

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

9 September 2007

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

SUNDAY OF THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sponsors' Note: *Rosemarie and Peter Dancer* would like to thank the Vicar and all our other kind friends at St Mary's for the splendid card and warm wishes sent to us on the occasion of our recent Golden Wedding anniversary. We were pleased and touched by the kindness you showed to us at this time.

There is no Weekly Paragraph this week, because of the pressure on space.

Our prayers today. We give thanks for our patron saint and for her role in the loving purposes of God. In the worldwide Church we pray for those who belong to the Holy Orthodox Churches, and for Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.* At the Patronal Festival we pray for our church and parish, and for our personal and parochial renewal in faith, devotion and mission. In the Diocese we pray today for all the other churches dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and for their life and witness†. In our systematic parish prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for those who live in Primrose Walk.

* A reminder that for the next three months or so, we are praying for a different part of the worldwide Church, before resuming our systematic prayer for different provinces of the Anglican Communion in Advent. In appropriate instances we also pray for the local presence of the particular Christian body. The eastern Orthodox Churches are a group of independent ('autocephalous') Churches, who accord a primacy of honour to the Patriarch of Constantinople. In this country, perhaps surprisingly, the Orthodox communities together form the fourth largest Christian grouping.

† In Epsom Deanery alone there are four other churches dedicated to Our Lady: St Mary's Cuddington, St Mary's Chessington, St Mary's Burgh Heath, and St Mary's Headley.]

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 438
Preface on Readings paper.

'**Mary: Grace and hope in Christ**' is the title of the Agreed Statement by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. It was published in 2005. It is the latest in a series of 'agreed statements' which have been published over a period of years. It seems appropriate to reproduce the substance of some of the key paragraphs on this particular Sunday, when we honour Our Lady at the time of our Patronal Festival. The twenty or so international theologians jointly affirmed:

'the teaching that God has taken the Blessed Virgin Mary in the fullness of her person into his glory as consonant with Scripture, and only to be understood in the light of Scripture; that in view of her vocation to be the mother of the Holy One, Christ's redeeming work reached 'back' in Mary to the depths of her being and to her earliest beginnings;

that the teaching about Mary in the two definitions of the Assumption and the Immaculate Conception, understood in the biblical pattern of the economy of hope and grace, can be said to be consonant with the teaching of the Scriptures and the ancient common traditions;

that this agreement, when accepted by our two Communion, would place the questions about authority which occur in the definitions of 1854 and 1950 in a new ecumenical context;

that Mary has a continuing ministry which serves the ministry of Christ, our unique mediator, that Mary and the saints pray for the whole Church and that the practice of asking Mary and the saints to pray for us is not communion dividing.'

The Agreement is a short work of eighty or so small pages in decent-sized print, and is the result of long and prayerful discussion. The constant ARCIC principle is once again stated: 'Since its inception ARCIC has sought to get behind opposed or entrenched positions to discover and develop our common inheritance of faith.' The text is divided into chapters on Mary according to the Scriptures, Mary in the Christian Tradition, Mary in the Pattern of Grace and Hope, and Mary in the Life of the Church. Both Churches will now decide whether to accept the report.

The Commission states, 'The Scriptures lead us together to praise and bless Mary as the handmaid of the Lord, who was providentially prepared by divine grace to be the mother of our Redeemer. Her unqualified assent to the fulfilment of God's saving plan can be seen as the supreme instance of a believer's 'Amen' in response to the 'yes' of God.'

Although this latest ARCIC report is the product of a high-powered team of theologians, it is very easy to read. It costs £7.99.

SUNG EUCHARIST with PROCESSION OF OUR LADY.**Common Worship rite**

Children's Hour in the Church Hall; Crèche available.

Order 1 in the black book: page 167.

Collect of the Day: page 438

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Preface of Our Lady: page 310

Setting of the Eucharist: *Britten*, Missa Brevis in D.

[The service is sung by the Upper Voices of the Choir today.]

As last week, there are a few distinctive features to the service today, and it would be wise to follow the running-order carefully.

Introit hymn: 185

[The Prayers of Penitence come after the Intercession today.]

Kyrie eleison.

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211. (*Shaw* melody)

The Collect of the Day: page 438

New Testament Reading: Revelation 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10.

The rich and flowing imagery in the account of the woman of the Apocalypse.

Gradual Hymn: 478

The Holy Gospel: St Luke 1: 46-55.

The Magnificat: Mary's hymn in praise of the greatness of God.

Sermon by *the Vicar.* Nicene Creed: page 173

The Parish Intercession, the Prayers of Penitence (Confession back on page 169),

and then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymns: 182 and 185. Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Proper Preface: And now we give you thanks, because in choosing the Blessed Virgin Mary to be Mother of your Son, you have exalted the humble and meek. Your angel hailed her as most highly favoured; with all generations we call her blessed, and with her we rejoice and magnify your holy name.

