

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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Next: Red.

WEEKLY NOTES

20 April 2008

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 4)

The Sunday prayer for today (the Collect) is a modern language version of the Collect for Easter Day in the Book of Common Prayer. For once, the 'old book' lets us down; we should have expected a magnificent Collect on Easter Day – just like the one for Christmas Day. But no; instead we had something rather weak, and it is not all that surprising that the modern revisions have provided something else. In the way that only the Church of England can do, they didn't actually ditch the prayer; they just re-located it. So we have it today. Although as a prayer it is in the blood of Church of England folk, it is not a little strange that on such a day as Easter the prayer itself is neither particularly distinctive of the season (as is the splendid one for the day before, 'Easter Even'), nor is the connexion between the two parts of the prayer very obvious. In the original Latin version it was even more obscure: the second part prayed that 'by the renewal of the Spirit we might rise from the death of the soul' (whatever that meant). It is a useful reminder that antiquity is not always the best qualification for the suitability of liturgical texts. Sometimes what is old is indeed better than some milk-and-water modern texts, but by no means always. In fact today's rather weak Collect contrasts sharply with the modern Post-Communion prayer, which is succinct and to the point. Well did the Lord talk about bringing out of one's treasure things both new and old.

Today is an unusually heavy day for the choir. The upper voices are singing some fairly demanding music at 0930 (*Britten* and *Schubert*); the lower voices are singing *Byrd's* Three-part Mass at 1100; and at 1700 Choral Evensong has one of the most well-known and popular setting of the canticles (*Stanford* in C), together with a vigorous anthem by *Sumsion* (new to the choir), which has a decidedly nautical flavour. Much easier next week; about which please see the note on the back page, because arrangements are different from usual.

Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for the Church in Mexico. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for those who serve as Pastoral Assistants in the parishes of the Diocese. In our parish prayer we pray for those who have arranged to be married at St Mary's in the coming months, and in our systematic prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Woodlands Close.

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 after the Sung Eucharist.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*
Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 474.
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Other Easter material: page 316.
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available, if required.
Order 1 (black book): page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **402**.
Eucharistic Prayer **E**: page **196**. Other Easter material: page **316**.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Britten*, *Missa Brevis* in D.

Note: The service is being sung by the upper voices of the Parish Choir. This is a demanding choral work, and today (by exception) they will also be singing the *Gloria in excelsis* as well as *Kyrie eleison*. Because this is a longer musical section

than usual, the congregation should *sit* after the opening words have been sung by the celebrant.
The choir will be at the front of the church until after the Collect of the Day.

Introit hymn: 106

Then black book: page 167; Invocation, Greeting and first prayer.

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy).

Gloria in excelsis. Please *sit* after the opening words of the Gloria.

[Latin text today. English version on page 171.]

All stand for the Collect of the Day: page 402. *Readings on separate paper*.

New Testament reading from the First Letter of St Peter.

Gradual hymn: *on readings paper*.

[HHE 62 (t. OEH 221)]

[The discerning will notice that this vivacious melody is a thinly-disguised version of 'John Peel.']

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed: page 173.

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory hymn: 401. The Collection is taken in *this* hymn today.

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196.

At the end of the prayer, turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.

After the Invitation to Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).

Note: The congregation should approach the altar *as soon as the words of Invitation have been said*, but the sanctuary gates will not be closed until the celebrant has left for the side chapel. The choir will receive the Holy Communion *after* the other members of the congregation, and today, by exception this will be at the Side Chapel, since they will be singing the anthem near the piano.

(These arrangements are, at the moment, experimental.)

During the Communion: The twenty-third Psalm.

Schubert

[The choristers will be singing the anthem to the German text as set by Schubert.

One of the many English versions of this familiar psalm is printed on page 617.]

All stand after 'Let us pray' for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 403.

The Mutual Salutation, Easter Blessing and the Dismissal with Alleluia.

Hymn 112.

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in C major (BWV 547). *J S Bach*

JH

1100 SUNG EUCHARIST

Book of Common Prayer rite

The service is sung by the lower voices of the Parish Choir.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Byrd*, Three-part Mass.

