

In church this week. A WEEK WITH A DIFFERENCE.

The events surrounding my own departure have now started, and I shall no doubt allude to last night's event at Mercator House in the course of the services today. In one sense there is a curious feel to today, because after last evening there is a sense in which 'the die is cast' - but I am still here, and there is still another week to go. However, my own departure is the first to lead directly into retirement, I think, since Fr Holland left in 1944, so it is rather different from when a priest simply leaves his parish to take on a new job. The sermon at the Sung Eucharist next Sunday will be the time when I obviously take my 'spoken leave' of St Mary's Ewell, since a greater than I will be occupying the pulpit next Sunday evening. Archbishop Rowan's visit marks the end of the totality of my priestly ministry, at least in terms of its stipendiary aspect, and not just the final twenty-six years in Ewell. Next Sunday's Evensong will in fact conclude with a section entitled 'Liturgy of Continuing Pilgrimage', and St Mary's is now at an important stage in discovering its own immediate future role within the whole Church's pilgrimage. Because for me the pastoral role has been a more or less daily aspect of most of my ministry, I propose to celebrate the Eucharist on most days of this week for the special intention of various aspects of my ministry over the years, and I hope that many will find it possible to join me. (The inevitable list is at the back of the church; ticks only, please - no names are needed - so that we can be sure the service is actually taking place.) Taking just one example: on Monday the Eucharist will be offered for the many hundreds I have baptized over the years, and for their continued growth in faith. Those who have their own godchildren (even long since confirmed ones) may well feel that this is an occasion in which they too have a part, for it is not often that the Eucharist is celebrated with that specific intention. All the other days until Friday are also concerned with this side of priestly ministry. I shall be offering the holy Eucharist for all whom I have married, and for all those at whose funerals I have officiated. Again, they run into many hundreds; indeed in the case of funerals it is probably well into four figures, and I am not quite sure of the first digit. From my own point of view it is a case of doing this at an obvious stage in my own priestly pilgrimage, but we all have folk in at least some of these categories for whom we can make our prayer, and offer the Holy Eucharist for them. St Mary's is not a church with the tradition of a daily mass, a fact which I regretted but nevertheless accepted on my arrival in the parish, and I had to re-tune my own spirituality to this reality. In my last week here I hope I shall be able to have it for once. W.R.H.

The daily Eucharist with the Eucharistic intentions.

Monday	1200	Holy Communion	for the baptized.
Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion	for the Church in her mission.
Wednesday	1200	Holy Communion	for this parish on the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Vicar's Induction.
Thursday	1200	Holy Communion	for all who are married.
Friday	1200	Requiem Mass	for the departed.

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

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

4 January 2009

WEEKLY NOTES

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD.

The liturgical calendar is not always as tidy as we would like it to be. Last Sunday, at least at the Sung Eucharist, we were thinking about the infant martyrs of Bethlehem, who were slain by Herod's soldiers after the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. This Sunday the Wise Men actually arrive, and devotionally our crib loses its shepherds and the straw, and it becomes a house (as it says in St Matthew's account) into which the Wise Men enter and present their gifts. They are drawn by the star to a place where they find a greater light, the child who is already the Light of the World. During the incarnate Christ-life that light gradually grows in intensity, and then in the risen life of Christ in his Church that light continues to shine in the world, and in spite of many local setbacks, 'the darkness has not overcome it.' There is, in fact, an Old Testament background to all this, particularly in Isaiah, where the idea is that of the light shining from the top of the mountain, and drawing the nations to the holy city. In the fullness of time the True Light beckons from his infant home, and indeed the nations come, for the Wise Men are the first representatives of the Gentile world to find the True Light of all the nations. The early Church had to learn to come to terms with a Messiah who was 'Christ for the World,' and it took St Paul to carry that light into the non-Jewish world. But the beginnings of this full Epiphany occurred long before when 'three kings from Persian lands afar' (or whatever they really were) came to worship the infant Christ and brought him their gifts.

