

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

10 June 2007

CORPUS CHRISTI.

(First Sunday after Trinity))

Corpus Christi is an attractive festival, and our own observance of it on Thursday evening was very memorable. The Procession of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction at the end of the Eucharist witnesses to Christ's abiding presence in our midst in sacramental reality. The range of eucharistic life and devotion is immense, and apart from the Salvation Army and the Society of Friends (the Quakers), virtually all Christian bodies treat the Eucharist as central to their spiritual life. There is, of course, a wide range of understanding about the nature of the Eucharist, as witnessed by the whole list of different titles for the rite (the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Holy Communion, the Breaking of Bread, the Divine Liturgy, and some others). It is interesting that in the formal Anglican-Roman Catholic discussions on the Eucharist (in 1979 and endorsed by the Lambeth Conference of 1988), it was stated that differences of custom and practice could coexist with real consensus on the essentials. This 'range of understanding' is immense not just in differences of emphasis, but – more importantly – in the communality of what the various Churches possess. There is the basic remembrance of the Passion of Christ; there is thanksgiving for sacramental grace; there is the stress on life-giving food; there is the reality of blessed communion with the Lord himself; there is the entering into the eternal worship of heaven through the ever-prevailing prayer of Christ the Eternal Priest; there is the sacrifice of Christ made ever-present and effectual in the life of the Church and the life of the Christian; and within the eucharistic action there is room for all our hopes and fears, our prayers and special intentions, and for them all to find their true direction, as they are taken into the prayer of Christ. At the Sung Eucharist in particular they can be recalled and silently spread out before the Lord as at the beginning of the rite the choir sings the first general prayer of intercession, the *Kyrie eleison* – our own life being brought into the Eucharist more or less at the very beginning. Later it is again silently incorporated into the formal prayers of the Church, and then, in the eucharistic action itself, it is conveyed most wonderfully into the heart of God through the prevailing intercession of Christ. We have much to be thankful for in our eucharistic life. Every day throughout the Christian world lives are enriched and sanctified through the Body and Blood of Christ, received by faith with thanksgiving in the hearts and bodies of Christ's own people, as they meet in sacramental reality with their living Lord.

That is why there is a certain basic exuberance about the celebration of Corpus Christi. The Mass does all this, and we should rejoice in it. Interestingly, when I was at the Cathedral last Tuesday, I noticed that they are having a Corpus Christi Procession with Benediction there tonight. Ah well, what St Mary's does on Thursday the Cathedral does on the following Sunday. Nice to think of ourselves as trail-blazers and trend-setters. 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 Episcopal Church in Scotland. Within the Diocese of Guildford we pray for Christopher our Bishop, and for the work of the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (the Reverend Stuart Thomas, our neighbour at St Francis). In the parish at Corpus Christi we pray for our Communion Assistants and Altar Servers, and we continue to pray that someone will be found to serve as our second churchwarden, and someone else to

take charge of our Michaelmas Market for external causes. In our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Nursery Close.

The Vicar writes: 'Our Prayers today' is a regular feature of the Weekly Notes, relating our worship to that of the worldwide Church, our own Diocese, and our own parish. We have two serious needs in our own parish at the present time, and last week they appeared as part of our Sunday prayer. They are there again today, and will continue to appear for at least the remainder of the month, unless overtaken by events. The absence of a second churchwarden is a truly major problem for the internal life of the parish, particularly as we inevitably draw closer to the time of my own departure; and the absence of someone to take on our Michaelmas Market will leave four charities without anything this year (each could reasonably expect about £400), and possibly for longer. Please continue to remember these matters in daily prayer too. This is a serious business. W.R.H.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION (of Trinity 1) *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 408.
Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST (of Corpus Christi).
Common Worship rite

There is a separate leaflet for this service today, and no other books are needed. To save paper we are using last year's service (and using the same readings as last Thursday evening) with some very minor adjustments, all of which can be dealt with by announcement.

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in E. Gloria and Creed: *Shaw*.

The anthem is a setting by Elgar of the eucharistic hymn *O Salutaris hostia* (part 2 of Hymn 269). The 150th anniversary of Elgar's birth occurs this month. The words are printed on the service paper. There is another anthem by Elgar at the 1100 service this morning.

Organ: Toccata from Suite Op. 5. *Durufié*

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.

1100 CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Responses: page 8.

Music: *Gibbons and Barnard*.

Venite (shorter version)

Hymn 292

[Choir use AMR 387; the words are the same.]

Psalm 43. *'I will go unto the altar of God.'* Page 190.

[Until quite modern times this psalm was always used at the Eucharist (except at Requiems and in Passiontide) during 'the Preparation', which was a devotion said quietly at the foot of the altar steps by the priest and the altar servers before the service actually began.]

