

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

WEEKLY NOTES

5 October 2008

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

It is a curious coincidence that we are praying for our fellow-Christians in the Roman Catholic Church today, only a matter of days after the Archbishop of Canterbury has been preaching at Lourdes. Such an event would have been inconceivable, say, fifty years ago, and even now it must seem to many to be something pretty unusual. It shows how far we have come on the ecumenical pilgrimage. No-one is going to say that there are not continuing issues which still hinder the recovery of unity for which all Christians pray, but events of this sort help us realise that the process towards that unity, which really took off in the post-war years, is by the grace of God still going on and being taken seriously by all the main-line Christian bodies. It is indeed noteworthy how the Blessed Virgin Mary, once a symbol of *disunity* among the Churches, has now become a major focal-point in the common ecumenical journey of the Church.

I do not normally 'describe' the hymns, but the underlying theme at Mattins today is perhaps highlighted by the captions against the hymn-numbers. Those who remember the old, black (occasionally blue) 'Hymns Ancient and Modern' (*unrevised*) will recall that every hymn had a Biblical text or some pious sentiment between the music and the words. Actually, that was no bad thing, but it did not continue in later editions. I remain convinced that congregations generally absorb their theology through the hymns they sing, which is why it is important that the lyrics are good. Some of the ephemeral stuff available now is dire indeed, and we do not use that sort of material here. Isaac Watts and William Williams (the Welsh Charles Wesley) have stood the test of time, and their words have enriched Christian worship since the eighteenth century and continue to do so now. The hymns at St Mary's are chosen with very great care, and are not there just to fill out space, but to be an integral feature of the particular act of worship into which they are inserted. As far as possible they either relate to the scriptures of the day, or to the season, or are at least in keeping with the generally feel of the service. When I came to 'observe' St Mary's on a Sunday in Advent many years ago, I was taken aback to find that they were singing hymns like 'Praise my soul, the king of heaven.' There is nothing wrong with that hymn, but this was Advent, and there was a wonderful selection of Advent hymnody all there for the using, but not taken up. The following Advent saw a rather different selection of hymns, relating to the Advent hope and to a world constantly standing under the judgement of God. Today's three hymns at Mattins are just one example of this integration of hymnody with the rest of the service, and this is something which is now a basic characteristic of all the services here. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. In the worldwide Church we pray today for those who belong to the Roman Catholic Church, and for Pope Benedict XVI.* In the Diocese we pray today for the parishes in the Emly Deanery (around Walton and Weybridge). In our parish prayer we pray for the people of St Clement's Roman Catholic Church (on the Kingston Road), and for Father Graham Bamford, the parish priest there, and also we pray for their Church School, which actually lies within our parish boundaries. In our systematic parish prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for those who live in Old Schools Lane and Priory Court.

* We begin the *Ecumenical List* today, after many months of prayer for the provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion. There was a mention of this in last week's Notes. This is a further reminder that for the next three months or so, we shall be praying for a different part† of the worldwide Church. In appropriate instances, as today, we shall also pray for the local presence in Ewell of the particular Christian body.

† 'Part' may not be the best word. 'Denomination' might do, but it is a colourless and a very committee-sounding word. Even though for convenience we talk of 'Churches' (as in, say, 'The World Council of Churches') it is not ideal, for – theologically, at least – when spelt with a capital 'c' the word 'Church' cannot really have a plural, as indeed the Nicene Creed makes very plain.

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Proper 22. Collect of the Day: page 420.
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The hymn-book for the service today is *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*. Crèche available on request.

Preacher: **The Reverend Raymond Leigh**

Setting of the Eucharist: *Stanford* in B flat. Proper 22.

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198

Anthem: Great Lord of lords. *Gibbons*. [Printed out on service-paper.]

Hymns: 334, HHE 76 (on service-paper; t. AMR 539), 296 (i), [313],361(t.322)

Organ Voluntary: Allegro Maestoso (Sonata in B flat). *Mendelssohn*. 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 after the Sung Eucharist.

1100 CHORAL MATTINS *Book of Common Prayer rite.*
There is a theme throughout the service today of the Christian hope of eternity.

Sermon by **the Vicar**. 'On the Christian Hope.'

Responses: page 8.

Music: *Tomkins*

Venite (Shorter form).

Hymn: 460 [Tune 124]. *Isaac Watts tells us not to be fearful of human death.*

Psalms 39. 'Lord, what is my hope? Truly my hope is even in thee.' Page 185

First Lesson from Book of the prophet Ezekiel. Blue book, page 740

Time, fulfilment and certainty.

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254

Music: *Ireland* in F

Christ, the resurrection and the life.

