



WEEKLY NOTES

Sunday next before Lent

6th March 2011

You are warmly invited to coffee in the church hall (just across the road) after the 9.30 service.

Sunday Prayer Cycle

We pray today for the church and for the world, and especially in the Anglican Communion, for Ireland: the Provinces of Armagh and Dublin; in our diocese, for St Columba's House at Woking; in this parish, for our own personal and parish plans and preparations for the season of Lent, and for all who live in Park Avenue West.

Collect and Post-communion Prayer (at 8am and 9.30am)

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REGULAR SERVICES THIS WEEK

IN CHURCH <i>(all welcome at these services)</i>	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Evening Prayer
Monday	9am	-	-
Tuesday	9am	10am (parish room)	-
Wednesday – Ash Wednesday	9am	12noon & 7pm	-
Thursday	9am	-	-

NEXT SUNDAY

13th March – First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist
11am Mattins
5.30pm Choral Evensong

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION (*Common Worship*)

The service begins on page **167** of the black book.

Eucharistic Prayer **B**: page **188**.

We continue with the Lord's Prayer on page **178**.

9.30am SUNG EUCHARIST (*Common Worship*)

Mass Setting: *Wood* – Phrygian Mode

INTROIT HYMN: NEW ENGLISH HYMNAL 388 (TUNE i)

Gloria: *Shaw* – Folk mass

First Reading: Exodus 24.12-18

GRADUAL HYMN: NEH 178

The Holy Gospel: St Matthew 17.1-9

Sermon: The Vicar and members of the First Communion class.

OFFERTORY HYMN: NEH 440

Eucharistic Prayer: **B**

Anthem: Christ whose glory – *Darke* (for words see hymn 234)

RECESSIONAL HYMN: We 'bury' the alleluia until Easter. Words below, TUNE NEH 205

Alleluia, song of sweetness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever raised by choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia thou resoundest,
true Jerusalem and free;
alleluia, joyful mother,
all thy children sing with thee;
but by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles now are we.

Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for awhile forgo;
for the solemn time is coming
when our tears for sin must flow.

Therefore in our hymns we pray thee,
grant us, blessed Trinity,
at the last to keep thine Easter,
in our home beyond the sky,
there to thee for ever singing
alleluia joyfully.

Organ: Handel in the Strand - *Grainger* (arr. Stockmeier) [JSH]

11.00am MATTINS with HOLY BAPTISM (*Common Worship*)

A separate order is provided for this service.

5.30pm Evening Prayer (*Common Worship*)

Psalm 84; Ecclus 48.1-10; Matt 17.9-23

NOTICES

Joan Boulden writes: “Thank you for all the gift vouchers, lovely cards, and messages which I received on my ‘recent retirement.’ We have raised more than £14,000 over the past 10 years for the children at Jeel and Lazarus thanks to the generous and loyal support of many of you. Many thanks to all who have been involved.”

St Mary’s 150th Anniversary Guide Book. Would you like to know more about the interior of St Mary’s? You may not be aware that a special illustrated guide to the church was published in 1998 as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. Copies are still available at the original price of £2.50. They can be bought from the parish office or the shop in Bourne Hall. Further information can be obtained from Eve Myatt-Price, the author, on most Sundays at coffee after the 9.30 service.

The Electoral Roll will be revised between Friday 25th February and Tuesday 15th March. Forms of application for enrolment are at the back of the church, together with a copy of the current Electoral Roll, or from the Parish Office. Those whose names are entered on the Roll are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings, so please check that you are included. If your name is already on the electoral roll, you do **not** need to fill in a new form this year.

There are spare **posters advertising the Lent course** at the back of church. Please consider taking one or more and put them on display in your window, asking to put one up in a local shop:– the course, on world faiths and Christianity, starts Tuesday week, and is likely to be of wide interest so it would be good to spread the word!

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Café NESCOLT, 12-2pm, very good lunches at very good prices in the church hall.

Wednesday: Coffee morning in the church hall, 10.30-11.45, all welcome, concluding in time for the Eucharist.

Ash Wednesday services: A said Eucharist at noon, and a Sung Eucharist at 7pm. Ashing will be available at both services for those who desire it.

And of course, on Ash Wednesday, Lent begins. Some words about Lent from our Archbishop:

In the earliest centuries of the Church, newcomers to the Christian community were baptised at Easter. It seemed to be the obvious time to do it – Easter, the conquest of death, the beginning of new life – and so it was that it came to be the common practice for bishops,

Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the World, with the people of Ewell



particularly, to baptise and anoint new believers at that great feast. But of course, believers had to be prepared for this event, prepared by instruction, and prayer, and self-denial. It was believed that self-denial; fasting and extra prayer was something that, as it were, limbered you up, rather like doing exercises for some great race. It made you more spiritually mobile and agile. And so that period of preparation for baptism came to be associated with fasting, with prayer and with self-denial.

That's how Lent began. A period where people were thinking about baptism, about the beginning of new life, whether literally as new converts to Christianity or – for the rest of the church – people wanting to renew that sense of commitment. And still, on Easter Eve, at this day people will renew their baptismal promises in a solemn service in church...

During Lent, it became more and more common for churches to strip away some of the decoration, to make themselves look a bit simpler, a kind of outward manifestation of the inner stripping and the inner austerity that was going on.

But it's important to remember that the word 'Lent' itself comes from the old English word for 'spring'. It's not about feeling gloomy for forty days; it's not about making yourself miserable for forty days; it's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is springtime. It's preparing for that great climax of springtime which is Easter – new life bursting through death. And as we prepare ourselves for Easter during these days, by prayer and by self-denial, what motivates us and what fills the horizon is not self-denial as an end in itself but trying to sweep and clean the room of our own minds and hearts so that the new life really may have room to come in and take over and transform us at Easter.

FUTURE DATES

Next Sunday after the 9.30 Eucharist there will be a brief meeting for all those who lead intercessions in church, and those who might be interested in joining the rota. Please do attend if this is something you might be willing to consider.

Tuesdays from 15th March: Lent Course begins. 'Seeking Common Ground– Some Major World Faiths.' Tuesday Evenings 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm, coffee from 7pm, in St Mary's Church Hall. Led by the Revd Dr Patrick Miller. All welcome— you don't have to be a regular at St Mary's!

Wednesdays from 16th March: Lunches during Lent. This year lunches during Lent are being held in aid of Age Concern, Epsom and Ewell, to help fund local support for older people. They will be held in the church hall on Wednesdays 16th, 23rd (with guest speaker), 30th March and 6th April from 12.15 to 1.45pm at a cost of £3.50 per person. Donations gratefully received for the raffle and bring and buy.

Sunday 27th March: Healing Services During the 8am and 9.30am Eucharists there will be the opportunity to come forward for anointing and/or prayers for healing.

Sunday 10th April: The Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place at 11am. You are encouraged to attend. You may also wish to consider standing for election to the PCC (Parochial Church Council). The Vicar or any current PCC member will be able to explain what this involves.