

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
Tel. 020 8393 2643
www.stmarysewell.com

WEEKLY NOTES

11 May 2008

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

WHITSUNDAY

HOLY SPIRIT IN HOLY CHURCH The last day of Eastertide

'Fire of Love' is one of the more striking titles of the Holy Spirit, and we find it in that most famous of all Whitsunday hymns, the *Veni Creator* (in the *New English Hymnal* at 138, and used as an Introit today at the 1100 service). The imagery of fire comes of course from the strange account in the Acts of the Apostles about the Day of Pentecost, when the apostles were transformed by the grace of God into a Spirit-filled body, which was capable of turning the world upside down, as their adversaries were soon to complain. The power of fire is both to warm and to destroy, and the Holy Spirit of God continues to burn up what is sinful, and at the same time to enkindle new faith and hope and love. The loving warmth of the Spirit is ever available to the Church and the Christian, to guide, to inspire, to encourage, to exhort, to build up and to make holy. It is for all this that we praise God today. The Lord Jesus Christ is present among his people through the in-dwelling power of the Holy Spirit. That is the final Easter glory for the Church on earth – the eternal Easter is another matter – and Eastertide finishes today with the Lord who is Spirit, and in whose power 'we live and move and have our being.'

Our prayers today. As we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of God, we pray on 'the birthday of the Church' for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Church for the Church in Nigeria. In the Diocese we pray for the life and witness of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on its Feast of Title, and for the Dean, the Very Reverend Victor Stock. In our parish prayer we pray for a readiness to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our visions, hopes and plans for the future, and in our regular prayer for our Village Fair organizers, Ian and Kathie Burgess, and their committee, and for the people of Beaufort Way.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 405
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Other Pentecost texts: page 320

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*
There is a separate leaflet for the service today, though the Readings are as usual on a separate paper. No other books are needed. See also overleaf.

Setting of the Eucharist: <i>Caesar</i> , Missa Brevis Capella Regalis. Anthem: Come, Holy Ghost, the Maker, come. <i>Thorpe Davie</i> . (Verses from the hymn <i>Veni Creator</i>) Organ Voluntary: Allegro Con Spirito in B flat. <i>Bridge</i> JC
--

The 0930 Sung Eucharist today has a separate service-paper, mainly because there are some features particular to today which make it a bit different from usual, and a full print-out is obviously a help. We did the same at Easter. With more information about services being stored all the time on the computer, we may well see some more of this sort of thing. I am very conscious of the fact that *Common Worship*, even more so than the *Alternative Service Book* before it, is very much a Directory of worship, and it is seldom possible to have more than the odd page or two in sequence. Anything to make things easier will, I am sure, be welcome, and I hope that today's service is a good example of what can be done. W.R.H.

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 *Book of Common Prayer rite*

Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Introit: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire. *Attwood*

[Words of Hymn (AMR) 157.]

Responses: page 8 Music: *Smith*

The Easter Anthems: page 67.

Office-hymn: AMR 151 [*J S Bach* version of tune at NEH 20]

Psalm 48. Page 195.

Jerusalem: the place of 'waiting for the loving-kindness of the Lord' in Old Testament days, and then finally on the Day of Pentecost.

First Lesson: Genesis 11: 1-9 Blue book: page 635.

The Tower of Babel: a babble of confusion...

Te Deum: page 10. *Sunsion* in G

Second Lesson: Acts 2: 1-11 Blue book: page 636.

...and the Day of Pentecost: a new vernacular of faith and love.

Hymn: AMR 155

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

Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect is on page 71).

Anthem: Listen sweet Dove. *Grayston Ives*

Listen, sweet Dove, unto my song, And spread thy golden wings in me; Hatching my tender heart so long, Till it get wing, and fly away with thee.	The sun, which once did shine alone Hung down his head, and wished for night, When he beheld twelve suns for one Going about the world, and giving light.
---	--

2 Such glorious gifts thou dost bestow, That th' earth did like a heaven appear; The stars were coming down to know If they might mend their wages, and serve here.	Lord, though we change, thou art the same; The same sweet God of love and light: Restore this day, for thy great name, Unto his ancient and miraculous right.
---	--

From 'Whitsunday', George Herbert, 16th cent.

Prayers

Hymn: Holy and eternal Spirit (*on small slip*); Collection. [Tune: *Guiting Power*]
 [The hymn was written by Eve Myatt-Price.]

The Blessing.

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in D major (BWV 532). *J S Bach* JH

1800 Evening Prayer (In the main church). [*Eastertide ends.*]

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion** (BCP Propers of Whit Tuesday)*
 * Although 'Ordinary time' resumes on Monday, and the altars are vested in green, we shall observe the Book of Common Prayer holy-day by using the BCP readings at the Eucharist.

Wednesday 0900 **Ewell Castle Junior School Assembly.**

Other events and notices

Tuesday The Vicar and Administrator will be at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park after the 1000 Eucharist, and the office will be closed for the day.
 2000 Meeting of Pro Musica.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall; everyone welcome.
 1900 Epsom Clergy Chapter dinner at Ruxley Church.

Thursday 1815 Vicar attends the College of Canons at the Cathedral.

Saturday *In the morning...*

THE FAIR SPRINGBOARD in the Church Hall.

