



St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

14 September 2004

### HOLY CROSS DAY

**Sponsor's note:** The Weekly Notes and the flowers in St Mary's today are in fond memory of my mother, whose birthday was today. *Margaret Howard.*

On 13 September 335 two churches, side by side, were dedicated in Jerusalem on the sites of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Eventually the two sites were united in one building, the present Church of the Resurrection, commonly called in English-speaking countries the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. On the following day the wood of the cross, which had been discovered by the Empress Helena, was presented to the people to venerate. The Christian faith is rooted in both history and geography; it is not just some philosophy of life. It is to do with people and places and things: Jesus on a cross in Palestine two thousand years ago. Whether the calendar or the history or the geography is 100% accurate is not the point. Eventually from the year 615 this day, 14 September, has been kept as the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Jerusalem's 'Dedication Festival' in September has by a happy chance provided the rest of the Christian world with a chance to celebrate the Cross of Christ roughly six months away from Holy Week. The modern Church of England calendar has raised what was a 'black-letter day' in the old Prayer Book to the status of a festival, and it means that there is now a chance to concentrate on the Cross of Christ away from the overwhelming nature of the full Paschal experience brought before us every year in the Easter *Triduum*. For us at St Mary's, the calendar dates this year give us a rare opportunity to systematise our devotional thinking on four consecutive Sundays: the Dedication Festival to remind us of where we regularly come to meet the Lord; the Patronal Festival to put Our Lady's pattern of obedience before us, and to identify her 'first moment of acceptance of God's call' with our first sacramental moment of Christian life, as we renewed our baptismal vows; today to put before us the extent of God's love in Christ as we contemplate the wondrous cross 'where the young Prince of glory died' (as the hymn originally said); and next Sunday, St Matthew's Day, when we recall that there is in fact a specific call of Christ to each one of us, just as there once was to a puzzled and perplexed young girl and to a surprised and startled tax-collector.

**Our prayers today.** In our regular prayer we pray today for this church and parish, and in the Anglican Communion for the Church in West Africa. In our diocesan prayer we pray for our twinned dioceses of Évry-Corbeil-Essones (Roman Catholic) and Visby (Swedish Lutheran). In the parish we pray for the leaders, mothers, carers and children at our three toddler groups, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those who live in Carpenter Close.

'Gifts and donations.' (It is difficult to think of a better sub-heading.) From time to time people tell me that they would like to give something in memory of a loved one, or for some other reason. I do not actually get a pen out and jot it down on the spot, for that might be thought of as tactless or rude. Whilst I generally remember such things, I have a nagging feeling that one or two might have slipped through the net, and therefore not been followed up. If anyone is in this position, would he or she mention the point to me again, so that it is not completely forgotten about? W.R.H.

There is an amateur production of **Godspell** (the rock musical based on the life of Christ) at the Adrian Mann Theatre at NESBOT from 24-27 September, including a matinee performance on the Saturday. As a musical about 'the founder of Christianity' this has always seemed to me a far more satisfactory affair than 'Jesus Christ Superstar.' There is further information about this in the Welcome Area. W.R.H.

**Harvest Home.** We have not held a 'Harvest Home' for several years, its place having been taken by the Patronal Festival Supper, and that too has been in abeyance for a little while. Anyway, this year we are having a Harvest Supper on Saturday, 4 October in the Church Hall. There will be good food and entertainment starting at 1900, and a chance to meet and talk together. Tickets cost £6.50, and are available from the office or from the churchwardens. Transport can be arranged for those without cars. Please sign the list at the back of the church if you wish to be collected and taken home. There is also a list for anyone able to provide transport. This promises to be a delightful evening.

The **Sacristy rota** and the **Aktar Servers' rota** have been available for collection in the sacristy for a couple of weeks, but there are quite a lot still to be collected. Please make any adjustments and swaps, but *please indicate as much on the large pinned-up rota in the office.* Please do not ask me to find substitutes; very occasionally that happens, and it is a job I can do without. The servers' rota in particular took a long time to produce, for a whole variety of reasons, so please try to stick to it as far as possible, for it is carefully thought out. I know that this refrain is now becoming increasingly boring, but we can really do with *at least six more servers*, mainly to act as acolytes. 'Full training given,' though there isn't all that much to know, for our ways are not at all that elaborate here. It is not fair on those who belong to the current band that they should be on duty as frequently as they are. A reminder too that the texts of the **Epistle readings** (or equivalent) are available for readers at 0800 and 0930 at the back of the church, and the details are now available for quite some time ahead. Any doubts to me. W.R.H.

