

Communion Assistants. I plan to invite one or two people to join the band of Communion Assistants before the next rota comes out in a week or so. It may be that others have also thought that they might possibly be considered for this ministry. If anyone would like to have a quiet word with me about this, then please do not hesitate to do so; but please do so *today*, while the thought is in the mind. Too late afterwards, I fear. I should say that this applies to all three morning congregations, not just to the congregation at the Sung Eucharist. We could certainly do with some help at the early service. WRH

Double restoration. Since the last Weekly Notes were printed, two pieces of restoration work have been accomplished at St Mary's, both having to be done as a result of the break-in towards the end of last year. These are insurance jobs. The broken window in the south aisle (through which the miscreants got in) has been repaired by Godstone Glass, using some of the glass which was conserved at the time of the installation of the Millennium-Jubilee window. The villains also managed to damage quite seriously the standing money-box, which had been made by Jim Vincent. Just before he died Jim repaired the box at Romsey, where he had gone to live with his daughter and family after the death of his beloved Edith, and it has now arrived back in Ewell by parcel post. It is lovely to think that Jim, in his nineties, managed to be doing things for St Mary's right up to the time of his death.

Rota for Sunday Coffee. We need someone to take this on, preferably someone who is already part of the team of coffee-makers-and-servers. It is not exactly onerous, but we need someone to do it. Otherwise the Vicar will have to do it, and he would rather not unless it is absolutely necessary.

Village Fair: men's cake-making competition. We have nineteen entrants for this popular competition, and they are all seeking your sponsorship to make their cakes. The sponsor forms are in the Welcome Area now, awaiting your support, so please sponsor as many of our Gallant Gentlemen Bakers as possible. If anyone else would like to enter the competition please let 'JB' know a.s.a.p.

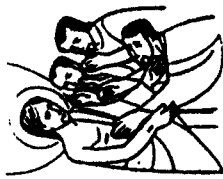
Village Fair: car stickers and the like are still available, and anyone without a job, and who would like to help on the day should contact Ian or Kathie Burgess. They will be very busy this morning, especially at the 11 o'clock service, so either give them something on a scrap of paper, or else please telephone or e-mail them. Details are in Ewell Parish News, and (of course) the telephone Directory.

Letters and the like. Quite a lot of communications seem to get left in church by people who have been seen in church on the previous Sunday. Could those who belong to this or that, or who sit on some committee or other, please develop a routine of looking out for anything that might need collecting, either in the Welcome Area or at the book trolley? Sometimes things are left for weeks on end.

Next Sunday. Services at the usual times. A really normal Sunday next week!

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
www.stmarysewell.com



WEEKLY NOTES

3 July 2005

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

St Thomas is a much misunderstood character. The picture of 'doubting Thomas' only gives us part of the story, and he has had a bad press as a result. Silly ideas like the reason for his old date (21 December) being on the shortest day, because he let the side down, have not helped matters. We are on far stronger ground when we see him as the honest questioner. We are meant to wrestle with questions of faith that arise in the mind and heart, and not to dismiss or suppress them as being in some way either impious or presumptuous. Indeed we owe a lot to St Thomas' questioning, as a glance at Jesus' reply to him at St John 14 will reveal. It would be fairer all around if we looked at the Thomas who realized what Jesus was about to do when Jesus said 'Behold we go up to Jerusalem,' and whose loyalty was revealed in his words, 'Let us also go up with him, that we may die with him.' He understood something about sacrifice, even if he did not as yet grasp much about the grace and glory which would thereby be revealed. The main reason for reading the 'doubting' passage as the gospel of the day on his festival is not because everyone must be told about the naughty boy who doubted what the other disciples had told him, but far more importantly because we find in this account the supreme confession of faith in the risen Christ to be found anywhere in the New Testament. He simply says to Jesus, 'My Lord and my God.' Nor are we to assume that he had to learn his lesson the hard way by putting his hand into Jesus' side, as invited to do by Jesus. The scripture does not say that he did so, and after such a confession of faith as his, it is very unlikely that Jesus would have insisted on it.

Those last recorded words of Thomas have passed into Christian devotion, particularly at the Eucharist. Many Christians pray in their hearts either at the consecration and at the moment of holy communion (or both), 'My Lord and my God.' Thomas really is a most attractive saint, and it is good when his day comes around every few years on a Sunday.

Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for the Province of the West Indies. In the diocese we pray for those being ordained to the sacred ministry this weekend at the Cathedral. Within the parish we pray for those who work in the shops and offices of Ewell Village, including those who travel into the parish to do so. In our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those who live in Seymour Avenue.

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. *Common Worship rite*
 Collect of the Day: page 509
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Proper Preface: on Readings paper.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; crèche available.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 436
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Proper Preface: on Readings paper.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Plainchant*, Missa Orbis Factor

Introit hymn: Disposer supreme (*on Readings paper*) [Tune: 216]

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.

Gloria in excelsis: *Merbecke* melody; hymn book: page 830 (or 559)
Readings on separate paper.

Collect of the Day: page 436

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk.

Gradual hymn: 'When Thomas' (*on Readings paper*) [2nd version of Hymn 125]

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed: *Merbecke* melody; hymn book: page 833 (or 562)

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory hymn: 173 [Tune: 351] Collection

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Proper Preface: on Readings paper.

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

At the Invitation: O thou who didst with love (*on Readings paper*)

[Tune: OEH 206]

During the Communion: Gaudet in coelis
Dering

English version: Glorious in heaven are the souls of all saints, who walked in the way of Christ, the Lord Jesus. They loved him, and followed his footsteps; and as they died for their Saviour, losing life for his sake, they reign with him for ever.

All stand after the anthem; Post-Communion Prayer today on page 182.
 The Blessing and Dismissal.
 Hymn 478.

*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

'ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL.' *Service of Christian Family Praise.* We welcome all pets and their owners to this annual service. There is a special leaflet for this service.

The hymns at Evensong are on the readings' paper. Like the readings they relate to St Thomas' Day. The service is sung by the choir of Emanuel School, Clapham. There is a retiring collection after the Recital which follows Evensong.

Responses: Green books, page 18 Music: *Rose*

Office-hymn: AMR 525 (*On Readings paper*)

Psalms 149. 'Sing to the Lord, all you his saints.' Page 312
 (*Readings on separate paper*)

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 15: 16-21
Howells, St Paul's Service.

Magnificat: page 19

Second Lesson: 1 St Peter 1: 3-9

Nunc dimittis: page 20
Howells, St Paul's Service.

Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.

Anthem: They that go down to the sea in ships.

[The words of the anthem are from Psalm 107, beginning at verse 23: green book, page 268.]
Sumston.

Prayers

Hymn: AMR 293 (*On Readings paper*)

The Blessing

o/c RECITAL by the Choir of Emanuel School.

John Rutter, Requiem

Vaughan Williams, Five Mystical Songs.

In church this week

Monday 1915 Holy Communion

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Friday 1500 Memorial Service for Alison Mary Lumsden

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

Tuesday

Tuesday at 1245.

The second of three lunch-time Organ Recitals.

This week's recital is by *Lawrence Thain* and *Timothy Lambourn*.

Bring your sandwiches; tea and coffee provided.
 Retiring Collection.

Wednesday

1400 Vicar presents the prizes at the Ewell Castle Junior School Prize-giving.

1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Parish Room this week; there is work being done in the hall. Time for friendship, fellowship, fun and fine blend.