This event is always a successful fund-raiser for expenses in running the Village Fair, which this year is on 19 July. Admission to the Fair Springboard is free. There is always a huge demand for *cakes* and *plants*, so would everyone please get cooking and digging to stock these popular stalls. There will be Bric-à-Brac, Books, Village Fair Grand Draw Tickets, Refreshments and a Raffle. Please come, and bring friends and family. *Valerie Smither and Sarah Stovell.*

...and in the evening:

1930 **Organ Recital** by *Michael Bonaventure*
All Saints, Blackheath

A very interesting and varied programme, ranging from *J S Bach* to *Messiaen* (whose hundredth birthday would have fallen this year). Admission is £6.00, payable at the door (under 16s get in free!) or £5.00 in advance from the Parish Office or after services on Sunday. A handbill with details of the programme is available in church today.

‘The Streamlining.’ There is a paper near the book trolley giving details of the various means by which we are trying to streamline the 0930 service, and it would be useful if sidesmen in particular familiarised themselves with its contents. Some extracts will also be available for Epistle readers, because their ‘drill’ is also slightly different now, as mentioned in last week’s Notes. All those on the Epistle readers’ rota should pick up a copy of this from the table *opposite* the book trolley. It also contains a further reminder of the far from easy passages from St Paul’s Letter to the Romans, which are shortly to come in the Year A scheme of readings.

Coach outing to Eastbourne. We are taking bookings for the Coffee Morning Coach Outing on Thursday, 19 June. The coach will depart from the church hall at 0930 sharp (you must be there by 0915), and will arrive back in Ewell 1800-1830. Seats cost just £10 each. At this price they are expected to go quickly, so to ensure a place on the coach please give names (and money) to Joan Boulden or Lynne Yuille a.s.a.p.

‘Sequence.’ This curious word at the Sung Eucharist refers to the fixed seasonal hymn which occurs at this point in the Latin rite on certain days. Nowadays only two really survive: the ancient hymn ‘*Victimae Paschali*’ at Easter, and ‘*Veni, Sancte Spiritus*’ at Pentecost. Hundreds of these hymns were written in the medieval period and later, though the literary high point was reached quite early on, in the twelfth century, with the champion of this *genre*, Adam of St Victor, who wrote many sequences of high quality. Many of these sequences have remained in the hymn-books, but are not generally used in their original slots. It had been my intention to translate quite a number of little-known sequences for use here as a specific feature of our regular Sunday Eucharist, but it was one of those things which somehow never got off the ground, though in fact a few have been done and used at St Mary’s (a new version of the Easter Sequence, and sequences for Advent, Christmas, St David and one or two others.) Today’s hymn was almost certainly written by Stephen Langton*, who is known to English history chiefly as the brains behind *Magna Carta* in 1215, and as a zealous and reforming Archbishop of Canterbury. What is not so generally known is that he was also famous in his own right as a distinguished Biblical scholar in the Paris schools (he it was who divided the Bible into chapters and verses; goodness knows how they managed before), and also as an eminent canon lawyer. Today’s hymn is an annual reminder of this great and versatile Englishman, as well as being a lovely portrayal of the gracious activity of the Holy Spirit of God. W.R.H.

* A minority view ascribes the text to Pope Innocent III; the majority view is in favour of Langton.

We are keeping **Corpus Christi** this year in the same way as last year, which was something of a success. Some years a particular festival is highlighted more obviously than at other times. (Candlemas is a good example of this varied approach; we have several ways of observing it here.) This year we shall be doing it again with Corpus Christi. The actual day is **Thursday, 22 May**, and that evening at 1900 we shall be having **Solemn Eucharist with Procession and Benediction**, and Jonathan Holmes will be bringing his chapel choir once again from Emanuel School. There will be some very fine music at the service including *Vierne’s* powerful Mass in C# minor. It will also be the occasion for a festival for our Communion Assistants and Altar Servers, all of whom have been invited to robe for the service. They will be having ‘wine and nibbles’ afterwards, and a short meeting (about 10-15 minutes) to raise any points. There will not be a sermon at this Eucharist. Until last year we only had the rite of **Benediction** at St Mary’s when the local Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary visited us, so this

will still be a new experience for many. The Corpus Christi feature of a Procession and Benediction at the end of the Eucharist witnesses to the reality of Christ in his sacramental presence. For very many years, this has been a *daily* reality at St Mary's, where the Blessed Sacrament is perpetually reserved in an aumbry at the side chapel, and where a white light constantly burns as a sign of that sacramental presence. On the following Sunday (which we have observed over the years as the 'external solemnity' of Corpus Christi) the services will be in our normal Sunday morning style, and this furnish an opportunity for some specifically Eucharistic preaching. However, because of the additional Corpus Christi material this year, the 8 o'clock service on the Sunday will simply be the normal one for the First Sunday after Trinity. I hope that many will be able to turn out on the Thursday evening for an unusual and distinctive act of eucharistic worship. W.R.H.

The Easter Garden. Our thanks go to Kathie and Ian Burgess for giving us once again a peaceful devotional focal point during Eastertide. The garden is removed after Whitsunday, and the front of the church returns to its more usual appearance.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday. Normal Sunday morning arrangements; Evensong and Holy Baptism at 1630.

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