

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
Tel. 020 8393 2643
www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

17 February 2008

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT.

Our Archbishop has been having a hard time of it of late. My understanding is that Archbishop Rowan has not really been advocating some major shift in English jurisprudence, but of course the subject of Islam is in any case a touchy one, and people are quick to pounce on anything that sounds novel or, possibly, instinctively unwelcome. The problem is that Sharia law is automatically associated in the popular mind with grisly punishments and public executions. I enclose with today's Notes the text of the Archbishop's address to the General Synod on Tuesday, which I think should make things a bit clearer to everyone. My own feeling is that he seems to be advocating something akin to the present Jewish position in this country, in which there are 'Beth Din' courts, which actually were set up *by statute* about a century ago to deal with internal Jewish problems and disputes. These have been a normal feature in the life of this country since they were set up, and my understanding is that some responsible British Muslim opinion is seeing something like that as a possible way ahead. We shall see what comes of it all.

However, I must say that I was far from impressed with the former Archbishop, Dr Carey, for deciding to wade into all this, and vigorously expressing his own disapproval of his successor's views. I find this both inappropriate and improper. An earlier retired Archbishop, Dr Fisher, also made things very difficult for his successor (Dr Ramsey, whose headmaster Fisher had been long years before), and both Fisher then and Carey now should have learned that basic lesson that 'the function of a predecessor is to predecease', and not to go meddling in former areas of work where others are now doing the job. Many clergy (including myself) have suffered from problems of this sort over the years, and it can be extremely undermining, and it can foment much trouble. The quiet dignity of Dr Habgood and Dr Hope, both retired Archbishops of York, is perhaps the example to follow. Occasionally Dr Habgood has clarified facts about events during his period of office, but neither he nor Dr Hope (as far as I can tell) has ever got embroiled in matters to do with Church institutions, Church politics and Church persons after retiring from office, and certainly neither has caused any trouble to his successor. Theirs is the example to emulate. Certainly, in a somewhat humbler situation, when the time comes for me to leave Ewell next year, I shall have no intention of commenting upon any words and actions of my successor, whether I approve of them or not. Dr Carey should have known better. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Hong Kong. In the Diocese we pray for the work of the Department of Ministerial Training. In our parish prayer we pray for the Governors, staff and pupils at Ewell Castle School and at Glyn School. In our prayer for those living in the geographical parish we pray today for the people living in Walnut Fields.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 394
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Other Lenten material: page 308.
Lenten meditation by *the Vicar* on lines from Samuel Crossman's
seventeenth-century hymn: *'My song is love unknown.'*
Today: *'He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow.'*

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST. NAVE ALTAR. Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed.	Order 1 (black book): page 167.	Collect of the Day: page 394.	Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191.
Other Lenten material: page 308.			
Setting of the Eucharist: <i>Shaw, Folk Mass (Congregational).</i>			

It is the Junior Choristers' Half-Term, and several of the senior choristers are also away today, so it seems best to go for an entirely congregational service this morning. All regular members of the congregation will know the *Shaw* setting, so this will be a good chance for some hearty congregational singing. The Nave Altar is more appropriate on this sort of occasion, and Holy Communion will be administered at the front of the nave and at the side chapel. The *Victoria* setting, scheduled for today, will be sung next week in place of the advertised setting.

Introit hymn: 74

Black book: page 167. The Invocation, the Mutual Salutation, the Prayers of Penitence, and *Kyrie eleison*.

The Collect of the Day: page 394. *Readings on separate paper.*

Old Testament Reading from the Book Genesis.

Gradual hymn: 357 [Tune: 468]

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Hymn: MHT 178 [Tune: NEH 416 ii]

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

Sermon by *the Vicar*: The sermon course on The Lord's Prayer continues.

No.11: *An overview of the petitions in the Lord's Prayer (the last two clauses), leading to 'The Lord's Prayer in personal devotion.'*

Nicene Creed: page 173.

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: MHT 163 [Tune: NEH 383 (i)]; Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Proper Preface: page 308.

Traditional text for the Shaw Sanctus:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessèd is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.

After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 414

During the Communion: there will be organ music today.

All stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 392.

The Mutual Salutation, Lenten Blessing and the Dismissal.

Hymn 372

Organ: Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565). *J S Bach.* JH.

Virginia and Ron Johnson

will welcome today all the congregations with a glass of wine and cake
between the 0930 and 11100 services to celebrate
Virginia's 90th birthday.