Consecration Acclamation: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. [Tunc: 33]

All sing:

O divinest love and mercy,

When the Virgin, full of grace,

In obedience bore the Saviour,

Living Bread for human race;

Here his presence veiled, but Mary

Dwells with him in highest place

Evermore and evermore.

'Noye's Fludde', by Benjamin Britten. Preparations are well advanced for what should be a truly splendid production at St Mary's on the evening of Saturday, 29 September, at 1930. Most of the cast will be children from St Mary's, from Emanuel School, and from Kingswood House School. Tickets are £3 (under 16s free), and the proceeds are going to *Christian Aid*. We are expecting this to be a sell-out, but it won't be unless it is well publicised. Various channels have already been employed, but there are, as usual, plenty of handbills about, and of course we could do with lots of posters being taken. We rely largely on the goodwill of the congregation to help us in this way, both inside and outside the parish. The posters are in an eye-catching (albeit somewhat bilious) shade of dayglo yellow, and we would be grateful if they were taken for display. One possibility for a small poster (either an A5 blue handbill or A4 yellow poster) is the nearside rear passenger window in a car, so that it can be seen when the car is parked in the street or a car park.

'Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ.' There is a note on the back page of today's Weekly Notes, which draws attention to this important document which came out two years ago from the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. I was saying in my lecture last week on 'The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham' that the Blessed Virgin Mary, once a symbol of division among Christians, has become in our own day a uniting one. There is, for example, a much-respected Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The document is of great importance in clearing away much dust from the past, and allowing the theologians to discover common ground and understanding in an area in which many misunderstandings and prejudices have clouded judgement in the past.



Next Sunday we are away from festivals, and back to the routine of normal Sundays in church. Usual arrangements at 0800 and 0930. The monthly Sung Eucharist to the Prayer Book rite will take place at 1100, and Evening Prayer will be said at 1800.

The Children's Society. Many thanks to all box-holders. This year £517 has been collected, and the 'Thank-you receipt' is in the Welcome Area. If you do not have a box, but would like one, please ask Sybil Hale (8393 3507).

Car break-ins are starting to happen again. Last Sunday one of the congregation who was attending Mattins and Holy Baptism discovered after the service that his car window had been smashed, and an article of value stolen. This happened in broad daylight on the London Road. It is difficult to know what advice to give, apart from not having any valuables in view. It is all very distressing when this happens, and although we have been spared this sort of thing for a while it has certainly happened at St Mary's before. Everyone needs to be vigilant, but short of having someone outside on patrol it is difficult to see what can actually be done. We may think it despicable to rob cars when people are in church, but that unfortunately is what society is like at the present time, and cars parked outside a church are simply easy pickings for common criminals. One or two extra precautionary measures have recently been taken at St Mary's; we can't be too careful these days.

Old Choristers. This evening we welcome back some 'old faces' (for lack of a better expression), and it would be good if they were greeted by more than just the regular Sunday evening congregation. There is some lovely well-known music planned for tonight, and no doubt the returning singers will enjoy singing the choral evening Office of the Church once more on familiar territory.

Other dates for **Choral Evensong** this term are 30 September, 4 November (All Saints), 18 November and 9 December, and all are at **1700**, as is the Advent Procession on 2 December, which will be sung by the chapel choir of Emanuel School. After consultation it seems that the 1700 time seems the most convenient time when the service is choral, but at least for the time being we shall stick with the 1800 slot when the service is 'plain', or 1630 when it is Evensong and Holy Baptism. Full details are on the service planners and music lists. The planner is now available for the term, and the first half of the term's music list is also now available for those who would like to have it. The details go as far as the end of October. Although the choir has been very busy over the last fortnight, we try not to have more than two Sunday services for the singers (though occasionally – as today – we have sections of the choir singing certain services), except on comparatively rare occasions, which is why Choral Evensong normally only happens roughly once a month, or slightly less.

Since there is no Michaelmas Market this year, at which to off-load things, **David Slattery** has brought the remains of his bottle tombola stall from the Village Fair, and the items are available in church today. Please throw an eye over the bottles; they are in the Welcome Area. The object is twofold: to get rid of the bottles, and (of course) to raise some more money. Please cast a pound or two into the box, or whatever you think is appropriate, if you would like anything.

Hymn at the Invitation: 187

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God).*

Anthem: Ave Maria.

Lindley

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tuae, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

All stand after the anthem.

