

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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WEEKLY NOTES

28 September 2008

Our Organ Scholar, Jeremy Cole, has been awarded the Organ Scholarship for October 2010 at Trinity College, Cambridge. We offer him many congratulations. W.R.H.

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST.**

An anecdote today, for a change. In years gone by, the Harvest Festival was never complete unless there was a visiting preacher. Well, as ever, it is from the home team this year at St Mary's, not least because you can't really get other parish priests on a Sunday morning these days, and the days of the Mighty Harvest Evensong have gone. We look forward to Wendy Varney's sermon this morning. I made some soundings a few years ago as to whether there was any demand for a Harvest Evensong, but the silence was deafening. We have moved on. However, I recall from my younger days many an interesting sermon from a Harvest preacher (who would often be wearing some unfamiliar academic hood – always an interesting point), and who generally remained hidden from sight behind a large sheaf of corn in the sanctuary, until he emerged during the appropriate hymn and was preceded to the pulpit by the Vicar, who 'bowed him in'. Of course, the preacher may well have delivered his sermon many times before, since on the Harvest circuit there was little chance of it being heard by anyone twice. All this explains what my first Vicar, Father Dennis Brown, said to me, when, as a deacon, I cleared with him the business of going to preach my first Harvest sermon in a church in the upper Rhondda Valley. 'Make sure it's a good one', he said; and to a quizzical glance in response, he added, 'Well it is going to have to last you forty years, isn't it?' Actually, it has. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for this church and parish, and on the last Sunday this year of our prayer for the Anglican Communion\* we pray today for the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Rowan Williams, the focal point of unity for the worldwide family of Anglican Christians. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray at the time of our harvest festival for the ministry exercised in the country parishes of the Diocese. In our parish prayer we pray for those within the parish who will be receiving our harvest flowers (mainly the bereaved and the housebound), and for those who will receive our other harvest gifts at the Waterloo Christian Centre or at Vaughan House in Guildford. In our regular prayer for the people of the parish we pray today for those living in Nursery Close.

\* The *Ecumenical List* begins next week, and lasts for about ten weeks. The *General List* follows that, for about five weeks, and then the *Anglican Communion List* starts again.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 0700 MATTINS** Psalm 19
- 0800 HOLY COMMUNION (of Trinity 19)** *Common Worship rite.*  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 420.  
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198.
- 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST OF THE HARVEST, with the PROCESSION OF HARVEST GIFTS.** *Common Worship rite.*

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The hymn-book for the service today is the green *New English Hymnal*. The children are at the 1100 service today; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*

Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in E (Collegium Regale).

Eucharistic Prayer G. Blessing of Harvest flowers.

Hymns: 259, 260, 422 and 397, [The Sower], 262

**Fine, vigorous Harvest hymns today, all well-known. Do join in them heartily; after all, they only come around once a year.**

Anthem: For the beauty of the earth. [Words from Hymn 285.] *Rutter*

Organ: Final from Symphonie No.1 *Vierne* JC

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 HARVEST GIFT SERVICE; SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE.** *There is a special leaflet for this service.*

Anthem: Thou visitest the earth and blessest it. *Maurice Greene*  
 Organ: Toccata Giocosa. *Mathias*

**1700 CHORAL EVENSONG** *Book of Common Prayer rite*

This is the occasion of the **Choristers' Annual Reunion**, and we look forward to seeing some 'old faces' this evening. It is Evensong for the Eve of the Festival of St Michael and All Angels, though the anthem also has echoes of today's Harvest Festival.

Responses: Green books, page 18. Music: *Ayleward*  
 Office-hymn: 349 [Tune: OEH 376 *Cheerful*; on slip.]  
 Psalm 91. *God as guardian in life, and his angels as protectors.* Page 247.  
 First Lesson: 2 Kings 6: 8-17. *Chariots of fire.* Blue book: page 802  
 Magnificat: page 19. *Brewer in D*  
 Second Lesson: Revelation 12: 7-12. *'War in heaven.'* Blue book: page 802  
 Nunc dimittis: page 20. *Brewer in D*  
 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 ).  
 Anthem: The heavens are telling. *Haydn* (from *'The Creation'*)

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of his works displays the firmament. To day that is coming speaks it the day, the night that is gone to following night. In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood. (*Psalm 19: 1-4*)

*Note:* In the musical score, apart from the chorus-line (the first sentence), the text is meant to be sung by an archangelic trio of Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael.

Prayers. Hymn 193 [First tune]. Short Reading.  
 Hymn 29. The Blessing.  
 Organ: Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue. *Healey Willan* JH  
 There are programme notes for this major organ work. They are available with the service-paper this evening, or may be collected from the table with the service-lists earlier in the day.

**In church this week**

Tuesday An announcement will be made on Sunday as to whether the regular Tuesday Eucharist at 1000 is taking place this week in the absence of the Vicar.

**Other events and notices.**

**The Vicar** will not be around for much of this week, but he will be in the office on Friday evening as usual.

Monday From 0900: Harvest sorting.  
*We really could do with help for this. The faithful few turn up each year, but it would be so much easier if more people took part. The words of scripture come readily to mind: 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.' The same principle applies as on Saturday's Great Church Clean: 'Many hands make light work.'*

Wednesday 1030-1200. **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. All welcome; there is also tea provided for those who care not for the bean.

