

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

27 March 2005

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

EASTER DAY

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

The tenth century Easter Sequence, the hymn before the reading of the gospel at the Easter Eucharist, will be sung at the morning Eucharist and again in a different translation at Mattins. The prose translation in *The New English Hymnal* summarises the Easter message in two succinct lines:

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous;

The Prince of Life who died reigns immortal.

These words encapsulate the role of the Christ of Easter, and each year one can experience something of that changed order, particularly if one has kept a reasonably devotional Holy Week, as the Great Week passes away and Easter comes once more. From the emptiness of the spent-out Christ there proceeds a power which transforms something as empty of life as a tomb into something which is empty of death. All that emptiness is filled with new life. The Easter scriptures remain full of mystery, and it is foolish, and indeed impossible, to attempt to 'harmonize' them. The nature of Christ's resurrection remains God's secret, but its power is wonderfully revealed both in Christian lives which have been transformed and changed, and also in the worldwide community of faith which lives in the power of Christ's risen life. That power has been released into a renewed world-through Christ reborn in the waters of death. He is the one who has blazed the trail; he is the one who has started the process of filling the world's emptiness with all the fullness of divine love and forgiving grace. That is why we sing our Alleluyas today. Christ is risen, and all creation is renewed. Happy Easter.

Your friend and Parish Priest,

Richard Hanford

Our prayers today. We give thanks to God for his mighty act in raising Christ our Lord to be the first-fruit of resurrection life in a restored and redeemed created order. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today (not, as usual, for a particular part of it, but) for the whole universal company of the baptized in Christ, united today in praise of Christ's resurrection. In the diocese we pray for *Christopher* our Bishop; and in the parish for our fellow-Christians in the other local churches as they too with joy and praise welcome once more the risen Christ of Easter as Redeemer and Saviour.

Confirmation. Some of our young people are now either 'in zone' or coming into zone for Confirmation, and anyone else who wishes to make enquiries about this should contact the Vicar either directly or via the Office sometime after next Sunday. This time we are going to do something different. Instead of either having the service at St Mary's or going to another local church, the plan is to go to one of the occasional Confirmation services at the Cathedral.

New weekly or monthly envelopes for **Christian Stewardship** are available for collection by those who have not done so as yet. They are near the west door. Also there are still packs available in connexion with the recent Parish Funding Programme. If anyone wishes to have one, please ask for one at the book-trolley today.

Next Sunday. Low Sunday, so called. Simple and basic services in church, as is usual on this particular Sunday; everything at the usual times. The choir will have the Sunday off; they have spent many hours in service-time and rehearsal over the past week or so, and they can do with a break now. The old name for the Sunday after Easter was *Dominica in albis depositis*. Anyone know why? Answer next week, but anyone who tells the right answer to the Vicar today will be mentioned in despatches next Sunday.

THE EASTER SERVICES

2030 SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE EASTER VIGIL with Holy Baptism.

(Sat.) Preacher: *The Vicar*

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

0930 PROCESSION, BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN, AND

CHORAL EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Celebrant: *The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*

Preacher: *The Vicar*

1100 CHORAL MATTINS

Book of Common Prayer rite

Preacher: *Mr Reginald Saunders, Reader.*

1210 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

Details of the services are given on separate leaflets, except for the services at 0800 and 1210, the details of which are given below.

0800 and 1210 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

Order 1: page 167.

Collect of the Day: page 400

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Other Easter material: page 316

Music at the Easter services. Most regular worshippers will know, though visitors and occasional worshippers may not, that at present we are operating an Upper Voices Choir. We hope to re-instate the four-part choir as soon as possible. Over Easter some of our younger seniors have been with us, and we are grateful for their help; there will therefore be some four-part music at the services today. The Upper Voices Choir has made some considerable progress under the Director of Music, Julie Ainscough, and the setting at the morning Sung Eucharist will be Benjamin Britten's well-known *Missa Brevis* in D, scored for upper voices. Other details of the choral music are given on the separate service papers. At the end of the Mass of the Resurrection, the Sub-Organist, Jonathan Holmes, will be playing the last (and electrifying) movement from the towering work *La Livre du Saint Sacrement* by Olivier Messiaen, the last movement being entitled *Offrande et Alleluia Final*. The organ voluntaries will be the same for both the Sung Eucharist and Mattins. Herbert Howells' *Sarabande for the Morning of Easter*, and the popular *Toccata from the Fifth Symphony* by Widor.

Easter Week. There are no liturgical services in church during Easter Week.

Other events and notices

Wednesday: Coffee Morning in the Church Hall from 1030-1200. There will be a 'Bring and Buy' stall this week.

Ewell Parish News for April is available today.

Easter Week is traditionally a time when parishes tend to go into low gear, and indeed the following Sunday is generally known as 'Low Sunday.' **The Office** will be closed this week, and will re-open on the morning of Monday 4 April.

Very many thanks to all who have helped in so many ways over Holy Week and Easter. All sorts of different jobs need to be done so that our Easter worship is worthily performed. The list is considerable, and I hope all concerned will feel included in this general word of thanks. W.R.H.

The Hymnathon which took place to raise money for the expenses of the Village Fair (on Saturday 23 July) has raised the splendid sum of **£501.50**. Many thanks to all those who took part.

Choir Club helpers. Once again we are looking for helpers for next term at the Friday Choir Club before the weekly Choir Practice. This is quite a long term, and we *must* have helpers who are not 'staff' in order to conform to current legislation. We are very grateful to those who take part in this, and hope that others may also volunteer in order to spread the load. The helpers are only asked to be *present*; nothing else is actually required, unless one cares to be involved in something specific. The list for volunteers is in the Welcome Area; would people sign up today, please?

Lent boxes in aid of the Tsunami appeal (routed via *Save the Children*) are now due in. Those brought to the Sung Eucharist today will be received into the sanctuary together with the Collection.

The Electoral Roll. It is once again time for the annual revision of the Roll, and this is the last call today. The Roll will then be 'frozen' until it is presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24 April. This is not the major six-yearly thing, when everyone has to opt in again, so if you are already on the Roll there is nothing to do. *However, there are certainly some regular members of the congregation who are not on it, and now is the time to remedy this.* The simple Electoral Roll form is available just by the West Door of the church. Any baptized person over sixteen, who has been worshipping at the church for a period of at least six months, is eligible to be on the Roll. The Electoral Roll is the working register of a parish church, and all regular worshippers *should* be on it. ('Passengers' are another matter; they cost us money.) Members of the Electoral Roll who do not live in the geographical parish have two interesting perks (shared with other geographical but non-churchgoing residents): they can get married here without any complications, and they have rights of burial in the churchyard. That, of course, may be worth knowing!

There is a box in the Welcome Area for the 'Lenten Knitting' (squares, this year, to be made into blankets later). We are very grateful to those who took part in this very worthwhile task, and to Edna Attwood for arranging it all.