

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
Tel. 020 8393 2643  
[www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)

## WEEKLY NOTES

14 January 2007

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### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

It is not often that sermons are quoted twenty-one years after they are delivered, but last week Mr Saunders reminded me of the splendid and memorable sermon preached by a former Reader, the late Ernest Bickley, on this Sunday way back in 1985. Ernie asked us to see in the story of the wedding at Cana – with a wonderful champagne-style illustration – the picture of Jesus bringing sparkle to life. Indeed, in this instance it was indeed a case of Jesus bringing life to a dead party. Here is Ernie's last paragraph, which concluded an excellent and well-crafted sermon:

'St John tells us, not of things that Jesus once did in Palestine, but of things that Jesus still does today throughout the whole world. What St John wants us to see is not that Jesus on a certain day turned some waterpots of water into wine, but that whenever Jesus comes into our lives there comes a new quality of life, which is really like turning water into wine. Without Jesus life is dull, and stale and flat; when Jesus comes into life, life becomes vivid and sparkling and exciting. Without Jesus life is drab and uninteresting; with Jesus life is thrilling and wonderful and exhilarating.'

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide fellowship of the Anglican Communion we pray today for the Provinces of Ontario and Rupert's Land in the Church of Canada. Within the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the ordinands who are now in training for the ordained ministry of the Church, and within the parish we pray for our Baptism Visitors – Kathie Burgess and Ruth Stockwell – and for the young children being baptized at Mattins this morning. In our systematic prayer for those who live in the geographical parish we pray today for those who live in The Headway.

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. <i>Please make yourselves known</i> , and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.
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### SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*  
Order 1 in traditional language: page 207.  
Collect of the Day: page 457. Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed. Order 1: page <b>167</b> . Collect of the Day: page <b>384</b> Eucharistic Prayer <b>E</b> : page <b>196</b> Setting of the Eucharist: <i>Sunsion</i> in F. Gloria and Creed: <i>Shaw</i> .
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Introit hymn: Arise, shine out. (*on readings paper*) [Tune: 101 ii]  
Black book: page 167. Greeting, Prayers of Penitence, and *Kyrie eleison*.  
Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211.  
Collect of the Day: page 384  
Old Testament Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.  
Gradual hymn: 46  
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*

Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional language text on page 213.

Intercession, followed by the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn: 52

Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198; Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.

After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 269, part 2.

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).

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.

*George Herbert* (16<sup>th</sup> cent.)

After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 182.

The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and the Dismissal. Hymn 49 (i)

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## 1100 MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM

*There is a special leaflet for this service.*

## 1830 CHORAL EVENSONG

*Book of Common Prayer rite*

Responses: Green books, page 18

Music: *Darke*

Office-hymn: 248 [Choir use OEH 271],

Psalms 145: God's devotion and generosity. Page 308.

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3: 1-20. The child Samuel.

Magnificat: page 19

*Hylton-Stewart* in C

Second Lesson: Acts 16: 4-15 The gospel gets to Europe.

Nunc dimittis: page 20

*Hylton-Stewart* in C

Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.

Anthem: Duo seraphim.

*Dering*

*English version:* Above him stood the seraphim, and one cried unto another, and said, 'Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' [*Isaiah 6: 2a,3*]

Prayers. Hymn (*on slip*): The Son of Man from Jordan rose [Tune: *Coe Fen*].

Sermon by *the Vicar*. Hymn 391; Collection. The Blessing.

### In church this week

Tuesday

1000 **Holy Communion**

1930 for 2000. 1930 for 2000. **Evening Fellowship Group** in the Parish Room. This term the group is looking at the poetical and wisdom books of the Old Testament. This week it is the subject is: ***The Song of Songs: Celebration of human or divine love?*** Further information from Iain McKillop (Tel. 01932 341687).

Wednesday

0900 **Ewell Castle Junior School Assembly.**

### Other events and notices.

Sunday

1630 Tea Party and meeting for Sidesmen and ladies.

Monday

The Vicar is at a Clergy Study Day in Guildford.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the church hall. Tea-drinkers should not feel excluded: the leaf is provided as well as the bean. A pleasant and relaxing time with familiar and friendly company. It is an open occasion; anyone can come.

2000 External Affairs Committee Meeting. This will also be the preliminary meeting in connexion with the Michaelmas Market for external charities. As yet we have no-one to run this, and we are getting somewhat concerned about it. The Vicar or the Administrator can give further details, and so can Ruth Stockwell.

**Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) Notes.** With the renewal of subscriptions to the BRF occurring within the next few weeks, now is the opportunity for members of the congregation who do not currently receive BRF Notes to join the scheme. The BRF Notes offer four months of daily readings and comment, and they are an accessible way into the study of the Bible on our journey in the Christian faith. There are various 'levels' of study; some may prefer simpler Notes, others may prefer more demanding ones. The Notes are published three times a year, in January, May and September, at an annual cost of £10.50. They are immensely good value. There are specimen readings in the Welcome Area, near the south porch, and these may be borrowed by potential readers for, say, a week, before making the decision whether or not to join the BRF. Further details from John or Sarah Stovell (Tel. 020 8393 0786).

**'Valentine Mattins.'** A reminder that we plan to hold a celebration on the Sunday before St Valentine's Day (11 February) at 1100 for those who have been married at St Mary's, and we would particularly like to invite all who have been married at St Mary's within the last three years. Whilst we have the addresses of all who *arranged* to get married here, we do not in many cases have their later addresses. If anyone knows of the current address for any comparatively recently married couple, we should be glad to be informed. However, *all* who have been married at St Mary's should assume that they are invited, and we should be glad to hear from any who will definitely be coming. Any details (on paper, please) to the Vicar or Churchwardens, or else to the office – via the letter-box, if there is no-one there. Further details in due course.

There are **FREE** copies of *El Dorado*, the Guyana Diocesan Magazine, available in the Welcome Area. As usual, it tells of a Church facing difficult times in a society very different from our own.

A reminder about the annual **Hymnathon**, scheduled for Saturday, 10 February. There are two sessions: 1000-1300 and 1400-1600, but one decides upon one's own time commitment. It is great fun and quite a relaxed affair. The Hymnathon usually manages to raise through sponsorship quite a substantial amount towards the running expenses of the *Village Fair* in July. However, the 'substantial amount' – last year it was £422 – could be more substantial still, if more people took part. It is effortless and pleasant, and anyone who would like to take part is invited to sign up and pick up a sponsorship form *today* from the Welcome Area. Some people have been dissuaded in the past from taking part by a mischievous rumour that people would have to sing solos, and such is not the case. Carusos and corncrakes are equally welcome; so, for that matter, are choristers. We usually sing two verses from each hymn around the piano in the Parish Room. Refreshments will be served during each session. We are at present a good way through our second hymn-book, the red 'AMR' (Hymns Ancient and Modern, revised 1950; the book has been revised twice since then), so we shall be picking up at Hymn 251. Since we regularly use six different hymn-books at St Mary's, this money-spinner can go on for years. Further details from Rosemarie Henson on 020 8224 2713. (The telephone number is wrong in EPN.)

**Dr Patrick Miller** will be giving another one of his much-appreciated courses on Tuesday evenings in Lent, so it may be as well to make a note of it at this stage. This time the title is *Life (and Death) Matters*. Full details will soon be available in *Ewell Parish News* and also on posters and handbills.

**Last Sunday** was a delightful day in church. The Procession of the Three Kings was accomplished with due ceremony at the Sung Eucharist, but with the curious feature of Three (unrobed and uncrowned) Queens\* – a hastily arranged substitution because there were no Kings conveniently available from the Children’s Hour. Of course this in no way complicated the simple symbolism of the Procession in which we united our offering of worship and treasure with that of the Wise Men. It was good that a few people stayed on from the 0930 service and attended the Epiphany Festival of Nine Lessons at 1100, and I know they found this very worthwhile. The paragraph below about the 1100 service, reprinted from last week, expands this particular point. W.R.H.

\* This does not mean we were following the politically correct agenda of a church school I read about recently, where at the Nativity Play there were *four* kings and queens (two of each, so as to be fair to all the children), and an interesting carol called ‘Kings and Queens of orient are.’ I kid you not. W.R.H.

**1100 in general.** There is a section in this month’s *Ewell Parish News* which lists all that is happening at the 11 o’clock slot on Sunday mornings this term. It is worth looking at, and even cutting out, because this term the later Sunday morning slot has a great deal to offer between now and Easter. Of the fourteen Sundays only three have the ‘default’ service of Choral Mattins pure and simple. Whilst I appreciate that most people are normally wedded to one particular service (nothing wrong in that), the fact remains that these other opportunities are there, and some of them are distinctive and unusual. Into this category one might put the all-age ‘Candle Mass’, the ‘Valentine Mattins’, and the two occasions when at a shorter than usual Choral Mattins there will be three Stations of the Cross with choral and organ music by *J S Bach*. Not many people do the rounds of the various services, though a few do, and so it is my hope that some who have already been to the Sung Eucharist may feel that, after a break for coffee, an occasional visit to an act of worship which is very different from the 0930 service may be a rewarding and enriching experience. W.R.H.

**Next Sunday.** Services in church are at the usual times, with the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist at 1100.

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