

7 November 2004

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

The Sundays after All Saints Day represent the beginnings of the count-down to Advent, with their insistent stress on the world constantly being under the judgement of God. Readings and hymns alike emphasise the call to justice, righteousness and peace, and it is into this particular context that, perhaps more than coincidentally, the annual observance of the National Remembrance now falls each year. Next week we shall once more have our minds concentrated in this particular respect. Today, however, we have the chance to reflect how the Kingdom of God is constantly presented in the scriptures as 'the reign of peace, and purity and love' (as a familiar hymn puts it). It is against that standard that we must set the reality of human behaviour, not just in the unhappy world of interational relations, but also in the reality of our own society, with its not very attractive features of greed, selfishness and deceit. If today bids us look on that side of things, then next Sunday bids us see what that has constantly led to in the past. It is a mercy that the new Lectionary allows us to say with St Paul, 'Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,' when one week later we celebrate the eternal kingship of Christ at the end of the liturgical year. But that is one Sunday only: one week later and Advent is with us, to tell us that a world standing under the judgement of God stands in constant need of a Saviour, and in the providence and love of God that Saviour has indeed come to restore our fallen nature; and Christmas will once again proclaim his arrival as the Babe of Bethlehem, and as the Word of the Father, in flesh appearing. And we shall all rejoice once more, because God is merciful and good as well as just. But he is still just, and we continue to live under his judgement.

Our prayers today. In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today for the Church in the Province of the Indian Ocean. In the diocese we pray for Bishop Christopher Hill, who will be confirmed as Bishop of Guildford tomorrow. In our parish we pray for our preparations for our Christmas Market, and for Ruith and Frank Stockwell organizing it, and we pray too for the people who live in the London Road.

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 in the Mattins slot, the BCP rite at 0800 follows the 1662 order without any deviations from the printed text, except that the long exhortations are omitted. In order to achieve this, the simple rule is to disregard any indented material in the text. Collect and Readings are on a separate paper.

On the subject of the Year's Mind List, it is now perhaps time that the names in the book were revised. An older book was discovered a few years ago, but it is clear that sometime in the period before my arrival here the practice had stopped. However, the list needs to be realistic, and in the New Year I plan to remove names from the book which have been there for upward of fifteen years, or where there is little likelihood of the name being known to anyone in the present congregation. If someone wishes a name which falls into this category to be retained, there is no problem; it is just a case of having a word with me.

PCC agendas and other papers for the meeting on 15 November will be sent by e-mail or post sometime after the Tuesday meeting of the parish Funding Group.

Next Sunday. Although the prevailing feel of the day is that of Remembrance Sunday, the actual liturgical Sunday of the Calendar is simply the Second Sunday before Advent, and the 0800 Eucharist will be 'of the Sunday,' and will not have any Remembrance Sunday features. (Something similar occurred at the Harvest Festival.) However, the other two morning services are clearly orientated towards the National Remembrance. Over the years we have tried to systematize this by having a clear distinction of purpose between the 0930 and 1050 services. The 0930 is *Sung Eucharist of Requiem*, and the eucharistic intention is specifically for the Fallen of the parish. It is a time to remember *the wartime dead of Ewell*, and to pray that they may find that peace which was denied them in life. It is essentially a parish occasion, centred on the Parish Church. The traditional Sunday intention at the eucharist is for 'the church and parish', and priests are expected to apply their own intention at the Sunday eucharist to this end: it is the *missa pro grege*, 'the mass for the flock.' It is in this spirit that the Requiem on Remembrance Sunday is celebrated; it is for those of 'the flock' who are now in another part of the Shepherd's fold as a result of specific human conflict, and this is the particular time when we remember them at the altar of God. The later service, *the Wreath-laying, the Act of Remembrance and Mattins*, is something we offer the Borough as a whole: a chance to reflect seriously upon our human condition, and the constant failure of the nations to live in peace and harmony, and to do so through a formal act of Christian worship, in the company of others who do not normally share our Sunday worship with us. This year minds will be further concentrated at the Act of Remembrance as we recall the deaths of British soldiers (as well as all the other casualties) in Iraq.