1100 HOLY EUCHARIST. NAVE ALTAR. Book of Common Prayer rite

Simpler service today, due to the absence of the choir this week. It will take the form of
'Eucharist with hymns.'

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Lent course: **Four Stations of the Cross. No.1: Mother and Son**

Introit hymn: 393

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 Thessalonians 4:1-8. *St Paul on moral issues.*

Gradual hymn: 64

The Holy Gospel: St Matthew 15: 21-28. *The Syro-Phoenician woman.*

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Offertory Hymn: 309 [Tune: 354]; 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

Hymn at the Consecration: 313

(Organ music during the Communion.)

After Communion: The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Oblation: page 44.

The Blessing Hymn 87 [Tune: NEH 238]

Organ: Deuxième Symphonie (2nd movt.). *Dupré* JH

1800 Evening Prayer

[Original arrangements for Evensong and Holy Baptism at 1630 no longer apply.]

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Tuesday 1930 for 2000 in the Church Hall. Coffee from 1930.

The secons of *Dr Patrick Miller's*

DIALOGUES WITH A DIFFERENCE.

Tonight: **A Unitarian View**

with *Eila Forrester*, Former President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

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.

1215-1345 **LENT LUNCH** in the church hall in aid of our Lent

Project, *The Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany*. £3.50.

There are four Lent Lunches this year, in consecutive weeks.

Friday 1030. Another Coffee Morning in the church hall. This time it is in aid of the costs incurred in the arranging of the service for the **Women's World Day of Prayer**, to be held at St Mary's on the following Friday at 1400. Bring and Buy, Raffle, etc. (For those involved, after the Coffee Morning there is a rehearsal for the service at 1200.) There are posters up about both events.

With the **Litany** and a full sermon during last Sunday's Sung Eucharist there was no time left for any announcements. One or two of these are reproduced below.

Lent Project and Gift Aid. Lent boxes and information about the Lazarus Girls Home at Bethany is again available today. Most of the boxes are not made up, but are left flat. The reason for this is that some people have enquired about Gift-Aiding their contributions. Gift Aid for another charity cannot be made through our own books, and an enclosed paper indicates how this may be done. The box is still available, because people may wish to put money in, as in the past, and then at the end of Lent to open it, count the contents, and then write a cheque.

'Broken hosts.' It is not because of some mysterious Lenten feature that some people are receiving pieces of larger eucharistic wafers, which are broken (usually) into four pieces. The reason is much simpler: every so often we find we have more priest's hosts in proportion to the smaller ones for the general congregation, and this is the most convenient way of dealing with the matter. The real purpose of the larger host used by the priest at the Eucharist ('host' is the conventional term) is that it is more clearly visible both at the consecration and afterwards at the 'fraction', the 'breaking'. However, this also helps us to remember that individual wafers are, in the end, only a matter of convenience, for the basic idea is (as St Paul said) that we are all 'partakers of the one loaf.' In the Church of England this point is perhaps more apparent in the concept of the 'common cup', but the same underlying theology of 'one bread, one body' is there all the time. Not everyone will be receiving a 'piece' rather than the usual wafer, though for a week or so those communicating at the High Altar (Nave Altar today) may normally expect to receive a portion of broken host. Our normal practice will resume once the numbers are sorted out, but some broken hosts will occasionally appear at the side chapel from the Reserved Sacrament. W.R.H.

Easter Vigil and Confirmation. With much reluctance I have decided that the full rite of the Easter Vigil will not be celebrated at St Mary's this year. This is the first time this has happened since the full rite was re-introduced in 1983. This is largely happening because some key people are unavailable this year. It is important that this service is conducted with reverence and dignity, and not just muddled

through somehow, which is really the only other alternative, for it is a detailed and complex rite, and should be done supremely well. There will be a simple 'Service of Light' at 0715 on Easter morning, and there will still be the opportunity for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows later on at the Eucharist. However, we are in a position to make a virtue out of a necessity, and we shall now be able to take some **Confirmation candidates** to the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral at 8 o'clock on Holy Saturday evening, when the Bishop of Dorking will be administering Confirmation in the course of the rite. ***It is not too late (just about) for others to be involved in this, and anyone who wishes to be confirmed should have a word with me TODAY or at the latest during the coming week, and we can then fix up times to meet.*** W.R.H.

The funeral of the late **Olive Freeman** will take place on Wednesday of this week at 1615 at Randall's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. The Vicar will be able to take three others with him in his car. Please let him know today. 'First come, first taken.'

Next Sunday. Normal service arrangements. The choir will be back in action.

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