

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

2 October 2005

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Thanksgiving for the Harvest.

It is good when something as easy to understand as the Harvest Festival comes around each year. Giving of thanks is something that we can all understand, and we tend to have an almost instinctive dislike of those who show no gratitude at all. This may perhaps be a little glimpse of our 'Original Righteousness'. For the Harvest Festival itself is something to do with 'the order of creation' rather than 'the order of redemption.' In other words, thanksgiving at harvest-time is a feature of many religions; it is in no way unique to the Christian faith. As the Gradual hymn at the Sung Eucharist reminds us, 'Fair waved the golden corn in Canaan's pleasant land.' Our thanksgiving here is marked by the realization that God's promise that seed-time and harvest will not fail is only a reality in a global context. (If it wasn't a global reality we wouldn't be here.) In more particular areas the situation is very different, and the Church has an honourable record, especially in recent years, for its ministry of service to the starving. Our harvest gifts at St Mary's go to the homeless, and have done so for many years. Our thanksgiving for 'all good gifts around us' is tinged with the reality that not all enjoy such good gifts except through the generosity of others. Whilst our basic Christian thanksgiving must always be (in the words of the General Thanksgiving) 'for the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory,' on one day in the year we make it our duty and our joy to thank God 'for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life.'

This year, we shall have a short additional feature just before the Blessing at the Sung Eucharist. There will be the blessing of the flowers which we take each year on the Monday after the Harvest Festival to the bereaved and the housebound.

Our prayers today. We pray, as always, for our church and parish, and today in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray for the Church in Australia, in the Provinces of Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth. In the diocese we pray for Bishop Ian Brackley, the Suffragan Bishop of Dorking. Within the parish we pray for all those who will receive our harvest gifts through the work of the Waterloo Christian Centre or through Vaughan House in Guildford; and we also pray for the people living in Village Gardens.

Confirmation. The confirmands from St Mary's are being confirmed this year at the Cathedral. The service is on Monday, 31 October at 2000, and will be conducted by the Diocesan Bishop. It will be a Confirmation Eucharist. The Precentor (my successor but three) has written to say that parishes presenting candidates at the Cathedral Confirmation are asked to provide someone to assist with the Collection and stewarding. If anyone would like to do this, please let the Vicar know. The person concerned needs to report to the Senior Steward at 1915.

'Our prayers today.' The Anglican cycle of prayer begins all over again today, after some weeks of praying for other main-line Christian communities. It occupies us for some forty-four weeks, and we systematically remember in prayer those who belong to the same Christian family as ourselves within the greater universal Church. During the remainder of the year we remember other Christian communities. Although the Anglican Communion is indeed worldwide, and is the Christian community for some 70 million people, it is still actually quite a small player statistically on the world Christian scene. It is a federation of autonomous, independent Provinces, the basic unifying factor being that they are all in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury and therefore with one another. This somewhat tenuous link has recently been under much strain for a variety of reasons, and only last month the Anglican Church in Nigeria has been reassessing the nature of its links with the rest of the Anglican Communion, and more particularly with the Church of England. Bearing in mind that this diocese has had a long-standing link with the Church in Nigeria (and one which has been flagged-up in recent years), that particular situation is a cause for some concern. Quite where this will all lead to is anyone's guess at the moment, but 'in our own small corner' here at Ewell we shall continue to use the Anglican cycle of prayer as it stands at present, and if there need to be any changes we can face them when the situation warrants it. Meanwhile we begin again today, praying for the Church in Australia.

Norman and Sybil Hale would like to thank all those who sent their good wishes and cards for their 40th wedding anniversary last Sunday.

Next Sunday. Services at the usual times: a truly normal Sunday, as indeed are the two Sundays after. Then we are into November, when there is always a lot happening in church, and there is rather more than usual this year.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

1100 HARVEST PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.

All-age service of Christian Family Praise for Harvest.

Anthem: All things bright and beautiful. Rutler

1800 Evening Prayer in the Parish Room.

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

The children (other than the choristers) are at the 1100 service today.
Crèche available, if required.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Harvest: page 447.
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.
Setting of the Eucharist: *White* in E flat.

Introit hymn: 259
Introduction and the Prayers of Penitence
Metrical Gloria in excelsis: *on readings paper.*
Collect of the Harvest: page 447 (*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.*
Nicene Creed: page 173.

[Please keep up the recent good work of really proclaiming the Creed.]

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
Offertory Hymns: 397 and 422
Collection
DURING THESE HYMNS THERE WILL BE THE PROCESSION OF HARVEST GIFTS
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.

Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
At the Invitation to Communion: *Agnus Dei.*
Communion hymn *on readings paper*: 'The Sower.'
Anthem during Communion:
All things bright and beautiful.
[Words of Hymn 264.]

Rutler

All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 412
Blessing of flowers for the bereaved and housebound.
The Blessing and Dismissal.
Hymn 262

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and come and join us for coffee in the Church Hall between the 0930 and 1100 services.

In church this week:

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Monday From 0900 Harvest sorting and distribution.

We really could do with some help for this. The faithful few turn up each year, but it would be so much easier if more people took part. It gives a different slant to the words of Scripture, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.' Many hands really make light work.

2000 Meeting of the Finance Group.

Wednesday 1030-1200 **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. A warm welcome to anyone who cares to join us. This is a regular weekly slot for members of the congregation to have a nice period of quality time together, and to welcome anyone else who might drop in.

The white altar cloth. For a period of three weeks the High Altar is being covered completely with the beautiful 'fair linen' cloth, made many years ago by the mother of Eve Myatt-Price. It was made to the measurements of the altar, and was obviously a great labour of love. It is most unusual for a fair linen cloth to be so large, and obviously the seasonal altar frontal will be lost to sight (though two pieces of *antependia* in the seasonal colour will remind us that we are in Trinity-tide), but it is good to use the cloth from time to time. This is the last Sunday today, but it will re-appear again on a regular basis, usually for a period during 'Ordinary Time' (during the Epiphany period or during the Trinity season), when the liturgical colour of the day is not something needing to be highlighted.

Lent Project 2005. We have only recently realised that the congregational has been unaware of the total collected. With a retiring collection as well as the boxes and events in Lent, we have been able to send just under £1000 to *Save the Children* for its work in south-east Asia. Also:

Mary Kasey's annual At Home at *5 Spring Street* in aid of *Save the Children* will take place on Wednesday, 12 October from 1000 - 2200 (*sic*). There will be Christmas cards, novelties, calendars, and 'Forever Living' products, and Aloe Vera. 'Please look in with a friend for tea/coffee.' For the *Save the Children* catalogue please telephone 8393 4907.