

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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[www.stmarvsewell.com](http://www.stmarvsewell.com)

## WEEKLY NOTES

27 April 2008

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Easter 5; Rogation Sunday)

**Rogation Sunday** is traditionally marked in country parishes by the blessing of the crops and in fishing parishes by the blessing of the waters. It is also kept as Industrial Sunday in some places. In all these instances the underlying theme is that of prayer, commending to God's grace the world of nature and our own earthly husbandry of God's creation. It is slightly ironical that at a time of an increasing 'green' awareness, this traditional theme for prayer on this Sunday has somehow got overshadowed by the equally important concentration on the essential unity of the Fifty Days of Easter. However, we shall make one or two concessions to Rogationtide today: in the prayers, in John Keble's lovely hymn at Communion-time, and – perhaps surprisingly – in the organ voluntary. The Litany as a devotion has long been associated with Rogationtide, and although we are not having the Litany today, the well-known work entitled 'Litanies' by *Jehan Alain* echoes the refrain of 'Lord, have mercy upon us', as it is repeated many times with increasing urgency.

**The Election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting** take place at 1100 today. There are all sorts of good reasons for people to STAY ON (or, of course, come in) for these meetings, which for some years have been arranged for a Sunday morning for the greater convenience of the regular members of St Mary's congregations. There is coffee as usual. It is probably not fully realised quite what is the sheer extent of the work involved in producing all the paperwork for these meetings. The Church of England has laid down rules and procedures for all this, the wisdom of much of which may well be a matter of opinion and debate, but we are lumbered with these procedures and we have to follow them. The amount of additional office-time involved in all this for the Administrator (Lynne Yuille) has been immense, and the same is true for all the hours of time spent by the Chairman of our Finance Committee (Dr David Dance) and our two Treasurers (Julia Mathews and Miriam Massey). As a tribute to their work alone it would be a courtesy if people thought twice about all this, before deciding to go home straight after the Sung Eucharist. A new *Parochial Church Council* will also be elected this morning, and the new Council will have an important role in the procedures leading to the appointment of a new Vicar.

**Ascension Day** is on Thursday: the fourth major Holy Day of the Christian Year. Further details on (unnumbered) page 3.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our own church and parish, and in the Anglican Communion for the Church in Myanmar (Burma). In our Diocese – on Rogation Sunday – we pray for the ministry exercised in the country parishes. In the parish we pray for the deepening of our life of prayer, and in our regular prayer for the people living within the parish boundaries we pray today for those living in Aragon Avenue.\*

\*The systematic prayer for the people of the geographical parish starts all over again today, as the various streets are worked through alphabetically.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS

Psalm 145: 15-21.

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

*Common Worship rite.*

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 475.

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Other Easter material: page 316.

[We do not normally have the 'traditional language' rite two weeks in succession; but last week was a mistake (!), and, since today's rite is stated on the term's service-lists, it seemed sensible not to compound the minor error any further. W.R.H.]

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.  
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 403.  
 Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196. Other Easter material: page 316.  
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Viadana*, Missa l' hora passa.  
 We have not sung the Creed for a while, but will be doing so today.  
 The recent 'streamlining' of the Eucharist has seemed to work, but we  
 shall be continuing to monitor carefully the length of the service.

Introit hymn: 122

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

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

The Collect of the Day: page 403. *Readings on separate paper.*

New Testament reading from the First Letter of St Peter.

Gradual hymn: *on readings paper.* [Tune: NEH 5]

*The Collection is taken during **this** hymn today.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

Sermon by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*

Nicene Creed (*sung today*): traditional language text on page 213 (*Shaw* melody).

Intercession and then all stand for Greeting of Peace.

*All sit for the Offertory Anthem: Ye choirs of new Jerusalem. Stanford*

[Words of Hymn 124.]

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196; the Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.

*Note: The congregation should start to approach the altar **as soon as the words of Invitation have been said**, though the gates will not be closed until the celebrant has left *via* the Parish Room for the side chapel. The choir will receive the Holy Communion *after* the other members of the congregation. During Communion the chancel should be left clear, while the choir is singing; people should watch their opportunity for going through. (*These arrangements are, at the moment, experimental.*)*

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

Hymn 126 (*for 'Rogation Sunday'*)

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

The Mutual Salutation, Easter Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn 114.