**Next Sunday.** It is St Matthew's Day. There will be the monthly Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist at 1100. *A note about this:* Both in respect of text and presentation the 'BCP' eucharistic rite is very different from the Sung Eucharist at 0930, and members of the 0930 congregation may find a visit to the other service, perhaps once a year or so, an interesting and thought-provoking experience. After all, until the modern revisions started in the 1960s this was the unchanging text for the service, and the particular style ('eastward facing') was the normal way of doing things in churches like St Mary's. The BCP remains permanently authorized in the Church of England, but the Church as a whole has moved on in its general approach to worship. At St Mary's we try to follow the gospel precept about the scribe instructed unto the kingdom, 'who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old,' and the monthly BCP Sung Eucharist is an example of this.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION**

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 513.  
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 219; Proper Preface: page 312

*Common Worship rite*

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST**

*Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers in the Parish Room, 'Children's Hour'  
in the church hall, and Crêche in the choir vestry.  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 440 (*black ribbon*)  
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191 (*red ribbon*)  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Wills*, Missa Passionis Christi

Introit hymn: 94

Introduction (page 167) and the Prayers of Penitence

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* melody)

Collect of the Day: page 440 *Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament reading from St Paul's First letter to the Corinthians

Gradual hymn: 379

The Holy Gospel reading from St John

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed (*sung today*): traditional language text on page 213 (*Shaw*)

Intercession, then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory hymn: 78 [Tune: NEH 295]

Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Preface of the Cross: page 312

Turn back to page 178 for Lord's Prayer, etc.

Hymn at the Invitation: Sweet the moments (*on readings leaflet*) [Tune: NEH 91]

During the Communion:

Anthem: Crux fidelis.

*John IV, King of Portugal*

Crux fidelis, inter omnes

Arbor una nobilis:

Nulla silva talem profert

Fronde, flore, germine.

Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,

Dulce pondus sustinet.

Faithful Cross! Above all other

One and only noble tree;

None in foliage, none in blossom,

None in fruit thy peer may be:

Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,

Sweetest weight is hung on thee.

(*Venantius Fortunatus, 6<sup>th</sup> cent.*)

Post-Communion hymn: 95

Post-Communion Prayer: page 440; the Blessing and Dismissal.

*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**

**CHORAL MATTINS**

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Responses: page 8

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254

Music: *Smith of Durham*

*Ireland* in F

Hymn 79 (tune 128 ii)

Psalm 30 Restoration after great trouble and sorrow. page 172

First Lesson from the Book of Numbers (*on separate paper*)

Te Deum: page 10 (*Congregational chant today*)

Second Lesson from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Hymn 89 (ii)

The Creed and the Greeting (page 12); then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 63).

Anthem: Crux fidelis. *John IV, King of Portugal* [Words printed at 0930 service]

Prayers Hymn 87 (tune 388 ii) Collection. The Blessing

**1830 Evening Prayer** (in the Parish Room)

**In church this week**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

**Other events and notices**

Monday 2030 'Pro Musica' meeting. (This is the convenient title for a new group overseeing the musical side of things at St Mary's.)

Tuesday The Vicar is at a Canon Law meeting at Magdalen College, Oxford.

2000 House Group at 68 Castle Avenue (see below)

Wednesday. 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. 'Have a break; Have a coffee.'

I draw attention to the legal notices on the notice-boards about the planned archaeological dig in Churchyard No.4 (the main working churchyard). There will be no disturbance to existing graves. W.R.H.

**Choir Club: Fridays 1800-1930.** In order to comply with Child Protection guidelines we have to have at least one other adult present in addition to the member of staff. This is a plea for volunteers, for *if we cannot get people to help in this way the Club cannot continue.* Please would those prepared to put themselves out once or twice a term to help our youngsters please contact **David Crick (020 8337 4322)** urgently. *There is nothing to do other than to be present.* No-ones expects you to play table tennis. We had a similar arrangement when the club used to operate on a Tuesday, and it seemed to work well then, and we hope to be able to do the same thing now that new arrangements are in operation.

**Installation of 'the Canon.'** It is now confirmed that the Vicar will be installed at the cathedral as Honorary Canon of Guildford on Sunday 12 October at 1830. Two other honorary canons will be installed on the same occasion.

**Housegroup at 68 Castle Avenue.** We resume on Tuesdays at 2000, starting this week. As part of our programme for the autumn we shall be looking at some of the unsung heroes of the Bible, such as Rahab and Ananias, and considering how even very ordinary people can make a difference for God. You are welcome to join us. Please tell us in advance if you need a lift, and we shall try and see what we can do. *Julian and Wendy Varney.*