

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
(020 8393 2643)  
[www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)

Before: orange

Next: rose

## WEEKLY NOTES

18 February 2007

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

THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT.

*Quinquagesima.*

*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.*

Just three liturgical points. The readings at 0800 and 0930 are on the theme of the Transfiguration of Christ. It is a Church of England peculiarity to do this on this particular Sunday. Other users of the *Revised Common Lectionary* have these readings on the Second Sunday in Lent, before having pre-Easter themes of living water, new light, and new life. Sometimes we have used the alternative provision for this Sunday, but, since the fixed feast-day of the Transfiguration in August is not being observed on a Sunday this year, we shall have the readings for the Transfiguration today. The sermon at 0930 will not be on the Transfiguration readings, because of the ongoing course of sermons on the Lord's Prayer.

We shall be using one of the 'Kyrie-confessions' at the 0930 Eucharist today. These are a new feature in *Common Worship*, though they have been a feature of the modern Roman rite for some time. We are encouraged to use 'normal' texts for the confession as a general rule on Sundays, but this particular provision does exist, and perhaps we might make use of this other form of penitential material on occasions like today when the choir is away, and *Kyrie eleison* is not being sung. The only reason we have not done so before is to avoid yet more page turning; there is already more than enough of that.

There is also a 'superfluity of Alleluyas' in the hymnody for today. This is the last day when 'Alleluya' is used in church until Easter. The absence of the Alleluya is a traditional feature of Lent, when the music is normally somewhat more restrained than usual. Proclaiming 'Praise the Lord' (which is what Alleluya means) has for centuries not thought to be quite in keeping with the prevailing devotional mood of Lent! A glance at the material on pages 300-328 (and also page 280) will show that the regular use of an optional gospel acclamation at the Eucharist with Alleluya is provided, but from pages 308-314 an alternative provision is made for Lent. We have not used these gospel acclamations, except on a very occasional basis, but perhaps during Eastertide this year we might give them a try, since they are in fairly general use elsewhere. Meanwhile, enjoy the hearty Alleluyas in the hymns today. In medieval times there used to be some picturesque ceremonies connected with the Closure of the Alleluya, particularly in France. All that is really left now is the familiar hymn, *Alleluya, dulce carmen*, which we shall have at the end of the 0930 Eucharist in a translation of my own\*. At 1100 the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist has the traditional Quinquagesima theme of the Love of God, but there will also be a robust final hymn, in the form of the shorter metrical *Benedicite*, and this contains no less than twenty-eight Alleluyas in four verses. All splendid hymns today, so do enjoy them. More sober stuff when we hit Lent on Wednesday.

\* The version in the old *English Hymnal* has the lines 'Grant us all to keep thy Easter in our home beyond the skies.' Dr Glyn Simon, the former Archbishop of Wales, once told me mischievously that people singing those words 'would have a truly dreadful shock if their prayer were to be positively answered.' W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray today for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we are in fact praying today for the Church of England in the two Provinces of Canterbury and York. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for those who are staff or students at the Guildford Diocesan Ministry Course. In the parish we pray for the staff and students of the North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT), and for the people living in John Gale Court.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0700 MATTINS** Psalm 18: 1-19
- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 391  
Eucharistic Prayer **E**: page 196.
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** (Nave Altar) *Common Worship rite*

Half-term for the choristers. Crèche available. Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 391. Eucharistic Prayer <b>B</b> : page 188. Congregational setting: <i>Shaw</i> , Folk Mass (Gloria and Creed only). The Vicar is doubling-up at the organ today.
--

Introit hymn: 234 (second tune)  
Black book, page 167. Invocation, Greeting and the first Prayer.  
Kyrie-Confession on page 133. ('Spirit')  
Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211.  
Collect of the Day: page 391. *Readings on separate paper.*  
New Testament Reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.  
Gradual hymn: 178  
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.  
Sermon by *the Vicar*  
The third of a course of sermons on *The Lord's Prayer*.  
No.3: God our Father.  
'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.'  
Nicene Creed: traditional language text on page 213.  
Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.  
Offertory hymn: 271. Collection.  
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; the Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.  
(There is no hymn at the Invitation to Communion today.)  
During the Communion there will be organ music.  
*All stand* after the administration for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 391.  
The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.  
Hymn: The closure of the Alleluya. (On reverse of readings paper). Tune:195

