



St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

5 December 2004

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Most unusually, the 'Sunday paragraph' this week is an adapted reprint of what appeared last week on the front page of the Weekly Notes. The reason is simple: it is important that everyone knows what is going on in preparation for the **Parish Funding Programme**, and of the particular way in which I hope we may all participate in it, and, of course, not everyone was here last Sunday. Here is the gist of what was written last week:

Our **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 for the next three years. Certainly we should (as the old mission hymn says) 'take it to the Lord in prayer,' and last week we began a programme of organized **common prayer** for the special intention of this whole enterprise. There are several aspects to this, but in particular there is now a **daily opportunity for corporate silent prayer in church at 1200**, which either begins or ends with a short act of worship. It is described in the Weekly Notes as 'Parish Prayer,' and today (5 December) the themes for prayer will be made available to all members of the congregation. The session lasts 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 are 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 indeed 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. It is possible to do this sort of thing at home, of course, and some who are not quite so mobile will doubtless opt for that course; but the point of the prayer in church is that we can pray together in the actual place which is the focal point of the Parish Funding Programme: the parish church which we love and wish to see in good heart and eager to move on. The short prayer is now being used as an additional Post-Communion prayer (said together) at the Sung Eucharist, and sometimes at the other services as well. This 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. There is a chart at the back of the church, *not* for names, but 'ticks of commitment' would be very helpful. **A number of ticks appeared last Sunday, but I hope they will be joined by many others today, bearing in mind that not everyone was in church last week, and so there is the chance again today.** The

The Vicar writes: I have been somewhat elusive during the past two weeks, largely because of having to go to Wales twice for a few days in connexion with family matters. However, I am properly back now, and since everything now seems to be in order I do not plan to be away from the parish between now and Christmas.

Copies of *El Dorado*, the Guyana Diocesan magazine, have arrived, and are available *for free* in the Welcome Area for anyone who would like a copy. This time it includes a 'pretty picture' of Bishop Randolph with the Vicar, who gets mentioned in despatches more than once in the course of this issue!

Very many thanks to all who helped to bundle the Christmas leaflets last Tuesday. The first batch of leaflets is now available for collection in the Welcome Area, and this means there is a decent amount of time to get them out. However, there is still quite a lot to do, so there will be another bundling session this Tuesday as well. *Might we have some more help, please?* Also, if you are able to help in the distribution, please collect your bundles today, so that we can see over the next two Sundays which streets remain uncovered. For some of the longer streets it might be sensible for two or three people to collaborate. It would, of course, be a great help if people did not think that this only meant doing their own road. Certainly in the case of those who live *outside* the parish it would help enormously if they could also lend a hand in this annual piece of St Mary's flag-waving within the parish, for the leaflets give details of much more than just the Christmas services, and we cannot really expect to do this exercise of covering the whole parish more than once a year.

The Anthem at the Eucharist. Some people may wonder why the position of the anthem sometimes changes. Normally the anthem occurs during the administration of Holy Communion. However, today and last week it came at the Offertory. The reasons are quite simple: if the anthem is somewhat exuberant or a bit on the loud side, or perhaps slightly longer than usual, then it is generally better for it not to be sung during Communion-time. For the remainder of this term the anthem will be during the Communion; but those are the reasons for the change, when it happens.

Next Sunday. Although next Sunday is not the third Sunday in the month, the December Sung Eucharist according to the Prayer Book rite will take place next week, because the following Sunday is the day when we decorate the church after a brief Matins. It is *Gaudete* Sunday next week, so-called because of the note of joyful anticipation which characterizes this particular Sunday, as Christmas draws near. The word *Gaudete* ('Rejoice') was the opening word of the old Latin Introit, and this year the Old Testament lesson at the 0800 and 0930 services is that wonderful chapter in Isaiah of the hope and excitement at the glad tidings of an imminent deliverance, when 'they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away' (Isaiah 35). The liturgical colour is rose, except at the BCP Sung Eucharist, when the old English colour sequence is followed, and so it will be blue. So next Sunday we shall in fact be using both sets of eucharistic vestments, which were recently given in memory of our former churchwarden, Frank Cannon.

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

ticks are indicative of the degree of importance with which the congregation views our serious attempt to look to the future, and to ask for God's guidance in this matter. Many groups in the parish have already seriously considered their present and future situations, 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.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the Anglican Communion we pray today for the Church in Kenya. In our regular prayer for the Diocese we pray for the priests who exercise a ministry in retirement. Our parish prayer today is for the members of the Tuesday House Group, and for the people who live in Meadow Walk.

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known to us. There is coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. *Common Worship rite*
 Eucharistic Prayer C: page 219. Collect of the Day: page 450
 Proper Preface: page 300

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

Wayfarers, 'Children's Hour' and Crèche. *Common Worship rite*
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 377
 Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198. Other Advent texts: page 300
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Baiten*, Short Service.

Introit hymn: 12
 Introduction, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*
 [*Gloria in excelsis* is omitted in Advent.]
 Collect of the Day: page 377. *Readings on separate paper.*
 Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.
Remain seated for the Metrical Gradual Psalm 85: HCE 54. [tune: AMR 471]
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans
 Hymn 170 [anticipating the Gospel reading]
 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew
 Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Nicene Creed: page 173. Presentation by the Tuesday House Group [See below.]
 Intercession, then all stand for the Greeting of Peace
 Hymn at the Collection: 15
 Then *all sit* for the Offertory Anthem: A Song of Peace.
 [Traditional language text of today's Old Testament Reading.]
 After the anthem *all stand* for Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198
 Advent Preface: page 300 [Omit the responses in red brackets.]

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

Hymn after the Invitation to Communion: 6

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei*

No Communion anthem today, so *all stand* after 'Let us pray' for the Post-Communion Prayer on page 377, 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 465

[Coffee in the Church Hall.]

Note: At the Sung Eucharist in the weeks leading up to the launch of the Parish Funding Programme, there will be a three-minute presentation by various parish groups of what they actually do, and how they see their role over the next three years. There will also be a mention of the particular group in the prayers which follow.

1100 'LET'S GET READY FOR JESUS': SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE

There is a special leaflet for this service.

1830 Evening Prayer

In church this week

Monday	1200	Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion
	1200	Parish Prayer with some structured prayer-time
Wednesday	1200	Parish Prayer with the <i>Common Worship</i> Litany
Thursday	1200	Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
	1315	Ewell Grove School Christmas service
Friday	1000 and 1400	Ewell Castle Junior School Christmas services
	1200	Parish Prayer with Holy Communion

(The Eucharist will start about 1215, and should last no more than twenty minutes.)

Other events and notices.

Monday	1030	Epsom Deanery Clergy Chapter: Quiet Morning at St Paul's, Howell Hill, with our new Bishop.
Tuesday	2000	House Group at 68 Castle Avenue: continuing the course led by Iain McKillop on the Book of Revelation. This week: 'There was silence in heaven for half an hour.'
Wednesday	1030-1300	The Coffee Morning Christmas Party: 'COFFEE, CAROLS AND COMESTIBLES' with a Grand Raffle, sherry and mince pies.