and last verse. [tune: NEH 478]

New Testament Lesson from St John's Gospel. Blue book: page 699

Metrical Benedictus: HCE 2 [tune: NEH 401]

The Creed and the Greeting (page 12); then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,

the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 56\*).

Prayers.

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Hymn: HCE 31 [tune: NEH 478]. Collection. The Blessing

\*This ancient prayer is not set as 'the Collect of the Day', but it illustrates the theme of Creation and re-creation more clearly than the somewhat general prayer provided.

## 1800 Evening Prayer

## In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

## Other events and notices.

Apart from the Hymnathon, this is an unusually quiet week at St Mary's.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall.

The bean and the bonhomme.

Saturday The Hymnathon (see below)

**The Annual Hymnathon** takes place once again on **Saturday** in the Parish Room. The purpose is to raise money towards the expenses incurred in setting up the Village Fair. With a week to go it is clear that we could do with lots more volunteers – and the sponsorship they produce. Please sign up today if you can. The hymnathon 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, but we won't raise that amount this time unless we have more participants.

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 Henson on 020 8224 2713.

**Advance notice** of an evening course on Tuesdays in Lent by **Dr Patrick Miller**. Many people have appreciated the discussions he has led during Lent over the past two years, and this year there will be a challenging course entitled, '**Oughts and Crosses**', and it will deal with contemporary moral and ethical issues. Posters and handbills will soon be available (they may even be ready today). It would be good if the sessions were widely advertised, particularly by word of mouth, because they may well be of interest to many outside the 'parish family', whether Christian or not, who may be interested in a programme of this sort.