

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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*Sharing the love of Christ,  
the Light of the world,  
with the people of Ewell.*

## WEEKLY NOTES

7 October 2007

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

**Sponsors' Note.** Ron and Virginia Johnson would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and beautiful cards, which were very much appreciated, on the happy occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

Members of the congregation will notice today that there are copies of *Bible Reading Fellowship Notes* on the pews today. (They are not for reading during the sermon; I shall be watching!) They are there to be taken away, and are **FOR FREE!** The quick-eyed will soon detect that these are back numbers, of which we have quite

a number, but they are not all that old, and the contents are contemporary enough. This is a golden opportunity for those who do not belong to the **BRF** to consider doing so. The Notes are small enough to slip into a lady's handbag or a gentleman's pocket, so everyone should be able to take one away, and have a good look at it. Over the years St Mary's has had a fairly strong group of **BRF** members, and now is a chance for others to think about it. The **BRF** readings come in various forms, and although the ones on the pews today are (I think) all of one kind, there are more 'in depth' versions available. This point is an important one, for some people actually want more demanding material. All the Notes (of whatever sort) are written by scholars of considerable ability, but, at the end of the day, they are not designed to be anything other than reflective companions to the Scriptures. Many Christians have found them to be of great value in their own personal and devotional lives. The Notes were started by Canon Leslie Mannering, a South London Vicar, for his own parish, and they instantly met a need, and ultimately evolved into the present large nation-wide organisation. There are other similar Bible study-aids around, but, in my own view, many of them are superficial and trite, whilst others have a specific theological outlook which is constantly plugged. In the case of **BRF** I have found no such problems, and I have been constantly impressed by the quality of the contents. I commend them to the whole congregation at St Mary's.

For information about ordering the Notes, for which there is a yearly subscription of £10.50 (the Notes come out every four months), please contact our Parish Bible Reading Fellowship Secretaries, John and Sarah Stovell, either in church, or on 020 8393 0786. 'Bible Sunday' normally falls these days on the Last Sunday after Trinity, but since that day also collides with a festival this year we shall revert this year to the alternative and more traditional date of the Second Sunday in Advent, when we shall have our Procession of the Scriptures at the Sung Eucharist. W.R.H.

We are in a difficulty over Sidesmen at 1100. The 1100 is generally (though by no means always) a much smaller service than the 0930, but it needs staffing by sidesmen in the usual way. One of the small regular team is now unable to continue, and we are having a real problem over this. What we hope might be a possibility is for someone from the 0930 to stay on *at least for the start* of the 1100 service, so that books can be given out, and that sort of thing. (There are other ways of dealing with the Collection.) Clearing up is not quite so much of a problem, but we do need someone at the start, not least because from time to time we get visitors at the 1100 (everyone outside the church seems to think that services always start at 1100), and they need to be welcomed. Perhaps someone from the particular Sunday team of sidesmen could take it in turns; that means it would only be very occasionally.

**Acolytes.** There was a measure of 'significant response' last week, but not enough to say that we are all right now. We can still do with some more offers. We really do need to have a decent pool of servers. Also, for the **Communion Assistants**, as well as for the servers, the sheets about Christmas and helping at 0800 are at the back of the church. Please have a look at them today, and indicate accordingly; I should like to get this whole matter out of my system this week – even today, if possible, because I am away for much of this week. W.R.H.

**Today's Post-Communion Prayer.** Were it not for the important note about the **BRF**, I would have put this paragraph on the front page today. The prayer, from *Common Worship*, is a somewhat mangled version of a well-known Latin text, *O sacrum convivium* (O sacred banquet), which has frequently been set to music by composers ranging from Tallis to Messiaen, though at present no version of it is in the current repertoire of our own choir. It is a curious feature of *Common Worship* that our own participation in what the theologians call 'the Messianic Banquet' (in the hereafter) is very frequently plugged, and the compilers have tagged on to the original version of today's text a reference to our doing just that. A similar feature even appears in the marriage rite at the blessing of the newly-married, presumably by some subliminal analogy with the wedding breakfast. My own view is that this aspect of beatific vision is not, in fact, one to over-emphasise. Even though no-one enjoys a good meal more than I do, the vision of endlessly feasting does not strike me as particularly attractive or edifying, any more than the idea of endlessly playing harps does. The nature of the Vision of God is his secret, and one day we will, by the grace of God, be let into it, but until then I do not think that very much is gained by pressing the imagery of feasting (or playing harps), as if that really describes the actual nature of celestial reality. Indeed, not everyone finds this sort of imagery helpful; some probably find it a positive hindrance. Such imagery is, in my view, best confined to the hymn-book, and used sparingly, such as in the occasional use of a hymn like '*Jerusalem the golden*', of which I am quite fond, being a medievalist by training. I do not think it ought to be a fairly regular feature of modern liturgical texts, and I probably shall not use today's text again. Unlike the Collects, the Post-Communion are not mandatory; other prayers may be used. W.R.H.

