

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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*Sharing the love of Christ,
the Light of the world,
with the people of Ewell.*

WEEKLY NOTES

19 March 2006

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Our new Stations of the Cross and Resurrection are now de-mounted from the gallery, and placed around the church for liturgical use during Lent and Passiontide. Each Sunday three of the Stations will normally be placed at the front of the nave for devotional use during the Sung Eucharist.

Note. Because of the different arrangements in Lent at the Sung Eucharist, the 'weekly paragraph' will normally relate to the set Eucharistic readings up to and including Palm Sunday, since there is no sermon at the Sung Eucharist, and at 0800 the course of sermons does not relate to the Sunday readings.

'Divine folly is wiser than the wisdom of man', says St Paul in today's Epistle. A splendid and influential book was written in the 1970s by a former Bishop of Salisbury, using these words in their more familiar form as the title; it was called 'The Foolishness of God.' I often wonder how many cynics and unbelievers bought it, being deceived by the title, and thinking that it was a book about atheism. (Serve them right, if they did.) St Paul is pointing out that Christ crucified was a stumbling-block both to religious bigots and to cultured despisers. But here, he says, is the true wisdom of God; this is the way that God works, and it turns conventional values upside-down. In the gospel-reading for today, Jesus is also busy turning things upside-down: the upsetting of the tables of the money-changers was just one little sign of that total change in human values which Jesus came to proclaim. All the gospel-writers include the story of The Cleansing of the Temple. It is a sign of a greater Cleansing: love washing away sin, love drowning death, love making all things clean.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in Papua New Guinea. In our diocesan prayer we pray for all the Diocesan Clergy in conference this week at Swanwick. In the parish we pray for all those who are involved in our three Toddler Groups: the children, parents and helpers. In our regular prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Castle Way.

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

Readings at 0930. A reminder that there is only *one* reading (not two) during Lent this year, because of the time factor caused by the Stations. Would those concerned make the necessary adjustments, with the 'discarded' reader taking the other person's next turn on the rota?

The choral music today comes under the heading of 'interesting', simply because of its very varied mixture. The well-known and popular Mozart 'Ave verum' at 0930 is of one distinctive (and fairly familiar) style; the setting of the Eucharist is very different, being the work of the twentieth-century blind French composer Langlais. The simple and delightful setting by White at 1100 is joined by César Franck's 'O salutaris' (yet another style), and by the Merbecke Creed from the sixteenth century. At one level this illustrates the sheer range of style in 'traditional' church music, but at another level it shows the considerable range of music that our singers - who are for the most part quite young - are able to tackle. Of today's hymns, the tunes come from England (6), Wales (3), one from Belgium, and one from Germany; the words are all from English pens, except for one, which is translated from Welsh. Altogether, a great range of artistry and devotion, both in words and music.

The Vicar will be attending the **Guildford Clergy Triennial Conference** at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick from Wednesday to Friday. All the clergy are expected to go. It is sometimes said that the Conference gives the diocesan clergy a chance to relax (or should we say 'Chill out?') together. Unfortunately, few of them actually know more than a limited number of their colleagues, because they seldom meet clergy from outside their immediate area. In the list of 309 clergy in the current Diocesan handbook the Vicar actually only knows just under 50, and that is after 28 years in the diocese. After long years in the field, it is the Vicar's considered view that whilst from time to time such Conferences have contained many good things, and have had many distinguished speakers, by and large they have got steadily worse in their general ambience over the years, and such occasions are now indeed a weariness of the flesh. This time it is difficult to see from the programme whether Mattins and Evensong (in any recognized form) will be provided - bearing in mind that the clergy are supposed to say them daily. However, early one morning there is an item called 'Delighting in the Dawn', and perhaps that is some sort of morning service, since the expression 'Delighting in (this or that)' seems to come at various points during the day. There is one solitary celebration of the Eucharist at the very end of the proceedings; perhaps it is meant to be some sort of climax. It would have been reasonable to expect a daily Mass at a clergy conference. Some of the workshops look good, though there are others bearing ominous titles like 'Fresh worship for all' or 'Managing difficult people', and 'Inspiring older adults.' One afternoon there is even the chance of 'Mixed Gender Games'; mercifully they are not compulsory. The Conference is apparently financed through the Diocesan Quota. That's the way the money goes.

