

WEEKLY NOTES

14 September 2008

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HOLY CROSS DAY

On 13 September 335 two churches, side by side, were dedicated in Jerusalem on the sites of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Eventually the two sites were united in one building, the present Church of the Resurrection, commonly called in English-speaking countries the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. On the following day the wood of the cross, which had been discovered by the Empress Helena, was presented to the people to venerate. The Christian faith is rooted in both history and geography; it is not just some abstract philosophy of life. It is to do with people and places and things: Jesus on a cross in Palestine two thousand years ago. Whether the calendar or the history or the geography is 100% accurate is not the point. At all events, from the year 615, this particular day has been kept as the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Holy Cross Day for short). Jerusalem's 'Dedication Festival' in September has by a happy chance provided the rest of the Christian world with a chance to celebrate the Cross of Christ roughly six months away from Holy Week. The modern Church of England calendar has raised what was a 'black-letter day' in the old Prayer Book to the status of a festival, and it means that there is now an opportunity to concentrate on the Cross of Christ away from the overwhelming nature of the full Paschal experience brought before us every year in the Easter *Triduum*. For us at St Mary's the calendar dates this year give us a rare opportunity to systematize our devotional thinking on four consecutive Sundays: the Dedication Festival to remind us of where we regularly come to meet our Lord; the Patronal Festival to put Our Lady's pattern of obedience before us, and to identify her 'first moment of the acceptance of God's call' with our first sacramental moment of Christian life, as we renewed our baptismal vows; today to put before us the extent of God's love in Christ as we contemplate the wondrous cross 'where the young Prince of glory died' (as the hymn originally said); and next Sunday, St Matthew's Day, when we recall that there is in fact a specific call of Christ to each one of us, just as there once was to a puzzled and perplexed young girl and to a surprised and startled tax-collector.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our church and parish, and for its life, worship and witness. In the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray for the united Churches in the Indian sub-continent in which there is an Anglican component (North India, South India, Bangladesh and Pakistan). In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the daughter churches dedicated to St Mary at West Horsley, Pixham and Farnham. Within the parish we pray for our Internal Affairs Committee (under the chairmanship of Wendy Varney), and for the people living in Mount Pleasant.

SUNDAY SERVICES

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*  
Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 513.  
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 219. Preface of the Holy Cross: page 312.

**0930 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: **Mr Iain McKillop**, *Ordinand-in-training*.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Viadana*, *Missa l' hora passa*.

Eucharistic Prayer C. Preface of the Holy Cross.  
Hymns: 94, 379, 78 (t.295), 91 (omit v. 3), 95.  
Anthem: *Crux fidelis*. *John IV, King of Portugal*.

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in A minor (BWV 543). *J S Bach* JH

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: Crux fidelis.

*John IV, King of Portugal.*

Crux fidelis, inter omnes	Faithful Cross! Above all other
Arbor una nobilis:	One and only noble tree;
Nulla silva talem profert	None in foliage, none in blossom,
Fronde, flore, germine.	None in fruit thy peer may be:
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,	Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,
Dulce pondus sustinet.	Sweetest weight is hung on thee.
	<i>(Bishop Venantius Fortunatus, 6<sup>th</sup> cent.)</i>

Responses and *Venite* (Shorter form): page 8. Responses: *Byrd*.

Hymn 79 [Tune 128 ii].

Psalm 22, verses 23-end. *Confidence in God who delivers and saves*. Page 165

First Lesson: Numbers 21: 4-9. Blue book: page 833

*The account of the bronze serpent in the days of Moses.*

Benedictus: page 11. (Chant setting)

Second Lesson: St John 12: 31-36a. Blue book: page 834.

*The Christ whose cross is a magnet of love.*

Hymn: 89 [Second tune]

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,  
the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 63).

Anthem: *Nolo mortem peccatoris.* *Thomas Morley* (16<sup>th</sup> cent.)

*Nolo mortem peccatoris; haec sunt verba Salvatoris:*  
*(‘I desire not the death of a sinner;’ these are the Saviour’s words:)*  
Father, I am thine only Son,  
Sent down from heaven mankind to save;  
Father, all things fulfilled and done  
According to thy will I have:  
Father, my will now all is this:  
‘Nolo mortem peccatoris.’

Father, behold my painful smart,  
Taken for man on every side;  
Even from my birth to death most tart  
No kind of pain I have denied,  
But suffered all, and all for this:  
‘Nolo mortem peccatoris.’

Prayers

Hymn 87 (t. 388 ii); Collection.

The Blessing.

