

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

7 January 2007

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.

The flowers today have been sponsored by *Wendy and David Hill*, who will be celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary this week.

In western Christendom the festival of the Epiphany has traditionally focussed on the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. The east concentrates on the Baptism of Christ. The Book of Common Prayer's cumbersome title, 'The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles', is at least in English, and says what it is all about. It is the realisation that the 'heir of David's line' is also the Christ for the world. However, the visit of the Magi is a good starting point in all this. They were on a journey, and so by grace are we. For the Wise Men in the story the star was a kingly sign, and they pressed forward, following its guiding light. This image is well brought out in the hymn '*From the eastern mountains*', which we are singing at the Eucharist this morning as a sort of thread for the liturgical Procession of the Three Kings. This particular devotion concentrates on the note of offering; they brought their gifts, and we have an offering of life to make. Yet the Eucharist itself is our entering into the self-offering of Christ himself, who holds us before the Father in his own perfect offering of sacrificial love. On the first Sunday of the calendar year we are bidden to 'look to Jesus', just like the Wise men did. They found him in his incarnate infant humanity; we find him in his eternal Epiphany, in mystical reality standing before us – 'manifesting' himself to us – calling us ever closer to himself, and offering us in turn his eucharistic gifts of grace, so that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.

Our prayers today. We pray today for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for the Church in Burundi. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the episcopal ministry of Bishop Ian, the Suffragan Bishop of Dorking. Within the parish we pray for the work of the External Affairs Committee, and for the people living in Hazelmead..

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today.
Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in
the church hall between the 0930 and 1100 services.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS Psalm 72

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 383
Eucharistic Prayer **A**: page **184** [omit responses in *red* brackets].
Proper Preface: page 304

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST *with the PROCESSION*
OF THE THREE KINGS. *Common Worship rite*

'Children's Hour'; Crèche available.
Order 1: page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **383**.
Eucharistic Prayer **B**: page **188**; Proper Preface: page **304**
Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells* in E flat.
(Gloria and Creed: *Shaw*, Folk Mass)

Processional hymn: 56
Kyrie eleison.
 Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211.
 Collect of the Day: page 383 *Readings on separate paper.*
 New Testament Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.
 Gradual hymn: 48
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
 Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional text on page 213.
 Intercession, Prayers of Penitence (Short Confession on page 276), the
 all stand for The Greeting of Peace.
 Hymn at the **Procession of the Three Kings**: 50. Collection.
Text of the Procession of the Three Kings on separate leaflet.
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Preface on page 304.
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 Hymn at the Invitation: 51
 During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).
 Anthem: Tres Magi de Gentibus. *C S Lang*

Eastern Monarchs, sages three, come with gifts of great plenty;
 Worship Christ on bended knee, *cum Virgine Maria.*
 Gold in honour of the King, incense to the Priest they bring,
 Myrrh for time of burying, *cum Virgine Maria.*
 On that dreadful day, the last, he forgive our sinful past;
 To his mercy cling we fast, *cum Virgine Maria.*
 His the praise and glory be, laud and honour, victory,
 Power supreme, and so sing we, *cum Virgine Maria.*
 On the feast-day of his birth, set on throne above the earth,
 Angels chant in holy mirth, *cum Virgine Maria.*
 Thus to bless the One in Three let the present company
 Raise the voice of melody, *cum Virgine Maria.*

All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 383.
 The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn 47.

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 the church hall after the 0930 service.*

1100 A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND MUSIC FOR EPIPHANY
There is a separate leaflet for this service.