Creed and Gloria: *Merbecke*

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Organ: Chorale-Prelude on 'Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag' (BWV 629). *J S Bach*

Introit hymn: 105 [First tune].

Then green Prayer Book: page 31;

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33

Greeting and the Collect of the Day

(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)

The Epistle: St James 1: 17-21. *A call to 'a godly, righteous and sober life.'*

Gradual Hymn: 111

The Holy Gospel: St John 16: 5-15. *The promise of the gift of the Spirit.*

Nicene Creed: page 34 Biddings to Prayer and Offertory Sentence: page 35.

Offertory Hymn: 351; Collection

After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration.

Hymn at the Consecration: 313

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

The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44

All stand for Gloria in excelsis: page 46
The Blessing. Hymn 113. Organ: Recessional. *Mathias* JC

1700 CHORAL EVENSONG *Book of Common Prayer rite*
Responses: Green books, page 18 Music: *Smith*
Office-hymn: AMR 221 [Tune: OEH 376; MS]
Psalm 118. *The Lord who delivers and saves.* Page 277 [Parratt chant]
First Lesson: Isaiah 62: 1-5. *Rejoicing at restoration and deliverance.*
Magnificat: page 19 *Stanford* in C
Second Lesson: St John 21: 15-22. *The restoration of Simon Peter.*
Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Stanford* in C
The Creed (page 20) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,
the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 70).
Anthem: They that go down to the sea in ships. *Sumston*
[The words of the anthem are from Psalm 107: 23-30; green book, page 268.]
Prayers. Hymn: AMR 323 [Tune: AMR 120]. Short Reading.
Hymn: AMR 143 [Tune: AMR 570].* The Blessing.
Organ: Fugue from the Sonata on the 94th Psalm. *Reubke* JH

* Collections at Evensong are no longer taken 'during the hymn'; instead there is a collection-plate by the font.

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion.**

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Other events and notices.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall a time for fine blend
and good companionship. 'Have a break; have a coffee.'
2000 Meeting of Vicar, Churchwardens and Administrator.
Saturday 1000 Vicar at Royal British Legion meeting at Effingham.

The first of the 2008 series of Organ Recitals and Concerts.

Saturday at 19.30

ORGAN RECITAL

by

JONATHAN HOLMES

'GREAT ORGAN TRANSCRIPTIONS'

Full programme on handbills, available in church today.

Admission £6; in advance £5. Under 16s free.

Interval refreshments.

The singers will be in front of the chancel screen at the 0930 Eucharist today until the Epistle, just like they were on Christmas Day, though they will go back into the stalls afterwards. Whilst it is all a bit cramped, not least because the presence of the Easter Garden, there is no denying that the quality of the sound is vastly improved when they are in this position, and this fact was commented upon by several people when we did this at Christmas. Experiments like this are always useful, particularly when the music is somewhat demanding (as today). In a traditionally ordered church like ours, the chancel is often not always the best place for the singers, particularly when one has to take into account the position of an enormous organ, a late medieval chancel screen, and very uncomfortable and ill-designed stalls, all of which complicate things further in their own different ways.

The Electoral Roll is now 'frozen' until after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting next week. The Accounts for the last year have been approved by the PCC, and are now on display at the back of the church.

The new Parochial Church Council will be elected next Sunday, and there are several vacancies due to people having served for three years. The new Council is an important one, since it will still be

operational at the start of the interregnum period in the parish in January 2009. Anyone who is interested in serving on the PCC should have a word with the churchwardens or the Vicar today.

Gardener needed. A member of the congregation who is housebound is in need of a new gardener. If anyone knows of a suitable gardener to recommend, please would he or she have a word with the Vicar in the first instance.

Next Sunday. There is only one choral service next Sunday, the 0930 Sung Eucharist. This is the Sunday when we are indebted to the generosity of the Mattins congregation. They give up their slot at 1100 once a year so that the two statutory annual meetings can take place: first, the Election of Churchwardens, and, second, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. AGMs are seldom the most thrilling of occasions, and the measure of bureaucracy increases every year. However, this is the one occasion in the year when all those who are on the Electoral Roll have a chance to find out what is going on, and to ask questions about our finances and about other aspects of our parish life.

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