

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

1 June 2008

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### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The National Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday was, as ever, a magnificent event, and the first drops of rain did not start to fall until the start of the last hymn of the outdoor Mass at lunchtime. There are always things to remember about a particular pilgrimage, but one delightful thing this year was that the long entrance procession of a few hundred priests and about ten bishops began with a rousing hymn about Our Lady, which was actually sung to the unexpected tune of *The Lincolnshire Poacher*. It made a splendid, if somewhat jaunty, start to the day's proceedings. We might even try it here sometime, perhaps next time we have a May Procession at *Christian Family Praise*. After all, we had a very thinly-disguised *John Peel* a few weeks ago. Indeed, some European melodies familiar to English congregations were also originally written to quite secular texts, and, dare I say, even I, when I was a junior curate, fitted quite an acceptable *Kyrie eleison* to the music of 'Telstar' (some may dimly remember that) for a young people's Eucharist. The famous line of General Booth of the Salvation Army comes to mind: 'Why should the Devil have all the best tunes?' Certainly two very fine anthems by Orlando Gibbons were originally written to the most excruciating and sycophantic words about King Charles II (in one case to celebrate the king's return from Newmarket), but the music was particularly fine, and they have been turned into very acceptable anthems by being altered to a religious text. In fact, in England we owe quite a lot to Dr Ralph Vaughan Williams for saving many traditional folk-tunes and old carol melodies, and turning some of them very successfully into hymn-tunes: the familiar tunes to *O little town of Bethlehem* and *He who would valiant be* fall into this category. (So does *John Peel*, but he didn't actually re-discover that one). Great musician that he was, his influence was not just in the world of choral works and symphonies. As a young man he totally revolutionised the hymnody of England – and not just of the Church of England – through his editing of *The (old) English Hymnal* in 1906, though, as far as I am aware, I don't think even he thought of using *The Lincolnshire Poacher*. The fiftieth anniversary of his death falls in October; perhaps we ought to mark it musically in some way. After all, he lived in Surrey. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our own church and parish, and in the Anglican Communion for the Church in Rwanda. In our Diocese we pray for the parishes in the Leatherhead Deanery, and for their clergy and people. In our parish prayer we pray today for those who live outside the parish but who worship at St Mary's, and in our regular prayer for the people living within the parish boundaries we pray today for those living in Bluegates.

<p><i>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.</i></p>
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### SUNDAY SERVICES

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION** NAVE ALTAR. *Book of Common Prayer rite*

The service will be at the Nave Altar today, because of problems in connexion with the radio microphone. (See note further on in today's Notes.) The Prayer Book rite was originally scheduled for next Sunday, but a minor complication over the readings has made it more convenient for it to happen this week. This form of service, which we have about quarterly at 0800, can be followed (with about 98% accuracy) in Order 2 of 'Common Worship,' beginning on page 229. Unlike the monthly Prayer Book Sung Eucharist in the Mattins slot, the BCP rite at 0800 follows the 1662 order without any

deviations from the actual text, except for the omission of the long exhortations. In order to achieve this, the simple rule is to *disregard any indented material* in the text. Collect and Readings are on a separate paper.

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST. NAVE ALTAR. Common Worship rite**

Crèche available, if needed. Order 1 (black book): page **167**.  
Collect of the Day: page **408**. Eucharistic Prayer **E**: page **196**.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Shaw*, Folk Mass (*Congregational*).

*There is a separate leaflet for this service.* It is Half-Term for the choir today, and so it is an entirely congregational service this morning. All regular members of the congregation will know the *Shaw* setting of the Gloria and the Creed, so this will be a good chance for some hearty congregational singing. The Nave Altar is more appropriate on this sort of occasion, and Holy Communion will be administered at the front of the nave and at the side chapel.

**1100 MATTINS** *Book of Common Prayer rite*  
*Congregational service of 'Village Mattins' today, since it is Half-term for the Choir.*

Responses: green book, page 8.  
Metrical Venite: Card B, No.1  
Psalm 63, verses 1-9. *The devotional prayer of a righteous man.* Page 209.  
First Lesson from the Book Deuteronomy. Blue book: page 648.  
*An exhortation to keep the commandments of God.*  
Metrical Te Deum: Card B, No.3  
*Christ, the true Vine; Love of Christ and obedience to his commands.*  
Second Lesson from the Gospel according to St John. Blue book: page 649.  
Hymn: Fight the good fight. (*On leaflet.*)  
Creed (page 12), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects (first Collect on page 73).  
Prayers  
Sermon by *the Vicar*  
Hymn: He who would valiant be. (*On leaflet.*); Collection.  
The Blessing.

**1800 Evening Prayer**

**In church this week**

Tuesday **1000 Holy Communion**

**Other events and notices.**

Tuesday 1930 for 2000. Mothers Union Prayer Evening in the Parish Room.  
Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for a relaxing break, a chat and a coffee. (Tea, if you prefer.)

