

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
(020 8393 2643)
www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

6 May 2007

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 4)

My thanks to all who took part in the two meetings last Sunday morning, and also to those who have accepted parochial office. The amount of preparatory work for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting now required by current ecclesiastical legislation, coupled with the requirements of statute law, is very considerable, and each year the detailed compilation of the accounts, together with the amount of office-time that is gobbled up in churning out various papers, is not a little daunting for those who have to produce the material. The latest date for the APCM is 30 April, and generally speaking we are always fairly close to this date. The principal reason for this is that the only time which seems generally convenient for everyone is a Sunday morning, and in the latter weeks of Lent there is no such slot readily available at 1100. If it is any earlier, there are not infrequently problems about getting the accounts ready in time for the meeting. Then after Easter the office is normally closed for a week (the reasons should be obvious enough), and once it re-opens all the paper-work has to be finalised in draft, ready for a meeting of the PCC on Monday of the following week, at which the annual accounts are approved, before they are presented to the PCC. Since the point was quite properly raised at the APCM this year, it is worth pointing out that it is only at *this stage* that a final print-off of documents can authoritatively be made, and papers made available for those who wish to have them in advance of the APCM. If, as sometimes happens, there is another intervening Sunday, then the papers are available in advance of the meeting (though I have to say that over the years there has not been much evidence for many actually being taken from the back of the church), and this should be the case next year, when Easter is in fact very early. Otherwise the papers can always be collected in advance from the office from the Wednesday before the APCM, after the final versions have been printed on the previous day.

For the second year running we failed to elect a second churchwarden, and this presents us with quite a few problems in the short and medium term. We had not expected to find ourselves in this position, and it was only a matter of weeks before the meeting of parishioners that the situation became known. Much discreet activity took place over this situation, and it was not actually clear until last Sunday morning that there was definitely no-one who was prepared to accept nomination, and of course no-one was – quite understandably – prepared to stand for office at the meeting, even though there a formal opportunity for this.

The position is that Dr Dance continues as churchwarden until 31 July, and then – unless someone else consents to be nominated for office – we shall just have one churchwarden. This is a significant problem this year, as we move closer to the time when the parish will be without a parish priest. The two churchwardens are normally the representatives of both the congregation and also of the wider parish, when it comes to the time of making the appointment of a new parish priest. There are also problems of a different sort which will arise after July, since David Crick (as the Choir Administrator) is not often in a position to be at the back of the church before and after the services, and that will mean that a churchwarden is not readily available. Although there are others who are prepared to be helpful in this area, it is not an ideal situation, and I hope that much serious thought will be given

by all members of the congregation to this very real problem, and anyone who would consider being nominated ('without prejudice', as the lawyers say) should have a word, first of all, with Dr Dance or Mr Crick or with myself. This is not an ideal situation in which to find ourselves at such a time as this. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the world-wide Anglican Communion for the Church in Burma (Myanmar). We pray in the Diocese of Guildford for the full-time and the part-time hospital chaplains, and in our parish prayer for our newly-elected churchwarden and Parochial Church Council, and for the people living in Mill Lane. On this particular Sunday we also pray for all those elected last week to office in local government or as members of the Scottish Parliament or of the Welsh Assembly.

*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

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 402
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184. Other Easter material: page 316

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

'Children's Hour' in the hall; Crèche available in church.
Order 1: page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **402**.
Eucharistic Prayer **B**: page **188**. Other Easter material: page **316**.
Setting of the Eucharist: Simple metrical setting today.

The Choir is not in church today for a variety of reasons, even though this is not one of their normal Sundays off. Jonathan Holmes and David Crick are both away this weekend, and there is also the annual Guide Camp, which takes away several of the children from the Choir. So it seemed best to go entirely congregational this morning. We shall have the same arrangements as on Low Sunday (a few weeks ago), with the service at the Nave Altar, and with the Vicar 'presiding at the organ,' and Mrs Stovell at the piano.

All back to normal next week.

Introit hymn: 351

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

Metrical Gloria in excelsis: *on reverse of readings paper*. [Tune: NEH 139 i]

Collect of the Day: page 402. *Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament Reading from the Revelation to St John.

Gradual hymn *on readings paper: A Song of the Holy City*. [Tune: NEH 227]

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John.

Sermon by **Mrs Wendy Varney**, Reader.

Nicene Creed: page 173.

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn 104.

Collection

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Proper Preface: page 316.

Sanctus:

[Same tune as the Gloria]

All sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of endless power and might:

Glory fills all heaven and earth.
Blessèd he who truly comes
In the Lord's most holy Name;
In the heights Hosannas raise.

The Lord's Prayer back on page 178 (*sung unaccompanied today*).
Agnus Dei: [Same tune as the Gloria]

All sing: Lamb of God, we humbly pray,
All our sin you take away:
Grant us mercy, grant us peace.
Lamb of God, we humbly pray,
All our sin you take away:
Grant us mercy, grant us peace.

During the administration of Holy Communion there will be organ music today. At the end *all stand for:*
The Post-Communion Prayer: page 403.
The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Easter Dismissal.
Hymn 124.

1100 MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM
There is a special leaflet for this service.

1200 HOLY COMMUNION (*transferred from last week*)
Details as at 0800. The service will be in the Parish Room.

1800 Evening Prayer.

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000 Meeting of the Finance Group.
Tuesday 1730 Vicar at the Cathedral, back at his old job.*
Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A time for drinking coffee (or tea), and for relaxation and pleasant *conversazione* in very congenial surroundings. At **1100** the Vicar speaks on **'Regulations, Responsibility and Red Tape.**

A message from Babs' family and Edna. To all friends at St Mary's: our thanks for prayer over the past few years, and also especially to those who attended the lovely service on Friday, 27 April.

***'The Old Job.'** My successor but four at the Cathedral is having a sabbatical for three months (never been offered one myself – and I could develop that point), and I shall be doing the Precentor's job on alternate Tuesdays in May and June, beginning this week. There is far more to the Precentor's work than just being a canary, but that is the most obvious front of house bit. By and large my voice seems to remain in good working order, and it will be pleasant to revisit the cathedral choral scene. W.R.H.

And three items from last week:

The Consecration Bell. The Vicar mentioned a fortnight ago 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.

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. **Tickets are available in church, and are £5 if bought in advance.** 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. Morning services at the usual times. At 1100 there will be a special service of Christian Family Praise for Rogationtide.

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