



St Mary the Virgin
 EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

31 August 2008

SUNDAY OF THE DEDICATION FESTIVAL

THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL BEGINS

This is a slightly revised version of last year's paragraph for this Sunday, because I think the same points are worth mentioning once again. It is a rather drawn-out Patronal Festival this year, with not everything in the same week, but by and large it is all near enough. We normally keep the Sunday of the Dedication Festival here as either the first or second Sunday of the Patronal Festival week. This year it is the first, and in our worship there is a clear concentration on the 'living stones', those who make up the Christian presence here. At the Sung Eucharist there will be the 'Procession of the Parish Church', a new feature which was first introduced two years ago. This is an opportunity to reflect upon the multi-faceted role of our parish church, at least as far as its nurture of God's people is concerned, and it doubles-up as the sermon. Both this week and next there is no sermon at the Sung Eucharist, because the liturgical features special to the day are in themselves part of the 'kerygma and didache' (the 'proclamation and teaching'), and there is no real need for any further words from me. However, the usual sermon at the beginning of Choral Mattins will be 'the morning sermon', and listed today and next Sunday as a separate event. So if anyone feels hard done by, and wants a Sunday sermon, then he or she can simply tarry awhile, and come back to church after coffee. Anyway, as far as the processions are concerned, they are meant to be something more than just singing hymns while we meander around the church. As a general rule they are meant to illustrate, or point to, some aspect of the Christian Faith, or else serve as an out-of-door act of witness or devotion or a combination of both (as with outdoor Stations of the Cross). Traditionally a procession can also take place to mark the note of high festival at the Eucharistic entrance on greater holy days, and in some churches they carry appropriate banners around. Today's procession is of the first sort, concentrating on what the particular parts of our church actually stand for, or what they proclaim, as we recall with thanksgiving all that 'St Mary's Ewell' has meant over very many centuries to those for whom it has been their parish church. In theory, because it is a Procession, we should all be standing up throughout this section of the service (and again in theory all should be walking around), but not everyone will find that amount of standing or walking easy. Those who find the standing tedious should feel free to sit after the opening section of the hymn, and to follow again for the last three verses. By the same token, anyone who wants to follow around should just tag on behind the singers, and that also goes for the Procession of Our Lady, which happens next week. Please do not feel embarrassed about doing that, if you wish to do so.

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.

The Coach Outing to Chichester and Bosham. The coach will leave on Thursday, 11 September from outside the Church Hall. Please be there by 0915. The coach can only stop there for a limited period to pick us up, so please do not be late. J.B.

'My Exodus.' The timetable for this seems to be getting clearer now. The Christmas arrangements at St Mary's will be as normal, with the additional service mentioned below, and there will be the usual low-key Sunday afterwards. The 'Gala Dinner' is on the following Saturday (3 January) at Mercator House. The following day - the Feast of the Epiphany - will be a normal Sunday in church, though without the usual Procession of the Three Kings. My actual last Sunday will in fact be the following week, since the preacher for my final Evensong cannot be with us on 4 January. The morning of 11 January will see the Book of Common Prayer rite at 0800 (probably the last time I shall ever use it, because the Church in Wales has its own rite), and at 0930 I shall celebrate and preach for the last time at St Mary's. On the pound of flesh principle, there will be Mattins and Holy Baptism at 1100, since I shall need to get as much as possible done before I actually go. In the evening at 1900 (note the time) there will be Solemn Evensong with all the trimmings, and the preacher of the sermon will be the Archbishop of Canterbury. At the end of the service I shall say goodbye to people at the west door. There will be informal tea before the service in the Church Hall from 1700, since some visitors will no doubt be arriving early. I shall be in the hall until about 1730, before going over to church to check on this and that. This information will no doubt be tweaked between now and then, but this is more or less the general picture. W.R.H.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. A sufficient number have now signed up to make this service possible, and I hope all who have signed will be there! It is, of course, on what is already a fairly busy day at St Mary's, since that is the morning when we also decorate the church. Very carefully, I need to say that the 'normal' services are still the ones that count, as far as regular churchgoers are concerned: the Eucharist and/or Mattins. At Christmas we can all expect 'extra bits of church', since Christmas Day generally falls on a weekday. The 'Nine Lessons' is one of these extras; it is not meant to be a substitute for the official services of the Church. However, it should be a lovely service with some interesting music, plenty of congregational items. Some people will be approached to read lessons. The Bidding Prayer and the Lessons will be 'Dean Milner-White and the King James Version,' so it will be very much a traditional affair, and that will please some people. There may possibly be further developments, concerning things like candlelight or refreshments, but it is early days yet. More information in due course. W.R.H.