The Procession of Our Lady

Details on blue leaflet.
Note: The sanctuary party is followed by the children and then the choir; others may follow the choir, if they wish to do so. This year the statue of Our Lady will be carried around the church in the Procession, as a symbol of her special place in the midst of a church dedicated in her honour. At the end of the Procession the statue will be placed on its stand, to remain there for the rest of the day; candles are available for those who wish to use them.

Hymn during the Procession: Ye who own the faith of Jesus. [188 ii]

Post Communion Prayer at the statue of Our Lady.

The Blessing and Dismissal. (There is no final hymn today.)

Organ: Handel in the Strand. Grainger

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

Introit: Ave Maria.

Book of Common Prayer rite

Fauré

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tuae, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Responses: page 8; Music: Darke.

Office-Hymn: 180 [Tune 85]

Psalms 132: 1-15.

Ark and temple: Old Testament imagery which gets attributed to Mary in the Christian tradition. The psalm also contains an early mention of Bethlehem (Ephrata).
First Lesson: Song of Songs 2: 1-7

From a gentle love-poem: the Rose and the Lily.

Te Deum: page 10

Venite (shorter version).

Page 296.

Second Lesson: Galatians 4, 1-5

Through the incarnation, by adoption and grace, we share in Christ's own sonship.

Hymn 161 [Tune: 385]

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 53).
Anthem: Maria, Mater gratiae.

*Maria, Mater gratiae,
dulcis parens clementiae,
tu nos ab hoste protege,
et mortis hora suscipe.
Jesu, tibi gloria,
qui natus es de Virgine,
cum Patre et almo Spiritu,
in sempiternam saecula. Amen.*

Mary, Mother of grace
sweet Mother of mercy,
protect us from the enemy,
receive us in death's hour.
Jesus, born of the Virgin,
to thee be glory,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to endless ages. Amen.

Prayers Hymn 184; Collection.
During the hymn (before the last verse):

Station at the Statue of Our Lady.

Priest: The Lord be with you
All reply: And also with you.

V: The angel of Lord brought tidings to Mary.
R: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R: Be it unto me according to thy word.
V: 'The Word was made flesh,
R: And dwelt among us.'

It is truly right that we should bless Mary, the God-bearer, the ever blessed and glorious Mother of our Lord, more honourable than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, who for us and for our salvation brought forth our Saviour Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God. May God be praised in her, the first among the saints. Amen.

Let us pray: Lord, open our hearts to your grace. Through the angel's message to Mary we have learned to believe in the incarnation of Christ your Son; we pray that by his Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Organ: Sortie in E flat. *Lefebure-Wely*

CHORAL EVENSONG

Service sung by the Old Choristers on the occasion of the annual reunion. The hymns and readings at Evensong are on separate papers.

Book of Common Prayer rite

Responses: Green books, page 18

Music: Smith

Office-hymn: Sing of Mary, pure and lowly. (*First hymn on pink leaflet.*)
Psalms 113, 138. Pages 301 and 309.

Two psalms in praise of the Lord who exalts the humble and meek.

First Lesson: Isaiah 7: 10-15

(*On gold paper*)

A vision of a child destined to be the nation's deliverer.

Magnificat: page 19.

Walmisley in D minor

Second Lesson: Acts 1: 12-14

(*On gold paper*)

A glimpse of Mary in the Church.

Nunc dimittis: page 20

Walmisley in D minor

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

Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 53).

Anthem: I was glad when they said unto me.

Parry

[Words from Psalm 122: page 291.]

Prayers.

Hymn: The ark which God has sanctified (*on second page*) [Tune: 227]

Sermon by *the Vicar.*

Hymn: Angels and seraphim (*on second page*) [Tune: 49 i *Wessex*].

The Blessing.

Organ: Final (Symphonie No.1). *Vierne*

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

1930 for 2000. Evening Fellowship Group in the Parish Room.

Other events and notices.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for

coffee, relaxation, and pleasant *conversazione.*

Coach Outing to Portsmouth. The coach will leave from the

Church Hall at 0915 sharp. There are still some seats available

at £10 each. Anyone interested should give names and money

either to Joan Boulden or Lynne Yuille as soon as possible.

The Votive Candle stand is placed today, for the benefit of those who wish to use it, by the statue of Our Lady, as a reminder that our prayers are one with those of our patron saint and with the whole company of heaven. The statue arrives there at the end of the Sung Eucharist, after having been carried around in the Procession. A candle lit at a statue or a shrine is a visible witness to the ongoing nature of prayer, for after the prayer has left our heart or lips, it still remains 'alive' in the reality of the eternal prayer of Christ, through whom all our earthly prayers -- as well as those of Our Lady and of all the saints -- are taken into the very heart of God. A burning light is a symbol of the risen life of Christ, as the Easter Vigil rite brings out so clearly, and so the votive candles are a constant reminder of where our prayer has gone.