

WEEKLY NOTES

7 May 2006

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 3)

The water feature at our lovely Easter Garden is a subliminal reminder of how we are taken into the mystery of the new and risen life of Christ through our baptism. With all the deep symbolism of death and life, darkness and light, suffering and victory in the Easter experience – both for Christ and the Christian – there is perhaps an opportunity to reflect at this time on the gentleness and life-giving aspects of water. Eleanor Farjeon's verses perhaps put it at its most familiar in *Morning has broken*, when she speaks of 'the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass' – a beautiful image of the resurrection morning. Of course water can destroy: theologically, the tidal wave of baptism sweeps away all that is wrong in our human nature; but that which drowns is also that which is essential to life, and the image of 'watering the soul with grace' is easy to understand at a baptism. In the Latin rite, and indeed also encouraged in *Common Worship*, is the ceremony of sprinkling with holy water at the beginning of the Eucharist, to the accompaniment in Eastertide of the lovely chant *Vidi aquam* ('I beheld water'), based on the vision of the prophet Ezekiel as he saw life-giving water flowing from the temple and irrigating the whole land. Indeed in the vision the stream becomes a torrent, and then a mighty river, with power to sweep away and with power to give life. This has been taken up by the Church as a 'type' of the new life given to the world through Christ, who is re-born in the waters of death.* This is nature of our baptismal life, and it is meant to be a daily reality for Christians. St Paul, who talks constantly of the Christian life as a death to sin and a rising to the new life of righteousness, says roundly 'I die daily.' We have a reminder of that when we attend a baptism, and the regular congregation at St Mary's formally recalls this when on Easter Day and at the Patronal Festival in September we all renew our baptismal vows.

[* The passage can be found at Ezekiel 47.]

For various rather curious reasons there was a tiny, but delightful, Choral Evensong last week, which ended up being sung to plainchant, with a simple anthem by Howells. There are not many Choral Evensongs this term, but there is in fact one tonight, and this will be a four-part affair, with some of our former choristers returning to sing the service. The anthem will be the Hallelujah Chorus. Our former Director of Music, Richard Jenkinson, will be at the organ. W.R.H.

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.

Any Lent Boxes not handed in already should be returned to church as soon as possible, so that a final count may be made of the money raised in this way for our Lent Project, PHAB, the charity that brings together the physically handicapped and the able-bodied.

A reminder about a recent mention in the Weekly Notes about the stolen **Collection on 19 March**. It would be most helpful if anyone in the Stewardship envelope scheme who came to church that day put a brief note *inside today's envelope (or this month's envelope – if doing it that way)* of what was actually given on 19 March, if one has not already done so. This will enable us to get the necessary information for insurance purposes and for any income-tax reclaim.

The new Service List for this term is now available in the Welcome Area for anyone who would like one. As usual, it lists all the choral music as well as the times of services. It gives details as far as 6 August.

The National Christian Resources Exhibition takes place this week at the Sandown Centre at Esher racecourse. (There are other regional exhibitions around the country, but this is the National one.) It is an enormous exhibition, and well worth a visit. There is information about this in the Welcome Area. People come from far and wide to this exhibition, which simply keeps on growing, and we are fortunate in being little more than ten minutes or so away. The Vicar and the Administrator go each year, but the exhibition would certainly be of considerable interest to many others, and it is almost on our doorstep.

The Eastbourne Outing. Bookings for the coach trip to Eastbourne on Thursday, 22 June, are steadily coming in, so if you would like to come and join the party, please give in your name, together with the money (£10) to Joan Boulden or to Lynne Yuille in the office as soon as possible.

The new monthly Diocesan paper, called *The Way* (this is meant to be a clever pun, but not really worth spelling out) has now arrived, and has been distributed with the May number of *Ewell Parish News*. It replaces the former Diocesan Herald, though at first sight it looks very much like its predecessor. The role of a Diocesan paper is important, because its wide circulation means that it can be read by many who do not normally frequent our churches, and it is a subject of our Sunday prayers today. Many of us have been very dissatisfied with the former paper *The Herald* and its contents over the years; it seemed to have restricted interests, and certainly has not exactly been an eagerly awaited publication at St Mary's. I said recently that I would note carefully what the new publication turned out to be, and if it is much the same as before I shall think seriously of discontinuing it here. So it is a case of 'wait and see.'

