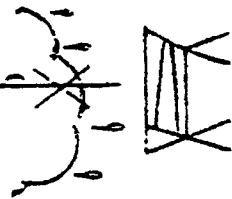


St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
(020 8393 2643)  
www.stmarysewell.com



WEEKLY NOTES

COME,

LORD JESUS

28 November 2004

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT A new Christian Year begins today.**

The beginning of a new Christian Year ought to concentrate the mind in several ways. I suppose today is really the day when Christians ought to make their New Year's Resolutions, for by the time 1 January comes around the year is (from this point of view) already some four weeks old. Perhaps it is a good time, in any case, to reflect upon the nature of one's own devotional practice, and to consider whether it needs an overhaul or at least some measure of tidying-up.

It so happens that something has arisen which may furnish just the opportunity for that sort of exercise. In last week's Notes it was mentioned that the local Parish **Funding Programme team**, under the chairmanship of Mr Richard Rothwell, is very busy with its plans for the launch of this Programme in early February. This is an exceptionally important matter, and on its results will depend much of our future vision and planning. Certainly we should (as the old mission hymn says) 'take it to the Lord in prayer', and beginning this week there will be a programme of organized **common prayer** for the special intention of this whole enterprise. There will be several aspects to this, but in particular there will be a **daily opportunity for corporate silent prayer in church at 12.00**, which will either begin or end with an act of worship. It will be described in the Weekly Notes as 'Parish Prayer.' The session will last for about half an hour. However, since it is just silent prayer for most of the time, one can come and go as one pleases. There will be guidelines and themes available for those who would like to have them. I hope that most people who do not have work commitments will be able to choose at least one of these options, and try to stick to it. Others who are at work may be able to use the short prayer for this programme; it is printed further on in the Notes, and is easily remembered. Another possibility is to drop in during lunchtime to one of the many open churches in town. Beginning today the short prayer will be used as an additional Post-Communion prayer (said together) at the Sung Eucharist, and perhaps at other services as well. The daily provision for prayer in church (except on Saturdays) will last until the end of the Parish Funding Programme, which will be some way into Lent. The chart at the back of the church is *not* for names, but ticks would be very helpful. **Today is Decision Day for this, because it all starts this week, so please tick the chart.** Many groups in the parish have already seriously considered their present and future situation, and have responded to a questionnaire sent out by the Parish Funding Group. I am grateful for all who have taken part in this. I now hope that everyone will play a real part in the prayerful undergirding of what we are trying to do, as we ask for God's help and guidance as we seek to move ahead in the light of what this programme might achieve. **W.R.H.**

'Christmas is coming,' and, as ever, there is much happening at St Mary's, and much to do by way of preparation. This is the season, when, more than at any other time in the year, we expect a large number of people at St Mary's who do not normally come here on a regular basis. One feature which has been happening here for very many years is the general distribution of our Christmas leaflets to the entire geographical parish. Most years we just about succeed in doing this, but it is quite a task, and I am grateful to all those who have trudged around in all weathers over the years. The leaflets have now been printed, and we need volunteers to bundle them on **Tuesday**, straight after the 1000 Eucharist. This means they can start going out from the church on 5 December for delivery at a time which suits the distributor. This will give us three clear Sundays. Please let Mrs Yuille know in the office, if you can help, for many hands make light work.

**The Vicar** will be away from the parish from Thursday morning until late on Saturday evening. He is attending to some family matters in Wales. All back to normal after this weekend.

A fortnight or so ago **Dr Trevan** left a number of copies of MAF News in the Welcome Area for people to borrow, pass on, or keep. With the general commotion of Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas Market and other things the copies of MAF News got shunted out of obvious sight. However, they are now back on view again, and they are there *for free*. Dr Trevan writes, 'By the very nature of its role, Mission Aviation Fellowship provides a cheering overview of a host of individual ventures in four continents. Its reports offer an antidote for some of us to the seemingly slow progress towards peace with justice in the large disaster areas. Every three minutes an MAF plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world. The people and goods which they transport, the activities and casualties which they assist, saving tedious travel time, and crossing flooded or bandit country – all of this makes fascinating reading.' So do pick up a copy, and take it away.

