

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

13 May 2007

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 5)

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

It is a matter of some importance that once a year our worship takes into its system the reality of our Christian Stewardship. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been held recently enough for us to have some awareness of our parish finances, and later this year there will be the Quinquennial Inspection of the church building, and although we are not expecting any really nasty shocks we shall certainly find that certain things have to be done. Without pre-empting what is likely to be said in church today, the fact remains that our planned giving is our basic source of income, and it is something which needs to be kept under constant review. This is probably the opportunity for thanking Miriam Massey, our Stewardship Recorder, for all the work she does quietly in the background in connexion with this important aspect of our parish life. She is always ready to hear from anyone who would like to join the Stewardship scheme. Her number is 020 8394 0453. If 'Stewardship Sunday' was being held on an ordinary 'green' Sunday we would doubtless have had suitable hymns and the like to emphasise this side of things, but in Eastertide nothing should really interrupt the uniqueness of the fifty days of resurrection praise, so the hymns and readings remain firmly 'of the Sunday.' However, the sermon-slot so the hymns and readings remain firmly 'of the Sunday.' However, the sermon-slot and the prayers will enable our Christian Stewardship to be kept firmly before our eyes today.

A reminder that *Ascension Day* falls this week. Each year this festival, the statement of its substance being considered worthy of inclusion in all the Creeds, remains the Cinderella of the greater Dominical festivals of the Church. I believe – though I am not absolutely certain of this – that English Roman Catholics are now permitted this year, and for the first time, to observe the feast on the following Sunday. In fact it is always difficult to know what is the right thing to do about Ascension Day, but this year we shall do the same as last year by having a simple Sung Eucharist at 12 noon. In this way the Ascension will at least be observed on 'the fortieth day' itself. Being realistic, however, all the signs are that with all the current stress on the unity of the Easter season, and with the fact of Ascension Day always being a mid-week festival, the odds are that the move towards a Sunday observance of the Ascension will sooner or later become an unofficial feature of Anglican practice, and no doubt eventually evolve into an official one. In places like cathedrals, where there is a daily round of highly organized worship, it is easy enough to maintain the celebration of the Ascension on the actual weekday, but it is not so easy in normal parochial life, particularly in a fast-paced urban society.

It is also **Rogation Sunday** today, at least in the Prayer Book scheme of things. The service of Christian Family Praise at 1100 has a Rogationtide feel to it, and it is

entitled *Water of Life*. Time and weather permitting, a short part of the service will take place at the spring, just by the War memorial by the Dog Gate entrance to Bourne Hall. We have, of course, our own temporary 'spring' in church, with the gently bubbling water feature at the Easter Garden.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today in the Anglican Communion for the several provinces of the Church in Nigeria. In our prayer for the Diocese, we pray for the Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and the team of chaplains. Within the parish we pray for. In our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those who live in Mill View Close.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*
Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 475.
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Other Easter material: page 316.
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

Children of 'Children's Hour' are at the next service today. Crèche available in church.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 403
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184. Other Easter material: page 316
Setting of the Eucharist: *Viadana*, *Missa l' hora passa*.
Hymns from the small *red* hymn books at this service today. There is no melody-line edition of the red books, but all the tunes are reasonably familiar today.

Introit hymn: 43
Black book: page 167. The Invocation, the Greeting, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*
Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* melody)
Collect of the Day: page 403. (*Readings on separate paper.*)
New Testament Reading from the Revelation to St John.
Gradual canticle: *A Song of the heavenly city*. [Tune: AMR 33 ii]
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Christian Stewardship Presentation:
The Vicar, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Stewardship Recorder.
Nicene Creed: page 173.
Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
Offertory hymn: 137 [In C as at NEH 103]. Collection.
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 188; Easter Preface: page 316.
The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
Hymn at the invitation to Communion: 144 (*For Rogation Sunday*)
During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God)
Anthem: When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion. *Batten*

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion, then were we like unto them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with joy. Then said they among the heathen, 'The Lord hath done great things for them.' Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already, whereof we rejoice. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 403.
The Mutual Salutation, the Easter Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn: 143

[Tune: AMR 570]

*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 after the Sung Eucharist.*

**1100 CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE for ROGATION SUNDAY;
'WATER OF LIFE.'**

There is a separate leaflet for this service.

1800 Evening Prayer

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Thursday **ASCENSION DAY**

1200 **SUNG EUCHARIST** (Nave Altar)
There is a separate leaflet for this service.

Other events and notices.

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.
Tuesday The office will be closed after 1045, since both the Vicar and the Administrator will be attending the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park.
2000 Meeting of Pro Musica.
Tuesday 1930 for 2000. Evening Fellowship Group in the Parish Room. The third session on 'Some great hymns' will be about 'Hymns on our relationship with Christ.' There should still be some handbills about this, containing details of the actual hymns.
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.
Wednesday 2000 Meeting of the Internal Affairs Group.
Friday 2000 Meeting of the Ewell Parochial Trustees.
Saturday 1000 Dedication of Chapels of Rest at A & E Longhurst on the Kingston Road. There is an Open Day at Longhursts, starting at 1030.

Saturday at 1900: The 2007 season of Organ Recitals begins with a recital by

JONATHAN HOLMES

There is an '*absolutely fabulous*' programme; details are on handbills and notice-boards. Admission £6 at the door, but only £5 if bought in advance today in church or at the office during the week. There will be interval refreshments.

Communion Assistants and Altar Servers' festival. The mention of Jonathan's recital can also serve as a reminder that he will be bringing his school chapel choir to St Mary's twice this term. The first occasion will be on *Corpus Christi*, Thurs.7 June, when they will be singing the Eucharist at 1900. This will also be the occasion for a Communion Assistants and Altar servers festival, and invitations for all concerned are in the Welcome Area today. Please book the date now. There is a

reply slip, because there will be refreshments afterwards and possibly a short meeting. W.R.H.

Eileen Wood's funeral will take on Monday week (21 May) at 1230 in church, following burial at Cuddington cemetery at 1200. Eileen became a faithful member of the 11 o'clock congregation, and she was confirmed less than three years ago.

Sunday morning Coffee. Rachel and Will Madell are looking for two people to take over the now vacant slot for routinely serving Sunday morning coffee on the *second* Sunday of the month. (Swops are equally routinely arranged, of course.) Any offers, please, to Will or to his mother-in-law, who will both be presiding at the hatch today.

Eastbourne Coach Outing. We are taking bookings for the Eastbourne trip on Thursday, 21 June, and seats are going quickly. So if you wish to join the party, please give your names, together with the money (£10), to Joan Boulden or Lynne Yuille as soon as possible. J.B.

The Christian Resources Exhibition takes place this week at Esher. There is information about it in the Welcome Area. It is a sort of Christian Ideal Home Show, and well worth a visit. The Esher exhibition is the national one (there are other regional), and since it is so close a visit there might be worth thinking about.

Next Sunday. Normal Sunday arrangements at 0800 and 0930. At 1100 the service will be Choral Mattins, the Sung Eucharist being transferred to the following week, which is Whitsunday.

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