



WEEKLY NOTES

7 December 2003

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Notes are quite full today, so there is no weekly paragraph today. However, the weekly 'Advent extract' from *The Coming of God* by Maria Boulding is printed towards the end of the Notes.

In our prayers today we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Hong Kong. In the diocese we pray for the work and witness of the Cathedral, and for Victor Stock, the Dean. In the parish we pray for congregation at Christ Church Ewell (formerly known as the Staneway Chapel), and for the people who live in Briarwood Road.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.  
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198 (omit the responses in red brackets).  
(Eucharistic Prayer F is particularly suitable for Advent)

*Common Worship rite*  
Collect of the Day: page 377

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Wayfarers, 'Children's Hour' and Crèche.

Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 377  
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198; other Advent material: page 300  
The hymns today are mainly metrical canticles, and all except one are on the Readings paper, together with the Biblical references.  
(The Offertory hymn is NEH 7.) Leaflet for melody of the Creed.  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Palestrina*, Missa Aeterna Christi munera.

*Common Worship rite*

Introit hymn: Praise the Lord of righteousness (*A Song of Tobit*) [tunc: 259]

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*

[Gloria in excelsis omitted in Advent.]

Collect of the Day: page 377

*Readings on separate paper.*

(EVERYTHING FROM THIS POINT ON READINGS PAPER UNTIL AFTER THE GOSPEL)

Old Testament Reading from the Book of Baruch

(*All stand*) Cantic: Jerusalem, stand on the height (*A Song of Baruch*) [tunc: 54]

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Hymn: Rise, Sion rise. (*See note on Readings paper.*)

The Holy Gospel Reading from St Luke. [tunc: 122]

We are having a current problem in connexion with Church and Hall Cleaning. For the next few weeks, until the beginning of the New Year, we shall be without the services of paid cleaners, and at this time of year that is no small problem. We are immensely grateful to David Slattery, who will be looking after the hall, but that still leaves the church itself. This current week will see many Carol Services and rehearsals, so there is little point in anything being done until Friday or Saturday, but we shall certainly be needing a band of volunteers to clean the church either then or early in the following week. One session should then be sufficient until after Sunday 21 December (the day we decorate the church), and then we could do with another session, perhaps on the Monday. Please sign up today, if you can help; there will be a 'brief initial consultation' over Sunday morning coffee today. At this stage I might add that I am also looking for a few volunteers to help with the sacrificial side of things just before Christmas, again probably on the Monday morning. There are candles to trim, bread and wine to sort out, linen and vestments to see to and lay out, vessels to be cleaned, the sacristy cupboard in the Parish Room to be sorted out, and vast quantities of service papers to fold. All of this takes a considerable amount of time: 'getting the church ready for Christmas' is not just the pleasant event on the Sunday before. We have no sacristan, but all these jobs still have to be done if our services are to be conducted with dignity, decency and reverence over the Christmas period. W.R.H.

'Alone at Christmas.' A reminder that anyone who will be alone at Christmas, or who knows someone who might be, is invited by *Churches Together in Ewell* to a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day between 1230 and 1615. This year it will take place at St Paul's, Howell Hill. There is no charge, and transport will be available. If you would like to come, and/or know anyone else who would, you are invited to telephone on these numbers: our own church office (see front page) if you lose these Notes; otherwise, Geetha on 020 8393 7767 or 020 7898 1243, Corinne on 020 8393 7640, or Brenda on 020 337 9518.

If you want God, and long for union with him, yet sometimes wonder what that means or whether it can mean anything at all, you are already walking with the God who comes. If you are at times so weary and involved with the struggle of living that you have no strength even to want him, yet are still dissatisfied that you don't, you are already keeping Advent in your life. If you have ever had an obscure intuition that the truth of things is somehow better, greater, more wonderful than you deserve or desire, that the touch of God in your life stills you by its gentleness, that there is a mercy beyond anything you could ever suspect, you are already drawn into the central mystery of salvation.

*The Coming of God*  
Maria Boulding

Next Sunday. Normal arrangements at 0800 and 0930. The 1100 service will be the monthly Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist (*N.B. This is not on its normal Sunday*, because of the special arrangements on the following week). Evening Prayer and Stations of the Nativity will be held in the main church at 1830.

