

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

## WEEKLY NOTES

20 July 2008

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### NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Notes are, of course, normally compiled early in the previous week, so it is not possible to say anything about the Ewell Village Fair held yesterday. However, the result will be announced in church this morning. Our grateful thanks go to all who have worked so hard to make the Fair a success.

The scriptures at 0800 and 0930 move on from the Sower and his seed to the parable of the 'tares' ('weeds' or 'darnel' they say now) among the wheat. Some of the parables are almost blindingly obvious; this one certainly is, though the disciples seemed pretty obtuse on this occasion, and had to ask for it to be spelled out for them. If it had been the 11 o'clock parable then we might have had some sympathy for them, because this is one which generally causes trouble. It is the parable of the Unjust Steward, which – perhaps significantly – only falls in the other lectionary scheme once every three years, and then on a Sunday when it is likely to be displaced by something else. The celebrated crux is the question, 'Who commended the unjust steward?' Was it the lord of the steward (his master), or the Lord (note the capital) Jesus? The problem is that the word is the same in the Greek, and our earliest reliable texts are what are known as uncials: they are written entirely in capital letters. So it is a problem of interpretation: hermeneutics or exegesis are the posh words used by scholars to describe this quest for a right understanding of the text. It is finely balanced, but the odds are that it probably was the Lord, not the lord, not least because one fairly reliable principle of New Testament study is that 'the harder reading is generally to be preferred', and for the simple reason that the early Church would scarcely have invented something which was going to cause difficulty to itself. I shall say something about this in the sermon at 1100 today. It comes at the start of the service, if anyone is curious enough to stay on after coffee to hear it! W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for the Church in Uganda. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the ministry of the full-time School Chaplains; and in our parish prayer we pray for the Bourne Hall and Fitznells health centres and for our local General Practitioners, and for the people who live in Castle Parade.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0700 MATTINS** Psalm 74
- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite.*  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 413.  
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The hymn-book for the service today is *A Hundred Canticles for Ewell*. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: *The Vicar*.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Batten*, Short Service

Eucharistic Prayer G. Hymns (HCE): 10, 31, 34, [94], 15.

Anthem: O salutaris hostia. *Nicholson*

O saving victim, opening wide      All praise and thanks to thee ascend  
The gate of heaven to man below:      For evermore, blest One in Three;  
Our foes press hard on every side,      O grant us life that shall not end  
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.      In our true native land with thee.

Amen.

*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 SUNG EUCHARIST***Book of Common Prayer rite*

Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in F. Creed: *Merbecke* .

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Introit hymn: 265

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: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13. *Warnings to Christians from past history.*

Gradual hymn: 369

The Holy Gospel: St Luke 16: 1-9. *The parable of the Unjust Steward.*

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Biddings to Prayer and the Offertory sentence.

Offertory Hymn: 498 (omit verse 4); 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: O Lamb of God (page 44)

Anthem: O salutaris hostia. *Elgar*

[English translation printed above at 0930 Eucharist.]

After Communion: The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44.

*All stand for* Gloria in excelsis: page 46.

The Blessing.

Hymn 339.

Organ: Toccata and Fugue. *Francis Jackson* JC**1700 CHORAL EVENSONG***Book of Common Prayer rite*

This is the fourth service in the series of five Choral Evensongs for summer Sunday evenings. There are special readings for these services from the Book of Tobit and the Letter of St James.

Introit: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God.

*McKie*

We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord, in the midst of thy temple.

O God, according to thy name, so is thy praise unto the world's end.

*(Psalm 48: 8,9a)*

Responses: Green books, page 18.

Music: *Ayleward*

Office-hymn: 150 [Second tune]

Psalm 85. *The Lord who forgives, loves and cares.* Page 239.First Lesson: From Tobit 11 and 12. *Tobias returns home, his father's eyesight is restored, and 'Azarias' is revealed as the angel Raphael.*

Magnificat: page 19.

*Stanford* in B flatSecond Lesson: St James 5: 7-end. *Final words about Christian conduct.*

Nunc dimittis: page 20.

*Stanford* in B flat

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 75).

