

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

29 June 2008

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

THE FEAST OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL.

The two candles burning today at the top of the reredos in front of the two stained-glass figures of St Peter and St Paul remind us that these two spiritual giants have been lights in the world not just in their own generation but throughout Christian history. St Peter is traditionally called the Prince of the Apostles, and St Paul is known as the Apostle of the Gentiles. In our east window we see St Peter with his keys and his fish, which speak of the Church's awesome privilege of 'binding and loosing' and of its duty to seek out all who are to be 'netted' for Christ. We also see St Paul carrying a sword, not primarily for the reason that he was beheaded (as is sometimes said), but because he bears 'the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God', for the Christian Faith is to be expounded and proclaimed in Scripture and in Apostolic preaching, and St Paul is undoubtedly the founding father of all later Christian theology. Although these two heroes of the faith bear their traditional titles, these two amazing men did not presume to stand before the Lord trusting in their own righteousness, but only in God's manifold and great mercies. One had denied his Lord; the other had persecuted God's people. From such depths they were raised to the heights, as they co-operated with the new grace given to them for their work. Peter went on to 'feed the sheep' and to 'fish for men' (as Jesus had said); Paul went on 'in journeyings often' to exercise his care for all the churches. In every age God raises up the most unlikely lads (and lasses) to do his work, and on this day we thank God for the countless number of unknown Peters and Pauls, who in preaching and in pastoral care have declared God's love, and forgiveness through Christ, and have proclaimed it in word and action and service.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of the Southern Cone of South America. On this particular festival we also pray, rather obviously, for the successor of St Peter, Pope Benedict XVI, and for our fellow Christians in the Roman Catholic Church. It is also a time to pray for the Church of England, as the General Synod meets this coming weekend and debates the matter of women bishops. In the Diocese we pray for the priests and people of St Mary's, Long Ditton, and St Mary's, Oatlands, and also for the two parish churches in this diocese jointly dedicated to St Peter and St Paul at Albury and West Clandon. In our parish prayer we pray for the parish members of The Bible Reading Fellowship, and for the people living in Brookmead.

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 435.
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Other proper material: page 328.

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The green hymn-books are needed. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: *The Vicar*.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Palestrina*, Missa Papae Marcelli.

(See note below.)

Eucharistic Prayer B. Hymns: 197, 171, 231, [225], HHE 65 (*on leaflet*)
Anthem: Tu es Petrus. *Palestrina*

Prayers. Hymn: AMR 549*. Short Reading.
[*Although this hymn is set in the hymn-book for St Philip and St James,
the original Latin text actually provides a general hymn for Apostles,
Evangelists and missionary saints.]
Hymn: AMR 522 The Blessing.
Organ: Prelude and Fugue in C minor. Mendelssohn JC

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Other events and notices.

Monday 2000 Meeting of Vicar, Churchwardens and Administrator.
Wednesday 1030-1200. The **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. All welcome;
there is also tea provided for those who care not for the ground bean.
Thursday Vicar presents the prizes at Ewell Castle School Prizegiving.
Saturday Guyana Diocesan Festival at St Augustine's, Kilburn.

Ewell Parish News for July is available today.

Hope 2008. 'Churches Together in Ewell' are presenting a 'Christianity in the Community' programme on the lawns of Bourne Hall, next Sunday 6 July 1400-1630. Local churches have varied displays and entertainment. St Mary's is planning a toddler orientated gazebo, together with displays of other outreach interests. Everything is free, including refreshments, so we have been asked to bake cakes for that particular stall. The cakes can be brought to church on the Sunday, or taken directly to the refreshment stall. There is further information in the July *Ewell Parish News*. See you there!

The recent 'streamlining' of the 0930 Sung Eucharist seems to have been fairly successful, though last week it overran, partly because of the length of the *Duruflé* Mass. However, if the small measures which have been taken are continued, this ought to ensure that – normally, at least – the service does not overrun unduly. On some occasions the service is bound to be longer, as when seasonal features occur in the rite, or if the sermon is a bit longer, but by and large we should be aiming for the service to be not all that much in excess of an hour. This enables the choir to have an adequate break before the next service, and also enables the change-over at the book trolley to happen without too much hassle. It also gives the Vicar time to catch his breath, and perhaps have a hasty coffee. We always have a very busy Sunday morning here.

The monthly 1200 Eucharist. This is a repeated note from last month, but since it is the last Sunday of the month today it is worth mentioning again. The future of the monthly 1200 service is now in doubt. In recent years it has been maintained almost entirely for the benefit of one family, for whom this was in practice the only service they could possibly attend. Members of that family now receive the Holy Communion at home. Being realistic, it will be impractical to maintain this service after January next year, at least until after the new Vicar has arrived, when there will no doubt be an assessment of the need for additional services of this sort. In the meantime the service will continue to be advertised as taking place until the present printed service-lists run out in the summer, but it will not feature on the lists after that, and the details on the standing matter in *Ewell Parish News* will also need to be changed. From time to time the 1200 service has also been plugged as an example of the Church exercising a ministry of *miser cordia*, giving people a chance to have an occasional lie-in on a Sunday morning, but not often has that opportunity been taken up, even though there was certainly no real danger of old-fashioned looks from the celebrant. W.R.H.

'Missa Papae Marcelli.' Today, for the second week running, there is a musical setting of the Eucharist which is new to the choir. It is certainly very different from last week's remarkable work for men's voices by a scholarly twentieth century composer. We have had some very appreciative comments about the singing last week, and also about Jeremy Coles' skilled accompaniment. The Palestrina Mass this week is a major work from the Renaissance period, well-known and much loved by many. Those who do not know the title may well recognize the music from Classic FM; it features regularly on that channel, just like the *Fauré* anthem a fortnight ago. 'MPC' will be a welcome addition to the repertoire. It will also be an item (and sung in full) in the recital by Emanuel School Choir after Choral Evensong next Sunday.

The Village Fair. A 'internal' handbill is available today, drawing our attention to the many things we need for the Fair, both in terms of goods and helpers. There are also posters and car-stickers available. The car-stickers are an important piece of advertising, since cars get around, and people come to the Fair from quite some distance. There is a lot to be said for putting a sticker (or an extra one) on a *nearside* window, because it can then be seen by passers-by when the car is parked.

A Reduced Price - £5 instead of £6 - for concert and recital tickets applies when they are bought in advance. There will be the Choir's own recital this term, for example, and Jonathan Holmes' recital at the Patronal Festival in the autumn, and other things as well.

Tickets are available in church after services on Sunday, or else from the office.

The radio microphones should *both* be in action today, and both working properly. If all goes according to plan, the Holy Gospel can now be proclaimed once again 'in the midst of the congregation', and we should all turn to face the Gospel book. Some time was spent on investigating the microphones last Monday, and now all seems well. Some other adjustments have subsequently been made to the stand microphones (they now have 'swan necks') and to the fixed one in the pulpit. Our system should be working perfectly now. We are very grateful to Ray Eyres and his son for sorting this problem out.

Jonathan Holmes' recent Organ Recital is now available on a CD, at the bargain price of £2.50. Half-a-dozen or so are available from the Vicar. All proceeds to the Organ Fund. The vigorous CD includes, *inter alia*, 'The Ride of the Valkyries.'

Next Sunday. Morning services at the usual times. Choral Evensong at 1700 will be sung by the choir of Emanuel School, and they will be giving a Recital at the end of the service. There is no charge for the Recital. The very fine programme is available on handbills and posters. Those who have heard the choir before will realise that people pay quite handsomely in the London concert-halls for programmes of this calibre; it all comes to us for free.

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