Saturday 0900-1400. **THE GREAT CHURCH CLEAN.** See below.  
 There will be visiting ringers at some stage during the morning.

**Church cleaning.** It is about fifteen years since the church received an organized clean of the upper areas, including truss corbels, internal windows, tracery, memorials and the like, and the Estates Committee is proposing to mount a similar exercise this year on Saturday, 4 October between 0900 and 1400. However, the Committee is far too small in number to undertake this task; we need help from other members of the congregation to assist in the work, and we believe that we shall need *an additional minimum of twenty committed volunteers, if this project is to proceed*, and to be completed in the time-frame available. The list is growing, but it is still not too late for additional volunteers to sign up on the list in the Welcome Area, or else please notify George Jarrett or the churchwardens TODAY. It would be helpful to know if you are comfortable working off a ladder or a set of steps, but, if not, please do not be put off, as there will be plenty of lower level tasks to do. Please help us, if at all possible. Once again, 'Many hands make light work.' G.E.J.

**Gill and Richard** will be pleased to welcome all friends to a small reception for **Nigel and Maria** at the Spring Hotel on Sunday 5 October from 14.30.

**Old Choristers.** This evening we welcome back some 'old faces' (for lack of a better expression), and it would be good if they were greeted by more than just the regular Sunday evening congregation. There is some lovely well-known music planned for tonight, and no doubt the returning singers will enjoy singing the choral evening Office of the Church once more on familiar territory.

**Present Choristers.** Last Sunday the Parish Choir sang the 1100 Sung Eucharist unaccompanied, and very beautifully, from the west gallery. The setting was *Palestrina's* 'Missa Aeterna Christi munera', which is based on the office-hymn for the feasts of apostles and evangelists. It is not always realised that the third service on Sunday mornings often has some very lovely music, which is much appreciated by the small but regular congregation. It is an indication of our flexibility at 1100 that *Palestrina* and the Book of Common Prayer last Sunday is followed by *Christian Family Praise for Harvest* this week, and by Choral Mattins (with music entirely by English composers) next week.

**'Edna's Teddies.** Edna Attwood has picked up on a recent item in the Diocesan newspaper *The Way* about the organization *Teddies for Tragedies*, and once again she is encouraging people to Knit and Sew. The Guildford branch has been very active since 1991. There is some information, together with one knitted Teddy, in the Welcome Area, and also a pattern. The finished teddies go to very young children in disaster areas and other areas of need. Further information from Edna.

**Westminster Abbey** has kindly sent us a Parish Pass, which admits up to four adults or young people up to the age of 18 free of charge. Children up to 11 are admitted free to the Abbey if accompanied by an adult. We can use this pass up to six times during a twelve month period. The card will be kept in the office, and application for its use should be made to the Vicar or the Administrator. The normal charges for entry to the Abbey are quite substantial, and it is good that the Abbey has taken this very welcome step for church people. A covering letter talks of evening pilgrim groups, after the Abbey has closed, for up to fifty people. This may well be worth pursuing some time in the future.

The funeral of the late **Alfred Goodey** will take place on Wednesday, 8 October, at 1100 at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead.

Last week's note about the *SURREY LIFE Carol Service* in aid of CHASE hospice for children will be reprinted next week. Just in case there is any confusion, it is not the same event as our own *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, which is fixed for 21 December. Since over fifty people signed up for it (the Vicar has kept the list!) we should expect a good congregation as the word gets around.

**Re-cycling theology.** There are still some books and periodicals in the Parish Room from the Vicar's library, and for which he has no further use. Some things are quite old (but none the worse for that), and there are also various reports from the General Synod. They will be cleared away and re-cycled after next Sunday, one week longer than originally planned. Come and browse, when the office is open; anyone who wishes to take anything should feel free to do so. Other books will have been added to the collection during the past week, so some may wish to pay a second visit.

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.

**Church Hall notice-boards.** This notice appeared a while back, but does not seem to have been heeded by those concerned. Some of these internal notice-boards are now *very* untidy and scrappy, and it would be good if they could be tidied up *before I do it myself*. Untidy notice-boards are not a good piece of window dressing 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. I plan to go and have a look sometime on Saturday morning, and, if necessary, 'do something.' W.R.H.

**Ewell Parish News** for October is available today.

**Next Sunday.** Services are at the usual times. It is the first totally normal Sunday in church since 24 August, but since that was in fact St Bartholomew's Day it might be more accurate to go for 27 July. There has been something different or special to affect the Sunday liturgical routine on every Sunday since then. Next Sunday really *is* normal, though only as far as the actual Sunday routine is concerned, because we shall be welcoming the Reverend Ray Leigh, who lives in the parish in Nursery Close, as the preacher at the Sung Eucharist. Also, Mattins will have a specific slant in respect of an underlying theme of the Christian hope of eternity, and the sermon, psalms and lessons, hymns and anthem will all relate to this. This point is further elaborated in *Ewell Parish News* for October. And, of course, there is the reception for Nigel and Maria Bird mentioned above.

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