Ewell Parish News for September is available in church today.

Next Sunday. This is the actual Sunday of the Patronal Festival, and this year we shall have once again the attractive Procession of Our Lady at the end of the Sung Eucharist. There will be Choral Mattins at 1100, with a short Station at the Statue of Our Lady at the end of the service.

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

Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, giving thanks in particular for the 160 years of 'new' St Mary's. In our prayer for the world-wide Church we pray in the Anglican Communion for the Lusitanian Church in Portugal. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for those responsible for the supervisory care of the churches and churchyards. At our Dedication Festival we pray for the future life and witness of this parish church and its people, and in our prayers for the geographical parish we pray for those living in Mongers Lane and in The Old House.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 446

0930

SUNG EUCHARIST with THE PROCESSION OF THE PARISH CHURCH

Common Worship rite

There is a separate leaflet for this service, and for 'The Procession of the Parish Church.'
Crèche available on request.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Caesar*, Missa Brevis Capella Regalis.

Eucharistic Prayer B, Hymns: HHE 53, HCE 97, Daughters of Zion, NEH 477.

Offertory Anthem: How lovely are thy dwellings fair. *Brahms*

How lovely are thy dwellings fair, O Lord of hosts. My soul ever longeth and fainteth for the blest courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh do cry to God, cry to the living God. O blest are they that in thy house are dwelling; they ever praise thee O Lord. How lovely are thy dwellings fair.

Organ: Final from the Sixth Symphony. *Widor* JC

There are some special features to the service today. The running-order will need to be followed rather more closely than usual.

1100

SERMON by the Vicar

c.1115

CHORAL MATTINS

Responses: page 8

Venite (shorter form)

Office-hymn: 206

Psalm 48 and part of Psalm 87. *Two psalms about the temple at Jerusalem.*

Psalm 48

Psalm 87 (verses 1,2,5,7):

The Lord loveth the city which he hath founded upon the 'holy' mountain: the gates of Zion are dearer unto him than 'all the dwellings of' Jacob.

Glorious things of 'these are' spoken:

Zion 'city' of our 'God.

And Zion shall be 'called' 'Mother':

For 'all were' truly 'born in her.

'They who dance there and 'sing to' -gether.

Glory be to the Father and 'to the' Son:

And 'to the' Holy' Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and 'ever' shall be:

World without 'end. 'A - 'men.

First Lesson from the First Book of the Kings. Blue book: page 824

Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the first Temple in Jerusalem.

Music: *Ireland* in F.

Te Deum: page 10.

Second Lesson from the First Letter of St Peter. Blue book: page 825

The Christian Church as a community of 'living stones.'

Hymn: HHE 76 [Tune: AMR 539]

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

the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 89).

Anthem: Locus iste. *Bruckner*

Locus iste a Deo factus est, inestimabile sacramentum, irprehensibilis est.

English version: This place was made by God, a sacred mystery, beyond all reproach.

Prayers. Hymn: HHE 87 [Tune: NEH 201]; Collection. The Blessing

1630 EVENSONG AND HOLY BAPTISM.

There is a special leaflet for this service.

In church this week

Tuesday

1000 The Tuesday morning Eucharist resumes today after the August break. This week the service is the annual **Requiem Mass for Past Worshippers**, which is a regular feature of the Patronal Festival.

Other events and notices

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Do come and have some fine blend and pleasant *conversazione*. Tea is provided for those who prefer the leaf to the bean.

Saturday 1430-1630 **Garden Party** at 17 Beech Walk, by kindness of Ian and Kathie Burgess. Tickets for the Garden Party (£4) are still available, and can be bought after the services today.

Nigel Bird and Maria Harradine will be getting married at St Mary's on Saturday, 13 September, and - hardly surprisingly - there is a general invitation extended to all members of the regular congregation.

The **Patronal Festival Organ Recital** by **Jonathan Holmes** is a week Saturday, 13 September at 1930. A splendid programme as ever; details in Ewell Parish News and elsewhere. Tickets £6 (£5, if bought in advance); under 16s get in free. Interval refreshments will be available as usual.

A change of time. **Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** - the concert performance by the Parish Choir together with children from local schools - on Saturday, 27 September will now start at 1900, not at 1930. Tickets are £3 (under 16s free, but need a ticket). Tickets are available after Sunday services, from participating schools, and (after 8 September) from the office.