

WEEKLY NOTES

2 March 2008

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

Mothering Sunday.

Sponsors' Note. *Gill and Richard Bird* write: Looking back to 1 March 1958, Gill and Richard give thanks to God for the stability of their fifty years together, and for their family and friends.

The final sermon in the course on *The Lord's Prayer* at the Sung Eucharist, which is entitled '*Eternal power and glory*' will take place later on in the year, probably on Trinity Sunday. It is more of a free-standing topic. Instead the sermon today will be about that curious feature of Lenten joy which seems to belong to this particular Sunday. Joy and Lent do not normally appear to go hand in hand; it seems like a union of apparent opposites – Lenten joy is rather like what the grammarians call an oxymoron†. All sorts of things have got associated with this particular Sunday, as its list of semi-official names would seem to indicate. Probably no other Sunday in the entire year has got such a mixture: it is Refreshment Sunday, *Laetare* Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Simnel Sunday, Mid-Lent Sunday, and Rose Sunday. Perhaps there are some other names as well. Of the alternatives, we always home in at St Mary's on the Mothering Sunday aspect, though it is perhaps worth remembering that the original 'mother' reference is not to 'our mum' at all, but to our Mother the Church (Galatians 4:26). Our Mothering Sunday service is always a popular and warm-hearted occasion, and there will be once again the blessing and distribution of flowers. This year the service will include another hymn from the pen of Eve Myatt-Price. It deals with the three-fold aspect of motherhood on Mothering Sunday: our earthly mothers, our Mother the Church, and the Mother of the Saviour. In fact we have another reminder of the Mother of the Lord in the music at the Eucharist. The delightful setting by Hans Leo Hassler is based on one of his own anthems '*Dixit Maria*', in which Christ's Mother accepts her call from God in the familiar words from St Luke's gospel. The choir will be singing the anthem as well. So the melody of 'Mary saying yes' runs like a thread throughout the Eucharist today, not just at one point in the service – a good reminder that God's call, and Mary's acceptance of it, was for her a commitment for the whole of life. The same is true for every baptized Christian, whom God has called by name and made his own. We shall have another chance to renew our own 'yes' to God, when we get to Easter and renew our sacramental vows of Christian commitment. Until then we have three more weeks of Lent. W.R.H.

† This was written last Sunday. I noticed on Monday that there is an ongoing 'oxymoronic feature' in the letter-columns of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Our prayers today. We pray for this church and parish, for its life, worship and witness. In the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray on the Sunday after St David's Day for the Church in Wales. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the work of the Department for Social Responsibility. Within the parish we pray for those who are in charge of our three Toddler Groups and for the young children who belong to them; and we pray for the people living in West Gardens.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 395.
Other Lenten material: page 308.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Order 1: page 167.

Collect of the Day: page 395.

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191.

Other Lenten material: page 308. Setting of the Eucharist: *Hassler*, Missa *Dixit Maria*.

Note: Just in case there is any misunderstanding, this service is the normal service 'of the Sunday' (i.e. of the Fourth Sunday in Lent). It is not a 'Mothering Sunday' service, as is the case at 1100, nor are the readings those for 'Refreshment Sunday'. This year, largely because of the special Year A gospel readings, we are having the ordinary Sunday provision. The general mid-Lent flavour, however, will still be here, as will the distinctive rose décor.

Introit hymn: 403 [Tune: 128 ii]
Black book: page 167. The Invocation, Greeting, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.
Collect of the Day: page 395.
Use the readings paper from this point until after the Holy Gospel.
Old Testament Reading from the First Book of Samuel
Gradual Psalm: 23
New Testament Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.
Hymn: 'Awake, awake, fling off the night.' (*On readings paper.*)
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.
[A reminder that there is a run of three longer than usual gospels at this time of year. Those who find the standing tiring should sit down.]
Sermon by *the Vicar*.
Nicene Creed: page 173.
Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
Offertory hymn: 294; Collection.
Eucharistic Prayer C; the Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
Hymn after the Invitation to Communion: 234 [First OR Second tune] *tba.*
During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).
Anthem: Dixit Maria. *Hassler*

Dixit Maria ad angelum: 'Ecce ancilla Domini; fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.' *English version:* Mary said to the angel, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word.'

