

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

25 March 2007

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

This Sunday sees a devotional gear-change, as we turn away from the penitential aspects of Lent and look instead towards the annual commemoration of the Passion of Christ. The Sunday before Palm Sunday has always had a note of invitation about it: a call to be with Christ in his passion, and to be with him on his path to glory, but which is also the Way of Sorrows. It is an invitation which comes with an RSVP attached to it, and our 'reply' is made one week later during Holy Week. The little signs are here today: the obviously more serious note to the readings and the hymns, the special service at 1100, the Passiontide veiling*, and the Stations of the Cross tonight. This Sunday *used* to be called 'Passion Sunday'; some years ago the Roman Catholics transferred this title to next Sunday (actually it makes more sense), and the old title for this Sunday has now been quietly dropped in the Church of England as well. However, *Common Worship* states that on this day 'Passiontide begins', and it is during this week that we should be making some personal decisions as to how we intend to spend this solemn time of the year. I have often said that the key to a Happy Easter is a well-kept Holy Week. There will as usual be quite a lot on at St Mary's, and I hope that St Mary's folk will use the time well. News items often show us great numbers of Muslims attending religious events on their holy days; all the great crowds at Mecca and that sort of thing. (They never manage to show us the thousands at the annual National Pilgrimage to Walsingham, however.) The Holy Week of the Christian Calendar ought to call us all out to be where we belong at this time: with Christ in Jerusalem and Ewell, both then and now, for it is all one and the same thing. He calls us to the Upper Room, to the Garden, to the foot of the Cross, and to the Resurrection joy. After all, he did it for us. So let us make our plans today for our own share in this, as we follow Jesus on the only possible path that would lead to (what Abelard called) 'the laughter of Easter Day.' W.R.H.

* There was a note about this in last week's Weekly Notes, and it is not really worth reprinting it all again. Some copies of *last* week's Notes are available on request at the book trolley for anyone who wasn't here then, and who may want to know something about it.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today in the Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East*. In our prayer for the Diocese, we pray for those in Reader ministry, especially our own two Readers, Reg Saunders and Wendy Varney. Within the parish we pray for our own preparation for Holy Week, and for grace to use the time well. In our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those who live in the London Road.

* The 'Presiding Bishop' of this Province, the equivalent of the Archbishop, is the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf. He is the Most Reverend Clive Handford – spelt differently, and no relation. W.R.H.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page **396**.
Eucharistic Prayer C: page **191**. Other Lenten material: page **308**.
Sermon by *the Vicar* in the course entitled '*Christ Outpouring*.'
Today it is: '*Christ Forgiving*.'

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church. Order 1: page 167 . Collect of the Day: page 396 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191 .

Other material for Passiontide: page 312
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in F.

Introit hymn: 79 [Tune: 128 ii]
 The Invocation, the Greeting, first prayer, and the Prayers of Penitence.
Kyrie eleison
 Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent: page 396. (*Readings on separate paper.*)
 Old Testament Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.
Remain seated for Gradual Psalm 126 (sung by the choir).
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians.
 Hymn 379
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.
 Sermon by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*.
 Nicene Creed: page 173.
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory hymn: 86 (omit * verses). Collection.
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Preface for Passiontide: page 312
 The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
 Hymn at the invitation to Communion:
 During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God)
 Anthem: O bone Jesu. *Dering*

O bone Jesu, O dulcis Jesu, fili Mariae Virginis, plene misericordia et pietate,
 secundum magnam misericordiam tuam miserere mei.

English version: O good and loving Jesu, Son of the Virgin Mary, full of mercy
 and goodness, according to your great mercy, have mercy on me.

After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer.
 The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.
 Hymn: Soul of my Saviour. (*On readings paper*).
 (Metrical *Anima Christi*). [Choir: NEH 305, **tune only.**]

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 after the Sung Eucharist.

1100 THE READING AND MUSIC OF THE PASSION.

This service, quite simple in structure, consists of the reading of one complete version of the Passion, interspersed with hymns and some of the choral music to be used in the Holy Week rites. This year the Passion according to St Matthew will be read. The service is a good preparation for Holy Week, since it enables members of the congregation to recall to mind the familiar story of the Cross of Christ before becoming more directly involved through the systematic entering into those events through the liturgical services of the Great Week.
There is a special leaflet for this service.

