

Wednesday 1200 Parish Prayer with the *Common Worship* Litany
 Thursday 1200 Parish Prayer with short Mid-day Office
 Friday 1200 Parish Prayer with **Holy Communion**
 (The Eucharist will start about 1220, lasting no more than twenty minutes; it will be the purple morning Eucharist of Christmas Eve, not the white Vigil Mass of Christmas.)
 1300-1400 This is a designated time for those who may wish to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before Christmas. (Any other times by appointment.)
 1600 The Arrival at Bethlehem Service (*see below*).

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Most regular members of the congregation will be aware of our Christmas arrangements, though it is perhaps worth pointing out that they are a bit different this year. In any case, 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. This has become a very well-attended service, and early arrival is advised. *Midnight Mass* begins at 2345, and there will be Gallery Carols from about 2315-2335 before the Mass begins. *Holy Communion (of the Dawn)* will be at 0800. **MID-MORNING ARRANGEMENTS ARE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR.** The *Sung Eucharist at the Crib** will start at 1000, and the choristers will be at this service this year. However, there will not be Choral Mattins on Christmas Day this year. This is 'without prejudice' to the future. There will be late Holy Communion at 1200, for those who - for one reason or another - will have had a lie-in on Christmas morning.

*These two services are the most suitable for children

Holy Communion to the housebound takes place on Monday.

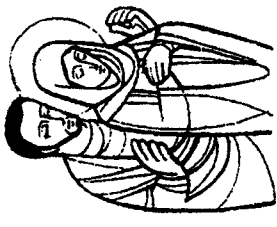
Leaflets and posters. Quite a bit of the parish is still uncovered in the leaflet distribution. I am very grateful indeed to those who have wandered around the parish doing this piece of post-box evangelism. Clearly it is the last call today; please help, if it is at all possible. Posters are also available now; please do not 'pass by on the other side' on the way out today if you have a convenient window or gate.

The **Christmas Flowers** will be sponsored by *Julia Scott* in memory of her husband *William Scott*, who died at Christmastime two years ago.

Christmas Mail There is quite a bit of mail awaiting collection in the Welcome Area. It would be sensible for new mail today to be put directly on to the relevant piles, rather than put in the box. Please don't alter the positions of the piles; they are all in alphabetical order.

We have had greetings from the boys home at **Jeel al Anjal**, and the card will be put on the Christmas tree in due course.

Next Sunday. On St Stephen's Day, being realistic, there will only be one service in church. There will be Parish Eucharist at **1030**. The choir will be with us next Sunday, and will be having their Christmas break on the following Sunday.



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

WEEKLY NOTES

19 December 2004

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sponsor's Note: Remembering my grandson, Mark Nicholas Saunders, who would have been twenty-five today. J.M.S.

The presentations at the Sung Eucharist by the various groups in connexion with the run-up to the Parish Funding Programme have considerably exceeded the planned three-minute slot. That is not really surprising. However, it has meant that the Sung Eucharist has gone on longer than it should, and we need some breathing-space before Mattins, quite apart from any other reasons. We are not exactly hard done by as far as sermons go at St Mary's, so for the next few weeks the sermon at the 0930 service will be replaced by (what is known in the trade as) a sermonette or even by a reading. This is, in fact, the same as what normally happens at the 8 o'clock service. The presentations will be going on for the next five or six Sundays, though there will not be one on 26 December. Those who really want a 'straight' sermon on a Sunday morning will still be able to have one, if after coffee they return to church for Mattins, where the sermon comes at the very beginning; they can then leave during the first hymn, or while the choir comes in. The intercessions will also be more formal and succinct during this short period. Everything will return to normal afterwards. I am grateful to all those who are taking part in these presentations, and I am quite certain that many in the congregation are learning some new things about our life at St Mary's. **W.R.H.**

Looking ahead. All members of the regular congregation will be getting an invitation early in January to attend the Parish Function in connexion with the parish Funding Programme. It will be on Sunday, 6 February. Please book the date now.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the Anglican Communion for the Church in Melanesia. In our regular prayer for the Diocese we pray for all who are preparing and rehearsing for Christmas services and Nativity plays. Our parish prayer today is for the parish members of the Mothers' Union, for the Parish Choir, and for the people who live in Mill View Close.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 **HOLY COMMUNION**

Order 1: page 167
 Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198.

Common Worship rite
 Collect of the Day: page 378

Children's Hour in the hall; crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 378
 Eucharistic Prayer E page 196, beginning with the second
 extended Advent Preface on page 301.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *White* in E flat
 All the hymns (except the last) are from *A Hundred
 Hymns for Ewell*.

Introit hymn: 22

[Tune: NEH 215]

Introduction and Prayer of Penitence.

[*Gloria in excelsis* omitted in Advent.]

Collect of the Day: page 378

*The Readings are, as usual, on a separate paper, but disregard
 the printed psalm and the second hymn.*

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

[Tune: NEH 19 ii]

Remain seated for the Gradual hymn:

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
 Behold the King of glory waits;
 The King of kings is drawing near,
 The Saviour of the world is here.

Come, Lord and Saviour, and abide;
 Our hearts to thee be open wide;
 May we thy constant presence feel,
 To all thy grace and love reveal.

New Testament Reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Canticle: 12 *Magnificat*: [Tune: NEH 186]

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew

Reading (by the Vicar) from *The Coming of God* by Dame Maria Boulding.

Presentation by the Parish Choir, and the Admission of a Chorister.

Nicene Creed: page 173

Intercession; and then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: 23 [Tune: NEH 11]

[The full version of the ancient Advent Antiphons.]

Eucharistic Prayer E: page 196, with Extended Preface on page 301.

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

After the Invitation: 86 [Tune: AMR 57 i]

During the Communion:

Anthem: I sing of a Maiden.

Hadley

I sing of a Maiden that is makeless,
 King of all kings to her Son she ckes.
 He came all so still where his Mother was,
 As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his Mother's bower,
 As dew in April that falleth on the flower.
 He came all so still where his Mother lay,
 As dew in April that falleth on th spray.

Mother and Maiden was never none but she;
 Well may such a lady God's Mother be.

15th cent. words.

Then all stand after the Anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 379,
 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.

Final Hymn: People, look east.

'Seasonal Organ Voluntary.'

(*Words on Readings paper.*)

[Jonathan Holmes plays *Sleigh Ride*.]

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please
 make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in church today
 in the Welcome Area after the Eucharist. At 1100 there will be
 'basic Mattins' (do take your coffee into the pew), and at about
 1115 the General Decoration of the church for Christmas (see
 note below after the 1100 service). This is always a pleasant
 occasion, with 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, followed by Venite (shorter form)

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

First Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah

Benedictus (chant setting): page 11

Second Lesson from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Hymn: AMR 58

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

o/c

The General Decoration of the church for Christmas.

Although there is still almost a week to go, it will be sensible to do today
 what we have done for many years on the Sunday before Christmas. It is an
 enacted parable of welcome: Christ's people making glad preparations to
 welcome the Christ-child. It is a natural and homely aspect of practical
 incarnational theology. So we adorn the church with all sorts of pretty
 things: lights, tinsel, holly and other greenery, and there are plenty of other
 jobs to do as well, like assembling the crib, changing the altar linen, clearing
 the silver, checking the candles, and generally making the place look happy.
 It is meant to be a happy parish occasion, so please join in.

1830 Evening Prayer, said in the Parish Room.

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