Organ: Postlude in D minor. *Stanford*

JC

**In church this week.**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion.**

**Other events and notices.**

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. All welcome. ‘Have a break; have a coffee.’ (Or tea, if you prefer.) At 1100 the Vicar will give the second instalment of *‘Sinners of Ewell’*

**This week** is an unusually quiet one at St Mary's, and the Vicar is hoping to be able to spend a considerable amount of time at the desk. There is a lot to be done between now and January, or (to be more precise) between now and mid-December. Last week was an almost impossibly busy week, and for that matter so was the week before. The Vicar will be at the Cathedral Old Choristers Dinner on Saturday evening, and this will be a pleasant chance to see many old friends.

**A new wrought-iron flower stand** is in use for the first time today, and may be seen near the font, containing a very striking display. The stand is of an unusual design, and is a gift from Betty Fell in memory of her sister, the late **Freda Butlin**. Freda was a senior figure in local government, but her professional life was more than counter-balanced by her accomplished artistic work, for she was a sensitive artist and painter, and a lover of nature. The flower-stand is a very fitting memorial to a delightful lady, who loved St Mary's, and who received the Holy Eucharist at home for some years after she became unable to get to church.

**Just like Chichester.** It was interesting to note during the coach visit on Thursday that the music at Chichester Cathedral today is in fact the same as here: *Tallis*' 'Salvator mundi', and 'Crux fidelis', ascribed to *John IV, King of Portugal*.

Tickets for the concert performance of '**Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**' on Saturday week (27 September) are now available in church, and there are handbills with today's Notes. This looks like being a really splendid evening. ***Please note the earlier than usual starting-time: it is at 19.00.*** The Parish Choir will be joined by young singers from Ewell Grove School, Wallace Fields Junior, Ewell Castle Junior and Fitznells (combined), which makes a probable total of about a hundred voices, so it should be a mighty sound. Last year's *Noye's Fludde* was a wonderful occasion, and this time is showing all the signs of being a memorable evening too.

Tickets are **£3 (under 16s free, but they still need a ticket).**

I hope the majority of the regular congregation will come to this, and support something done by our own singers and by our visitors, some of whom will be very young. The tradition of an autumn concert of this sort is now already established after just one very successful event, and we are hoping that some exciting things can happen in future years. Last year the proceeds went to *Christian Aid*. This year the proceeds will go to the organ fund – something which comes fairly obviously under the heading of 'local heritage,' since the Father Willis organ here is such a notable instrument. Next year the idea is that the proceeds will probably go to an external charity, and then a pattern will start to be set. However, this can no doubt be adjusted as thought appropriate. We can do with some adults to help with this and that on the day; any offers to Jonathan Holmes or David Crick. W.R.H.

**The service-lists** for the term are now available in the Welcome Area, and there are plenty of copies available for those who would like to have them. The details go as far as the end of the calendar year, and they fill two sides of an A3 sheet: there is quite a lot on. Although the lists are mainly concerned with musical matters, they also give straightforward information about what is happening – and when. Some people, for example, may like to know when there is an early morning Book of Common Prayer Eucharist, or what is likely to be happening around Advent and Christmas. Our plans are always laid well in advance, and the service-lists give a good indication of the many-faceted worship that takes place in this parish church. All members of the congregation should have one of these lists (or perhaps one per family) for future reference. More copies can be printed if necessary.

**Re-cycling theology.** This is not a reflection upon there being nothing new under the sun (as The Preacher said in the Old Testament). Rather, it is to draw attention to a collection of books and periodicals from the Vicar's library for which he has no further use, and needs to offload before he moves. Some things are quite old (but none the worse for that), and there are also various reports from the General Synod. They are all laid out in the Parish Room, and will be cleared away and re-cycled in about a fortnight. In the meantime, anyone who wishes to take anything should feel free to do so. During this period the Tuesday Eucharist will be in the main church.

Application forms for the **Gala Dinner** to be held on Saturday 3 January to mark the Vicar's retirement are now available in the Welcome Area. It has to be done this way for security reasons at the T.A., and names and addresses are needed. The forms are easily found: they are in a garish shade of dayglo pink.

**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 some have read this slip, it is also clear that there are some who haven't. Today is an ordinary Sunday, and most of the small measures taken to make the service more streamlined should have some effect, the basic principle being that item follows item with no unnecessary delay.

**Next Sunday.** It is the festival of St Matthew the Apostle. Morning services at the usual times, with the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist at 1100. The choral music at 1100, a setting by Palestrina, will – according to present plans – be sung from the west gallery.

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