

St Mary the Virgin  
EWEELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

23 September 2007

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY. HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Ian and Kathie Burgess were very touched to receive the wonderful flowers and liquid refreshment presented at the Patronal Festival, and they would like to thank everyone who through their hard work and commitment contributed to the financial success of this year's Ewell Village Fair.

The Harvest Festival is always a pleasant time in church. The hymns are (by and large) jolly, and there is a feel-good factor about it all. Our Harvest gifts are going as usual to the Waterloo Christian Centre for its work among the homeless in London, and also to Vaughan House in Guildford for its shelter work, which is why the familiar harvest festival smell of an abundance fruit is noticeably absent. The human need is for tins and packaged goods. The gifts from Ewell Castle Junior School are also included in what goes from St Mary's, and most of that is already on our window sills. The harvest festival actually acts as an annual reminder of God's promise that seed time and harvest shall not fail: a promise which has been consistently maintained in a world-wide context, even though there have often been tragic failures of the harvest in particular areas. By a curious coincidence that promise in the Scriptures comes at the end of the ancient Flood story – a story which is common to several ancient cultures – and, although it is not actually mentioned in the Chester Miracle Play, we can reflect upon both God's promise and God's forgiveness at the beginning and the end of this week, with the Harvest at one end and 'Noah's Flood' at the other. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our church and parish, and today we give thanks for the fruits of the earth, and for all the blessings of life. In the worldwide Church we are praying today for those who belong to the Methodist Church, and especially for our neighbours at Stoneleigh Methodist Church and Ruxley Church\*. In the Diocese of Guildford at harvest-time we pray for the Church's ministry to the farming communities in the rural parishes. Within the parish we pray today for our church Architect, Martin Heijne, and for the people of the parish living in Purberry Shot.

\* Ruxley Church is a joint Anglican-Methodist church. The former Anglican building, St Francis, was demolished after having been found to be unsafe. They have an exciting new building project in hand. See also the Note below about the new Rural Dean.

*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.*

### Other events and notices.

Wednesday 1030-1200. **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. There is a Bring and Buy Sale this week.

**The Holy Gospel.** For the time being the Gospel Procession at the Sung Eucharist is only going as far as the front of the nave. There is no trendy liturgical reason for this; this is simply as far as the stand microphone will reach. It is important that the Holy Gospel, which is the high point of the Ministry of the Word at the Eucharist, is heard by everyone, and at present we do not have a working second radio microphone. Those who rely on the induction loop system probably lose out on this feature every Sunday. Hopefully the new arrangements will have rectified this. Beginning today there will be a slight adjustment to the acolytes' drill at this point; they will be going with the reader of the Gospel and the Master of Ceremonies to collect the Gospel-book from the High Altar, so that the Gospel Procession as such is still seen to take place. This little ceremony is not just a bit of church fuss; the Gospel Procession is symbolic of two things: firstly, the movement 'outwards' of the Gospel tidings is an enacted parable of the priority of mission and evangelism ('the preaching of the gospel'), and in a larger church than ours this point is more obviously made; and secondly it also demonstrates how Christ present in the Gospel Scriptures is meant to be in his proper place at the very heart and centre of the worshipping community. The uniqueness and dignity of the Gospel reading single it out from all other readings in church, which is why we stand (and not sit) for it, turning if necessary to face the Gospel Book, and why the lights are carried by the altar servers – for the Light of the Gospel is the Light of Christ – and, occasionally at St Mary's, the Gospel-Book is saluted with the incense. W.R.H.

**Confirmation.** There is a Confirmation service arranged at All Saints Banstead on **Thursday 28 November**. This is very convenient from our point of view, since the general style of All Saints is not dissimilar from that of St Mary's. (It is not always the case, and occasionally this has caused problems.) There are probably some juniors coming into zone, but this is an obvious time for others who may be thinking about it to do something about it. The Vicar will be glad to hear from anyone who would like to know more about this, though certainly without any initial commitment. Whilst parts of next year may remain a possibility for some, the odds are that the following year will not provide such obvious slots, since the parish will certainly be in an interregnum at that stage. There is no Confirmation planned for St Mary's, and it is unlikely that there will be one until a new parish priest is in post.

**The new Rural Dean of Epsom** is the **Reverend Stuart Thomas**, who is Vicar of our neighbouring parish of St Francis. He will be installed on 31 October. He succeeds the Vicar of Howell Hill, who has now completed his term of office.