Next Sunday: Usual arrangements at 0800 and 0930, but at 1100 there will be one of our services of **Christian Family Praise**. In the evening at 1800 there will be Stations of the Resurrection.

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

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of South Africa. In our diocesan prayer we pray for those producing the new diocesan paper 'The Way'. In the parish we pray for those who have been married at St Mary's during the past year, and for the young children being baptized at the Sung Eucharist today, and for their families. In our regular prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Chichester Court.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
 Order 1: page 167 *Collect of the Day: page 402*
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184. *Other Easter material: page 316*
 Two sermons remain from the Lent course at the 8 o'clock service about 'Bible Roads', and they are in fact somewhat more appropriate during the Easter season. The sermons will take place this week and next. Today it is: *The Emmaus Road*. Next Sunday the last of the sermons will be about *The Damascus Road*.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST with HOLY BAPTISM *Common Worship rite*
There is a special service-paper for this service today, and only the usual green hymn-books (NEH) are needed as well.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Mathias* in C
 Anthem: *Jesus Christ the apple tree. Holman*
 Hymns: 377, 114, 433, 282, 408 (1). Two other hymns are printed on the leaflet.

1100 CHORAL MATTINS
 Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader.*
 Responses: page 8
 Metrical Easter Anthems: HCE 3
 (This also serves as the Office-hymn today.) *Music: Field*
 Psalm 126 Joy and gladness at God's deliverance. *[Tune: 401]* Page 293.
 First Lesson: 1 Kings 17: 17-end. Blue book: page 615.
 Te Deum: page 10
 Second Lesson: St John 11: 17-27. Blue book: page 616
 Canticule: HCE 33 [Tune: ADC], 'A Song of Faith'
 The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 69).
 Anthem: 'The Call' (from *Five Mystical Songs*) *R Vaughan Williams*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
 Such a Way as gives us breath: Such a Light, as shows a feast:
 Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Feast, as mends in length:
 Such a Life, as killeth death. 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

Prayers: *George Herbert (15th cent.)*
 Hymn 115 Collection The Blessing

1200 HOLY COMMUNION (Side Chapel). Details as at the 0800 service.

1830 CHORAL EVENSONG *Book of Common Prayer rite*
 Introit: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord. *McKie*
 Responses: Green books, page 18 *Music: Gibbons and Barnard*
 Office-hymn: 100, omit verses 5 & 6; tune 58.
 Psalm 66
 First Lesson: Isaiah 61: 1-7. Blue book: page 613
 Magnificat: page 19 *Walmisley* in D minor
 Second Lesson: St John 21: 1-14 Blue book: page 614
 Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Walmisley* in D minor
 Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.
 Anthem: The Hallelujah Chorus (from *Messiah*) *Handel*
 [It is a tradition in this country to stand for the Hallelujah Chorus.]

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever. King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah.
(From the Revelation to St John.)

Prayers Hymn 107 Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Hymn: 109 (1-7); Collection The Blessing

In church this week
 Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices
 Monday 1930 Estates Committee
 Tuesday 1100 Vicar and Minister of Ewell United Reformed Church meet for discussions.
 Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall, and a time for fellowship, friendship and fine blend. For the benefit of visitors today, it is worth saying that the regular Wednesday Coffee Morning is an open-door affair; anyone can come, and everyone is welcome. This week there is also a **Sale of Home-made marmalade**, in aid of the boys' home at Jeel al Aral. Vicar and Administrator at the Christian Resources Exhibition
 2000 Epsom Deanery Synod at Christ Church, Epsom.
 Saturday 1200 Sort-out in the gallery (see next paragraph)

The Fair Springboard is not all that far away, on **Saturday 20 May**. The end of the 'jump' is of course the **Village Fair** on 22 July. There are plenty of handbills available for the Fair Springboard, and it would be much appreciated if they could be pushed through the letter-boxes of neighbours. Please take whatever you can. On Saturday of this week, there will be from 1200 a major blitz on what is up in the gallery, and stuff needed for either the Fair Springboard or the Fair itself will be sorted out, and almost certainly a substantial amount will be taken to the Civic Amenity Centre (aka The Dump). It needs many hands to make light work of this sort of thing, and we would be very glad of help on the day, and indeed of any advance knowledge of who might be able to come along.