



St Mary the Virgin
 EWELL PARISH CHURCH
 Tel. 020 8393 2643
 www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

19 February 2006

SEXAGESIMA

[Second Sunday before Lent.]

The traditional subject for last Sunday comes up *this* Sunday in the present order of things. The subject is Creation, but in fact this appears in the eucharistic readings for today with a somewhat different slant: there is a considerable stress on the reality of the *new* creation brought about through the incarnate Word of God. The passage from Colossians shows this as a doctrine being expounded as early as the Apostolic Age. The surprising gospel for today – it is the ‘main’ gospel reading for Christmas Day – emphasises both creation and re-creation, by consciously beginning with the same words as the Old Testament. St John says: ἐν ἀρχῇ; Genesis begins בראשית (now see what our computer can do!), which in the Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament) is also rendered ἐν ἀρχῇ; and both mean ‘in the beginning.’ This is not by accident. St John never uses words carelessly; everything is finely chiselled, chosen carefully, and seldom without more than one layer of meaning. The shade of meaning for בראשית for most contemporary Biblical scholarship, as the opening words of Genesis are considered, may be little more than ‘Once upon a time.’ But not for St John: Christ, the living Word of God, was there ‘in the beginning’. As we say in the Creed, the Christ is the one who is ‘begotten of his Father, before all worlds.’ This is a ‘beginning’ which has no reference to earthly time; basically it means ‘from all eternity.’* So St John’s message in his gospel is to proclaim that all creation is renewed in the incarnate Word, who comes to restore and to re-create a fallen world-order; and he goes on to expound how this is accomplished through the power of divine love in the sacrificial life and death of the incarnate Word of God.

*Note: Those who have read C S Lewis’ book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, (or who have seen the recent film) will see a parallel here with the author’s concept of ‘deeper magic from before the dawn of time.’

The traditional subject for Sexagesima is in fact ‘The Fall’. This will find expression in the hymns (and the sermon) at the 1100 Sung Eucharist.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the wider Church our fellow-Christians in Mynanmar (otherwise Burma). In our diocesan prayer we pray for all the Diocesan Clergy in conference this week at Swanwick. In the parish we pray for our Wayfarers and those who lead them on Sunday mornings; and in our regular prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Briarwood Road.

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

at held at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Monday, 20 February (that is tomorrow) at 1100. Kitty was a school friend of the late Muriel Bailey.

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.

Last week it was stated in the Notes that the **Induction Loop System** is meant to make life much easier for those who have an appropriate hearing aid, and that from time to time there seem to be problems with the system. It was also stated that if anyone relying on the loop system finds that all is not well, he or she should have a word with the Vicar or the churchwardens. We had a measure of feed-back last Sunday, and it is clear that the system is not quite right. It is obviously important that the system is operating properly, so we would be glad of any further observations in the next few weeks, so that we put things right. Meanwhile, please bear with us until it is all sorted out.

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.

Next Sunday. It is the Sunday before Lent, and a time for jollier than usual hymns, before Lent sets in on the following Wednesday. Morning services are at the usual times, with the extra Eucharist at 1200 on the last Sunday of the month.

There are one or two liturgical points for next Sunday which are worth noting. The 0800 service, the quarterly Book of Common Prayer service, contains the famous ‘purple passage’ from 1 Corinthians 13, expressed in the incomparable prose of the King James version. The Sung Eucharist will have the same readings, but, as usual at 0930, in contemporary language. The readings from the Lectionary provision (about the Transfiguration) will be used at the 1200 Eucharist. At Mattins there will be lots of Alleluyas, after which ‘the word’ is not used liturgically until it is solemnly brought back at the Easter Vigil. The famous hymn about the closure of the Alleluya, *‘Alleluia, dulces carmen’* will be sung at the end of the service.

There is Evensong and Holy Baptism at 1630, and it would be good to have a fair representation of St Mary’s folk there to welcome the newly-baptized and their families. We claim these days – and with some fair justification – that we are a ‘welcoming church’ at St Mary’s: this is a good opportunity to display what we actually claim to be W.R.H.

HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

[*Note.* The service lists state that it is the Book of Common Prayer rite today. Apologies to anyone who was expecting it: it was a mistake. It is due next week.]

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 390

SUNG EUCHARIST**Common Worship rite**

Wayfarers, Children's Hour and Crèche.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 390

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184

Setting of the Eucharist: *Fauré*, Messe Basse.

The hymns at both sung services this morning are from the old *red* hymn-books. There is no music provided, but most of the hymns are to reasonably familiar tunes.

Setting of the Eucharist: *White* in E flat(Creed and Gloria: *Merbecke*)

The hymns, except for the one on the Readings paper, are all from the old *red* hymn-books at this service today. There is no melody line in these books.

Sermon by the Vicar

Introit hymn: 164

[Second tune]

Then green Prayer Book: page 31

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33

Greeting and the Collect of the Day

*(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)*The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11: 19-31 *St Paul's trials and troubles.*Gradual hymn: The Sower. [Tune: *Pentam*]*(On Readings paper, anticipating the Gospel reading.)*The Holy Gospel: St Luke 8: 4-15 *The parable of the Sower.*

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Offertory Hymn: 297 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: 384 part 2 [Choir use NEH 269 part 2]

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

Anthem: *Panis angelicus.**Franck*

The Latin words by St Thomas Aquinas are a meditation on the nature of the eucharistic presence and the grace received in the Blessed Sacrament.

After Communion:

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

All stand for Gloria in excelsis

The Blessing

Hymn 408 [second tune]

1800 Evening Prayer, said in the Parish Room.**In church this week**Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion****Other events and notices.**

Monday 1200 Epsom Deanery Clergy Chapter. Visit by the new

Archdeacon of Dorset.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A time for

fellowship, friendship and fine blend. There will

be a Bring and Buy sale this week.

2000 Village Fair General Meeting.

Thursday 1200 Vicar attends the Executive of the Federation of

Catholic Priests in Westminster.

Brenda Philbrick writes to say that some friends of St Mary's will remember Kitty Buchan, who attended church during the 1970s and 1980s. Kitty, formerly of West Ewell, spent recent years in residential care in the Epsom area. She died just over a week ago at Firtree House Nursing Home, and her funeral will be held

0800

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 390

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

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0930

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers, Children's Hour and Crèche.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 390

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184

Setting of the Eucharist: *Fauré*, Messe Basse.

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Introit Hymn: 58

This Christmas hymn speaks of God in Christ who creates and renews.

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211. (*Shaw* melody)Collect of the Day: page 390 *Readings on green paper.*

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

Gradual Canticle: A Song of Redemption. (*On readings paper*) [Tune: 297]

The Holy Gospel reading from St John.

This is, of course, the principal Gospel Reading for Christmas Day.

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: 167 [Second tune]

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 Collection.

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

Hymn at the Invitation: 408

Anthem: The Song of the Tree of Life. *R Vaughan Williams*

Unto him that overcometh shall be given of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. On either side of the river groweth the tree of life, the leaves of the tree are for thy healing. In the midst of that fair city flows the river of water of life, clear as crystal. Whoso will, let him take of the water of life freely. Whoso drinketh of this water shall never thirst. Take thou the leaves of the tree of life, so shalt thou enter in through the gates of the city. *(Based on words from the Revelation to St John.)*

All stand after the anthem. [Slightly different arrangements at the end today.]

Post-Communion hymn: 417

The general Post-Communion prayer: page 182

The Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn 632 [This is only one vers.]

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.