

The Communion hymn. We can probably stop the rubric now about not standing for the hymn at Communion time, so it will not appear next week. Hopefully the lesson is learned now. A hymn in this slot is traditionally of a meditative nature, rather than a shout of praise, and kneeling or sitting is generally more appropriate. It would help very considerably if people sitting towards the front gave a positive lead on changes of posture at the Eucharist. People sitting behind tend to take their lead from those in front (perhaps that is why Church of England folk like sitting in the back – something which has been a very great nuisance to clergy for years!). Even though it matters little if people do different things, and some folk really feel uncomfortable at the thought of being out of step, it does help a lot when the congregation is confident in its movements. That is why occasionally a possible source of doubt is sometimes indicated by a rubric in italics on the Weekly Notes. In the case of the Communion hymn this really ought not to be necessary now.

Confirmation. I know of one or two adults who are making inquiries about getting confirmed, and this seems a suitable time to find out whether any others are likely to be interested. It would be sensible to gather names at this point, and then we can see what is the best way ahead. Name, address and telephone number on a slip of paper, please, and handed directly to the Vicar; oral communications – particularly on Sundays – are quite easily forgotten.

Village Fair News: Remember the date – 24 July. The next Fair Meeting is on Wednesday, 9 June in the Parish Room. We would like to thank everyone for their continued help and support in organizing the Fair. *Rosemarie and Mike Henson.*

Coffee Morning Outings 2004. There are two coach outings arranged for this year: to Rochester on Thursday, 10 June, and (perhaps predictably) to Eastbourne on Thursday, 16 September. People who do not normally attend the Coffee Mornings will be very welcome, and there are still some seats available on the coach for the Rochester trip. This will be a full day affair, leaving St Mary's at 0930, and arriving back about 1800. Tickets are £7; names and money by Wednesday 12 May, either to the Office or to Joan Boulden at the Coffee Morning or Sunday morning in church.

Last Sunday. I understand that there was no service at Ewell URC last Sunday evening, and that some people were thereby much inconvenienced. I am sorry about this, but we had no prior knowledge. I am hoping to meet with the new minister fairly soon to talk about our arrangements for joint worship and fellowship. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. Morning services as usual. There will be *Stations of the Resurrection* in the evening, in the main church. There will also be a special Christian Aid Week service at 1830 at Ruxley Church, with a speaker from Christian Aid. There is a poster about this in the Welcome Area. Further information about the service from Margaret McCarthy on 020 8397 4340.

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
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WEEKLY NOTES

2 May 2004

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 3)

The New Testament readings at the Eucharist during Eastertide are from the Revelation to St John, that strange, tantalising and mysterious book at the very end of the Bible. It does not make for easy reading, and New Testament scholars have a very wide range of opinions about its content and the real purpose of the writer at the time it was written. For all that, it contains in the language of vision and imagery some truly wonderful glimpses of the glory of the Divine. Underlying it all, there is to the eye of faith a picture of victory, triumph, peace, rest, praise and eternal fulfilment. All this is centred on the victory of the crucified and risen Christ, and the exaltation of his – and therefore our – humanity into the 'central height' (as a familiar hymn puts it), which is why there is so much stress on the triumph of the saints, who have obtained their eternal reward. I have certainly made occasional moans about the Revised Common Lectionary, but its provision for these exciting and encouraging passages during Eastertide is something to be grateful for. On several of the Sundays, as today, the reading is followed by one of the several canticles taken from Revelation in *Common Worship* (and versified by me), and these are generally metrical paraphrases of parts of the particular passage which has just been read. These canticles give an added opportunity to reflect on some specific point in the seer's vision, as it is put before us in the extract for the day. W.R.H.

In our prayers today we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Old Catholic Churches in Europe (with which the Church of England is in full communion). In our own diocese we pray for ministry of Readers, and continue to pray for the right choice of a new Bishop for us. In the parish we pray for the Christians who meet at Christ Church Ewell (the former Staneway Chapel), and for the people who live in Elmwood Close.