**Next Sunday.** Once again, a very normal Sunday. October is a fairly easy month.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church for those belonging to the United Reformed Church, and for our neighbours at Ewell URCh and their Minister, the Reverend Pat Hall. We pray in the Diocese of Guildford for all the Diocesan Chaplains working in educational establishments. In the parish we pray for all those who worship at St Mary's, but who live outside the geographical parish, and in our regular prayer for the people living within the parish boundaries we pray today for those living in The Ridings.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### 0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.  
Eucharistic Prayer G: page 201.

### Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 419.  
Proper 22.

### 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Wayfarers, Children's Hour, and Crèche.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 419.

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196. Proper 22.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Sumision* in F.

Gloria and Creed: *Merbecke* today; please use the hymn-book.

Introit hymn: 403

[Tune: 128 ii]

Black book: page 167. The Invocation, the Greeting, Prayers of Penitence, and *Kyrie eleison*.

Gloria in excelsis: **Hymn-book, page 830; words only edition, page 559.**

Collect of the Day: page 419. *Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament Reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

Gradual hymn: 225 (1)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Nicene Creed (sung): **Hymn-book, page 833; words only edition, page 562.**

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn 435 [Tune: *Rachiel*]; Collection.

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.

The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.

Hymn at the Invitation: 274; repeat the last line of both verses.

[Choir has a separate leaflet for this hymn.]

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

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? (*Psalms* 42: 1-3)

After the *anthem* all stand for

the Post-Communion Prayer\*: Page 419.

The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn 362

Organ: Toccata (Op.11). *Prokoviev*

[Tune:185]

### 1100

#### CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Responses: page 8

Music: *Neary*

Venite (shorter version)

Office-Hymn: 234

[second tune]

Psalms 85. *God's forgiveness and loving-kindness.* Page 239

First Lesson: Nehemiah 6: 1-16. *'Gashmu saith it.'*

Te Deum: page 10

*Stanford* in C

Second Lesson: St John 15: 10-17. *On the nature and dignity of love.*

Hymn 365

The Creed (page 12) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects; the first Collect is on page 79.

Anthem: Duo seraphim.

*Dering*

[Anthem for Upper Voices.]

*English version:* Above him stood the seraphim, and one cried unto another, and said, 'Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' [*Isaiah* 6: 2a,3]

Prayers. Hymn 353; Collection

The Blessing

Organ: Toccata in C. *Fletcher*

### 1800

#### Evening Prayer

#### In church this week

There will **not** be Holy Communion on Tuesday at 1000; back to normal next week. On Tuesday at 1930 for 2000: **Mothers' Union Prayer Group** in the Parish Room. **Other events and notices.**

Monday-Thursdays The Vicar is away at the Priests' Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and for the Executive of the Federation of Catholics Priests, which meets on the same occasion. He will be back in the office Friday morning.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A time for drinking coffee (or tea), and for relaxation and pleasant *conversazione* in very congenial surroundings. This week come and hear **Marion Rao** as she opens up **St Mary's Archive** of sixteen photograph albums, illuminating our recent past. They include The Millennium Window, the Shed (*sic*), Thieves and Vagabonds, Vestments, 'Father Willis', and the Vicar. The presentation will start at **1100**.

Thursday The Vicar returns from Walsingham, via the Cathedral, where there is a meeting of the Cathedral Council at 1800.

**Quiet Days.** Some gremlin seems to be playing havoc over our plans for these! The first proved not to be viable. The other, scheduled for 1 December, now clashes with a prior booking by the Ringers. It is possible, though not certain, that it may still go ahead, but in a different location. Meanwhile, 'watch this space.'

**Children's Society** Christmas cards will be on sale in church on Sunday, 21 October.

*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.*