**New Stations of the Cross.** A donor has most kindly financed the provision of a commissioned set of Stations of the Cross, which are intended to appear on the gallery front, and which can be brought down for liturgical use. Last week the PCC agreed to petition for a Faculty in this connexion. The Stations have been designed by our own Iain McKillop, and the final drawings, together with an explanation of the scheme and a preliminary unfinished example of what they will look like, are available for inspection in the Welcome Area. Those who know Iain's work will be greatly impressed with this latest example, particularly since it is for us, and the Stations will undoubtedly add significantly to the iconography of St Mary's, and will certainly be a great aid to devotion during Lent, Passiontide and at other times. The display in the Welcome Area will be removed later this week, not least because the area has become very cluttered recently, and is overdue for a sort-out. So if you have not had a close look at the drawings, please do so today. We are now embarking upon the tedious business of applying for a Faculty.

**Next Sunday.** Eucharistic arrangements as usual. At 11.00 there will be another of our Christian Family Praise services. This is with the Advent theme, 'Let's get ready for Jesus,' Evening Worship is in the Parish Room at 18.30.

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 prayers today.** In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. In the diocese we pray for Christopher, our Bishop, on his first Sunday in the diocese after his enthronement yesterday. (For him, Advent Sunday, is a curiously appropriate occasion for 'Monday morning in a new job.') In our parish we pray for our Communion Assistants, and for the people who live in Manor Drive.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION** *Common Worship rite*  
 Order 1: page 167 Collect of the Day: page 376  
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 Other Advent texts: page 300

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST** *Common Worship rite*

'Children's Hour' in the Church Hall. Crèche available in church.  
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 376  
 Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198. Other Advent texts: page 300  
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Leighton* in D.

Introit Hymn: 5  
 Introduction, the Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.  
 [Gloria in excelsis is omitted during Advent.]  
 Collect of the Day: page 376 *Readings on separate paper.*  
 Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.  
*Remain seated* for Metrical Gradual Psalm 122: Hymn 441  
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans. [Tune: *Glasgow*]  
 Gradual hymn: Behold the mountain of the Lord. [On *Readings paper*: Metrical paraphrase of the Old Testament reading.]  
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

Sermon by *the Vicar*.  
 Nicene Creed (*sung today*): traditional language text on page 213.  
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.  
 Hymn at the Collection: 9  
 Then *all sit* for the Offertory Anthem:

Zion hears her watchmen's voices. *J S Bach*  
 [Similar words to verse 2 of Hymn 16]  
 After the anthem *all stand* for Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198  
 [Omit the responses in red brackets.]

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

At the Invitation: Hymn 3 (ii)

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei*.

No Communion anthem today, so *all stand* after 'Let us pray' for the Post-Communion Prayer on page 376, followed by the Parish Funding Prayer, (*said together*):

*Lord, bless our parish church,  
 and bless what we seek to do:  
 for the good of your Church,  
 for the people of Ewell,  
 and to your greater glory;  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Advent Blessing and Dismissal.  
 Hymn 7

[Coffee in the Church Hall.]

**1100 MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM**  
*There is a separate leaflet for this service*

**1200 HOLY COMMUNION** (in the Parish Room). *Common Worship rite*  
 Order 1: page 167 Collect of the Day: page 376  
 Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196 Other Advent texts: page 300

**1830 Evening Worship at Ewell United Reformed Church**

**In church this week**

Monday	1200	Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
Tuesday	1000	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	1200	Parish Prayer with some structured prayer-time
Wednesday	0900	Ewell Castle Junior School Advent Service
	1200	Parish Prayer with the <i>Common Worship</i> Litany
	2000	<b>Confirmation Eucharist at Banstead Parish Church</b> ( <i>see below</i> ).
Thursday	1200	Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
Friday	1200	Parish Prayer with <b>Holy Communion</b>

**Other events and notices**

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, Iain McKillop will be speaking on the topic: 'The meaning of Christmas: Symbols in Christmas Art.'

**Confirmation.** There is another occasion this week, which can help to concentrate the mind on the things of the Spirit. Five of the congregation will be getting confirmed by the Bishop of Dorking at All Saints, Banstead, on Wednesday evening, and they could do with the prayers of St Mary's folk (in any case), and possibly with some personal support at Banstead as well. They are Eileen Woods and Damian Merciar from Mattins, and Ramaya Rao and Peter and Tiffany Silversides from the Sung Eucharist.

A reminder about the 'Alone at Christmas' lunch. Anyone who would like to go to this, or indeed to help out at it, should initially have a word with Margaret Howard, our *Churches Together in Ewell* representative, who will give any further information.