

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

29 April 2007

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 3)

The flowers in church today are sponsored by the immediate family of the late *Babs Peerman* and by her sister, Edna Attwood.

The official meetings being held this morning may be thought of by some as simply legalistic, and quite unnecessary in the Church of God. As a canon lawyer I do not share that view, though I do regret the excessive amount of paper-work involved in the run-up to the meetings. The financial side of things alone involves churchwardens and treasurers in a considerable amount of detailed work, as current charity legislation gets increasingly complicated. At the risk of stating the obvious: all the details on the Accounts have had to be laboriously compiled, printed and audited, and a glance at the Accounts will show that this could not possibly have been a simple and straightforward procedure for those concerned. However, the Church has to be run with efficiency and honesty, and people are appointed by the due process of canon law to hold office in the Church, and this is something they take on board either gladly and willingly, or (if not that) out of a real sense of duty and responsibility. Over the years I have been grateful for all who have accepted nomination to the Parochial Church Council, and perhaps more particularly to those who have accepted the office of churchwarden. In my long vicariate I have had some splendid churchwardens, most of whom are still in a position to be called upon for advice by the current holders of that office – and indeed by myself as well – because they are respected figures in the local congregation, and have knowledge and experience which is invaluable. I am sure that those elected to the various offices today will continue in that same tradition of responsibility and reliability. Our thanks to them in advance. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide fellowship of the Anglican Communion we pray today for the Church in Mexico. Within the Diocese of Guildford we pray for Christopher our Bishop, and for the work of the Diocesan Retreat House and Conference Centre at St Columba's, Woking, and within the parish we pray for those who will be elected to office at the official meetings today. In our systematic prayer for those who live in the actual geographical parish we pray today for those who live in Meadow Walk.

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. *Please make yourselves known*, and join us for coffee after the Sung Eucharist. The timetable at St Mary's is unusual today; our normal arrangements are on the notice-boards. We are grateful to the Mattins congregation for giving up their normal Sunday service time at 1100, in order to accommodate the Election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS

Psalm 118.

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Common Worship rite

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 474.
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Other Easter material: page 316.

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 402
 Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196; other Easter material: page 316.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Sumsion* in F. Gloria and Creed: *Shaw*.

Introit hymn: 122

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 402

New Testament Reading from the Revelation to St John.

On readings paper: *Gradual canticle: A Song of the Redeemed*. [Tune NEH 447]

[*Metrical version of part of the New Testament reading for today.*]

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

Sermon by **The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller**.

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

Intercession, followed by the Greeting of Peace.

Hymn at the Collection: 115.

Then **all sit** for the Offertory Anthem:

Blessed be the God and Father. [Words from 1 St Peter 1.] *S S Wesley*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [3-5]

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. [15-17]

See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God. For all flesh is grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen. [23-25]

Then **all stand** for Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.

After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 282

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God); and organ music today.

All stand after the organ music for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 402.

The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and the Easter Dismissal.

Hymn 114.

1110 MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CHURCHWARDENS.

o/c THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

(The monthly 1200 Eucharist is transferred to next week.)

1800 Evening Prayer

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

St Philip and St James.

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000. Meeting of *Pro Musica*.

Tuesday 1930 for 2000 Evening Fellowship in the Parish Room.

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. There is a raffle today in support of the *Mayor of Epsom and Ewell's chosen charities*, one of which is the *Ewell Parochial Trusts*.

'Cast into outer darkness' – as the scripture says in another context – are those who failed to sign new Electoral Roll forms, after all the plugging that has gone on about it in recent weeks. Well, not exactly into outer darkness, but certainly into outer daylight, because only those who are actually on the Electoral Roll **now** can take part by speaking or voting at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting today. Graciously, the Chairman (the Vicar) doesn't mind anyone attending and listening in, so they needn't actually be 'cast out', but only the parish electors are in this case 'the elect.' Anyone else, in theory, isn't there. Such, I fear, is the canon law of the Church of England, and (more to the point) ecclesiastical law is actually part of the law of the land. The Roll is unfrozen after the APCM. W.R.H.

The Consecration Bell. The Vicar mentioned last week in church that normally the consecration bell at the Sung Eucharist is at present rung by members of the congregation who happen to be bell-ringers. It is not essential that this should be so, since none of the specific arts of bell-ringing really apply. You just have to be able to pull, just like every new Vicar does at the Induction. Until fairly recent years churchwardens and sidesmen played their part in doing this. Last week there was no-one available from the tower, so the bell was not rung. Anyone who is willing to be called upon to ring the bell at this point (probably only very occasionally) is asked to have a word with the Vicar in the first instance, so that we do not have days when the consecration bell is silent. Not all churches ring the tower bell at the consecration, but this has been the practice at St Mary's for very many years (long before the present Vicar arrived here), and it is an indication and reminder to the rest of the parish that St Mary's people are there in church on Sunday, and that the Holy Eucharist is being offered for the people of the parish, and not just for the Christians inside the building. We could also do with some back-up at the 8 o'clock service; any offers for that service to the Vicar or to Margaret Howard. A little practice can be arranged, if necessary.

Two advance notices:

Saturday, 12 May: The Fair Springboard. This will be held in the Church Hall, 1000-1200. This event, which took over from the former 'Bake-in' has turned out to be a very successful fund-raiser towards raising money for the considerable expenses involved in setting up *The Village Fair* on **21 July**. There will be plants and cakes galore, also books, bric-a-brac, Village Fair Grand Draw tickets, and (of course) refreshments. Admission is FREE. Please come, and bring friends and family. The *Hymnathon* (for the same purpose) raise £600 this year; let's see what we can do at the Fair Springboard. *Valerie Smither and Sarah Stovell.*

Saturday, 19 May: Organ Recital by Jonathan Holmes. The Sub-Organist is giving the first of the 2007 series of Organ Recitals, and there is a splendid programme planned. The catchy title on posters and handbills will indicate that there is something here for everyone. Even though there are some items which are in the classic recital repertoire, there are other works which will be thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by many who would, perhaps, not normally go to an organ recital. One of these items, Percy Grainger's *Handel in the Strand* was gleefully enjoyed by the 1100 congregation last Sunday. It really ought to be a magnificent evening, and well worth the £6. Proceeds from the recitals go to the Organ Fund. A magnificent instrument like our 'Father Willis' has to be carefully looked after and maintained, and the recitals are a specific way in which those who appreciate not just fine music, but who value this distinctive feature of our local heritage, can be directly involved in its upkeep. There will be interval refreshments: a splendid evening of Music and Wine.

Next Sunday. Services at the usual times, with the transferred 1200 service *in the Parish Room*, since the large congregation at 1100 may take some time to clear. There is Holy Baptism at Mattins; an additional sidesman or two would be much appreciated.

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