1200 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 396.
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Other Passiontide material: page 308.

1800 STATIONS OF THE CROSS (in the main church)

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
 1930 for 2000 **Life (and Death) Matters.** Lent discussion led by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*. This week: **Medical Dilemmas:**
Organ transplants, genetics, clones.

Other events and notices.

Monday Vicar at a Royal British Legion County meeting at Effingham during the morning.
 He should be back by lunchtime.

2000 Meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee.
Tuesday 1930 for 2000 *'Tuesdays at Eight'*: see above at 'In church this week' for the discussions led by *Dr Patrick Miller*.
Wednesday 1030-1200 **Coffee Morning** in the church hall. Tea-drinkers should not feel excluded: the leaf is provided as well as the bean. A pleasant and relaxing time with familiar and friendly company. It is an open occasion; anyone can come. This week there will be a **Bring and Buy Sale**. Also on Wednesday:

LENT LUNCH
IN THE CHURCH HALL
12.15 TO 13.45
Admission £3
There will be a 'Bring and Buy' and a Raffle.
IN AID OF ST MARY'S LENT PROJECT FOR OUR
TWINNED PARISH IN GUYANA.

Any contributions towards the Raffle and the 'Bring and Buy'
would be very welcome.

Stations of the Cross. Our Stations are meant to be used, and the last fortnight before Easter is perhaps the best of all times for this. Members of the congregation can always come into church through the office when it is open (Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri a.m.), and spend some quiet time at the Stations. **Iain McKillop's poems** which accompany the Stations are now also on the pillars beneath the Stations, and these may well be of help to those who are making their own Way of the Cross in church.

Ewell Parish News for April is available today, with full details of what is on in church during Holy Week and Easter. There will not be a Holy Week leaflet this year.

Although there are not all that many 'public appointments' to put in this week's Notes, **the Vicar expects to be very busy** this week, partly (though not entirely) due to the run-up to Holy Week. This is just a gentle hint that he would be grateful not to be too much bothered with other things, as far as possible!

We have an understandable but unexpected *crisis* for the **Village Fair**. The important *Bric-a-Brac stall*, which always raises a lot of money, needs a new organizer (or organizers) this year. The need is urgent, for Ian and Kathie Burgess ought to have peace of mind as soon as possible over this, and not lose any sleep. There are usually enough helpers on the stall on the actual day, but we do need to have someone who can organize things and take decisions. Any offers, please, to Kathie Burgess, or otherwise through the office. This really is a major headache. W.R.H.

The Electoral Roll. By now most people should be aware that they need to sign up this year, *whether their names are entered on the present Roll or not.* Most have probably done so by now, though some may still have slipped through the net. Members of the regular congregation should fill in the somewhat basic application form as soon as possible; there are plenty of them in the Welcome Area.

Bridge Drive. There will be a Bridge Drive towards the end of April in the Church Hall in aid of the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell's charities for this year. One of the charities concerned is our own Ewell Parochial Trusts, so it is an event which our own Bridge players (of whom there are, apparently, not just a few) will no doubt want to support. More details next week, so that the news can be 'trump'-eted around.

Next Sunday. *Holy Week* begins; it is Palm Sunday. Morning services at the usual times, with sermon at 0800 in the course entitled '*Christ Outpouring.*' At 0930 there will be the simplified Palm Sunday rite, which we have now settled down to until such time as it may be practical to re-instate the outdoor procession. This is also another Sunday when there is something distinctive at 1100. There will be the second of two services of Choral Mattins, incorporating certain Stations of the Cross and with related choral and organ music by J S Bach. There are some copies of the service leaflet available in the Welcome Area after the 0930 service today for the benefit of anyone who would like a

preview. There will be three short conducted meditations (and no sermon) on the three Stations. I have been glad to see several people staying on for a second service in recent weeks, when there has been something special on at 1100, and I hope next week's service will be seen as one very special Lenten feature this year. Iain McKillop, who painted our lovely Stations, will be conducting the meditations next week. W.R.H.

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