



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

WEEKLY NOTES

24 April 2005

Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 (Easter 4)

It is now known that the **Bishop of Guyana** will be with us again this year. Bishop Randolph George is by now quite an old friend of this parish. He will be celebrating and preaching at the 0930 Sung Eucharist on 19 June, when we shall be using the West Indian Rite (if Bishop Christopher Hill approves). A few adjustments to the arrangements for the services from mid-June to mid-July will appear in the next week or so on the Weekly Notes. The 1100 Eucharist on 19 June will be moved to the previous week, and hopefully we can all have some quality time with Bishop Randolph in the Church Hall on the day of his visit. He always enjoys his visits to Ewell, and whilst in recent years he has tended to be with us at Evensong, this time it will be nice to have him presiding at the Eucharist.

The Electoral Roll is now formally closed for new entries. Please check your entry to see if the details are right; there is a copy of the new Roll in the Welcome Area. New names may be added after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, but not before.

Iain McKillop has now reminded me that it is he who has kindly offered to take over as our Cathedral Link person, after my humble confession that I could not recall who the volunteer was! I am grateful to Iain for taking this on. More about the Cathedral Link in due course. W.R.H.

Rachel and Will's wedding. I have had several enquiries recently from members of the congregation about the date of the great wedding: it is on 7 May at 1400. W.R.H.

The Guides held a Disco last Saturday, and raised c.£250 for the International Red Cross Tsunami Appeal.

A few packs of the new weekly or monthly envelopes for **Christian Stewardship** are available for collection by those who have still to do so; they are near the west door. There are also packs available in connexion with the Parish Funding Programme. If anyone wishes to have one, please ask for one at the book-trolley today.

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.

Next Sunday. It is the First of May. The 0800 Eucharist will be to the Book of Common Prayer rite, which we have about quarterly at 8 o'clock, and with virtually no deviation from the 1662 text. The 0930 service will be as normal. However, there will be a special service in the series of *Christian Family Praise* at 1100, and for the first time at St Mary's we are going to have something as exotic as an outdoor **May Procession** (weather permitting), followed by the crowning (with flowers) of the statue of Our Lady. This promises to be a delightful occasion, and certainly 'something completely different.' May is traditionally 'Mary's Month' (just like October is the month of the Holy Angels and November the month of the holy souls), so this will be 'Our Lady in Eastertide.' There will be Stations of the Resurrection at the Easter Garden at 1800. All in all, quite an interesting Sunday.

I did not think that Cardinal Ratzinger would be the new Pope, because of his age. He is 78, though I must admit he does not look it. However, it may simply be the case that the prospect of another very long-serving Pope may have influenced the minds of the cardinals. The much-loved chubby Pope John XXIII, however, became Pope at 77, and undoubtedly he was something far more than a caretaker, since he inaugurated a new era in the Roman Catholic Church by calling the Second Vatican Council. The new Pope Benedict XVI has a hard task ahead, but he is used to the exercise of firm government, not just from his predecessor, but also within his own department at the Vatican. Not for nothing has he been known (perhaps unkindly) as God's rottweiler. He is likely to continue the basic approach of his predecessor in many areas; in fact, some commentators were saying on the evening of his election that the more radical elements in the Roman Catholic Church will not be altogether happy. There will also be some measure of apprehension on the ecumenical side of things. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the new Pope is a godly and learned man of immense ability, and (so I gather) of great personal charm. We can be pretty sure that he will speak and act decisively on a whole range of matters affecting faith and morals. Christians of many other parts of the Church will be praying for him today, as he offers the Holy Eucharist on his first Sunday as Pope. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today for Pope Benedict XVI on the day of his inaugural Mass. (He actually became Pope from the moment he said 'yes'.) In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the hospital Chaplains, especially the team at Epsom and St Helier Healthcare, and for the Senior Chaplain, Canon Chris Vallins, and his team. In our parish prayer we pray for those who will be elected to office in the parish later this morning; and we pray for the people who live in Purberry Grove.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.