**The Sung Eucharist** has once again a full running-order, except for the readings and the hymns, though one of these is printed out. It remains to be seen how successful this is. Next Sunday it will be a more detailed text (like it was for Whitsunday and Corpus Christi) spread over two folded sheets of A4. That is because it has to take into account the special nature of the Eucharist next week (see below). However, the aim is that on all 'normal' Sundays the material should just be on one folded sheet of A4. We do not aim to be extravagant with paper, but it is important that the Eucharist is easy to follow.

**Radio microphone.** There is unlikely to be a radio microphone in operation today. It has come to the end of its working life, and a replacement is on order. In practice this only really affects the parts of

the service conducted at the High Altar, so it will only present a problem at 0800 today, since the 0930 is (by exception) at the Nave Altar in any case. To meet this problem we shall also have the 0800 service at the Nave Altar, albeit facing east, because it is the Prayer Book rite today. This means that anyone relying on the induction loop system at 0800 should be able to hear satisfactorily today, but this will unfortunately not be the case next week, if the new microphone has not arrived by then. Holy Communion at 0800 will still be administered at the High Altar as usual today; the 'front of nave' Communion Station will only apply at 0930.

**Welcome back!** It is good to see Mr Reginald Saunders back in harness in his alb today, and reading the Holy Gospel at the Sung Eucharist this morning. He is now in much better health, and we look forward to hearing some stirring stuff from the pulpit in the near future.

**Questionnaire about a new Parish Priest.** The churchwardens have been very active in producing a valuable Questionnaire, seeking the views of members of the congregation on aspects of the search for a new Vicar after I have gone. That silly word 'incumbent', which appears on the document, tends to be much used these days in church-speak, particularly from the Diocese; it is basically a legal term (and properly only applies to a clergyman with an ecclesiastical freehold), and somehow it doesn't exactly sound either priestly or pastoral. It sounds dangerously like 'encumbrance', and I suppose that, when I am lying down, I am therefore a 'recumbent incumbent'. However, for all practical purposes it is just a ponderous way of referring to the person eventually coming as the new Vicar. There isn't someone coming to whom you are supposed to say 'Good Morning, Incumbent' – and please don't try that out on me! Anyway, joking apart, this is an important exercise, and I hope that the Questionnaire will be treated seriously by all who have received it – plenty more copies are available – and that they will all be returned before the deadline of 30 June, which probably really means by Sunday, 29 June.  
W.R.H.

**Choir Club.** It is time we had another serious plug concerning this. Our young musicians are on the premises from 1800 on a Friday until 2015, when they go home and leave the seniors, who arrive at 1930, to carry on until about 2130. For the first hour the Juniors have Choir Club, which is a mixture of quality free time, when they can play games or 'chill out' (whence came that curious expression?), and also have individual or group tuition in connexion with the *Voice for Life* training programme of the Royal School of Church Music. They start formal rehearsing at about 1900. We are always in need of voluntary support for the earlier part of the evening, not least because of the requirements of current legislation in respect of Child Protection, and the time has come for us to raise the matter again. We would be very grateful for anyone who would be willing to spare an hour between **1800 and 1900 on certain Fridays** simply to be present at the Choir Club (or possibly involved in minor help of one sort or another) as an additional adult, and to go on a flexible rota for this. *There is a list for volunteers in the Welcome Area.* There has to be a minimum of two adults present at any one time, and during the 1800-1900 period the music staff are usually very busy with tuition and administration. We really need this help. It need not be a very frequent commitment if a reasonable number sign up, but it would really be a great help to us all. Our young singers do a lot for us, and it would be good if they could be positively helped by members of the congregation in this way. Any further information may be obtained from the Vicar, the Choir Administrator, or the Director of Music, and any queries answered, but we are really looking to the congregation for active support in this matter. All are agreed that the choir has come on greatly in the past year; please help us build on this. W.R.H., D.R.C., J.S.H.

Copies of 'El Dorado', the magazine of the Diocese of Guyana, have arrived. They are in the Welcome Area, and are free to those who want them, because we are twinned with a Guyanese parish, as most members of the congregation will know. There are lots of interesting pictures in this issue.

**The String Quartet Recital**, scheduled for 11 June has been postponed to **Wednesday, 25 June**, since the recitalists have been asked to play in Bahrain on 12 June. Flyers for the recital will soon be available, and may even be ready for today.

**The service lists.** There are still some of these left (by the Grand Draw box) for anyone who would like a copy. One point of information: the details of the first and fourth Choral Evensong in the summer series, which runs from 22 June to 20 July, have been reversed. The music scheduled for 22 June will now take place on 13 July, and *vice versa*. Those who already have service-lists may wish to

note this, not least because Mendelssohn's '*O for the wings of a dove*' (which everyone will, of course, want to hear) will now be on 22 June, not 13 July.

**Next Sunday. Next Sunday.** An interesting occasion at 0930, when Dr Miller celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his turning his collar around. He was made Deacon on 8 June 1958. By a remarkable coincidence the Vicar was also made Deacon on the same calendar date five years later. Dr Miller's priestly anniversary (the big one) occurs next year, but this conjoint Diaconal Anniversary is worth at least a liturgical observance. Dr Miller will celebrate the Sung Eucharist, and the Vicar will 'do deacon' and preach. There will be 'a little celebration' in church after the Eucharist.

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