

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Other events and notices.

Tuesday 1430 External Affairs Committee in the Parish Room.

Wednesday 1030 **Coffee Morning in the Church Hall.**

Koffee Kwaffing, Kongenial Kompany, and Koinonia.

2000 Meeting of the Standing Committee of the PCC.

*That word *'koinonia'* is in fact one of the really great New Testament words, and contains various shades of meaning, most of which are reproduced in the English word 'communion.' It has notes of 'fellowship in the truth', of deep personal commitment, of something to do with unity, love and brotherhood. The 'fellowship of the Holy Spirit' in the familiar words of the Grace (cited from the end of 2 Corinthians) is, in the Greek, the *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit. Whilst it is a 'serious' word, it can also take into its meaning something as simple as a group that meets on a Wednesday morning, and who are always ready to extend their fellowship to others.

The funeral of the late **Joyce Saunders** will take place at St Mary's a week

Wednesday (21st) at 1430, followed by cremation at Randall Park at 1530.

Today's services. None of the services today's has a printed running-order on the Weekly Notes. This is unusual, but it is an unusual day. Nevertheless, in some ways, today's services are a good illustration of the range of worship provided at this particular parish church. It may be an unusual Sunday, but in a way it is not all that different from what occurs quite regularly. Today we start off with the quarterly *very* traditional presentation of the Book of Common Prayer rite of the Holy Communion at 0800; not all churches which claim to offer this mixture at the 'early service' actually do exactly that. The Sung Eucharist follows its usual course with the normal modern language rite, with simple but dignified ceremonial, and with a choral setting of the service, though we regularly avail ourselves of the provision for using musical texts in traditional language (as today) or, indeed, in Latin (again, as today). Our versatle 1100 slot today gives us the modern rite of Mattins and Holy Baptism; it could just as easily have been Christian Family Praise, or the Prayer Book Sung Eucharist, or the 'default' service of Choral Mattins, which happens on the majority of Sundays. Tonight there is Choral Evensong, something which happens roughly once a month or thereabouts. It may be an unusually splendid Evensong, but in substance it is the same as what happens here on a regular basis. Today may be an exceptionally busy Sunday, but in essence it is not really all that different from any other busy Sunday at St Mary's.

Next Sunday. 'Normal service' returns next Sunday, after a very busy day today. Dr Miller will be the celebrant at the Eucharist; it is the third Sunday in the month, and that means there is the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist at 1100. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the music next Sunday is rather less demanding than what we have been accustomed to over the last few weeks. The singers can do with something a bit less demanding now; old faithfuls, like *Darke* and *Sunston* next Sunday.

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

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

11 January 2009

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

The quest for the recovery of unity in the Christian Church in the end stems from the priority of 'One' in the list of the so-called 'marks of the Church', which we find in the Nicene Creed. 'One' heads the list. Indeed, the Creed also talks about 'One Baptism' as well, a clear reminder of the basic unity that we all share, in spite of the various divisions in the Church. Next Sunday sees the beginning of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and it is indeed a matter which has been taken seriously in modern times, albeit with varying degrees of success. It is fair to say that the reality of that unity only existed briefly 'when they were all with one accord in one place' on the Day of Pentecost, and not for all that much longer. Even the Acts of the Apostles, which frequently glosses over problems in the early Church, soon starts to portray the reality of the situation in the Church: that it is simultaneously a communion of saints and a school for sinners, and that it always seems to have a proportion of both those aspects in its life.

Something like that also occurs in the nature of every Christian life, as we move away from the moment of our baptism, particularly so if our baptism was in adult life, and we remember it well. The reality of our nature constantly needing to be perfected by the grace of God is why those who take their faith seriously try to live a disciplined life, fortified by the grace of God through sacraments and scriptures. One eastern Christian writer, St Kallistos, wrote 'the aim of the Christian life is to return to that perfect grace of the most holy and life-giving Spirit, which was originally conferred upon us through divine baptism.' There is nothing easy about the Christian life, and much of it is hard slog; but the same source of divine grace, which transformed us at our baptism, is still with us as divine energy, through the Holy Spirit in the Church.