First Lesson: Exodus 16: 1-15. *The manna in the wilderness.*

Hymn 116.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34. *Eucharistic problems at Corinth.*

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254. Music: *Britten* in C

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the

Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect is of Corpus Christi).

Anthem: Ave, verum Corpus.

Elgar

English version:

Hail, O true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who after suffering was sacrificed for mankind upon the cross, and from whose pierced side there flowed a tide of blood. Be our food in death's hour. O gentle, holy Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on me. Amen.

Prayers. Hymn 272; Collection. The Blessing.
Organ: Sortie in E flat. *Lefebure-Wely*

1800 Evening Prayer

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
1930 for 2000 **Evening Fellowship in the Parish Room.**

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000. Meeting of the Finance Committee.
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.
Saturday 1930 Organ Recital by Simon Gregory (See note below).

Saturday, 16 June (i.e. this week): Organ Recital by Simon Gregory. The general approach to this year's season of organ recitals is somewhat different from that of recent years, as the programme details on the handbills about Simon Gregory's recital continue to reveal. The handbills are being given out with the Notes this week; this happened a fortnight ago, but there are plenty left, and not everyone was here then. Simon Gregory is a colleague of Jonathan Holmes at Emanuel School, and is another splendid organist. It really ought to be a magnificent evening on Saturday, and well worth the £6. *We have been a little slow with posters; some are available today, so please take them. They need to be displayed pronto.* 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 do not just appreciate fine music, but who also value this distinctive feature of our local heritage, can be directly involved in its upkeep.* There will be interval refreshments. It should be a super evening of Music and Wine: as the Scripture says, 'An emerald seal in a golden setting, such are strains of music with a vintage wine' (Ecclus. 32: 8 JB text).

Organ Voluntaries. After a lapse of some years, the concluding organ voluntary at the services is now being printed on the Weekly Notes. Many people have been very appreciative of the organ voluntaries, if the frequent spontaneous applause is anything to go by, and much of the music is not known by title. Today we have at the Eucharist one of the more challenging pieces of French organ music, the powerful Duruflé Toccata, and at Mattins a complete contrast with something else from France, a well-known organ lollipop from Lefebure-Wely. Rather late in the day, the *Service and Music List* for this term is now available; earlier details are on it for record purposes, but the remainder of the Sunday music for the remaining two months of this term is also there, and so are all the organ voluntaries.

***And another thing about the organ.** It always comes as a great surprise when people *see* what the organ actually looks like. The console in the chancel and the visible gilded pipes are only the 'front of house' aspect of our mighty instrument. It can in fact be viewed 'by appointment'; anyone who would like to see inside the organ should ask the Vicar or Jonathan Holmes, or else enquire at the office. A

visit to the organ certainly helps one to understand how an instrument like ours must be valued at about £500,000 (at least) today.

Children's Society boxes. It is once again time for the boxes to be opened. Could they please be brought to church as soon as possible? Many thanks. S.H.

The coach outing to Eastbourne. The coach for Eastbourne on Thursday, 21 June, will depart from *outside the Church Hall* (i.e. on **that** side of the road) due to the new parking restrictions. Please be there by 0915. The coach can only stop there for a limited period to pick us up, so please do not be late. There are still a few seats available at just £10 each.

The Consecration Bell. The Vicar recently mentioned 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. On Whitsunday there was no-one available, 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. *So far we have had one volunteer, but we really could do with another two or three.* 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.

Our hymn-writers. It is not just the Vicar who writes hymns for St Mary's. The local congregation has over the years produced several hymn-writers. At Pentecost we had another splendid hymn from Eve Myatt-Price, for which we must thank her. It is perhaps time now for some others to have a go as well. Do not be discouraged, if it seems to take a long time to produce something; sometimes these things have to be chiselled out over quite some time. Anyway, what about a decent Christmas carol this year from somebody, with some good incarnational theology rather than lyrics more suited to the music of 'jingle bells'? Or why not a hymn about Christ as the Good Shepherd (not too sloppy, please) or about Christ as the ultimate Healer of sickness and conflict? Or a hymn about one's favourite saint? Or a new hymn for Harvest, which relates to what we do at St Mary's rather than just about corn and sheaves? There is plenty of scope. Who is going to try? No bribes and prizes this time; just try it as a labour of love. The Vicar, with a fair amount of experience in this field, is always willing to work over a draft text in collaboration with the author, if that seems appropriate.

Next Sunday. Second Sunday after Trinity, and the first of the 'green' Sundays. Apart from any festivals which land on a Sunday, we have now been in 'ordinary time' since Whitsunday. This means that since we are in Year C we are back to the regular gospel-readings from *St Luke* at the Eucharist. Next Sunday will also see the monthly 1100 Sung Eucharist to the Prayer Book rite. The Vicar will be conducting the annual service and wreath-laying ceremony at the Commonwealth Memorial to the Missing at Brookwood Military Cemetery in the early afternoon.

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