Our prayers today. We pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in Burma (Myanmar). In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for those responsible for the financial concerns of the Diocese. In our parish prayer we pray for the members of our External Affairs Committee, and for its need of a new Chairman. Locally, we pray for the people who live in the Reigate Road.

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**

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 383.

Other Epiphany material: page 304.

There is a separate leaflet for the service. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.
 Preacher: **The Vicar.**

Eucharistic Prayer B.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Ireland* in C.
 Anthem: Three Kings from Persian lands afar. *Cornelius*
 Hymns: 50 (t.338), 48, 52, (51), 49 (i)
 Organ: Prelude and Fugue in E minor. *Brahms* JH

1800 Evening Prayer in the Parish Room.

Other events and notices.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. All welcome.
 'Have a break; have a coffee.' (Or tea, if you prefer.)
 1930 Induction of the Reverend Andrew Sillis as Vicar of Cuddington. (Exactly a year to the day since the last Vicar, Dr Harvey, retired.)
 Thursday 1730 The Vicar officiates at Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.
 2000 Rehearsal of servers, etc. for the service on Sunday evening.

1100

CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by **Mr Reginald Saunders, Reader**

Responses: page 8. Music: Reading
 Venite (shorter form) [Second tune]
 Office-hymn: 46 Page 221
 Psalm 72 (*all sit*)
An ode for the King's accession, prefiguring the universal sovereignty of God's Messiah.
 [Note: There is a Hebrew doxology to this psalm (verses 18 & 19), so there is not the usual Gloria at the end of the psalm today.]
 First Lesson: Isaiah 49: 1-13. *There is a new role for Israel among the nations.*
 Te Deum: page 10. *Ireland* in F
 Second Lesson: St John 1: 29-34. *St John Baptist tells of the universality of Christ's mission*

Hymn 483

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 56).
 Anthem: Personent hodie. *Piae Cantiones, 1582, arr. Holst*

English translation:

Songs of praise sing today,
 Children, shout in the way,
 To the King homage pay,
 Who for our salvation
 Shares our lowly station,
 From the maid, maid, maid,
 From the maid, maid, maid,
 From the maid Christ is born,
 King of every nation.

Sages three from afar,
 Led to Christ by a star,
 Sought the Christ by a star,
 Greater King were seeking,
 Treasures for him keeping,
 Offer gold, gold, gold,
 Offer gold, gold, gold,
 Offer gold to their King
 In the manger sleeping.

(2) Ruler of heaven and earth,
 Wrapped in bands at his birth,
 Shelter of little worth
 To the King is given,
 To the beasts he's driven;
 But in vain, vain, vain,
 But in vain, vain, vain,
 But in vain have the powers
 Of all evil striven.

Now let all people sing,
 Let the world's praises ring,
 For the Christ, new-born King,
 To the crib we follow,
 Angels' songs we borrow,
 As they sing, sing, sing,
 As they sing, sing, sing,
 As they sing, 'Gloria
 In excelsis Deo.'

There will be tea and cake served in the church hall before the Vicar's final service. This will be available from 16.30hrs.

Members of the congregation may have an opportunity to talk to the Vicar and meet His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Next Sunday. The festival of **The Baptism of the Lord**, and the Vicar's last Sunday here. The 0800 Eucharist will be according to the Book of Common Prayer rite. The Vicar will preach for the last time at the Sung Eucharist, and there will be Mattins and Holy Baptism at 1100. The preacher at Evensong will be **the Archbishop of Canterbury**. Details of the evening arrangements are given below.

Next Sunday evening. There will be Solemn Evensong and Benediction at 1800, and regular members of the congregation can acquire special tickets for reserved seats at the service. They are available in church today, and also during the week from the office. The seats must be taken up by 1740, otherwise they will be given to others attending. We expect quite a large congregation on this occasion, not least because the Archbishop will be with us. The Vicar will be saying goodbye at the door at the end of the service, and there will be a chance to meet the Archbishop informally as well.