**Next Sunday.** Normal Sunday morning arrangements, with the monthly 1200 Eucharist; *Choral Evensong* at 1700.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 1700 **MATTINS** Psalm 67
- 1800 **HOLY COMMUNION (of Trinity 16)** *Common Worship rite*  
Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 490.  
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Proper 20.
- 1930 **SUNG EUCHARIST (of the Harvest)** *Common Worship rite*

Children are at the 1100 service today. Crèche available on request.  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 521.  
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Starford* in C.  
Fine, vigorous Harvest hymns today, all well known. Do join in heartily; they only come around once a year.

Introit hymn: 259  
Black book, page 167. Invocation, Greeting and the Prayers of Penitence.  
*Kyrie eleison.*  
Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211 (*Shaw* melody)  
Collect of the Day: page 521. *Readings on separate paper.*  
Old Testament Reading from the Book Deuteronomy.  
Gradual hymn: 260  
N.B. The Collection is taken during **this** hymn today, and taken to the back of the church.  
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.  
Sermon by **Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader**  
Nicene Creed: page 173.  
Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.  
**The Procession of Harvest Gifts.**  
Hymn 422 [This hymn is, by and large, a paraphrase of 'The General Thanksgiving.']

*Then all sit for the Offertory Anthem, during which the Procession of Harvest Gifts continues, if necessary, and this is then followed by the Offertory Procession of the bread and wine and finally the Collection.*

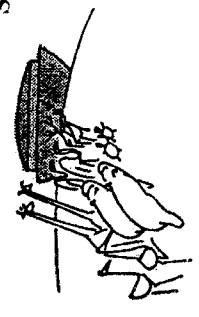
Anthem: The heavens are telling. *Haydn* (from 'The Creation')

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of his works displays the firmament. To day that is coming speaks it the day, the night that is gone to following night. In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood. (*Psalm 19: 1-4*)

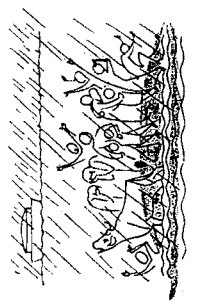
*After the anthem all stand for Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.*  
The Lord's Prayer, etc. is back on page 178.  
After the Invitation to Communion today: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God)  
During the Communion: Hymn 261 (verses 1 & 2), and organ music.

*All stand after the administration for the General Thanksgiving page 109*  
The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.  
Hymn 262  
Organ: Chorale-Improvisation on 'Now thank we all our God.' *Kare-Eiert.*

- 1100 **CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE FOR HARVEST.**  
*There is a special leaflet for this service, which will be sung by the Choir Juniors.*  
Anthem: For the beauty of the earth. *Rutter*  
Organ: Toccata in D. *Laquetuit.*
- 1630 **Evensong and Holy Baptism**  
*Congregational service. There is a special leaflet for this service.*
- In church this week.**  
Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**



Saturday at 1930 in church:  
**NOYE'S FLUDDE**  
by  
**Benjamin Britten.**



Most members of the congregation are now aware of this large-scale production here on Saturday. It is the medieval Chester Miracle Play about the biblical Flood story, set to music by Britten, largely for performance by children. Our own choir will be joined by the Junior Choirs from Emanuel School and Kingswood House School, and there will be an orchestra, bells, and all sorts of wonderful things. Even the Vicar is taking part. It will be under the direction of Jonathan Holmes. This is, in effect, the 'last call', though tickets will continue to be available during the week from the Office. For £3 one would be hard-pressed to get better value for money; and under 16s get in free. The concert is to raise funds for **Christian Aid**. We have not been able to take part in the annual street collection for Christian Aid in recent years, and we hope that this splendid concert will raise a substantial sum towards the many humanitarian and educational projects which this inter-Church body finances. St Mary's people will know that we are much exercised at the present time about our external giving, since no-one has surfaced to run the annual Market for external causes, and it is not taking place this year. This concert should go some way towards helping the situation, and it deserves the support of all St Mary's folk, and we hope that many of our visitors today – for the harvest services or for the christenings – will also be able to come to what promises to be a magnificent evening in church on Saturday.

**It is still not too late to take A4 and A5 handbills for displaying at home or in the car. We obviously want as much publicity as possible. The children and others have worked immensely hard to bring all this about. Please support our choir and their fellow-singers, not least because in this particular instance they are in fact using their considerable talents in the service of others.**