

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

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

WEEKLY NOTES

3 October 2004



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Once again our Harvest gifts will be given to the Waterloo Christian Centre for its work among the homeless in London, and to Vaughan House in Guildford.

Sponsor's Note. The flowers and Weekly Notes this Sunday are in fond memory of my mother, Daisy Errington Howard, whose anniversary is today. *Margaret Howard*

The liturgical arrangements for Harvest Thanksgiving at St Mary's have always been an enacted parable of gratitude, practical Christianity and pastoral care, and the parable gives way to reality on Monday morning (see further on in the Notes). Flowers for the bereaved and the housebound, gifts for those in need, and our hymns of thankfulness and praise, all help us to think of the God who *cares*. Our familiar sign (at least since I have been here) of the laying before God the thanks of the people of Ewell for all his mercies has been the presence of the rolled up umbrella and briefcase left in front of the altar after the Procession of Harvest Gifts. (Mr George Jarrett has performed this function for many years.) The first time we did this there were those who mocked, saying that 'it wasn't right', and what would the new Vicar do next to rock the boat; such nonsense was nothing to do with the harvest festival, which was all about sheaves and crops. (I remember it well.) However, gradually these two signs have become a distinctive and expected feature of our harvest praise, because quite simply they represent the reality of Ewell life, as it is seen each morning at the two stations of Ewell East and Ewell West. We do not 'plough the fields' here; we go to town, by and large. Nevertheless, we can sing our harvest hymns in union with those who *do* plough the fields. The point is that we still earn our daily bread, whether in town or elsewhere. Our harvest celebration gives thanks for all the blessings of life, as that life is lived in the reality of a large outer-suburban parish, and our harvest gifts are a sign of thankfulness, and of our participation in the caring work of God through the pastoral work of Christian ministry and service. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the Anglican Communion we pray for the Church in the Province of Central Africa. In our prayer for the Diocese we pray for the Diocesan Pastoral Committee. Our parish prayer today is for those who will receive our harvest gifts and flowers, and for the people who live in Howard Avenue.

without commitment should feel free to do so. (There are different arrangements for junior candidates.) There are certainly some regular members of the congregation who perhaps should be considering this side of things, and now is as good a time as any to think a bit harder, and then have a preliminary word with me. In fact anyone who knows someone who perhaps needs a push to make an initial enquiry should start pushing now. We need to make plans fairly soon. W.R.H.

'The Morning After.' I mentioned last week that on the Monday morning after the Harvest Festival we can always do with some help with the sorting and packing of the harvest goods. There are always a lot of them, not least because our own gifts are supplemented by those from the Harvest Service of Ewell Castle Junior School, and quite a sizeable amount gets sent up to town or to Guildford. In spite of routine appeals we seldom get more than the faithful few. May we have some more help this year, please? Just turn up at about 0930. The sorters will be at least one down this year, since I shall be at the Old Bailey (see next item). W.R.H.

The Elusive Vicar. A reminder that the Vicar will be out of contact for most of the week, while he is doing jury service at the Old Bailey. The office will be open as usual, and any urgent pastoral matters should be referred to the office, or to Wendy Varney or the churchwardens in the first instance. Local clergy are on call.

The new **Altar Servers' Rota** should be available today in the sacristy.

The annual sale of **Christmas Cards** in aid of the **Children's Society** has come round once again, and the cards will be on sale after the services on **10 October**

Sybil Hale.

This term's **Music List** is at last available in the Welcome Area for those who want it. There is quite an interesting programme of music at the services with the current Upper Voices arrangement. Several people have commented favourably about the freshness of the sound in recent weeks, and it is certainly the case that the younger singers seem to have become very confident in this new situation. There will occasionally be a four-part choir this term for certain special occasions, but otherwise the present arrangement will continue for at least this term. Arrangements over Christmas will, in consequence, need to change this year. The basic plans are on the Music Lists, but it is possible that there may adjustments to some timings. More about this later.

I am very grateful to those who heard my recent 'appeal' in connexion with our **Choir Club**, for without their help the club would have to close. If we want a choir, it is necessary that we do certain things these days, and **in order to be in compliance with the law, we have to have other people present.** So as to spread the load a bit we could do with (say) about another five or six volunteers to enable a not-too-demanding rota to be drawn up of those willing to be present on Friday evenings between 1800 and 1900, thereby ensuring that we are acting in accordance with the parish's stated Child Protection Policy. There is a paper in the Welcome Area for names. **There is nothing to do other than to be present**, though that does not mean that one cannot do anything else if one wishes to do so. W.R.H.