Well, I bid everyone farewell today. I shall not write much on that subject here, though I shall obviously be saying certain things about this in the sermon at the Sung Eucharist today, when I preach for the last time as your Parish Priest, and in any case I shall be writing something in the February *Ewell Parish News*. This will be the last Weekly Notes from me; according to my calculations it is about the 1,315th edition of the Notes; they began in September 1983. The Gala Dinner at Mercator House was a lovely occasion, and I repeat my thanks to the Social Committee and all who were involved in making it such a memorable occasion. Also I have been very moved by the kind words from so many people in the book of memories, which was presented to me on that evening, and I am also very grateful for the very substantial cheque which accompanied it. We have spent twenty-six years together – at least, quite a number of us have, – and this is an unusually long stint these days. It is sometimes hard to realize that I had almost



the same length of ministry before coming here, as my CV on the back of tonight's service-paper indicates. It will be good to welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury to St Mary's today; another 'first time' occasion for St Mary's. Tonight's service is designed to be a positive occasion: indeed, the final section of the service is bearing on my own future on such an occasion, it just as obviously refers to the Church of God in general and to the Church in this parish in particular. At the end there will be Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, a reminder to us all that in the end it is God who always takes the initiative. This particular form of blessing (well-known elsewhere, but not a very frequent occurrence at St Mary's) speaks to us of the Christ who dwells in the very life of the Church, and supremely through sacramental grace. We have a constant reminder of this in this parish church, when, as in countless other churches, we look to the small white light which indicates where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for the communion of the sick and as a focal point of prayer, reverence and devotion. We shall be trusting in the power of God's grace, and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as St Mary's Ewell 'travels on' in the next stage of its unique pilgrimage. I wish you all joy and peace in the Lord, and every blessing for the future life of St Mary's.

So, for the last time, signing off as in *Ewell Parish News*:

Your friend and Parish Priest,

Richard Hamford.

Our prayers today. We pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray today for two provinces of the Church in Canada: British Columbia and the Yukon, and 'Canada' (i.e. Quebec). In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for those in training for the ordained or Reader ministry, remembering in particular our own Iain McKillop. Within the parish we pray for all those who have been baptized at St Mary's during the past twelve months, and in our local prayer for the parish we pray today for those living in The Ridings.

The **Music List** for January is available at the book trolley for those who wish to have it. The list is usually for a term, but it seemed sensible this time just to have one for January, and the remainder of the Hilary Term can follow in due course.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Book of Common Prayer rite.*
The Prayer Book rite, which we have about quarterly at 0800, can now be followed (with about 98% accuracy) in Order 2 of '*Common Worship*,' beginning on page 229. Unlike the monthly Prayer Book Sung Eucharist at 1100, the BCP rite at 0800 follows the 1662 order without any deviations from the printed text, except that the long exhortations are left out. In order to achieve this, the simple rule is to **disregard any indented material** in the text. The Collect and Readings are on a separate paper. (Rather mischievously, I wonder, on this particular day, how many clergy these days can actually recite the BCP text of the Ten Commandments without having to look at the book. W.R.H.)

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The hymn-book for the service today is the green *New English Hymnal*. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: *The Vicar*

Eucharistic Prayer B

Setting of the Eucharist: *Schubert* in G

Hymns: 56, 58, 296 (i), 419, 420

Anthem: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day. *Gardner*

Organ: Fugue all Giga (BWV 576). *J.S. Bach* JH

The Vicar writes: It has been represented to me that some people may wish to receive the Blessed Sacrament at my hands on this particular day. With this in mind, there will only be one congregational Communion station at the Sung Eucharist, and this will be a standing station at the front of the nave. Please note that there is (by exception) a **congregational** hymn after the Invitation today, during which the choir will receive the Holy Communion at the altar rails. The odds are that this procedure will in itself slightly lengthen the service, and because there is also Holy Baptism at Mattins – something which involves a measure of extra activity between the services – I shall not be at the back of the church, nor in the Church Hall after the service. I shall be saying goodbye to people at the west door after Evensong tonight. W.R.H.

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

MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM

There is a special leaflet for this service.

All the singing is congregational at this service today.

1800

SOLEMN EVENSONG, SERMON, PROCESSION AND SOLEMN BENEDICTION.

(The Vicar's final service at St Mary's before his retirement.)

There is a special booklet for this service.

Preacher: *The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury*

Music at the service:

Organ (*before the service, from about 1740*):

Mohrentanz. *Susato*

Master Tallis' Testament. *Howells*

Trumpeting Organ Morgan. *Karl Jenkins* Litanies. *Alain*

Introit: I was glad when they said unto me. *Parry*

Responses: *Rose*. Service: *Murrill* in E. Te Deum: *Sumston* in G

At Benediction: O salutaris hostia. *Nicholson*

Tantum ergo. *Latin note and Durufle*

Organ: Toccata and Fugue in F (BWV 540). *J.S. Bach*

and Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain. *Durufle*