

WEEKLY NOTES

30 September 2007

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

We should be getting our breath back today after the events of last evening in St Mary's, but, since these words are being written before *Noye's Fludde* has actually taken place, it will be best at this stage just to say a warm thank-you to Jonathan Holmes and to all involved in the large-scale production. More about this in due course. W.R.H.

The Harvest Festival last Sunday marked the start of a week which emphasised the pastoral and caring role of the Church both at a parochial level and wider afield. I am very grateful to Wendy Varney for spelling out some of the details of the work of the Waterloo Christian Centre and Vaughan House in Guildford during the course of her sermon at the Sung Eucharist. I am also grateful to the small band who did all the sorting on Monday morning, and who took flowers to the bereaved, the housebound and others. In particular our thanks must go to Julian and Wendy Varney for arranging the Monday morning sorting, and for the major job of conveying the harvest gifts to their destinations. It was a delightful Sunday morning, with two very different harvest services. The church looked beautiful, and for the first time we had 'harvest pew-ends'. A special word of thanks must go to Alison Archer-Lock who produced an amazing floral display by the pulpit. Indeed, 'floral' is an inadequate word to describe this *tour de force*, which also included all sorts of vegetables which somehow one didn't see until one was close up. ('The art of the art is concealing the art.') All in all, a most delightful day, with some very fine music at the Sung Eucharist, and a truly amazing Scandinavian organ voluntary after Evensong and Holy Baptism, played by Jonathan Holmes on his first official Sunday as our new Director of Music. Last night's concert was (as I hope everyone now knows) also for an external cause: to raise money for Christian Aid, because we are no longer in a position to mount the annual house-to-house Collection. Finally, somewhat belatedly, we are now in a position to say that our Lenten Project this year raised **£812 towards the provision of a permanent church for the Amerindian community up-country in our twinned parish of Corriverton in Guyana**. My thanks, and those of Fr Marcus Simon, go to all who helped towards this in different ways during Lent. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church today we pray for those who belong to the various Presbyterian Churches, remembering especially the other 'established' Church in these islands, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. In the diocese we pray for the work of the Army Chaplains, and in the parish for our local unit of the Territorial Army at Mercator House. In our systematic prayer for those who live in the geographical parish we pray today for those who live in Reigate Road.

An announcement will probably be made today, though it may be delayed until next week, about a **Requiem Eucharist** for Peter Pledge, our former churchwarden. This will be in conjunction with the interment of Peter's ashes. Day and time depend on a few factors, but the service will furnish an opportunity for those who wish to remember Peter at the altar (his devotional life was centred on the Eucharist), and for the Vicar - who was in America at the time of the funeral - to be able to say something in person about this fine churchman.

The main **Sacristy Rota** is out today, and available in the Welcome Area. The **Altar Servers' rota** will be out **next** week. Names for next Sunday's serving team are next to the Sacristy rota. There is also a paper for people to sign, indicating who is going to be around over Christmas. We want the Christmas services properly staffed, and there isn't all that much room for manoeuvre. This is the very last time while I am still in post that I make an appeal (if that is the right word) for more servers - though not for Communion Assistants: you can't volunteer for that, it has to be by invitation. I mean those who carry the lights. For a church like ours we need at least six more to spread the load, but I would be grateful even for just one. For the last few years we have been dependent upon the goodwill of a very small band, and four members of that band come from one family alone. The only criterion is to be between nine and ninety. It is a very simple business, and I cannot understand why there is such a reluctance to opt in. I am put in mind of a verse from that awful Psalm 58: 'They refused to hear the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely.' Today really is the last time, since the next rota must appear next Sunday, and, once it is out, that will be the state of play until Easter. W.R.H.

'We need to know.' A repeat of a recent announcement. Now that we have regrouped after the summer, this might be the right time to stress once again that it is important that all meetings, or indeed **anything** taking place on the premises, are always **notified to the office**, so that they may enter into the church diary. When they are not, it always causes confusion, as people turn up for something, and find that something else is taking place. This is also the case when 'church meetings' are taking place **off** the premises. Occasionally the Vicar has found that he is expected to be in two places at once because the office has not been aware of one of the meetings, and no doubt others have found the same from time to time.