- 1100 HOLY EUCHARIST** (Nave Altar) *Book of Common Prayer rite*

The choristers are on leave today; the service is 'said with hymns'. The service will be at the Nave Altar, but 'eastward facing.' Two hymn books today: <i>New English Hymnal</i> (words only edition – the tunes are well-known) and <i>A Hundred Canticles for Ewell</i> .
---

Sermon by *the Vicar*  
Introit hymn: 137  
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: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13  
Gradual hymn: 367

The Holy Gospel: St Luke 18: 31-43  
 Nicene Creed: page 34.  
 Biddings to prayer, and the Offertory Sentence.  
 Offertory Hymn: HCE 88; 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  
 (No hymn at the Consecration today.)  
 After Communion:  
 The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44  
*All stand for* Gloria in excelsis  
 The Blessing  
 Hymn: HCE 15.

**1630 Evening Prayer** (in the Parish Room).

*There are no takers for the scheduled baptism today, but Evening Prayer will still take place at the published time in order to avoid confusion.*

**In church this week.**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**  
 Wednesday

<b>ASH WEDNESDAY.</b>	
0900	<b>Ewell Castle School Junior School Service</b>
1140	<b>The Litany.</b>
1200	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Nave Altar).
1900	<b>SUNG EUCHARIST with the Liturgy of Penitence and the Imposition of Ashes.</b>
	There is a separate leaflet for this service.
	<i>There will not be Imposition of Ashes at the 1200 service.</i>

Friday 1200 **Holy Communion**  
 This is the first of the additional midday Eucharists during Lent, at which the Passion according to St Mark will be read in serial form as the Holy Gospel.

**Lent Boxes** in aid of our Lent Project are available in the Welcome Area today.

Monday For the central part of the day the Vicar will be at a meeting in London of the executive of The Federation of Catholic Priests.  
 Tuesday 1830 for 1900: **'Food for Thought': Parish Shrove Tuesday Party** in the Church Hall. Unless an announcement is made to the contrary on Sunday all the tickets have now been sold.  
 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. The mid-day arrangements in church today are designed to be convenient for those attending the Coffee Morning. Ash Wednesday is a day on which (in the Church of England) the Holy Communion *must* be celebrated, which is indicative of its importance.

**Lent Boxes** in aid of our Lent Project are available in the Welcome Area today. There is a display about our twinned parish in Guyana, where they are planning to build a concrete church some 50 miles up country at Orealla for the aboriginal community of Amerindians. While on that point, there are still a few **FREE** copies of *El Dorado*, the Guyana Diocesan Magazine, available in the Welcome Area. It tells of a brave Church facing difficult times in a society very different from our own.

**The Stations of the Cross** will be de-mounted from the front of the gallery tomorrow and arranged around the church, so that they can be used devotionally during Lent and Passiontide. A reminder that twice during Lent, on 4 March and 1 April, some of the Stations will be used during Mattins in conjunction with music by J S Bach. The Vicar will conduct the meditations on 4 March and Iain McKillop will do so on 1 April (Palm Sunday).

Finally, today is last real opportunity to be reminded about making a **Lent Rule**. Even though we do many things in Lent as a parish, at the end of the day Lent is about individual Christians taking Lent seriously. There are plenty of well-trying avenues: additional devotional activity, or perhaps some serious Bible or theological reading, or the discipline of abstinence (whether in the traditional dietary ways, or by a diminution of some activity which has perhaps become excessive), or by specific almsgiving (e.g. the Lent box), or indeed anything which is taken on board not out of 'merit-mongering', but out of love for the Lord Jesus. The Church keeps Lent for Christ and in Christ, and does so in the form of an annual period of serious preparation, as we move towards the annual commemoration of the Paschal Mystery – Christ's victory over sin and death, and his gift to us of a share in his risen life. That is what Lent is really about. W.R.H.

**Next Sunday.** The First Sunday in Lent. Services are at the usual times. There will also be the monthly 1200 Eucharist, and at 1800 there will be Stations of the Cross.

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