All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion prayer: page 392.
The Mutual Salutation, Lenten Blessing and Dismissal.
Hymn 466.
Organ: Toccata. *Dubois* JC

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 SERVICE FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY.

All-age service of Christian Family Praise.

There is a special leaflet for this service.

1800 Evening Prayer.

In church this week.

Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion
Thursday	1545	Funeral of the late Brian Willis.
Friday	1400	The Women's World Day of Prayer Service.

Preacher: *The Vicar*. [See note blow.]

Other events and notices.

Tuesday

1930 for 2000 in the Church Hall. Coffee from 1930.
The fourth of *Dr Patrick Miller's*
DIALOGUES WITH A DIFFERENCE.
Tonight: **Baptist DNA**
with *Graham Dawson, Minister of Stoneleigh Baptist Church.*

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; this is the third.

Please support these lunches, if you possibly can; they are a major source of income for our annual Lent Project.

It is our turn to host locally the annual **Women's World Day of Prayer Service**. It will be held on Friday at 1400. The service is open to anyone; there is certainly no requirement to be female. This year's well-constructed service has been compiled by a group of Christian women from Guyana. Bearing in mind that St Mary's has had a connexion with Guyana for a good number of years, it would be fitting if the service were to be well-supported by representatives of our own congregation. The preacher at the service will be the Vicar.

A handbill today gives the basic outline of next Sunday's *Reading and Music of the Passion* at 1100. I hope the handbill will encourage people to see this service as an opportunity for devotion and recollection as Holy Week draws near. This is an annual service, but it deserves to be more widely known. W.R.H.

Stewardship envelopes from April 2008, together with a note of the amount paid in 2007, will be available in the Welcome Area from today.

Tickets for the spring event, '**April in Parish**', organised by the Social Committee, are on sale today after the services, though they will also be available from the Office during office-hours on weekdays (though not at the Friday evening session). The winter social evening, entitled '*A Christmas Cracker*' was a great success, so we are expecting quite a demand for tickets for '*April in Parish*'. The tickets are £8.

The funeral service of the late **Brian Willis** will take place on Thursday in church at 1545, following cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 1445.

Confirmation at the Cathedral at the Easter Vigil. Literally the last call today for anyone who is seriously contemplating this. Please see the Vicar today. The cathedral (or rather the Precentor) has asked us to provide someone to act as a sidesman or sideslady at the service. Any offers to the Vicar, please; transport can be arranged, if necessary.

Hymnathon News, 2008. *Rosemarie Henson writes:* The fifth annual Hymnathon was held on 9 February in the parish Room. After five years the Hymnathon is still going strong, due to the commitment of the participants. Our singers totalled 18, coming and going, throughout the day, but we could always do with more – especially men. We were very pleased to welcome some new faces this year. As usual the Vicar played the piano, and we sung our way through *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*, many of which he had written, as had members of the congregation, past and present. We met our target and completed the task, aided by light refreshments during the sessions, and lunch at the local hostelry. As most people know, this is one of the main fundraisers to get preparations started for the Village Fair, and this year we have managed to raise **£606. 10**. A big THANK YOU and WELL DONE to all the singers who took part, and those who supported the day.

The new Sacristy rota and the new servers' rota will be out next week. I am very grateful to *Nigel Bird*, who has taken over the responsibility for these rotas. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. Passiontide begins next Sunday, though Holy Week as such is a full week later. *Common Worship* provides another devotional amber-light. The Passiontide veiling will help to remind us all that this is a serious time of year for Christians. There is an opportunity to make a good start to this period at the 1100 service, the *Reading and Music of the Passion*, which replaces Choral Mattins next week. The calm reading of the Passion narrative, interspersed with choral music and hymns, is a good devotional introduction to Holy Week, which begins a week later on Palm Sunday. Again, it is one of those days when people might think of a second service. There is some lovely new music for Holy Week this year, and there is some information about this in the current number of *Ewell Parish News*. The anthem at the Sung Eucharist next Sunday is from the *Stabat Mater* by Antonin Dvořák – a composer who has not hitherto featured in the repertoire of the present choir, and the style is a little unusual for St Mary's, but is a rich and devotional work. The preacher at 0930 will be Iain McKillop; it was good to see him on television last Sunday, talking about his work to Aled Jones.