Confirmation. There is a Confirmation service arranged at All Saints Banstead on **Thursday 28 November**. This is very convenient from our point of view, since the general style of All Saints is not dissimilar from that of St Mary's. (It is not always the case with other neighbouring parishes, and occasionally this has caused problems.) There are probably some juniors coming into zone, but this is an obvious time for others who may be thinking about it to **do** something about it. We shall have to start **pronto**, if the preparation is to be adequately done. The Vicar will be glad to hear from anyone who would like to know more about this, though certainly without any initial commitment. Whilst parts of next year may remain a possibility for some, the odds are that the following year will not provide such obvious slots, since the parish will certainly be in an interregnum at that stage. There is no Confirmation planned for St Mary's, and it is unlikely that there will be one until a new parish priest is in post.

Next Sunday. A very normal Sunday, everything as normal and at normal times.

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

1200 **HOLY COMMUNION (Side Chapel).** Details as at 0800.

- 1700 **CHORAL EVENSONG** *Book of Common Prayer rite*
Responses: Green books, page 18. Music: *Smith*
Office-hymn: HCE [Tune: 149 iii]
Psalm 103 In praise of God's love and mercy. Page 257.
First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 38: 24-end *On scholars and artisans*
Magnificat: page 19. *Murrill in E*
Second Lesson: 1 St Peter 4: 7-11 *'Live this day as if thy last.'*
Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Murrill in E*
The Creed and the Greeting (page 20); then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,
the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect is on page 78).
Anthem: Te lucis ante terminum. *Balfour Gardiner*
[Latin version of NEH 241; text available on small slip]
Prayers. Hymn: HCE 50 [Tune: *Guiting Power*] Sermon by *the Vicar*
Hymn: HCE 53 [Tune 447]; Collecton. The Blessing
Organ: Sortie in B flat. *Lefebure-Wely*

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Other events and notices.

- Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.
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. There is a Bring and Buy Sale this week.
Thursday 2000 Meeting of Vicar, Churchwarden and Administrator.
2000 Meeting of the Social Committee.

Saturday

1930 **ORGAN RECITAL, by Huw Morgan**
Royal Academy of Music and Organist of St Laurence, Catford
The Programme includes works by: J S Bach, Buxtehude, Albinoni, Sweelinck, Walton, Arvo Part, Howells, Estermann, Avril Anderson, Huw Morgan, and Langlais. The full programme is available on handbills and posters.
Admission is £6.00, payable at the door (under 16s get in free) or £5.00 in advance from the Parish Office or after services today.
This is the last Organ Recital in the current series.

Ewell Parish News for October is available today.

Thieves and Robbers. The recent mention about extra precautions being taken here was followed last week by an attempt to steal the lead from the roof of the Church Hall. In the event the attempt was not a very successful one, but there was damage to the roof to the tune of £800. Fortunately our insurance will cover this.

0930 **SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and Children's Hour. Crèche available, if needed.
Collect of the Day page 418. Proper 21.
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Leighton in D.*
Some very hearty hymns at the service today: do enjoy them!

- Introit hymn: 467
Then black book: page 167. The Invocation and the Greeting, followed by the Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison.*
Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211. (*Staw* melody)
Collect of the Day: page 418.
New Testament Reading from the First Letter to Timothy.
Gradual hymn: 419
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
Sermon by *the Vicar.*
Nicene Creed: page 173
Intercession, followed by the Greeting of Peace.
Offertory Hymn: 433. Collection
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; the Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 287 (t. C for C 2: 4)
During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).
Anthem: O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. *Howells*
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness in thy palaces. (*Psalms 122: 6, 7*)
All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 419.
The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and the Dismissal.
Hymn 427
Organ: 'Dieu parmi nous.' *Messiaen*

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 **MATTINS** *Book of Common Prayer rite.*
'Village Mattins' today; congregational service. All hymn and canticles from 'A Hundred Hymns for Ewell.'
Green prayer book: page 8 for the opening Responses. [Tune: 388 ii]
Metrical Venite: HHE 2
Psalm 36: 5-10. The Lord's righteousness, mercy and care. Page 180.
First Lesson: Wisdom 7: 7-14. *In praise of the Wisdom of God.*
Metrical Benedictus: HHE 8 [Tune: 401]
Second Lesson: St Luke 13: 22-33. *The 'strait and narrow way' and Herod the fox.* [Tune: 237]
Hymn: HHE 79
The Creed and the Greeting (page 12); then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect is on page 78).