

WEEKLY NOTES

28 May 2006

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER.

(Sunday after Ascension.)

‘Risen, ascended, glorified’ is the splendid last line of the great eucharistic hymn, ‘Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour, first-begotten from the dead’, which proclaims the triumph of Christ and his eternal victory. Much of this aspect of last week’s festival of the Ascension has now, not inappropriately, found its way into the festival of Christ the King on the final Sunday of the liturgical year. (The concentration these days is largely on looking forward to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; the Book of Common Prayer Collect of the Day, re-used in *Common Worship* skilfully holds the two themes together.) However, Ascension Day is still all about glory: the glorification of Christ, and in him the glorification of our human nature, and on the Sunday after it may be wise to reflect on this. For those who have difficulty with the scriptural account of the Ascension, it is worth remembering that the glory and triumph are to be understood in terms of *mystery* and *majesty*, rather than of methods and mechanics. The *mystery* lies in the reality of our human nature being taken into the divine nature in the person of the victorious Christ. The *majesty* lies in the kingship of Christ, seated in glory at the right hand of the Father, as we say in the Creed and the Te Deum. He is the universal King, and the Lord of the Church. The scriptures give us the accounts of the Ascension as understood by St Matthew and, more pictorially, by St Luke. For St John there is no Ascension; the risen life of Christ blends into his mystical body, the Church. (The account at the end of St Mark’s gospel is secondary.) All these accounts of the methods and mechanics of the Ascension are in the end only the devotional supports for, and signposts to, the greater reality itself. That reality lies in the Christian assertion that the living Christ now reigns eternally in glory, and ever lives to make intercession for us. He, the ‘first-begotten from the dead’, has taken our humanity into the heart of the Godhead. It all proclaims the triumph of the love of God, and Jesus has done it all here on this earth, in the reality of our humanity. His is the victory. Praise him.

Our prayers today. We pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Church for our fellow-Christians in the Sudan, who are having a hard time of it. In the diocese we pray for those who serve on the Bishop’s Council, and in the parish for all those who are preparing for important school examinations at this time, and for the people who live in Conaways Close.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 404
Other seasonal material: page 320
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 [omit the responses in *red* brackets].
Sermon by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST (*Nave Altar*). *Common Worship rite*

Half-term for choristers and ‘Children’s Hour’; Crèche available.
Order 1: page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **404**.
Other seasonal material: page **320**. Eucharistic Prayer A: page **184**.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Merbecke*.
The service is entirely congregational today, and we shall be singing the *Merbecke* setting, which is printed out in our green hymn-books. The Vicar will be doubling-up at the organ this morning.

Introit hymn: 130, verses 1-5 only.

[Tune: *Llanfair*.]

Black book, page 167: Invocation, Greeting, and the Prayers of Penitence.

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text, *not* as on page 171.

Words and *Merbecke* melody for the Gloria today: at Hymn **542**, on page **830** in the melody edition, or on page **559** in the words-only book.

Collect of the Day: page 404.

Readings on the gold paper.

New Testament Reading from the First Letter of St John.

(The hymn at this point on the gold paper is not being used this year.)

Gradual hymn: 349

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

Sermon by **Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader**

Nicene Creed (*sung today*): traditional language text, **not** as on page 173.

Words and *Merbecke* melody for the Creed today: at Hymn **542**, on page **833** in the melody edition, or on page **562** in the words-only book.

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn: 351 Collection

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 [omit the responses in *red* brackets].

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

Hymn at the Invitation: Christ Jesus was revealed. [Tune: 457 ii; (HCE 91)]

Organ music during the Communion today; at the end all stand for

the Post-Communion Prayer: page 405.

The Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn 476.

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. **Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall after the 0930 service.***

1100 MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM

There is a special leaflet for this service.

1210 HOLY COMMUNION (Nave Altar). *Details as at 0800.*

1830 Evening Prayer.

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Other events and notices.

Routine events are not usually mentioned on this list: they include such items as the Toddler Groups, the Tuesday House-Group, bell-ringing practice, Choir Club and Choir Practice. Further details about these activities may be obtained from the Office. This little note, which has appeared once or twice before, will appear every few weeks for the benefit of newcomers or visitors. However, this week, being half-term, there is a noticeable lack of weekday activity in any case, and office-hours will probably be irregular as well.