Second Lesson from the Gospel according to St John. Blue book, page 741

Hymn: 112 *A German poet proclaims the eternal Easter.*

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the

Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect is on page 79).

Anthem: Lord, let me know mine end.

Greene

The words of the anthem are from today's Psalm.

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days, that I may be certified how long I have to live. Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long, and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee, and verily every man living is altogether vanity. For man walketh in a vain shadow and disquieteth himself in vain. He heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly my hope is even in thee. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling. Hold not thy peace at my tears. O spare me, that I may recover my strength, before I go hence and be no more seen.

Psalm 139, verses 5-8, 13, 15.

Prayers.

Hymn 368; Collection. *William Williams of Pantycelyn bids us travel through the wilderness of this world, confidence in God's guidance and grace, until after crossing 'Jordan's narrow stream' we reach our true native land.*

The Blessing.

Organ: Chorale No.1 in E major. *Franck*

JH

1800 Evening Prayer

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion.**

Other events and notices.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall a time for fine blend and good companionship. 'Have a break; have a coffee.' At 1100 **Alan Davies** will be speaking on '*The diversity of NESCOL.*'

Thursday 1200 Epsom Deanery Clergy Chapter meeting at Stoneleigh: the Bishop of Dorking reflects on the recent Lambeth Conference.

The funeral of the late Mr **Alfred Goodey** will take place on Wednesday at 1100 at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead.

'**A Victorian Festival of Christmas.**' A coach outing is planned to the City of Portsmouth to celebrate this special event, which is held at the historic Dockyard on Friday, 28 November; this is a 'Trip to Christmas Past' with carols, Victorian characters, Christmas shopping, etc. Apart from the festival there is so much to do and see around the Dockyard, including the famous ships, the Spinnaker Tower, shops and eating places at Gunwharf Quays. Seats on the coach are £10 each, and to secure yours please give names and money to Joan Boulden or Lynne Yuille. There is a charge for entrance to the festival and Dockyard (£10 for seniors), which is payable locally.

'**SURREY LIFE**' Carol Service in aid of CHASE. This is a reprint of what appeared a fortnight ago. The printed service-lists give basic details of this event, which is being held at St Mary's on Wednesday 10 December at 1900. It is a fund-raising event, with all proceeds going to Chase Hospice Care for Children. We have supported CHASE in the past through our Christmas Day cash collection donation. The magazine '*SURREY LIFE*' is organizing this particular service, in consultation with the Vicar. It is an occasion at which one actually pays to go to a service in church. Last year's service at Shere was a wonderful success, and the service at Ewell has already been devised, and there will be some distinguished visitors, including Max Clifford, who is one of the patrons of CHASE. The Parish Choir will be in action, and there will also be a Barbershop contribution. We are expecting a full church. All ticketing will be done through *Surrey Life*, and not through St Mary's. The tickets cost £10, but there are also VIP tickets which include entry to the party afterwards at Ewell Castle School, and these are also available at £15 each. To reserve tickets and for more information please call 01903 703745.

Although it is unlikely, just in case there is any confusion, the *SURREY LIFE (CHASE)* carol service is not the same event as our own *FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS*, which is fixed for 21 December. Since over fifty people signed up for that (and the Vicar has kept the list!) we should expect a good congregation as the word gets around. In effect we are keeping Christmas Eve on the previous Sunday evening as well as on the actual day. The church will be decorated by then, so it will not be incongruous singing carols in such a setting. However, the crib will not be blessed until the Arrival at Bethlehem Service at 1600 on Christmas Eve.

Epistle Readers at 0930. Would those who have not picked up a slip (by the Grand Draw Box) please do so? There is a revised drill to ensure that the Epistle begins without a long delay while the reader walks to the lectern. Whilst it is clear that most have read this slip, it is also clear that there are some who haven't.

Next Sunday. Normal times of service, but with one or two distinctive features. We are expecting a large congregation at the Sung Eucharist, since there will be Holy Baptism at the service. Amongst those being baptized will be Michael Madell. Most of the music next Sunday, apart from the setting of *Schubert* in G at the Eucharist, comes from English sources. This includes two anthems and two organ voluntaries by *Vaughan Williams*, whose birthday falls on this day. It seems appropriate to mark the occasion fifty years after his death in 1958. The Church of England owes a great deal to that very fine musician. In a way it is a pity that a major work by the English composer *Healey Willan* was played on the organ as recently as Evensong on 28 September, though today doesn't really provide an obvious slot for it. He was born on the same actual day as *Vaughan Williams*, and was also a notable influence on Church music, particularly in Anglican circles, though most of his working life was spent in Canada.