

Monday

A servant with this clause  
Makes drudgery divine,  
Who sweeps a room  
As for thy laws  
Makes that and the action  
fine.

George Herbert

From 0930: the Second Sweep-in. A general voluntary clean-up of the church before Christmas. According to present plans, our new cleaners will be starting in January, but we obviously want the place looking as nice as possible for Christmas. There are also many sacristy jobs needing to be done, plus the folding of service-papers and similar jobs. Please help, if you can. Not all that many were able to help last week, but those who came really did a grand job on Monday and on Wednesday. Very many thanks.

**Leaflets and posters.** About a quarter to a third of the parish is still uncovered in the leaflet distribution, including the two long streets of Kingston Road and Meadow Walk. Many thanks to all who have trudged around so far. It is obviously the last call today; please help, if at all possible. Also there are still quite a few posters left, and there must surely be more members of the congregation with a convenient window.

**Christmas Mail.** There is quite a lot of internal Christmas mail awaiting collection in the Welcome Area. I am grateful to those who helped to arrange the envelopes. This is obviously a much-appreciated facility, if the number of cards is anything to go by. However, the cards need to be collected between now and Christmas Day if they are to serve their intended purpose. A few cards appear to be for people who through infirmity are really not likely to be in church over the Christmas period, and in one or two cases even for people not connected with St Mary's. Might these please be taken back and be personally delivered or posted, because this is not quite what was envisaged when we started doing this some years ago? W.R.H.

**The hymn 'O come, Emmanuel'** is one of the traditional features of Advent in Church of England worship, and it properly belongs to this particular Sunday, since the hymn is actually a versified form of the Advent Antiphons to the Magnificat, which occur in the order given in the hymn on the days leading up to Christmas. The last one *O Virgo Virginum* is only found in pre-Reformation service-books in England, and not elsewhere. (There was a strong devotion to Our Lady in medieval England – the country itself being known as 'Mary's dowry'; the flowers in our Millennium Window illustrate this point.) There is a prose translation of the Advent Antiphons in *the New English Hymnal* at No.503. The two versions in *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell* put the antiphons in their right order, so 'Emmanuel' comes in verse 7, not at the beginning, and the translation is more accurate and less obscure in parts than is the case in some hymn-books. Since this year we are using the 'traditional language' text (No.24) at the Sung Eucharist, we shall use the more familiar refrain; it is at the bottom of the page. We used the other version at The Advent Procession on 29 November.

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.

**Next Sunday.** The Sunday after Christmas is always a gentle affair in church, but it has a clear atmosphere of its own. The 0800 and 1100 services will be 'of the Sunday', with the reading about the Finding in the Temple, but the 0930 will be the Eucharist for the festival of the Holy Innocents ('Childermas', as it was once known in England). There will not be Evening Worship next Sunday.

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

21 December 2003

## WEEKLY NOTES

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Sponsor's Note.** Remembering my grandson, Mark Nicholas Saunders, who would have been twenty-four on Friday. J.M.S.

We have been using as an Advent devotional thread on the Weekly Notes for these four weeks of Advent some extracts from *The Coming of God* by Dame Maria Boulding. Here is the final one.

#### And In the End

Constantly he comes. He came as a man into our human situation, accepted human experience as his own and lived it through to the bitter end, in order that what was bitter might be turned to sweetness and human experience become an expression of his sacrificial, redeeming love. He has transformed it from the inside, and offered us the possibility of allowing him to transform it in our lives too. The one historical unique birth at Bethlehem makes possible his birth in the many lives of those who will receive him, to whom he gives the power to become children of God. He is born in us continually as our minds, our actions, our reactions, our relationships, our experience and our prayer are Christified. But this is a lifetime's task, and we need to pray constantly from the still pre-Christian areas in us: 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

### CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Most regular members of the congregation will be aware of our Christmas arrangements, but for the benefit of any visitors here today, who might be with us over Christmas, here are the basic details. On Christmas Eve at 1600 there is the all-age Arrival at Bethlehem Service\*, which includes the Blessing of the Crib. Midnight Mass begins at 2345, and there will be a short recital of carols and other Christmas music (from 2315-2335) before the Mass begins. Holy Communion (of the Dawn) will be at 0800, Sung Eucharist at the Crib\* at 0930; Choral Mattins at 1100, and Holy Communion at 1200.

\*These two services are the most suitable for children.

