

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

4 June 2006

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

WHITSUNDAY

HOLY SPIRIT IN HOLY CHURCH The last day of Eastertide

Sponsors' Note: Our daughter Sarah will be married to Dr Chris Bradley at St Mary's next Saturday, 10 June at 15.00. All are warmly invited to attend the service. *Jenny and David Dance*

The symbolism in the account of the Day of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles is striking and challenging. Wind and fire are both powerful in operation, and more so when they act together. The most powerful example of such a combination is when the Wind of Heaven and the Fire of Divine Love act together. The Pentecostal 'Descent of the Dove' (what a contrasting image!) tells of the divine mixture of power and gentleness. The Holy Spirit is Comforter and 'Exhorter'; the Greek word is the same for both, and from it we get the technical word in the Christian vocabulary, the *Paraclete*. Here in our midst the Spirit makes real Christ's abiding presence with us, and also comes to galvanise us into Spirit-led and Spirit-filled activity. Pentecost is the great festival of mission: the hymn 'We have a gospel to proclaim' is significantly the last hymn at the Sung Eucharist today – at the 'send us out' stage. The Big Bang of Pentecost has sent its sound-waves rippling throughout the world, and two thousand years later those ripples have embraced us, and moved us onwards. There is no standing still in the Christian life: in service, in mission, in fellowship, or in devotion. The Holy Spirit is 'Comforter' in the sense of being one who guides us safely, not a Comforter who cushions us or pampers us. Cosiness is not a feature of Christianity; the Pentecostal ripples keep going on, and we are caught up in that process. To keep the metaphor going: we can go with the tide, happy to be motivated by the grace of God; we can resist the tide because we think our own way is more congenial; and we can drown in the tide and sink to the mud, if we allow ourselves to be weighed down 'with the sin that does so easily beset us' (Hebrews 12:1). Today is a day to remember our own Confirmation, when we received the gift of the Holy Spirit to fortify us for a new stage in our growth and maturity in the Christian life. It is therefore an annual day of renewal and re-dedication, as the Easter season comes to an end, and the resurrection community of faith moves on from keeping festival to the business of living in 'ordinary time.' It is a day on which to be glad, because the Holy Spirit rests upon the Church and rests upon the Christian. 'The Lord is here; his Spirit is with us.'

Our prayers today. As we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of God, we pray on 'the birthday of the Church' for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Church for the Church in Tanzania. In the Diocese we pray for the life and witness of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on its Feast of Title, and for the Dean, the Very Reverend Victor Stock. In our parish prayer we pray for a readiness to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our visions, hopes and plans. In our regular prayer we pray for the people who live in Corbet Road.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION
Order 1: page 167.
Pentecost texts: page 320

Common Worship rite
Collect of the Day: page 405 Other
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*
There is a separate leaflet for this service today, though as usual the Readings are on a separate paper.
No other books are needed.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells* in E flat.
Anthem: Listen, sweet Dove, unto my song. *Grayston Ives*
Organ: From '*La Messe de la Pentecote*', *Messiaen*.
At Communion: *Les oiseaux et les sources*

After service: *Le vent de l'Esprit*.

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 CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*.

Responses: page 8

Music: *Darke*

The Easter Anthems: page 67.

Office-hymn: *Veni Creator Spiritus*. [Choir use AMR 152; tune 153]

Come, O Creator Spirit, come,
And make within our hearts thy home;
To us thy grace celestial give,
Who of thy breathing move and love.

Our senses with thy light inflame,
Our hearts to heavenly love reclaim;
Our bodies' poor infirmity
With strength perpetual fortify.

2 O Paraclete, that name is thine,
Of God most high the gift divine;
The well of life, the fire of love,
Our soul's anointing from above.

Our mortal foe afar repel,
Grant us henceforth in peace to dwell;
And so to us, with thee for guide,
No ill shall come, no harm betide.

Thou dost appear in sevenfold dower
The sign of God's almighty power;
The Father's promise, making rich
With saving truth our earthly speech.

May we by thee the Father learn,
And know the Son, and thee discern,
Who art of both; and thus adore
In perfect faith for evermore. Amen.

Psalm 48.

Page 195.

