



**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

*'Gaudete' Sunday.*

**The Gradual Psalm.** The Psalm at the Gradual\* is technically a lesson, not a hymn. It is 'the Lesson from David,' and normally we sit for the lessons, the Holy Gospel alone being the 'Great Exception.' However, in reality, there is generally a metrical hymn, psalm or canticle in this slot, so the item almost always sounds like a hymn. Normally one is more or less programmed to stand for metrical hymn-singing in church, but when there are two pre-Gospel readings, as now in Advent and again in Lent, one can have too much getting up and sitting down. So, as in the case of the anthem, the nature of the item at the Gradual determines what we actually do. For the last two weeks, the metrical Gradual Psalm has been of a reflective nature, and so it was quite appropriate for everyone to remain seated. This week and next week the Gradual Canticle will be noisier (if that is the right word), and so it will be more appropriate to stand. In any case, the Weekly Notes will indicate what to do.

We have already had the privilege of seeing once before Iain McKillop's seven *Stations of the Nativity*, or rather photographs of them. This year we have a loan of the real thing, and the Stations themselves are indeed very wonderful. With the meditations underneath they will make a good private Christmas devotion, and I hope many of the congregation will avail themselves of this opportunity to stand and look, reflect and pray. They will also be a good devotion during Parish Prayers at midday. I hope to persuade Iain (I haven't asked him yet) to conduct Stations during the sermon slot at Mattins on one of the Sundays after Christmas. This would enable members of the Sung Eucharist congregation to stay on for a short while, and then leave if they wish during the first hymn at Mattins. The Mattins congregation won't mind that happening; they are quite used to people moving in and out - like those who are examining the texts of the Marriage rites on a Sunday morning.

'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. There are still plenty of bundles waiting to leave the church; please may they all go today, so that next Sunday there will not be a distribution crisis.

**A reminder about the Christmas services.** Most members of the congregation know that partly (though not entirely) for musical reasons, there will be a different timetable on Christmas morning this year, and also on the following day ('the Feast of Stephen'). The Arrival at Bethlehem Service will be at 1600 as usual, and Midnight Mass will also be at its usual time of 2345. However, *there will not be Christmas Choral Mattins this year at 1100, and the Sung Eucharist at the Crib will begin at 1000 (not at 1030 as it says on the Music List)*. Although it is not practical to lay on Choral Mattins on Christmas Day this year, this does not necessarily mean that this represents a permanent change. However there will be a choir at the Sung Eucharist on Christmas morning. On Sunday, 26 December, being realistic, there will only be ONE service: and this will be Sung Eucharist at 1030. There will not be Holy Communion at 0800 on that day. All back to normal the week after, though that will be the Sunday for the musicians' Christmas break.

**Next Sunday.** This is always a jolly Sunday at St Mary's, though I wish some more people would stay behind and enjoy the fun of decorating the church from about 1115. There is coffee in church after the Sung Eucharist, followed by the briefest of Mattins, and then the decoration begins. It doesn't usually take long, but come with greenery or tinsel or streamers, or else bring some secateurs, since there is lots of holly in the churchyard. The *Angelus* is said at midday, and there are mince pies and more coffee before the workers go home.

Most people now know that a donor has most kindly financed the provision of a commissioned set of *Stations of the Cross* from Iain McKillop, and these are intended to appear on the gallery front. They will also be capable of being brought down for liturgical use. 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. The new Stations will undoubtedly add significantly to the iconography of St Mary's, as well as being a great aid to devotion during Lent, Passiontide and at other times. The display in the Welcome Area was going to be removed last week, but because the other Stations are now in place on the pillars they are remaining in position for today only, so that (unusually) two Stations of Christian Mysteries are on display at the same time. If you have not had a close look at the drawings, please do so today, because they are coming down tomorrow.

It is *Gaudete* Sunday today, as the note of Christmas-just-around-the-corner moves into our worship. The liturgical colour is rose, except at 1100 where we follow the old English colour sequence at the Prayer Book Eucharist and the colour is blue.

**Our prayers today.** In our regular prayer we pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Church in Korea. In the diocese we pray for those involved in pastoral or palliative care at the various hospices. In our parish we pray for the work of the Children's Support Group, and for the people who live in Mill Lane.

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Order 1: page 167

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.

**Common Worship rite**

Collect of the Day: page 378

Other Advent texts: page 300

**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 378

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198.

Other Advent texts: page 300

Setting of the Eucharist: *Millington*, Missa Alme Pater

All the hymns are from *A Hundred Canticles for Ewell*.

Introut Hymn: 1 (The *Benedictus*)

[Tune: NEH 148]

Introduction, the Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.

[Gloria in excelsis is omitted during Advent.]

Collect of the Day: page 378

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

*All stand (today)* for the Metrical Gradual Canticle: 67

*A Song of the new Creation*

New Testament Reading from the General Letter of St James.

Canticle: 22 *A Song of the Wilderness*

[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.

**Parish Funding Programme:** Presentation by the Children's Support Group.

Intercession: then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Offertory Hymn: 68 *A Song of the Exiles' Redeemer*. Collection. [Tune: NEH 201]

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198

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

At the Invitation: 66 *A Song of the Covenant* [Omit the last verse]

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei*.

Anthem: 'Ex ore innocentium'

[Verses of 'it is a thing most wonderful'; NEH 84, reprinted on small slip.]

*All stand* after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer,

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 29

[Coffee in the Church Hall.]

[Tune 52]

*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. The group will also be mentioned in the prayers which follow.

*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 SUNG EUCHARIST**

**Book of Common Prayer rite**

Setting of the Eucharist: *Merbecke*, Missa Simplificior. *Merbecke* is a congregational setting, and the melody is available on the lilac-coloured paper. There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings. The hymns are all from the green hymn-book at 1100.

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*

Introut hymn: 15

Then green Prayer Book: page 31

*Kyrie eleison* (Lord, have mercy): page 33

Greeting and the Collect of the Day

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

Gradual hymn: 14

The Holy Gospel: St Matthew 11: 2-10

Nicene Creed: page 34, followed by Prayer Biddings and the Offertory Sentence.

Offertory Hymn: 11

After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the Prayers of

Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration.

Hymn at the Consecration: 313

During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)

Anthem: Ave, verum Corpus. *Edgar*

[English translation at Hymn 289]

After Communion: The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Oblation: page 44

(*Gloria in excelsis* is omitted in Advent)

The Blessing

Hymn 466

**1830 Evening Prayer** (said in the Parish Room)

**In church this week**

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office

1000 **Holy Communion**

1200 Parish Prayer with some structured prayer-time

1200 Parish Prayer with the *Common Worship* Litany

1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office

1100 Ewell Castle Senior School Carol Service.

1215 for 1230 Parish Prayer with **Holy Communion**

The Eucharist will start about 1240, and should last no more than twenty minutes.)

**Other events and notices**

Monday

2000

Meeting of the Parish Funding Group

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 all the fun. Donations for the raffle will be greatly appreciated. No Coffee Mornings on 22 and 29 December. We re-open on Wednesday, 5 January 2005.