

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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Before: Orange; next Rose.

WEEKLY NOTES

24 September 2006

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY. THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST.

Sponsors' Note. Betty and Geoffrey Berry thank the many friends at St Mary's who sent messages of congratulation for their recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They have been greatly appreciated.

'Fair waved the golden corn.' We shall sing these familiar words at the Gradual hymn at the Sung Eucharist this morning. Is it a case of 'with emphasis on the corn'? Well, the word 'corn' has at least three meanings (perhaps there are more), but, whatever one makes of some of the harvest hymns, even the corniest of them still have the power to make us want to stand up and sing them. The strange thing is that some of them have quite stern lyrics: a serious glance at 'Come, ye thankful people, come' can actually make one just that bit thoughtful. Others are more scholarly, like the second hymn at the Offertory at the Sung Eucharist, which is more or less a paraphrase of the General Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer. The jolly and jaunty hymn before it, from a paraphrase of Psalm 136, was written by John Milton when he was fifteen. Yet, if 'We plough the fields' had suddenly arrived last week as a brand-new hymn, it would no doubt be thought very hard to sing, with its enormous range for the voice and its curious metre, and surely it would never catch on, would it? Well, catch on it most certainly did, and no harvest celebration is complete without it. It is the harvest equivalent of 'O come, all ye faithful' at Christmas. The harvest hymns have remained ever popular over the years, and even sophisticated cathedral choirboys enjoy singing 'We plough the fields.' Why should such hymns have made the big time? Well, probably because they are somehow just a built-in part of that harvest experience in church, which is itself different from everything else in the entire liturgical year. Even though much of the talk in these hymns is about a world far from London suburbia, a world of corn and sheaves and farmers, it is still all to do with the pattern and routine of life, and about gratitude and generosity, and there is nothing corny about that. So, 'Come, raise the song of harvest-home' today, just as the Old Testament reaper band did long years ago when they went forth all full of joy to gather in the harvest. So we read in the Book Deuteronomy, and so we sing in that gentle yet positive Gradual hymn at the harvest Eucharist today, 'Fair waved the golden corn.' Have a good sing today.

Our prayers today. In our prayer for the world-wide Church we pray today for those who belong to the Methodist Church. In the Diocese we pray for the Readers and Pastoral Assistants, and for those responsible for their training. Our parish prayer today is for those who will receive our harvest gifts and flowers, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for those living in Fairfax Avenue.

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

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| 0700 | MATTINS | Psalm 65 |
| 0800 | HOLY COMMUNION (of Trinity 15)
Order 1: page 167
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184. | <i>Common Worship rite</i>
Collect of the Day: page 417 |
| 0930 | SUNG EUCHARIST | <i>Common Worship rite</i> |

Children's Hour in the Church Hall. Crèche available, if needed.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 447
 Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Sumsion* in F. Gloria and Creed: *Shaw*.

Introit hymn: 259
 Black book: page 167. The Greeting and first prayer of the service.
 The Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.
 Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211
 Collect of the Day: page 447. *Readings on separate paper*.
 New Testament Reading from the Book Deuteronomy.
 Gradual hymn: 260
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
 Sermon by *the Vicar*.
 Nicene Creed: traditional language text on page 213.
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory hymns: 397 and 422. Collection.

During the hymns there will be the *Procession of Harvest gifts*.
 The Collection is taken *first*, and then taken to the back of the church; *then* the lights lead the Procession from the font in this order: the bread and wine; the collection, and then the harvest gifts. All return *via* the Parish Room.

Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 216, verses 1 & 2. [Tune: AMR 484]
 Anthem during the Communion: Jesus Christ, the apple tree. *Holman*

<p>The tree of life my soul hath seen Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.</p> <p>His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.</p> <p>For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly have I bought:</p>	<p>I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.</p> <p>I'm wearied with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.</p> <p>This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.</p>
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Collection of Joshua Smith, NewHampshire, 1784

After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:
The General Thanksgiving on page 109 (*said together*).
 [Omit the cumbersome section in italics.]
 The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.
 Hymn 262.

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1100 CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE FOR HARVEST, with the PRESENTATION OF HARVEST GIFTS.

Anthem: For the beauty of the earth. *Rutter*

1200 HOLY COMMUNION (of the Harvest) *Common Worship rite*
 Order 1: page 167 Collect of the Day: page 447

1800 Evening Prayer in the Parish Room.

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
1930 for 2000. 1930 for 2000. The third meeting of the new **Evening Fellowship Group** in the Parish Room. Continuing the five weeks or so with St John's Gospel, this week's title will be 'The symbols John uses to explain Jesus.' Further information from Iain McKillop (Tel. 01932 341687).

Other events and notices

Sunday 1500 The Vicar receives and dedicates new Royal British Legion standards at West Clandon.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the church hall. Tea-drinkers should not feel excluded. A pleasant and relaxing time with familiar and friendly company. It is an open occasion; anyone can come. This week at the Coffee Morning there will be a Bring and Buy Sale, after a break for the holiday period. The money from these sales goes to help the children at the Jeel Al Amal boys' home in Bethany, so please come and support them. Groceries and confectionery are most acceptable, and always popular.

'The Morning After.' Monday morning is when all the sorting and packing of our Harvest goods takes place. There is always a great deal of stuff, not least because our own gifts are supplemented by those from Ewell castle Junior School, and quite a large amount gets sent up to town or to Guildford. In spite of routine appeals every year it is still the case that we seldom get more than the faithful few. May we have some more help this year, please? Many hands make light work. Just turn up about 0930.

The Music List for this term has now been reprinted, because by last Sunday only one copy was left on the table at the back of the church. There are about another ten there now. It is good that so many have been taken. They are obviously useful for seeing what services are coming up, as well as for their primary purpose of giving the actual musical details. However, a glance at the music list will illustrate very clearly the varied repertoire tackled by the choristers. This term has only just started, but already our singers seem to have got up to speed, and the high quality of the music over the Patronal Festival has been remarked upon by several people.

The **Service List**, a much simpler document, is also on the same table, next to the music list.

We sadly bade farewell to **Mary Brown** last week. Her quiet presence among us for the last seven years or so made her much loved by many. We wish her well in her new home in Scarborough. With Barbara Cannon and Renee Hume she has diligently polished the brass on Tuesday mornings after the Eucharist. Is it possible someone might volunteer to carry on her good work? Three are better than two for this sort of thing.

As expected, **Jonathan Holmes** gave us a wonderful organ recital during the Patronal Festival. It was the first of the run of three large-scale recitals this autumn. The next will be on Saturday, 28 October, and it will be given by the Sub-Organist of Guildford Cathedral, **David Davies**, also a remarkably gifted player. It may be worth pointing out at this stage, that although the entrance by programme on the night is £6, one can buy one's ticket in advance, and thereby save £1.

Next Sunday. We begin a run of five liturgically 'normal' Sundays, and this will take us to the end of October, when the mood changes as we enter the month of the saints and the souls. So life will be straightforward on Sundays for a little while. After the Patronal Festival *cultus*, and today's harvest jollity, it will be nice to settle down into normal routine for a bit.

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