1800 Evening Prayer (in the Parish Room).

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion** (of the Baptism of Our Lord).
 1930 for 2000. The **Evening Fellowship Group** meets in the
 Parish Room. Until Lent the Group is looking at the poetic
 books and Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. This
 week: **An Introduction to the Wisdom Books: Ecclesiastes –
 Cynicism or Deep, Practical Wisdom.*** Further information
 from Iain McKillop (Tel. 01932 341687).
 Friday 1200 **The Funeral of the late Howard Ward.**

* *The Vicar writes:* Is this the way in, perhaps? 'Objective consideration of
 contemporary phenomena compels the conclusion that success or failure in
 competitive activities exhibits no tendency to be commensurate with innate
 capacity, but that a considerable element of the unpredictable must invariably be
 taken into account.'

So George Orwell once wrote in his 'Essay on Politics and the English Language' to illustrate how the best way to hide the meaning of something is to wrap it up in verbose and technical language. A more well-known English rendering of the Hebrew original runs:

'I see this too under the sun...all things are subject to time and chance.'
[Ecclesiastes 9: 11]

Other events and notices.

A reminder that routine events are not usually mentioned on this list: they include such items as the Toddler Groups, bell-ringing practice, Choir Club and Choir Practice. Further details about these activities may be obtained from the Office. This little note, which has appeared occasionally before, will appear every few weeks or so for the benefit of any newcomers or visitors. However, this is not a particularly busy week at St Mary's; some weeks are and some weeks aren't.

Wednesday 1030-1200. **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. A warm welcome to anyone who cares to join us. This is the regular weekly slot for members of the congregation to have a nice period of quality time together, and to welcome anyone else who might care to drop in

'Valentine Mattins.' A reminder that we plan to hold a celebration on the Sunday before St Valentine's Day (11 February) at 1100 for those who have been married at St Mary's, and we would particularly like to invite all who have been married at St Mary's within the last three years. Whilst we have the addresses of all who *arranged* to get married here, we do not in many cases have their later addresses. If anyone knows of the current address for any comparatively recently married couple, we should be glad to be informed. Details (on paper, please) to the Vicar or Churchwardens, or else to the office – via the letter-box, if there is no-one there. Further details in due course, probably next Sunday.

1100 in general. There is a section in this month's *Ewell Parish News* which lists all that is happening at the 11 o'clock slot on Sunday mornings this term. It is worth looking at, and even cutting out, because this term the later Sunday morning slot has a great deal to offer between now and Easter. Of the fourteen Sundays only three have the 'default' service of Choral Mattins pure and simple. Whilst I appreciate that most people are normally wedded to one particular service (nothing wrong in that), the fact remains that these other opportunities are there, and some of them are distinctive and unusual. Into this category one might put the all-age 'Candle Mass', the 'Valentine Mattins', and the two occasions when at a shorter than usual Choral Mattins there will be three Stations of the Cross with choral and organ music by *J S Bach*. Not many people do the rounds of the various services, though a few do, and so it is my hope that some who have already been to the Sung Eucharist may feel that, after a break for coffee, an occasional visit to an act of worship which is very different from the 0930 service may be a rewarding and enriching experience. W.R.H.

There are **FREE** copies of *El Dorado*, the Guyana Diocesan Magazine, available in the Welcome Area. As usual, it tells of a Church facing difficult times in a society very different from our own.

Also in EPN is the mention of the annual **Hymnathon**, which will be on Saturday, 10 February. For times, see EPN: there are two sessions, but one decides upon one's own time commitment. It is great fun, and the Hymnathon usually manages to raise through sponsorship quite a substantial amount towards the running expenses of the *Village Fair* in July. However, the 'substantial amount' could be more substantial still, if more people took part. It is effortless and pleasant, and anyone who would like to take part is invited to pick up a sponsorship form from the Welcome Area. Some people were dissuaded in the past from taking part by a

mischievous rumour that people would have to sing solos, and such is not the case. Carusos and corncrakes are equally welcome; so, for that matter, are choristers. Further details from Rosemarie Henson on 020 8224 2714.

Next Sunday. The Second Sunday of Epiphany. Normal Sunday arrangements for the Eucharist. There is Mattins and Holy Baptism at 1100, and Choral Evensong at 1830. Quite a busy day.

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