It is good that in this borough there is a long and honourable tradition of the Mayor and the Borough Council leading the town in the observance of this solemn and thought-provoking day, and it is also worth noting that each year they have other observances on Remembrance Sunday elsewhere in Epsom and Ewell. This is something for which our civic leaders need to be warmly commended. There are unfortunately other places where Remembrance Sunday is a much more perfunctory affair, and indeed some places where there is no real sign of it being observed at all. Evening Prayer next Sunday will be said in the Parish Room.

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

'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall. Crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 424
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191. Other seasonal texts: page 326
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Rutter* in D. Green hymn-book at 0930.

Introit Hymn: 500
 Introduction and the Prayers of Penitence.
 Metrical Gloria in excelsis: at Hymn 363 [Tune: 338]
 Collect of the Day: page 424 *Readings on separate paper.*
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians.
 Gradual hymn: 460 [Tune: 124]
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.
 Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*
 Nicene Creed: page 173
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory hymn: 333 [Tune: *Groeswen*] Collection
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191; Proper Preface: page 326.
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 At the Invitation: *Agnus Dei*
 During the Communion: Hymn 491
 Anthem: The souls of the righteous. *Nares*
 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.
 (Wisdom 3:1)
 All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 424
 The Blessing and Dismissal. [Coffee in the Church Hall.]
 Hymn 490

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.

CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunders, Reader* *Book of Common Prayer rite*
 Responses: page 8 Music: *Archer*
 Metrical Venite (full version): HCE 9 [tune: AMR 508] Page 291
 Psalm 121 The Lord is our constant help and defence.
 First Lesson: Isaiah 2: 1-5
 A prophetic vision of peace and security, with its centre at Jerusalem.
 Canticle: HCE 61 [tune: AMR 224 ii]
 Second Lesson: Romans 8: 31-39
 Nothing can separate us from the power of the divine of love.
 Benedictus: page 11 (Chant setting)
 The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,
 the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 80 [Trinity 22]).
 Anthem: The souls of the righteous. *Nares*
 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.
 (Wisdom 3:1)
 Prayers. Hymn: HCE 96 [tune: NEH 171]; Collection. The Blessing

There is a separate leaflet for this service.

At present there is only one family scheduled to be at this service (another family has had to postpone the christening until early next year), so it is rather important that there is a real measure of 'welcoming support.' Please come, if you can.

In church this week

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion
 (Service of the Saints of England.)

Other events and notices

Monday 1700 Confirmation of the election of Bishop Christopher Hill as the ninth Bishop of Guildford at St Mary le Bow. Bishop Hill actually becomes the Bishop of Guildford at this point.
 1930 Meeting of the Estates Committee.
 Tuesday 2000 Meeting of the Parish Funding Group.
 Wednesday 1030-1200. Coffee Morning in the Church Hall: 'Have a break; have a coffee'; a time for Fellowship, Friendship and Fine Blend.
 Also, this week: '*Jam for Jeel*.' A selection of homemade marmalade will be on sale, and this will include pink, red and white grapefruit, and also Three Fruit. All contributions will be most welcome.
 Thursday (11th) Church open from 1000-1400 ('11.11.11')
 Friday 1000 House of Clergy meeting at Emmanuel Church, Stoneington.

'The Glory of the Book of Revelation.' Many will by now have seen in Ewell Parish News the information about the course in preparation for Christmas to be led by *Iain McKillop* at the Tuesday housegroup. If not, there is a blown-up version of the page as a poster in the Welcome Area. This looks a splendid course, and I commend it most warmly. I hope several new faces will turn up at the housegroup for something as stimulating as this promises to be. **W.R.H.**

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The Weekly Departed and Year's Mind List. This seems a good time to reprint a note which appeared some weeks ago. Unlike the list of 'infirmities', the departed list *usually* contains names that are unknown to many in the congregation. Names on a Sunday include all funerals taken at or from St Mary's in the previous week, and obviously not all these are 'churchpeople.' Even the Year's Mind list contains names that are known to but a few. There is nothing odd about this; it is rather like praying for a part of the world-wide Church of which we know almost nothing. Perhaps it is not generally realised, but anyone who has had a family bereavement (or lost, say, a personal friend) should always feel free to add the particular name to the card on the lectern for one Sunday. The prayers of a Christian community at the Eucharist are one way of slotting our own personal prayers into the prayer of the whole Church, living and departed; and in the providence of God that prayer will avail both for the one prayed for, the one who makes the prayer, and all others who share in it. **W.R.H.**