Next Sunday the Fourth Sunday in Lent and also Mothering Sunday. We shall be having our usual Mothering Sunday service at 1100. Other services will be at the usual times with the additional celebration of the Eucharist at 1200, it being the last Sunday in the month.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0700 MATTINS Psalm 55 *Book of Common Prayer rite*
- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
 Order 1: page 167 Collect of the Day: page 394
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 196 Other Lenten material: page 308.
 Lent course of sermons: *Five Bible Roads*. No. 3: *The Desert Road*.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 394
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Other Lenten material: page 308
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Langlais*, Missa in simplicitate.

During Lent the whole section between the Gospel and the Peace is replaced by the conducted Stations of the Cross. Also, because of the time-factor, we have now reverted to our non-Lenten practice of only having one reading before the Gospel, and not having the psalm. So not all the material on the violet-coloured paper is needed today.

- Introit hymn: 74
 Greeting, Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*.
 [Gloria in excelsis is omitted during Lent.]
 Collect of the Day: page 394. *Readings on the violet paper*.
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's First letter to the Corinthians.
 Hymn 379
- A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John. [Stations 4-6]
Three Stations of the Cross:
There is a separate leaflet for this part of the service.
A different one will be issued each week during Lent.
 Iain McKillop will be leading the Stations this week.

Seventh Station: **Simon of Cyrene carries the Cross.**
 Eighth Station: **A woman shows compassion.**
 Ninth Station: **Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.**

- After the Three Stations, *all remain standing* for the Biddings to Prayer, followed by the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory hymn: 383 [Tune: *Aberystwyth*] Collection
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Lenten Preface: page 308.
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 At the Invitation: Hymn 294
 During the Communion:
 Anthem: Ave, verum Corpus *Mozart*
 [English translation at Hymn 289]
After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 392.
 [We are using the Collect for Ash Wednesday as the Post-Communion prayer until Lent 4.]
 The Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn 368.

1100 SUNG EUCHARIST

Book of Common Prayer rite

Setting of the Eucharist: *White* in E flat
 Creed: *Merbecke*; the Gloria is omitted in Lent.

- Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Introit hymn: 304
 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: Ephesians 5: 1-14. Stern advice about Christian conduct.
 Gradual hymn: 276 [Second tune]
 The Holy Gospel: St Luke 11: 14-28. 'Beelzebub'.
 [This is a very confusing passage - one of the most obscure in the New Testament.]
 Nicene Creed: page 34.
 Offertory Hymn: 311 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: 283
 During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)
 Anthem: O Salutaris hostia. *César Franck*
 [English translation at Hymn 269, part 2]
 After Communion:
 The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Oblation: page 44
 The Blessing Hymn 272

1800 Stations of the Cross in the main church.

- In church this week**
 Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
 Friday 1200 **Holy Communion**
 [With the reading of the Passion according to St Matthew in serial form.]

Other events and notices.

Tuesday evening: 1930 for 2000 in the Parish Room.
 Coffee from 1930.
 'Oughts and Crosses' (See Lent Leaflet)
 No.3. **Euthanasia: Death and dignity.**

- Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall, and a time for fellowship, friendship and fine blend. At 1100 there will be an illustrated talk by **Iain McKillop**, entitled '*Imagining the Passion*'. This has been postponed from last week, because of Mr Piercy's funeral.
 1230-1345 **Lent Lunch** in the Church Hall in aid of our Lent Project.
 No Open Office this Friday evening; the vicar may not be back in time from Swanwick (see below).
- Friday