

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

## WEEKLY NOTES

12 October 2008

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### TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Holy Baptism at the Sung Eucharist today is always a good opportunity for people to reflect upon their own stage in their Christian pilgrimage. Joyful occasion though it is, the rite of Holy Baptism has a way of calling us back to first principles: about believing and trusting in God who loves, creates and saves, about following in the steps of Our Lord Jesus Christ and through grace 'being made like unto him', and about taking seriously that business of love of God and love of neighbour. Although as a congregation we formally renew our baptismal vows twice a year, every baptismal occasion cannot but help reminding us that we all have to find time to look after our own souls, for our own 'Pilgrim's Progress' is never a straightforward business.

The words 'Pilgrim's Progress' can also draw attention to one distinctive feature of our worship at St Mary's today, which is a noticeable amount of music by Ralph Vaughan Williams. (The 'Pilgrim's Progress' connexion is that the choir will be singing Vaughan Williams' *Mr Valiant for Truth* on Remembrance Sunday.) He died fifty years ago in 1958. I well remember the highly-charged atmosphere in the Royal Albert Hall, when his *Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis* was played as the first item – and with no applause – at the last-but-one night of the Proms, just after he died. Today is his birthday. This musical gesture is appropriate, not just because he lived in Surrey, but because he exercised a major influence for good upon Church music in general and upon Church of England music in particular. To him we owe the musical side of the original *English Hymnal* of 1906, something which in itself brought about a new standard of music which was at once scholarly and yet immensely singable. His preface to the original edition is still worth reading, not least for such gems as commending to choirs the business of learning Bach chorales, rather than 'vulgar anthems by indifferent composers.' His researches into English folk music bore fruit in the music of the Church, and many well-known hymn tunes, like those to *He who would valiant be* and *O little town of Bethlehem*, come from such sources. Also in the realm of hymnody we have some masterpieces from his own pen, such as his tune to *For all the saints*, which has effectively displaced all others, and the one to *Come down, O love divine*, which even the very fine tune by 'our' Sir William Harris in *Ancient and Modern Revised* totally failed to dislodge from its pre-eminence. Today we have two of his anthems, and two organ voluntaries based on Welsh hymn-tunes. In the one case we shall also sing the melody upon which the organ prelude is based. He was a great and versatile musician, yet somehow quintessentially English in style and flavour, a composer who is once again being treated as a significant figure, after having suffered (like many other composers) a period in the musical doldrums after his death. In church we certainly owe much to at least one aspect of the musical genius of this great Englishman. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** In the worldwide Church we pray for those who belong to the Holy Orthodox Churches, and for Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.\* In the Diocese we pray today for all who serve as Pastoral Assistants in the parishes. Within the parish we pray for our young people in the Wayfarers, and for those who lead these sessions during the first part of the Sunday Eucharist. In our systematic parish prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Park Avenue East.

\* A reminder that for the next three months or so, we are praying for a different part of the worldwide Church, before resuming our systematic prayer for different provinces of the Anglican Communion in Advent. In appropriate instances we also pray for the local presence of the particular Christian body. The eastern Orthodox Churches are a group of independent ('autocephalous') Churches, who accord a primacy of honour to the Patriarch of Constantinople. In this country, perhaps surprisingly, the Orthodox communities together form the fourth largest Christian grouping.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*  
Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Proper 23  
Collect of the Day: page 493. Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST with HOLY BAPTISM** *Common Worship rite*

There is a separate leaflet for this service. Crèche available on request.  
Preacher: *The Vicar*. Eucharistic Prayer B.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Schubert* in G  
Anthems: *Sicut cervus. Palestrina*; *O taste and see. Vaughan Williams*  
Hymns: 440, 443, 435, 317, HHE 73, 274, 449.  
Organ Voluntary: *Carillon-sortie. Mulet* JH

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in church today between the 0930 and 1100 services.*

**1100 CHORAL MATTINS** *Book of Common Prayer rite*  
Responses: Green book, page 8. Music: *Tomkins*  
The Easter Anthems (*congregational chant*): page 67  
Office-hymn: AMR 39  
Psalm 139, to verse 18. Page 302  
*'The crown of the Psalter': God all-knowing and all-loving.*  
First Lesson: Deuteronomy 11: 18-28. Blue book: page 742  
*Encouraging and warning words about keeping the commandments of God.*  
Jubilate (Psalm 100; page 254). *Howells, Collegium Regale*  
Second Lesson: St Luke 16: 1-9. Blue book: page 744  
*Jesus points out a lesson from the astuteness of a clever rascal.*  
Hymn: AMR 229  
The Creed (page 12) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 80).  
Anthem: Let all the world in every corner sing. *Vaughan Williams*  
(Words of Hymn 375)  
Prayers.  
Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders*  
Hymn: AMR 207; Collection.  
The Blessing  
Organ: Prelude on 'Bryn Calfarina.' *Vaughan Williams* JH

#### **In church this week.**

The **Tuesday Eucharist** will not take place this week. There is a slip available which details the two or three weeks when this service is not on. The list goes as far as 6 January. There is a copy on the west door, and most regular members of the Tuesday congregation now have a copy of it, but there are further copies available in the office for those who would like to know in advance what the position is. The slip is on very bright yellow paper, so it should not be easily lost. Copies are on the Vicar's in-tray.

