

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

1 July 2007

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Monday evening Eucharist this week is one which regularly takes place before a meeting of the Parochial Church Council. The reason for its taking place is the importance of laying our concerns before God within the mystery of the eucharist, there to seek his grace, so that that we may discuss and decide wisely on the various matters coming up at the meeting. It is normally what is known as a Votive of the Holy Spirit: in other words, the Eucharist celebrated with the intention of asking specifically for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in any particular matter or circumstance. As usual, there will be a lot for the Council to discuss this week, some items being of considerable importance. Not all members of the PCC are able to arrive in time for 19.15, but there has never been a time since 1983 (when this service was introduced) when the service has not taken place for lack of a congregation. I would hope that more members of the Council would try to be at the 'pre-Conciliar Eucharist' (doesn't that sound grand?), and there is no reason why they should not be joined by other members of the congregation who may wish to pray for God's blessing and guidance to rest upon the local Church council in its deliberations. That is why it appears in the section 'In church this week' as a normal entry, not as something just to do with the PCC and its members.

Curiously enough, it is a holy-day this week, and so the Eucharist will not be the usual one, but the service of the day. It will be the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin to Elizabeth, and perhaps that lovely incident recorded in St Luke's gospel will be a general reminder of pastoral concern and family support. By extension, that can also refer to a local church and parish, as it tries to grapple with various issues and subjects at a formal meeting of its local representatives. W.R.H.

The short season of summer Choral Evensongs begins today at 1700. There will not be a sermon at these three services; it will just be the straight evening Office. Now that the four-part choir is re-instated it is a chance to hear once again some of the lovely music written for Church of England Evensong. The Parish Choir will be singing the service today and on 15 July; next Sunday the service will be sung by the choir of Emanuel School, and they will be giving a recital afterwards. Details of this are on the back page today.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the world-wide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Southern Africa. We pray in the Diocese of Guildford for those being ordained to the sacred ministry of the Church this weekend. In the parish we pray for the members of the Tuesday Evening Fellowship, 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 regular prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Old Schools Lane and in Priory Court.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0700 MATTINS** Psalm 67
- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 410.
 Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Proper 8.
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers, Children's Hour, and Crèche.
 Order 1: page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **410**
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page **184**. Proper 8.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells*, Collegium Regale.
 Gloria and Creed: *Merbecke* today; please use the hymn-book.

Introit hymn: 346
 Black book: page 167. The Invocation, Greeting, and Prayers of Penitence.
 Gloria in excelsis: *Hymn-book*, **page 830**; *words only edition*, **page 559**.
 Collect of the Day: page 410. *Readings on separate paper.*
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians.
 Gradual hymn: 414
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
 Sermon by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*.
 Nicene Creed (sung): *Hymn-book*, **page 833**; *words only edition*, **page 562**.
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory hymn 435; Collection. [Tune:
Rachie]
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.
 The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
 Hymn at the Invitation: 280, verses 1 and 4.
 During the Communion: Agnus Dei (Lamb of God).
 Anthem: Expectans expectavi. *Wood*
Although it has a Latin title, the words of this anthem, 'This sanctuary of my soul'
are in English, and are a meditation on the soul's response to the call of God.

After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: Page 410.
 Second Post-Communion Prayer for our urgent parish needs (same page).*
 * See the note on the back page of today's Notes.
 The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.
 Hymn 408 [First tune: *Blaenwern*]
 Organ: Passacaglia and Fugue (BWV 582). *J S Bach*

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 'ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL': Service of Christian Family Praise. All pets and owners welcome.**
There is a special leaflet for this service.
 Music includes items from 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo.'
 Organ: Selection from 'Carnival of the Animals.' *Saint-Saens*
- 1700 CHORAL EVENSONG** *Book of Common Prayer rite*
 Responses: Green books, page 18. Music: *Gibbons and Barnard*
 Office-hymn: 247
 Psalm 66. *The Lord who sustains and delivers.* Page 212
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 23: 1-6. *On separate paper.*
 Magnificat: page 19 *Brewer in D*
 Second Lesson: St Luke 10: 25-37 *On separate paper.*
 Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Brewer in D*
 Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.

Anthem: Like as the hart.

