

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

2 November 2008

ALL SAINTS DAY.

All Saints Day is one of the loveliest days in the Christian calendar, because it is a day of recalling the fact that 'the end of man is the vision of God', and that by the grace of God that vision – which the saints in glory now possess – can in fact be ours. That is the primary reason for the observance of this festival. However, it is also a day of encouragement, because no matter how hard the spiritual and moral struggles of life seem, there are those in every age who have won through gloriously, and beyond all reasonable doubt they are now in God's eternal presence, and we call them the saints of God. Even though the word 'saint' has various shades of meaning in the Christian vocabulary, in this particular context the meaning is plain enough. As the hymn says,

Lo, round the throne a glorious band,
The saints in countless myriads stand,
Of every tongue redeemed to God,
Arrayed in garments washed in blood.

The writer was not quite accurate, for not all the saints were martyrs, but most certainly they were all wonderful Christians, and through the ages (as today's Eucharistic Preface states) they have given us, 'in their righteousness an example of godly living, and in their blessedness a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling.' Our All Saints hymns breathe a confidence that the Christian warfare is a battle which can be won, and that the virtues of faith, hope and love are sufficient equipment for the task. Do enjoy 'Hark the sound of holy voices' and 'For all the saints' (which we always have at the Sung Eucharist on this day), and all the other confident hymns which occur the services today. This mood is further echoed in the very vigorous anthem at the Sung Eucharist.

All Saints is, of course, closely followed by All Souls. Details of our arrangements for All Souls Day are given inside today's Notes.

Our prayers today. At All Saints-tide we give thanks for the saints of God in every age, for their steadfastness and devotion to their Lord, and for the example of godly living which they set before us. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today for those who belong to the Guildford area. Within our parish we pray for the leaders and children of our Sunday 'Children's Hour', and for the Methodist congregations at Ruxley and Stoneleigh. We pray too for the people of Parr Avenue.

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.

Our Organ Scholar, Jeremy Cole, keeps on having new diplomas and scholarships more or less every week, or so it seems. The latest piece of news is that, hard on the news that he has been awarded the Trinity College Cambridge Organ Scholarship for 2010, he has now been awarded an Organ Scholarship for his gap year – in this instance at Hereford Cathedral. I ought to say that nothing should be read into the fact that the Canon-Precentor of Hereford is a former student of mine at Chichester Theological College. Our warmest congratulations to Jeremy once again. W.R.H.

'Glagolithic.' For those who are puzzled by this mysterious word (occurring today in the title of the organ voluntary by *Janáček* at 0930), it is the name for the 'Old Church Slavonic' language, which is still used in the liturgical books of some Balkan Churches.

Chair shifting on Saturday. From about 1000, we should be glad of some help in transporting chairs across the road from the Church Hall, ready for the Remembrance Sunday service. This is not the most exciting job, but we always expect a full church on this occasion, and we do not want people standing unless it is totally unavoidable. However, last year there was very little assistance, I fear, with only two or three of us there to do all the work. May we have some more help this year, please? W.R.H.

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.

John Castle. Many St Mary's folk will be saddened to hear of the death of John Castle, who worshipped at St Mary's for many years, and who was an active member of the Estates Committee. Latterly he worked for the Diocese of Guildford in the Property Department, bringing a decidedly new sensitivity and care to this area of Diocesan activity. His funeral will be on Thursday at 1145 at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, and this will be followed at 1300 by a service of celebration of John's life at Bookham Baptist Church, Lower Road, Bookham. The family are happy for people to attend either or both services. Flowers will be from family only but donations are welcome for the Princess Alice Hospice, Esher; cheques payable to the hospice may be sent via Diocesan House marked for the attention of Gerardine Brown.

Next Sunday. It is *Remembrance Sunday*. The usual arrangements are happening this year, but there are plans for possible changes for the arrangements in future years. (These are *not* connected with the Vicar's departure, and discussions have been going on about this for some time.) The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell will be with us for the later morning service. The 'Sunday' Eucharist will be at 0800; the 0930 Eucharist will, as usual, be a Sung Eucharist of Requiem for the Fallen from the parish: those whose names are on our War Memorial, and also those from the parish who perished as innocent civilians during the two World Wars. The later service starts at 1050, after prayers and wreath-laying at the War Memorial, and is a more broadly-based service, with many official representatives present. The Vicar will be the preacher this year. Evening Prayer will be said at 1800 in the Parish Room.