#### **Other events and notices.**

##### **First of all two words of thanks:**

*Firstly* to the Director of Music, Jonathan Holmes, and to the choristers, together with the young singers from Ewell Grove School, Ewell Castle Junior School, and Wallace Fields Junior School for the magnificent performance of *Joseph and his amazing technicolor Dreamcoat*, and for the other items in the first half. It was a really splendid evening.

**Secondly**, to all the workers who took part in the Great Church Clean last Saturday; it was a magnificent job, and the church looks as if it has come through a Turkish bath. Although verbal thanks have been given in both these instances, something needs to be put in print to underscore the point.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall; a weekly time for warm fellowship and nice warm coffee. This is the regular weekly slot for members of the congregation to have a period of quality time together, and also to welcome anyone else who might care to drop in. Regular members of the congregation who have not been before will be especially welcome; they will see familiar and friendly faces. It is always a jolly time.

Dear **Lynne Blickett** died last week after a long illness. She was a much-loved member of the Mattins congregation, and will be greatly missed. Her funeral will be at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on **Wednesday** of this week at 1015, and afterwards at *The Green Man* at 1130. Our Christian sympathy goes to her husband Tom. May she rest in peace.

**The Vicar** will be at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham for most of this week, but he will be back in the office for Friday evening. It is the occasion of the annual priests' pilgrimage retreat for The Federation of Catholic Priests. He will, of course, be remembering the parish at the Shrine.

'**Teddies for tragedies.**' Could the completed teddies please be brought to church next Sunday, and placed on the table provided at the back of the church? Any queries about this to Edna Attwood.

**Children's Society Christmas Cards** will be on sale in church next Sunday. Many members of the congregation have bought these cards over the years. The cards are usually of high quality, and this is a good way of helping the Society and its work.

A reminder about the **Inset to St Mary's Guide-Book**. Most members of the congregation will know that we have an excellent guide-book to St Mary's, written at the time of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the present church by Eve Myatt-Price. Since the book was written, there have been two major additions to the church: the **Millennium-Jubilee Window** and the **Stations of the Cross and Resurrection**. A leaflet has now been issued to supplement the information in the guide-book, and this will be inserted in the unsold copies of the book. Those who already have the guide-book may collect a copy of the leaflet from the office, if they wish; there is a pile on the right-hand side of the window-sill.

**The church website** has a **No to Halloween** poster available for the congregation to put on front doors, if desired. There will probably be a few printed off for the back of church as well, but the website one can be down-loaded by those who have the facility for doing so.

**The Organ Pipe**. This has been placed conspicuously against one of the pillars which supports the west gallery. There is also a leaflet about our very fine organ, describing the instrument, and stressing the need for it to be kept in good repair.

**Psalm 118**. A text from this psalm was once famously quoted by Queen Elizabeth I. The same text was also quoted by Jesus, and this came up in the gospel reading last week. Members of two of the congregations last week were encouraged to read this psalm as homework, and I hope that those concerned did so. (If you forgot, do try again this week.) It is a strange and wonderful psalm, and was almost certainly 'the hymn' which was sung on Maundy Thursday night before Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. W.R.H.

**Service-lists**. A few adjustments have been made to the service-lists, mainly (though not entirely) to do with the music. A slip is available next to the service-papers in the Welcome Area, and the definitive list can be found on the board in the Welcome Area, or else in the sacristy or the Parish Room.

'**A Victorian Festival of Christmas.**' A coach outing is planned to the City of Portsmouth to celebrate this special event, which is held at the historic Dockyard on Friday, 28 November; this is a 'Trip to Christmas Past' with carols, Victorian characters, Christmas shopping, etc. Apart from the festival

there is so much to do and see around the Dockyard, including the famous ships, the Spinnaker Tower, shops and eating places at Gunwharf Quays. Seats on the coach are £10 each, and to secure yours please give names and money to Joan Boulden or Lynne Yuille. There is a charge for entrance to the festival and Dockyard (£10 for seniors), which is payable locally.

**Next Sunday.** The services are at their usual times. There will be the rite of anointing at the Sung Eucharist, this being the Sunday nearest to St Luke's Day. Also at 0930 there will be a short commemoration of the late Alfred Goodey. The monthly Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist will be at 1100.

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