Jerusalem: the place of 'waiting for the loving-kindness of the Lord' in
Old Testament days, and then finally on the Day of Pentecost.

First Lesson: Genesis 11: 1-9 Blue book: page 635.

The Tower of Babel: a babble of confusion.

Te Deum: page 10

Second Lesson: Acts 2: 1-11 Blue book: page 636.

The Day of Pentecost: a new vernacular of faith and love.

Hymn 342

[Tune: 178 *Carlisle*]

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the
Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect is on page 71).

Anthem: Litany to the Holy Spirit. *Hurford*

In the hour of my distress, When I lie within my bed
When temptations me oppress, Sick in heart and sick in head,
And when I my sins confess: And with doubts discomfited:
Sweet Spirit, comfort me. Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drowned with sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep:
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

Richard Herrick, 16th cent.

Prayers

Hymn 137; Collection. The Blessing

Organ: Dialogue sur les Grand Jeux (*Veni Creator*). *De Grigny*

1800 THE THREE ST MARY'S STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

(In the main church)

[*Eastertide ends.*]

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion** (BCP Propers of Whit Tuesday)*

* Although 'Ordinary time' resumes on Monday, and the altars are vested in green, we shall observe the Book of Common Prayer holy-day by using the BCP readings at the Eucharist.

Saturday 1500 **Nuptial Mass.** The wedding of Sarah Dance and Christopher Bradley.

Other events and notices

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound (transferred date). The next occasion will be 3 July.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall:
Koffee Kwaffing, Kongenial Kompany, and Koinonia*.

Thursday 1200 Epsom Deanery Chapter at Epsom College.

*That word '*koinonia*' is in fact one of the really great New Testament words, and contains various shades of meaning, most of which are reproduced in the English word 'communion.' It has notes of 'fellowship in the truth', of deep personal commitment, of something to do with unity, love and brotherhood. The 'fellowship of the Holy Spirit' in the familiar words of the Grace (cited from the end of 2 Corinthians) is, in the Greek, the *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit – an appropriate point to remember on Whitsunday. Whilst it is a 'serious' word, it can also take into its meaning something as simple as a group that meets on a Wednesday morning, and who are always ready to extend their fellowship to others.

The Sung Eucharist today has a separate service-paper, mainly because there are some features particular to today which make it a bit different from usual, and a full print-out is obviously a help. We did the same at Easter. With more information about services being stored all the time on the computer, we may well see some more of this sort of thing. I am very conscious of the fact that *Common Worship*, like the ASB before it, is very much a Directory of worship, and it is seldom possible to have more than the odd page or two in sequence. Anything to make things easier will, I am sure, be welcome, and I hope that today's service is a good example of what can be done. W.R.H.

Epistle Readers. The texts of the readings for the first part of the Trinity season, until the beginning of August, are now available on the left window sill in the Parish Room. Please note that *date and Sunday are not given on the papers.* However, a card is adjacent to the papers, and it says which set of Propers belongs to a particular Sunday; and the date is also given. The Sundays after Trinity are always a problem, because of the strange way in which Readings are allocated between a series of dates, and this does *not* relate to the same Sunday each year. The point of having to manage with the 'concomitant card' is to avoid having to re-print the Trinity-tide readings every year. At least this way we can save paper. (After all, they are the 'green' Sundays, as one might say.) It can, of course, all be worked out from a copy of the Revised Common Lectionary, but it caused so much hassle a year or so ago that this method has turned out to be much easier for all concerned.

We have been asked to publicize the first meeting of the **Epsom Energy Group.** It is an open meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday 15 June at 19.30.

This week's Notes were compiled somewhat earlier than usual, so there may well be some additional announcements today.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday. Anyone know why Trinity Sunday has specifically 'English connexions'? It's not just to do with counting the Sundays after Trinity, which was certainly almost unique to England, though the Dominicans also did so until the modern liturgical reforms kicked in. Answers by next Sunday to the Vicar, via the office or e-mail, for mention in the Weekly Notes on the following Sunday. Morning services on Trinity Sunday will be at the normal times, with Procession before the Sung Eucharist and with Choral Mattins at 1100. There will also be Choral Evensong next Sunday at 1830.

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