Next Sunday. Normal Sunday arrangements next week.

1100 ALL-AGE SERVICE OF HARVEST PRAISE, AND PRESENTATION OF HARVEST GIFTS

There is a separate leaflet for this service.
 Anthem: All things bright and beautiful.

Rutter

1830 Evening Worship at Ewell United Reformed Church
 (See note below.)

In church this week.
 Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Monday From about 0900. The sorting of our Harvest Gifts.
 Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall.
 2000 Ewell Parish News Committee Meeting.

Wanted: Sidesmen and Ladies! Gilda Everson's appeal last week for at least FOUR members of the 0930 congregation to join the Welcome Team was in fact answered by two. *Is there a chance of another two or more today?* This ministry (that is the right word) involves arriving by 0910 about once every two months, giving out and putting away books and leaflets, and taking the Collection. Anyone willing to help is invited to contact the Churchwardens. Last Sunday afternoon there was a Tea-Party for the Sidesmen and Ladies (and a very fine tea-party it was), and this was combined with a useful discussion about this particular side to our ministry of Welcome.

The experimental **Post-Communion arrangements** at the Sung Eucharist, which began last week, seem to have worked, and achieved the desired effect of streamlining the service a bit. Today, almost certainly, things will be just that little bit longer, because of the Procession of Harvest Gifts. Today things are slightly different, because we shall be using the General Thanksgiving as the Post-Communion Prayer. The sermon at 0930 will be based on this prayer, which over the years has been much loved by Church of England folk. The modern language version of it (which appeared in the Alternative Service Book, and which never caught on) has in fact been swept away in *Common Worship*. One of the two hymns at the Procession of Harvest Gifts is largely a paraphrase of what the prayer says.

Confirmation. It is now known that there will be a Confirmation in this area on Wednesday, 1 December at All Saints, Banstead. All Saints is in some ways quite similar in its flavour to St Mary's, and I generally think it best for 'our' confirmands to be confirmed either here or in a church which operates along similar lines. For an important occasion like this in one's personal spiritual pilgrimage I do not think one ought to be have 'new experiences of worship styles,' and I try to avoid taking people to churches of very different churchmanship. The new Bishop will have been enthroned only a few days before, so it is quite possible that it will be his first Confirmation (unless it is already scheduled for Bishop Ian of Dorset). Whilst I know of some people who are hoping to be confirmed shortly, I also know that there are some others who (as the hymn says) are 'lingering, shivering on the brink, and fear to launch away.' Any adult who would like to have a word with me about this

SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS

HOLY COMMUNION (of the Sunday)

Order 1: page 167. *Common Worship rite*
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Collect of the Day: page 418

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST OF THE HARVEST with THE PROCESSION OF HARVEST GIFTS
Common Worship rite

The Children are at the 110 service today.
 Crèche available for those who wish to use it.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Harvest: page 447
 Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Sumson* in F.
 All the hymns at the Eucharist are familiar Harvest ones. Do enjoy them all, and sing with gusto!

Introit hymn: 259

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, and *Kyrie eleison*.

Metrical Gloria in excelsis: *on reverse side of readings paper.* [t. 139 i]

Collect of the Day: page 412. *Readings on separate paper.*

Old Testament Reading from the Book Deuteronomy

Gradual Hymn: 260

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Hymns at the Offertory: 397 and 422

Collection

DURING THE HYMNS THERE WILL BE THE PROCESSION OF HARVEST GIFTS.

THE COLLECTION IS TAKEN FIRST, AND TAKEN TO THE BACK OF THE CHURCH;

THEN THE LIGHTS LEAD THE PROCESSION IN THIS ORDER: THE BREAD AND WINE; THE COLLECTION; AND THEN THE HARVEST GIFTS.

Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201

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

At the Invitation: *Agnus Dei*

Hymn during the Communion: 261, verses 1 and 2 only.

Anthem: For the beauty of the earth.

[Words almost the same as Hymn 285]

After the anthem, all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer. Today it is

The General Thanksgiving: page 109 (said together)

[Omit the section in italics.]

The Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn 262

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known to us. There is coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.

Rutter

[in G]