

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

16 April 2006

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

## EASTER DAY

### THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

The Weekly Notes are sponsored today by *Malcolm and Gill Lawther*, and the flowers are sponsored by *John and Sarah Stovell*. Both couples are celebrating their Ruby Wedding, and we offer them our best wishes and congratulations.

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*

*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*

**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*. Last year on the Notes it suggested that anyone who knew the reason for this (and told the Vicar) would be mentioned in despatches on the following week's Notes. In the event no-one claimed to know, so let's try again this year!

**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.

#### THE EASTER SERVICES

- 2030 **SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE EASTER VIGIL**  
 Preacher: *The Vicar* Sermon: *The First Sunday*  
*Common Worship rite*
- 0800 **HOLY COMMUNION**  
 Preacher: *The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*  
*Common Worship rite*
- 0930 **PROCESSION, BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN, AND CHORAL EUCHARIST**  
 Preacher: *The Vicar* Sermon: *The First Greeting*  
*Common Worship rite*
- 1100 **CHORAL MATTINS**  
 Preacher: *The Vicar* Sermon: *The First Instruction*  
*Book of Common Prayer rite*
- 1210 **HOLY COMMUNION**  
*Common Worship rite*
- 1800 **Evening Prayer at the Easter Garden.**

*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 and Reading on separate paper.  
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Other Easter material: page 316

#### in church this week

There are no liturgical services in church this week

#### Other events and notices

**Wednesday:** Coffee Morning in the **Parish Room** from 1030-1200. This will be the case this week and next, because of the re-decoration of the Church Hall. There will be a 'Bring and Buy' stall *next* week.

**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 24 April.

**Ewell Parish News copy-date** is technically Tuesday of this week. However, with the Office being closed it will probably be necessary to get any information directly to Mr Lloyd Mullen, if is not in his tray in the office today.

**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.

**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 PHAB are now due in. Those brought to the Sung Eucharist today will be received into the sanctuary together with the Collection.

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

**The Bible Reading Fellowship.** From 1 May this year **John and Sarah Stovell** (8393 0786) will take over from Eve Myatt-Price as Joint-Secretaries of the St Mary's Group of the BRF. Information about membership of BRF should now be addressed to them. During the past few years the number of members has fallen, and we like to recruit more. There are different sorts of Notes available for different interests and needs, and there are samples of BRF publications in the Welcome Area. The BRF always has a good stall at the Christian Resources Exhibition, which will shortly be around once more in May at the Sandown Centre at Fisher