

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

11 February 2007

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SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

*Sexagesima.*

The readings at the Eucharist today have the general theme of creation. Slightly perversely in fact, for this is what used to be the characteristic feature of *last* Sunday. Nevertheless, there is a curious suitability for this to happen on a day when we are having our 'Valentine Mattins', for marriage – as something which is broader than the confines of the Christian Churches – is considered by theologians as belonging to 'the order of creation', rather than to 'the order of redemption.' In other words, there is a sacramentality of marriage which extends far beyond the grace-filled community of faith. Indeed, in western Christianity (it is different in the east), the accepted view is that it is the bride and groom who are the 'ministers' of the sacrament, the ones who actually 'make' the marriage. We welcome our visitors today, some of whom will be known to the general congregation, whilst others will not. At all events, they will be recalling what happened to them within these walls, and we shall be happy for them and with them.

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The sermon at the Sung Eucharist today comes at the end of the service. It will do so again on 4 March. The reasons for this are wholly practical. Normally it is the 1100 service which has the sermon at an unusual point – at the beginning, in fact. The same factor is at work today with the sermon going to the end at the 0930 Eucharist, for it is important today that the 1100 service starts on time (after all, we have visitors). The choristers need their break between the services, and also need to have some time for the Director of Music to check on various points with them for the second service. So today, everything is normal about the service, except that the sermon will come straight after the last hymn. There will be an organ voluntary as usual. Curiously enough, I recall that at St Agnes, Port Talbot (where I was confirmed, though it was not where I normally attended), the sermon in those days always came at the end of the Sung Mass. It was unusual, and I don't think I have encountered it elsewhere. However, our reasons at St Mary's are purely functional, and it will only happen on an occasional basis, because the 'normal' position after the readings is the natural place for the sermon at the Eucharist.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our own church and parish, and in the world-wide Church for the Anglican Church of the Congo\*. We pray in the Diocese of Guildford for the two Archdeacons†, and in our parish prayer for the Wayfarers, and those who teach them. We pray too for the people living in Howard Avenue.

\* The Anglican Church in the Congo is francophone.

† The Archdeacon of Dorking ('ours'), the Venerable Julian Henderson, and the Archdeacon of Surrey, the Venerable Stuart Beake (Archdeacon Beake was baptized at St Mary's).

## SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

*Common Worship rite*

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 462.  
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216.

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST**

*Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church.  
Order 1: page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **390**.  
Eucharistic Prayer **G**: page **201**.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Stanford* in C.  
All very easy and familiar hymns for the second week running.

Introit hymn: 436

Black book: page 167. The Greeting and the first prayer; *Kyrie eleison*.

Metrical Gloria in excelsis: **Hymn 363**. [Tune: 338 *Evelyns*]

Collect of the Day: page 390.

*Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament Reading from the Revelation to St John.

Gradual hymn: 146

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Then (today) straight to the Nicene Creed: page 173.

Intercession (page 281 today); then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn: 404. Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201; Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.

Hymn at the invitation to Communion: 313 [With 'Amen' as at OEH 335]

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God)

Anthem: Jesus Christ the apple tree. *Holman*

The tree of life my soul hath seen  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly have I bought:

I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm wearied with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784*

*After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 390.*

The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal. Hymn: 466.

*All sit. Sermon by the Vicar.*

The second of a course of sermons on The Lord's Prayer.

No.2: Other early texts and commentaries on the Lord's Prayer.

Organ Voluntary.

*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.*

**1100 CHORAL MATTINS for 'Valentine-tide.'**

*There is a special leaflet for this service.*

A warm welcome to those who have been married at St Mary's, and who are returning to St Mary's today.

**1800 Evening Prayer**

**In church this week**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

1930 for 2000. Meeting of the **Evening Fellowship Group** in the Parish Room. Tonight: *Psalms of Ascent: Approaching God's Temple as we anticipate Lent*. Further information from Iain McKillop (Tel. 01932 341687).

#### **Other events and notices.**

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A time for drinking coffee, and for relaxation and pleasant *conversazione* in very congenial surroundings. At 1100, **Ian West** will be speaking on the subject of *Fitznell's Manor*.

**A nasty noise.** This note appeared recently, but so much was going on that it perhaps needs another mention. It is known that some people are rather painfully aware of a **very high-pitched sound**, which clearly comes from some aspect of the sound system. Not everyone is aware of this, but some are, and they are experiencing various levels of discomfort. Would anyone who can hear this sound please have a word with the Vicar or one of the churchwardens or with Mr Jarrett? There is *also* a low buzz or hum, which other people can hear, but this is not so much of a problem, and it is the high-pitched sound that we want to hear about, because something really must be done about it.

**1100 in general.** It has been very gratifying to see several people staying on in recent weeks for a second service, after a fairly positive plug on the subject. Generally speaking, those who have done so have made a point of saying afterwards that they were glad to have stayed on. An earlier issue of the Weekly Notes drew attention to a section in last month's *Ewell Parish News*, which listed all that is happening at the 11 o'clock slot on Sunday mornings this term. An enlarged copy of that section may be seen in the Welcome Area. Some of our services at 1100 are distinctive and unusual: a few weeks ago there was the Epiphany Nine Lessons, then last week there was the all-age 'Candle Mass', today there is the 'Valentine Mattins', and – something new this year – there will shortly be 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*. These will be on 4 March and 1 April. I hope that this new measure of interest in other acts of worship will now develop further, and 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.

**Service Lists.** Whilst on this point, a reminder that full details of the services and music for this term are available on a table in the Welcome Area, as also is the full list of services (without musical details) for the whole year. These are useful for reference, and they will remain available for a few more weeks, after which they will be cleared away.

A reminder too that 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. Our Lenten Project this year will be for our twinned parish of Corriverton, where Fr Marcus Simon is rebuilding the church at Orealla for the Amerindian community there. It is 56 miles up country from the main parish centre on the coast.

**'Of Brackets and Books.'** Brackets appear from time to time in the running-order of the services on the Weekly Notes, often containing apparently mysterious things. In most cases the congregation does not need to take much notice of them, particularly when they are small items in square [ ] brackets, with information in smaller print. They are generally directions for the choir. Some time ago the choir used to have another separate paper, which to a large extent reproduced much of the material already on the Notes. We have not had this for some years

(and therefore saved both paper and effort), so the Notes sometimes contain points which normally only the musicians need to know. Others might well find the details useful, of course, especially for alternative tunes.

**Next Sunday.** The Sunday before Lent. Morning services are at the usual times. There will be the Book of Common Prayer Eucharist at 1100 next week. There are no takers for the 1630 Evensong and Holy Baptism slot, but it will be sensible to say Evening Prayer at that time, since it is actually advertised as such, rather than reverting to 1800. It will be half-term Sunday for the choristers.

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