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

## In church this week

Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion
Wednesday	0900	Eucharist for Ewell Castle Junior School
Thursday	1000	Ewell Grove School Carol Service
Friday	1100	Ewell Castle School: main Carol Service

## Other events and notices

**Tuesday** 1600 Vicar at Canon Law lecture at the Temple Church, just off the Strand: one of the very few round churches in England.  
**Wednesday** 1030-1300 **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall, but with a **big difference**, for this is the **Christmas Party**. So come and pull a cracker, enjoy the sherry and mince pies, enter the raffle and sing some carols. Come and join in the fun. Donations for the raffle will be greatly appreciated.

**The Christmas Market** situation has moved on since last week. The takings have now reached nearly £1600, which is good news for our four designated charities.

The box in church for the late **Canon Howarth's seat**, together with some other income, has so far generated over £300. The box is still in position, but we shall be closing the project in a short while.

We have had Christmas Greetings from the boys' home at **Jeel al Amal**, and the letter and card will be on the Christmas tree in due course.

**Bible Reading Fellowship Notes** for the next few months are available for collection in the Welcome Area. Today is, in fact, the 'old' Bible Sunday; it is now in October.

The familiar blue box is in position again, this time for our internal **Christmas cards and greetings**. If anyone would like to take on the job of sorting them and laying them out, please have a word with the Vicar. At the risk of saying the obvious, we do not deliver uncollected cards; a year or two ago someone assumed that we did.

**Iain McKillop** has once again given us a loan of a magnificent set of paintings, this time seven Stations of the Nativity. They are on the nave pillars, together with their accompanying poems, and with a prayer at the start and finish. They will be with us over the Christmas period. Individuals may wish to use these Stations as a form of personal devotion during Advent. Do come in any time during weekday mornings through the office; the church is generally quiet at this time, but watch out this week for the various Carol Services: next week will in fact be quieter. Next Sunday evening we shall use Iain's Stations liturgically.

**An absent Advent.** My recent remarks about the growing disregard for the Church's year received a measure of confirmation when I was at the Cathedral last Sunday evening. I gather there was a contingent there from one of the local churches, who had come to the Cathedral that evening simply looking for 'an Advent service', since at their own parish church on the morning of Advent Sunday they did not have a single Advent hymn, even though there was plenty of other 'vigorous music.'

Sermon by **Mr Reginald Saunders, Reader**  
Nicene Creed (sung today): **Merbecke** melody on coloured leaflet.  
Intercession, followed by the Greeting of Peace  
Offertory Hymn: 7 (Collection)

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198 (omit responses in red brackets).

(Eucharistic Prayer F is particularly suitable for Advent)

Turn back to page 178 for Lord's Prayer, etc.

Hymn at the Invitation: Thus says the Lord (*A Song of the Covenant*). [tune: 89 ii]

Anthem: Canite tuba  
*Guerrero*

*Canite tuba in Sion, quia prope est dies Domini. Ecce venit ad salvandum nos: erunt prava in directa, et aspera in vias planas: veni, Domine, et noni tardare.*

Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is near. See, he is coming to save us: winding peaks will be made straight, and rough places made smooth. Come, O Lord, and do not delay. [Joel 2:1; Isaiah 40:4]

Post-Communion hymn: In a time of grace and favour. [tune: 201]

(*Song of the exiles' Redeemer*)

Post Communion Prayer: page 377; Advent Blessing and Dismissal

*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*

Responses: page 8

Venite (shorter version)

Office-Hymn: 17

Psalms 80 Israel as a vine in great need of pruning and tending. page 234

First Lesson from the Book of the prophet Isaiah (*on separate paper*)

Hymn: From Jesse's royal tree (*A Song of Prophecy*) [on Readings paper]

Second Lesson from the Revelation to St John

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254

*Howells, Collegium Regale*

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,

the Responses and the three Collects: first Collect on page 52 [BCP Advent 4].

Anthem: Canite tuba.

[Text and English translation printed at the 0930 service.]

Prayers Hymn 495 (Collection)

The Blessing

**EVENSONG AND HOLY BAPTISM** *Separate leaflet for this service.*

*And a reprint from last week's Notes:*

As is usually requested for such occasions, it would be good to have a reasonably-sized welcoming group at the service from the worshipping congregation here. The lovely photographs in the Welcome Area of recent christenings (taken by Marion Rao) ought to emphasize that all this is something to do with us, for we are the local manifestation of the wider body of Christ, into which these newly-baptized Christians have been incorporated through their baptism; and their entry into it was made through our doors at St Mary's. I am very glad that some members of the congregation regularly come to these occasions, but they really could do with some company.

## 1630