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

[Tune: AMR 572, *Rest.*]

Hymn: The saints of God (*On leaflet*)

Short reading for All Saints.

Hymn: Joy and triumph everlasting. (*On leaflet*)

The Blessing.

Organ: Fugue from 'Ad nos, ad salutarem undam.' *Lizst* JH

[A Collection is not normally taken during Evensong; there is a plate in the Welcome Area.]
The next Choral Evensong is on 23 November, the Feast of Christ the King.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 422.

Other details for All Saints: page 324.

HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.

Common Worship rite

PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The green hymn-books are needed. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: **The Vicar.**

Setting of the Eucharist: *Palestrina*, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera.

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188. Other details for All Saints on page 324.

Anthem: O how glorious is the kingdom. *Harwood*

Hymns: 226, 227, (Anthem), 225 (i), 197

Organ: Final from the Glagolitic Mass. *Janáček* JH

Common Worship rite

1100 MATTINS and HOLY BAPTISM

There is a separate leaflet for this service.

Organ: Tuba tune. *Cocker* JC

Book of Common Prayer rite

Most of the choral music at this service is from the period of the Renaissance.

Introit: Gaudent in coelis. *Victoria*

English version: Glorious in heaven are the souls of all saints, who walked in the way of Christ, the Lord Jesus. They loved him, and followed his footsteps, and as they died for their Saviour, losing life for his sake, they reign with him for ever.

Responses: Green books, page 18

Office-hymn: O Saviour Jesu, not alone. (*On leaflet*) [Tune: OEH 249 ii, *Deo gratias*]

Psalms 1 and 15.

Two short psalms about 'the righteous man'.

First Lesson: Isaiah 65: 17-end

The promise of lasting happiness and joy.

Magnificat: page 19. *Byrd*, Second Service

Second Lesson: Hebrews 11: 32- 12:2

The heroes of the Old Testament are only to be brought to final perfection, when with us they share in salvation through Christ.

Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Byrd*, Second Service

Creed (page 20) and the Mutual Salutation; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,

Responses and Collects (first Collect on page 90).

Anthem: O quam gloriosum est regnum. *Victoria*

O quam gloriosum est regnum in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes sancti.

Amicti stolis albis, sequuntur Agnum quocunque ierit.

O how glorious is the kingdom, wherein all the saints rejoice in Christ.

Clothed in white robes they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

Prayers

o/c **Choir bonfire, fireworks and party.**

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Thursday **ALL SOULS DAY (transferred from Monday)**

1200 **Requiem Mass**

1900 **Solemn Eucharist of Requiem.**

Names of departed relatives and friends will be called on request, as will the names of those whose funerals have been taken at or from St Mary's in the past twelve months. Next-of-kin will have received an invitation to come to the evening Requiem, and we usually welcome a number of visitors on this occasion. Because of this, quite apart from any other obvious reasons, it would be good if there were to be a sizeable number of St Mary's folk there to welcome our visitors on this day of remembrance and prayer. It is a fairly obvious example of pastoral concern and care on the part of the worshipping community here, and this is the last time I shall have an opportunity of reminding people about this. We shall also be welcoming parents of pupils from the choir of Emanuel School who are once again singing the music at the service this year. This year it will be the magnificent setting of the Liturgy of the Dead by *Maurice Durufle*.

Names may be placed in the familiar blue box; **please specify** the service at which you would like the names called. W.R.H.

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.

2000 Meeting of the Vicar and Churchwardens on interregnum matters.

1000 **Chair shifting** (see below)

c.1630 Rehearsal for Standard-bearers. This year I plan to operate a policy that only those who have attended the rehearsal may carry the standards on the Sunday. Perhaps the word could get around. W.R.H.

Saturday

The **Administrator** is on leave this week, but the office will be open as usual from 0930 to 1300 Monday-Friday, but not Thursday. The Vicar is 'Duty Officer' this week.