Organ: Litanies. *Alain.* JH [There is a note about this on the front page.]

*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.*

**1100 Meeting of Parishioners for the purpose of THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS. o/c THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.**

Only those on the Church's Electoral Roll may speak or vote at this second meeting. After the meeting there will be a very short meeting of the newly-elected Parochial Church Council, mainly for the purpose of making some necessary appointments.

[1200 **The monthly 1200 Eucharist is transferred to next Sunday.**]

**1800 Evening Prayer**

**In church this week**

Tuesday **1000 Holy Communion**

Thursday

**ASCENSION DAY**

*The festival of the exaltation of our human nature in the Glorified Christ.*

**1000 HOLY COMMUNION (High Altar)**

It seems appropriate that on Greater Festivals the equivalent service to the Sunday 8 o'clock should be celebrated at the High Altar.

**1900 SUNG EUCHARIST**

There will be a leaflet for the Ascension Day services. There will not be a sermon at the evening Eucharist, at which the Parish Choir will be singing the double-choir motet *Coelos ascendit hodie* by Stanford. There will probably be a glass of wine available afterwards. There is not a mid-day 'simple' Sung Eucharist this year; the 1000 service should cater for those who prefer a 'plain' service. The evening Sung Eucharist is re-instated, partly in order to emphasise that this is indeed one of the Greater Festivals of the Christian Year, even though it does not fall on a Sunday.

**Other events and notices.**

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for a relaxing break, a chat and a coffee. (Tea, if you prefer.) There will be a Bring and Buy Sale this week.

**Not much on**, apart from the liturgy this week. This is no bad thing; we have been having some busy times in church of late, and not only on Sundays. My thanks to all who have done so much recently: in choir and sanctuary, on the computer and with the coffee pot, and in a host of other ways. I dare to say 'Great will be your reward in the kingdom of heaven.' W.R.H.

**Music for Ascensontide.** Those who have glanced at this term's service-lists (and there are still some available in the Welcome Area for those who has not got this useful document) will have noticed that the choir is tackling some quite remarkable music for this time of year. Three items are quite new to the present choir: the anthem for Ascension Day (mentioned above), and afterwards on the following Sunday *Gerald Finzi's* powerful work 'God is gone up with a triumphant shout' will be sung at the Eucharist, and 'Ascendit Deus' by the Tudor composer *Peter Philips* will be sung at Choral Evensong. Our musicians have enhanced our worship very considerably over Holy Week and Eastertide, and we owe them our thanks for all the time and hard work they put in on Fridays and Sundays. Under Jonathan Holmes' direction many new avenues have been explored, several 'old faithfuls' re-discovered, and it has been good to welcome some new juniors into the choir. And O yes; one voluntary next week comes with a health warning: it is *The Ride of the Valkyries* after the Sung Eucharist.

**Next Sunday.** The Seventh Sunday of Easter, and (according to the old scheme of things) the Sunday after Ascension Day. English Roman Catholics are now keeping Ascension Day as such on this Sunday, and not on the preceding Thursday (40 days or no 40 days), though we shall also be retaining a measure of Ascensontide spirituality as the Scriptures for the Sunday bid us look forward to the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost one week later. 'Expectation Sunday' they used to call it; quite an acceptable title theologically. The RCs are probably being realistic in making this change, though whether the Church of England goes down the same path – or makes it an option – remains to be seen. We shall be having a brief 'Station of the Ascension' at the beginning of the Sung Eucharist, and the *Finzi* anthem (see above) will be sung at the Offertory. The monthly 1200 Eucharist has been transferred from this week (for obvious reasons) to next Sunday. The future of this service is now in some doubt; the Vicar will mention this at the APCM today.

Two other features for next Sunday. Firstly, there will a service of *Christian Family Praise* at 1100, and this will take the form of a **May Procession of Our Lady**. We have had this attractive service a few times, and it seems sensible to do it again this year. The Choir Juniors will be singing a very well-known piece of classical 'pop': *Schubert's* 'Ave Maria.' Secondly, there will be Choral Evensong at 1700, and this will be sung from the west gallery, with some lovely music by Tudor composers.

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