Anthem: Te lucis ante terminum.

*Balfour Gardiner*

[English version of the Latin text: Hymn 241.]

Prayers.

Hymn 403 [t.128 ii].

Short Reading.

Hymn 336. The Blessing.  
Organ: Toccata and Fugue in D minor [Dorian] (BWV 538). *J S Bach* JC

**In church this week**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**  
Saturday. **St James.1400 Wedding of Paul Hill and Caroline Holmes (Nuptial Mass)**

**Other events and notices.**

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.  
Saturday 1000 Vicar at County Royal British Legion meeting at West Clandon.

**Life is a bit easier** after the Village Fair. There is a sense in which the Fair represents the effective end of the working year at St Mary's. Certainly this week is a much lighter one than usual, and the paucity of notices indicates that the count-down to the summer slack is now upon us. Please let us know of any interesting churches visited on holiday, and do let us know of anything interesting you discover about how they do things elsewhere. This is just the right time to get good ideas for the future.

**The experimental 0930 leaflet.** There has been no feed-back at all over this, which is slightly surprising; but then, if no-one complains, one must assume that it is working all right. After next week we shall revert to 'everything being on the (rather skimpy) Notes' for the three Sundays of somewhat basic liturgy at the beginning of August, and the leaflet will appear again when the Sunday arrangements get back to normal on 24 August. The Vicar would be glad to hear of any comments about the 0930 leaflet, for good or for ill, because at the end of the day we want to make things easier for worshippers at the Sung Eucharist. In any case, the fact remains that the black books are now starting to fall apart, and it will be more convenient for their use to be confined to the early service, where there is not so much variable material in the course of the rite.

**Church Hall notice-boards.** This notice appeared some time ago, but does not seem to have been heeded very much by those concerned. Some of these internal notice-boards are now very untidy, and it would be good if they could be tidied up (before I do it myself), since untidy notice-boards are not exactly a good piece of window dressing, particularly to those who hire the hall. There is no need for items which are clearly only of passing interest to be left on the boards for months on end. This is the obvious time of year to have a purge on this sort of thing. W.R.H.

**Marion Rao** will shortly have cause to take some photographs of the inside of the organ. Only a comparatively small number of the congregation have actually seen inside our mighty instrument, so if anyone wishes to have a look he or she should contact Marion Rao in the first instance, so that a time can be arranged for what will be an escorted visit. The Vicar (or the Director of Music) will point out the basic structure of the instrument.

**Epistle Readers at 0930.** Would those who have not picked up a slip (by the Grand Draw Box) please do so? There is a revised drill to ensure that the Epistle begins without a long delay while the reader walks to the lectern. Whilst it is clear that most have read this slip, it is also clear that there are some who haven't.

**Paul Hill and Caroline Holmes**, both of whom were confirmed at the Cathedral at the Easter Vigil, will be married at St Mary's on Saturday at 1400. No doubt some of the 0930 congregation would like to be there to wish them well on the great day. It will be a Nuptial Eucharist according to the *traditional* rite – something a bit unusual these days.

**Coach outing to Chichester and Bosham on Thursday, 11 September.** We are now taking bookings for this excursion. The coach will leave at 0915 (for 0930 – but starting to board from 0915 and leaving no later than 0930) for Chichester, where there will be the opportunity to visit the Cathedral, look around the shops and have some lunch. Afterwards we shall continue to the picturesque village of Bosham and the quay, where there is a delightful Saxon church\* next to the millstream, and where Canute's daughter is supposed to be buried. We shall return home a little later than usual, leaving Bosham about 1700-1715. Seats still cost just £10 each, and to secure yours please give names (and money) to Joan Boulden or to Lynne Yuille.

\* Bosham Church is famously depicted on the Bayeux tapestry. WRH.

**Next Sunday.** Services are at the usual times. Mattins will be the last service of the choir term, and we shall be singing as the anthem Quilter's setting of Rudyard Kipling's *Non nobis Domine* (because 'we are not sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves' – look that up, if necessary), and will finish with 'Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing.' That should take many of us back a few years.

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