Monday The Vicar concelebrates at the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. (He is a Priest-Associate of the Shrine.)

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

The Vicar will be away for part of the week, but the Tuesday Eucharist will take place as usual, since the Vicar will be back from Walsingham on Monday evening.

Children's Society boxes. It is now time for boxes to be emptied again. Please could they be brought to church as soon as convenient. Thank you. *Sybil Hale.*

Renee Hume and Mary Brown have for some time been diligently **cleaning the brass candlesticks** and similar kit regularly after the Tuesday morning Eucharist, and I am very grateful to them both for taking on this task, which had been neglected for years. However, they could do with some help. It is a pleasant, almost therapeutic, task, and anyone who would like to lend a hand should have a word with either of them, or else with the Vicar. 'This is the third time of asking.'

The Induction Loop System. A recent note mentioned that the system is meant to make life much easier for those who have an appropriate hearing aid, but that we have been having trouble with it. We have now called in the professionals, and hopefully we shall have something to report in due course. Meanwhile, it is still the case

that if anyone who is relying on the loop system finds that all is not well, he or she should have a word with the Vicar or churchwardens. We have already had a measure of feed-back from members of the congregation, and it is clear that the system is not right. It is obviously important that the system should be operating properly. Meanwhile, please bear with us until it is all sorted out.

Our Sidesmen and ladies do an invaluable job in handing out papers and books, taking the collection, and (perhaps most importantly) being a welcoming face to visitors or newcomers, as well as to the regular congregation. We could always do with a few more (see also the next item below). The duties are not exactly onerous, and there is a rota to work from. Anyone who would be willing to join this band should have a word with David Dance or the Vicar. Sidesmen may be glad to know that only in special circumstances do we now require anyone for duty on a Sunday evening.

On the subject of **rotas**: I sometimes hear people say that they do not want to be on a rota for this or that because of being thereby tied down to a commitment. It isn't quite like that. These rotas are only necessary in order to have something to work from in the first place, otherwise there is no system at all* and things don't get done, but in practice people simply swop as necessary and everything carries on smoothly.

* Actually, I once worked in a parish where there was, in fact, no altar-servers' rota. They just decided among themselves on a Sunday morning who was going to serve and who was going to do what. This unlikely system worked for the simple reason that all fifteen or so servers were always there every Sunday morning; some would serve and others would sit in the congregation. W.R.H.

'Fair Springboard.' Many thanks to all who supported this event last weekend. Our thanks are due in particular to John and Sarah Stovell and to Valerie Smither, for all their hard work in organizing it, but also to all the stallholders and helpers and those who came to enjoy the occasion. In the event **£630** was raised towards the expenses of mounting the Village Fair, of which £300 came from Evelyn Jarrett's ever-popular plant stall.

Car-stickers advertising the Fair were inserted into the Weekly Notes last week, and the same will happen this week and next. They are a very good way of advertising, since cars 'go places.' Do not be irritated, please, if you have taken one already; not everyone comes to church each Sunday. Those without cars can either hand them in again, or else find some other way of using them.

Our Lent Project raised **£702.80**. A cheque will go off as soon as possible to PHAB, the organization which brings together the Physically Handicapped and the Able-Bodied. The display about PHAB is still at the back of the church, but it will shortly be taken down, now that the results of the Lent Project are known. Many thanks to all who helped with the Lent Lunches or who filled up their Lent boxes.

Next Sunday is the Day of Pentecost, the last day of Eastertide and the *second principal festival of the Christian Year*. It is the festival of the Holy Spirit effecting the eternal presence of the risen and glorified Christ in the Holy Church of God throughout the world. Not everyone seems to realise this, and to many people Whitsunday just seems an ordinary Sunday now – albeit one with a special 'theme' in church – ever since the Bank Holiday was removed from its normal association with the Christian festival quite a number of years ago. (They'll be doing it with Easter next, you watch; but they will leave Christmas alone for good sound commercial reasons.) The long season of 'Ordinary Time' begins on the following day, though for two weeks this is not all that apparent on Sundays, because Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi have their own distinctive flavour. However, services are at the normal times next week, with Choral Mattins at 1100. There will be a Procession before the Sung Eucharist, with a Station at the Easter Garden and the hearty 'Celtic Alleluya' which we had on Easter Day. At the end of the service the Easter Candle will be transferred to its normal position by the font, where it will be lit for baptisms and funerals during the year.

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