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



**In our prayers today** we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Singapore. In the diocese we pray for those producing the Diocesan Herald. In the parish we pray for the parish members of the Mothers Union, and for the people who live in Castle Avenue and Castle Way. We also pray for the work of our two Christmas Charities: 'CHICKS' (Country Holidays for Inner-City Kids) and the locally-based Rainbow Trust for children with terminal or life-threatening illness.

## 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 378

### 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

### Common Worship rite

'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall, and Crèche in the Choir Vestry.

Order 1: page 167.

Collect of the Day: page 378

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196; other Advent material: page 300

The hymns at the Eucharist are from *A Hundred Hymns for Ewell*.

[Melody edition of *The New English Hymnal* available on request for most tunes.]

Setting of the Eucharist: *Victoria*, Missa O Magnum Mysterium.

Introit hymn: HHE 21

[Tune: MHT 166]

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*

[Gloria in excelsis omitted in Advent.]

Collect of the Day: page 378

*Readings on separate paper.*

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

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Micah.

*Remain seated for Gradual Psalm 40: 6-12 sung by the choir.* [2<sup>nd</sup> part, verse 8]

New Testament Reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans.

Hymn: HHE 64 (*on the Readings leaflet*)

[Tune: 157]

The Holy Gospel Reading from St Luke.

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional language text on page 213; *Shaw* melody.

**Choir Presentations and ribbons.**

Intercession, followed by the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: HHE 24 -- with '*traditional refrain*' at the bottom of the page.

[Collection during the hymn. There is a note about this hymn on the back page of the Notes.]

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196 (but beginning with the Extended Preface on page 301).

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

Hymn at the Invitation: HHE 23

Antiphon: Ne timeas, Maria.

[Tune: 21]

*Victoria*

*Ne timeas, Maria; invenisti enim gratiam apud Dominum. Ecce concipies in*

*utero, et paries filium, et vocabitur Altissimi filius.*

Fear not, Mary, for you have found favour with the Lord. Behold, you shall

conceive in the womb, and bring forth a son, and he shall be called the son of

the Most High.

[St Luke 1: 30,31]

Post-Communion hymn: HHE 12

[Tune: 427]

Post Communion Prayer: page 379; Advent Blessing and Dismissal

Welcome to visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known after the service. There is coffee **in church today** after the Eucharist. At 1100 there will be 'basic Mattins' (do take your coffee into the pew), and at about 1115 there will be the **General Decoration of the church for Christmas** (see note after the 1100 service). This is always a pleasant occasion, and there are plenty of jobs for all. At 1200 *the Angelus* is said, and there are mince pies and more coffee for the workers.

### 1100 CHORAL MATTINS

*Book of Common Prayer rite*

Responses: page 8

Music: *Ayleward*

Venite (shorter version)

Psalm 117 The shortest psalm: in praise of God's loving-kindness. page 277

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

Benedictus: page 11

Second Lesson from the Book of Revelation

Carol: People, look east.

The Lord's Prayer, the Advent Collect (page 51) and the Grace.

*o/c*

**The General Decoration of the Church for Christmas.**

This is a case of generally adorning and festooning the church with all manner of pretty things: holly and other greenery (there is plenty in the churchyard), coloured lights and tinsel, decorating the window-sills, the screen, the gallery and the reredos, putting up the Christmas tree, assembling the crib, changing the altar linen and generally making the place look happy. It is an enacted parable of welcome: 'Make the house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table', as the Carol of the Advent proclaims at the end of today's shortened Mattins. It is meant to be a parish family occasion; do join in.

### 1830 Evening Prayer, said in the Parish Room.

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Wednesday 1200 This is a designated time for those wishing to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before Christmas.

**The Christmas Flowers** will be sponsored by *Julia Scott* in memory of her husband *William Scott*, who died at Christmas last year.

**Peter and Mary Pledge** wish all their friends and colleagues at St Mary's a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**'Alone at Christmas.'** Today at 1230 the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell (Councillor Jonathan Reed), together with our MP (Chris Grayling), and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive (David Smith) will be singing carols in the Ashley Centre in Epsom, supported by musicians from Epsom Methodist Church. This is in aid of the Mayor's Christmas Appeal, and the funds raised will be used to support the two **Alone at Christmas** lunches being held in the Borough at Epsom Methodist Church and (for Ewell) at St Paul's, Howell Hill.