Common Worship rite
 Collect of the Day: page 402
 Proper Preface: page 316

Wayfarers in the Parish Room; Children's Hour in the hall;
 Crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 402
 Baptismal Liturgy on separate paper.
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184; Proper Preface: page 316
 Setting of the Eucharist: Rutter in D

Holy Baptism takes place more frequently at Mattins than at the Sung Eucharist, but when it happens at the Sunday Eucharist it can serve as a clear reminder to the regular congregation of the personal nature of our call from God. It offers us a specific opportunity to reflect upon the nature of our own response to that call in life. The modern baptismal rites lay much weight upon the faith of the Christian community surrounding those brought to baptism. Every baptism marks the start of a particular Christian pilgrimage, but it should also remind all present that each Christian has to find time to look after his or her own soul. Godparents, sponsors, soul-friends, priests and teachers can only do so much; the rest is up to us.

Introit hymn: 114

Introduction to the service and the first prayer (page 168)

[Penitential material is covered by the Baptism rite today.]

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

Collect of the Day: page 402. *Readings, as usual, on a separate paper.*

New Testament Reading from the First Letter of St Peter.

Gradual hymn: 464

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

The Liturgy of Baptism (Use other paper now for the baptismal rite.)

The baptism of Lewis Christopher Kemble

Hymns during the baptism rite: With Christ we share a mystic grave. [t.OEH 339]

I was made a Christian. [t.OEH App.70]

Biddings to Prayer, followed by the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: 104; Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184; Proper Preface: page 316

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

After the Invitation: Hymn 269, part 2

During the Communion:

Anthem: 'The Call' (from *Five Mystical Songs*) R Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way as gives us breath:

Such a Truth, as ends all strife:

Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, as joys in love.

George Herbert (16th cent.)

Then all stand after the Anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 362
 The Blessing

The Giving of the lighted candle to the newly-baptized. (*On baptism paper*)
 The Easter Dismissal. Hymn 112

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 after the 0930 service.

1100 Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens.

o/c The Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

It is necessary to be on the church's Electoral Roll in order to speak or vote at the second meeting.

Once again this year we are grateful to the forbearance of the Mattins congregation, who are without their service today.

[The monthly 1200 Eucharist is transferred to next Sunday.]

1800 Evening Prayer at the Easter Garden.

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Tuesday 2000 Meeting of Vicar and Churchwardens

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall:

Friendship, fellowship and Fine Blend. There is a Bring and Buy Sale at the Coffee Morning this week.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish. An interesting point at the AGM concerns the elections to the Deanery Synod: the *lay* members of the Deanery Synod form the electorate for the General Synod elections to the House of Laity, and these elections will be happening this year. So if anyone has strong views about the way the Church of England is going, then the thing to do is to stand for the Deanery Synod, and to use one's vote wisely. There is no other way of influencing things, except, of course, by standing for the General Synod. (The Vicar can give much advice on this!)

Choir Club supporters. At the risk of sounding a bore I need to raise this matter again, although have said my bit about this several times. I gather some people could not find the rota paper in the Welcome Area. It will be very near the west porch again today, right next to the Electoral Roll. It is essential to have volunteers for this, in order for us to be in compliance with current legislation about Child Protection. I need to emphasise that if we cannot provide 'supporters' then we shall have to close down the Choir Club; and I have to ask if that is really what we want to do. It would be good if I could announce at the AGM that all the slots for this term are now filled. It is not a burdensome business; just being at the Choir Club in the Parish Room on a Friday between 1800 and 1900 is all that is actually required. The hope is that a decent number of occasional volunteers will spread the load, and prevent it from becoming a chore for the few. Some volunteers have already done more than was envisaged. About four times a year (and preferably less than that) ought really to be something achievable with a congregation such as ours. W.R.H.