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**

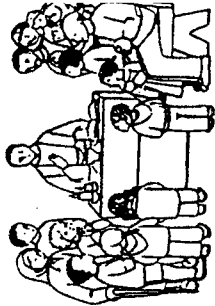
Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184; Other Easter material on page 316.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 402

Other Easter material on page 316.



Children's Hour in the Church Hall; crèche in the Choir Vestry.
 Order 1: page 167.
 Other Easter material: page 316. Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Sumision* in F

Introit hymn: 112

Easter Greeting, first prayer, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211.

(*Merbecke* melody for the Gloria today; it can be found at Hymn 542, on page 830 in the melody edition, and on page 559 in the words-only book.)
 Collect of the Day: page 402. *Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament Reading from the Revelation to St John

Gradual Canticle: A Song of the Redeemed (*on Readings paper*) [t. 447]

The Holy Gospel Reading from St John
 Sermon by *the Vicar*.

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

(*Merbecke* melody for the Creed today; it can be found at Hymn 542, on page 833 in the melody edition, and on page 562 in the words-only book.)

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Hymn at the Collection: 104.

Then all sit for the Offertory Anthem: The strife is o'er. [Words from Hymn 119] *Ley*

All stand for Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188, Preface of Easter: page 316

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

At the Invitation: Hymn 459 [PLEASE DO NOT STAND FOR THIS HYMN]

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei*

Post-Communion hymn: 103. (*The children will now show their fish!*)

Post-Communion Prayer: page 402. *Easter Blessing and Dismissal*

1100 CHORAL MATTINS

All hymns from the small red hymn books at Mattins today.

Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders, Reader*

Responses: page 8

Easter Anthems: page 67

Office-Hymn: AMR 39

Psalms 115. Glory and praise belongs to God alone. page 275

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

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254

Second Lesson from the Gospel according to St Luke

Hymn: AMR 136

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

Responses and the three Collects (first Collect on page 69).

Anthem: The strife is o'er. [Words from Hymn 119] *Ley*

Prayers. Hymn AMR 143 [LAMR 570]; Collection. The Blessing

There is a special leaflet for this service.

As usual we would be very glad of 'supporters' to represent the Welcoming Church for the new young Christians and their families on this their baptismal day. There is a small but faithful number of people who regularly exercise this ministry, but it would be good if they could be joined by others for this important task.

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Other events and notices

Tuesday 1730 Vicar at Choral Evensong and meeting of the College of Canons at the Cathedral.

2000 Ewell Parish News Committee Meeting.

2000 Epsom Deanery Synod at St Paul's, Howell Hill. The main item is about the Diocesan Nigeria link, and the more specific link between Epsom Deanery and the Diocese of Awka (see below).

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall: the delight of the bean and the biscuit, and the further delight of pleasant company.

Deanery Synod. In connexion with this, it is perhaps worth saying that the External Affairs Committee at St Mary's has agreed that with two overseas connexions already (Jeel and Guyana) it does not feel that as a parish we should be taking on a further overseas commitment. So the main topic this time will not really concern us. However, the next two synod meetings look very interesting: on 14 September the new Dean of Guildford will be the speaker (he is always worth hearing), and on 24 November, the Archbishop's communications officer (or some such title), the Rev Jonathan Jennings, will speak; Fr Jennings is a particularly stimulating and thought-provoking speaker on the nature of his specialized work.

Two 'senior parishioners' have recently been called to their rest. Iris Stevenson and Lillie Barrett have both died recently. Here are the details of the funerals:

Iris Stevenson: Thursday at 1400: Service and Committal in church (followed by cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead).

Lillie Barrett: Friday at 1200: Committal at Guildford Crematorium, followed by Funeral Service at St Mary's at 1330.

Some may also remember **Joe Lowdon**, who with his late wife Joan used to live in Park Avenue East. He too has now died, and his ashes were interred last week in the churchyard. The funeral of the late **Bertha Stevens** of St Mary's Close also took place last week.

Christian Aid Week comes round again next week, and as usual we make the annual appeal for volunteers to take part in the house-to-house street collection. This is not always an easy job, but, to adapt the psalmist's words, to those who take part it will undoubtedly 'be accounted unto righteousness.' The envelopes and related material are in the Welcome Area today, ready for collection.