Howells

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to
appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God? (*Psalm 42: 1-3*)

Prayers.	Hymn 340 (ii).	Short Reading.
Hymn 444 [Retiring Collection].		The Blessing.
Organ: Sonata 1 (Last movement).		<i>Mendelssohn</i>

In church this week

Monday	1915	Holy Communion (It is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.)
Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion 1930 for 2000 Evening Fellowship in the Parish Room. The last of the course on ' <i>The Beatitudes</i> ' – <i>21st century virtues?</i> This week: ' <i>Is the Church strengthened by 'Persecution' and 'Insult'?</i> '

Other events and notices.

Monday	2000	Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.
Tuesday	2000	Meeting of the Social Committee.
Wednesday	1030-1200	Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A time for drinking coffee (or tea), and for relaxation and pleasant <i>conversazione</i> in very congenial surroundings.

* **From the Vicar:** This note appeared last week, but not everyone was here then, and so it is printed once more. I am sorry to keep harping on this point, but I am not quite sure whether it has generally sunk in as to how serious both these situations actually are. We are having a formal additional Post-Communion prayer (rather like the one we had for the Parish Funding Programme) for a while at the Sunday Eucharist, while these two crises are with us. In the case of the second churchwarden, the parish – and more specifically in this instance the worshipping congregation – really has to *own* this problem, because at the end of the day the problem is not really mine. Although I express my 'consent' at an election, the churchwardens are clearly the elected representatives of 'the people', and that means of the people of the parish and not just of the congregation, so we have wider responsibilities in all this. I hope that members of the congregation will actively discuss among themselves how this matter can best be resolved. Quite apart from the excessive workload which will otherwise fall entirely on Mr David Crick at the end of next month, there are clear implications for the future. If a parish is nearing an interregnum and can only find one churchwarden, then it would not be surprising if those in higher authority questioned the viability of the parish as an independent entity. Some very hard thinking is needed. W.R.H.

Stewardship statements. There are envelopes containing the details of these for the period April to December 2006 available in a box just by the front door. They are all in alphabetical order, so please extract your own envelope with care.

Village Fair News. As we get nearer to the Village Fair the basic handbill (enclosed with the Notes) will continue to be available, but anyone who wishes to put in a particular plug for anything is invited to do so. Please leave any details in the office; oral messages are not likely to be remembered. So far only the men's cake-making competition has requested a plug.

Our former churchwarden **Peter Pledge** is hoping to come to the Village Fair this year, but will need to be got out of the car, and generally wheeled around. If anyone would like to help our old friend on the day it would be much appreciated. Offers to the Office, please.

The Vicar is planning to be in Wales for part of this week, and will not be back until Saturday morning. There will not be 'open office' this Friday evening.

Grove Cottage. Abbeyfield Ewell Society Limited. St Mary's has had a long connexion with Grove Cottage, and we are glad to publicize their *Open Morning* on Saturday of this week from 1030 –1200. Grove Cottage – 10 Cheam Road, very close to High Street – offers sheltered accommodation at reasonable rents: warmth, safety and comfort in a friendly house, with en-suite rooms, home-cooked food, and experienced housekeepers. You may know of someone who could benefit, or even have a personal interest.

The Consecration Bell. The Vicar mentioned a little while 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 seemed to be no-one available from the tower, since 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. We have had one volunteer so far, but we could do with at least a couple more. 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. Like the banns, 'this is the third time of asking.'

Next Sunday. Morning services at the usual times. At **1700** there will be Choral Evensong, sung by the choir of Emanuel School under the direction of Jonathan Holmes. This will be followed by a recital by the choir. The choir will shortly be going on a tour of cathedrals and abbeys in the north of England. Here are the details of the music for Evensong and the Recital:

Evensong: *Stanford* in B flat, and *Elgar* 'Great is the Lord.'
Recital: *Britten*, Ballad of Little Musgrave (Lower Voices)
Walton, The Twelve (Based on a text by W H Auden)
Brahms, Wie lieblich sind deine wohnungen (from Ein Deutsches Requiem)
Howells, Collegium Regale Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis
Tippett, Steal Away (From "A Child of our Time")
Handel, Zadok the Priest (From 4 Coronation Anthems)

The Recital is, of course, for free. There would probably be a substantial entrance cost for a programme of this quality in a London concert-hall.

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