

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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*Sharing the love of Christ,
the Light of the world,
with the people of Ewell.*

WEEKLY NOTES

6 November 2005

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

This is a comparatively peaceful Sunday in church today. I have mentioned before, I think, that the next normal Sunday is in fact 15 January. This doesn't mean that we should always be looking out for something different as the latest gimmick*, but simply that the Calendar or a special event (as on 20 November) dictates that some times of the year simply require more special input than others. The 'green' season is over, and devotionally we now are into a season which includes, more than at any other time in the year, a concentration on the rest of God's family, the saints and the souls. It is a serious time of year, and Remembrance Sunday next week emphasises the point. There is also a strong concentration on the concept of the coming of God's kingdom (see the hymns for 1100 today) and on his justice and judgement; again, Remembrance Sunday has much to say about that. In that sense it leads on to Advent, with its very strong note of Judgement now, and Judgement to come. On that point: I have recently re-translated the ancient Advent Sequence at Hymn 502 in *The New English Hymnal*. It is a good hymn, linking the two Advent themes of the Christ who came as Redeemer at Bethlehem and of the Christ who comes as Judge at the end of time. The version in *NEH* fits the ancient plainsong melody, but no regular modern metre will fit these words, and so in practice the hymn is probably never sung these days except in some conventual communities. (The new version – only three verses, by the way – fits the melody of Hymn 171, which by a coincidence is being used today.) We shall sing the new version of the Advent Sequence this year in its traditional slot before the reading of the Gospel on the First Sunday in Advent. The seriousness of this period is relieved by the celebration of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. His is the victory; he has the last word. Indeed, in the last book of the Bible he is called 'the Amen'. We end the liturgical year on a devotional high, a far cry from the days of the *Alternative Service Book*, when all we were offered on that day was the Old Testament doctrine of the Remnant.

* It sometimes needs to be pointed out that 'gimmick' is a neutral word. You can have a good gimmick or a bad gimmick. It ought not to be assumed that the latest gimmick must necessarily be a bad thing, though of course it might be.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we are praying today for the Church in Sri Lanka. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the Ecumenical Team of Chaplains and bereavement officers at the Epsom and St Helier Hospitals Trust. In our parish prayer we pray for those who were confirmed by the Bishop last week, and whom we formally greet today at the Sung Eucharist. In our regular prayer for those living in the geographical parish we pray today for the people who live in West Mead.

A reminder that on the very appropriate feast of *Christ the King* (20 November), we shall be having the **Dedication of the new Stations of the Cross**, painted by 'our own' Iain McKillop. They are now *in situ*, and by common consent they are being seen as a stunning work of art, and as something will greatly enhance the iconography of St Mary's, as well as being a focal point of devotion during Passionside. They will be dedicated by the Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend Victor Stock, at Choral Evensong, and he will be preaching at the service. Most people by now know that the Stations have been commissioned by an anonymous donor from the parish, and in memory of past Treasurers, Clerks and Trustees of the Ewell Parochial Trusts. The day's proceedings will include *'The Afternoon Sermon of the Ewell Parochial Trusts'*. More about this next week.

'Churches Together in Ewell' are holding a time of *United Prayer and Worship* at Bourne Hall in the Minor Hall (opposite the reception desk), a week Monday, 14 November, at 1930. A similar event was held at Bourne in June this year. This is planned to be on similar lines.

Grove Cottage (Abbeyfield). The Committee of Grove Cottage would like to thank everyone – including a number of our own congregation – who supported their very happy and successful Coffee Morning on 29 October.

The Epsom Male Voice Choir will be giving another concert in St Mary's on 19 November at 1930, and there is also a handbill about this available at the book-trolley. There is always a varied and delightful programme from them, and it is good to welcome them here once again.

Next Sunday. A more extended paragraph about this today. The early service will be 'of the Sunday', but the other morning services will relate to our observance of Remembrance Sunday. A reminder that the **Bishop of the Diocese** will be with us on this year. He will be the celebrant at the Sung Eucharist of Requiem at 0930, and preaching at Mattins, when as usual we expect a large congregation. Most people now know that the later service is something which we offer to the Borough as a whole, but it is the Requiem at 0930 which is our specifically *parish* occasion on Remembrance Sunday, when the intention at the Eucharist is for those from this parish who died during the two World Wars. I am particularly glad that the Bishop will be with us to preside at the Eucharist. He is the first one to accept – and to accept gladly – the invitation to do so; most other dignitaries in past years have felt that 'sermon only at Mattins' was quite enough, and taking part in two services on a Sunday morning was way beyond the normal call of duty. (The fact that we have up to four services on Sunday mornings at St Mary's never seems to have crossed the mind.) I hope that the fact that our Chief Pastor is with us for the regular Sunday Eucharist will persuade those who might be tempted to defect to the 11 o'clock 'just for Remembrance Sunday' to think again. Quite apart from the business of the Requiem being an important domestic affair to do with the Ewell dead, the fact remains that the Bishop is the 'Ordinary', and I only celebrate at the altar of St Mary's as his authorized deputy. I hope the regular Christian flock will gather around their chief pastor next Sunday at the table of the Lord, and if they want to go to Mattins as well to think of it as an extra. I am sure that many people will try and say hello to Bishop Christopher at some point, though the busy timetable of the day precludes him really being very much at home with us. It is possible he may arrive in time to greet the *incoming* congregation at 0930. I hope to invite him to come for a more normal Sunday in due course. W.R.H.

CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *the Vicar* Music: *Plainchant*
 Responses: Green book, page 8.
 Metrical Venite (shorter version)
 Hymn 500
 Psalm 85. God's graciousness, mercy and truth. Page 239
 First Lesson: Proverbs 2: 1-9. Blue book: page 480
 In praise of wisdom.

Benedictus: page 11
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3: 18-end. Blue book: page 482
 In praise of the *true* wisdom.

Hymn 499
 The Creed and the Greeting: then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,
 the Responses and the three Collects [the first Collect on page 59 (*sic*)].
 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 7; Collection. The Blessing

1630 Evening Prayer (in the Parish Room).

In church this week.
 Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion
 (The festival of the Saints of England.)

Other events and notices.

Monday 1930 Estates Committee.
 Tuesday 1200 Epsom Deanery Chapter
 Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. A warm
 welcome to anyone who cares to join us. This is a regular
 weekly slot for members of the congregation to have a nice
 period of quality time together, and to welcome anyone else who
 might drop in.

2000 Internal Affairs Committee.

Saturday 1600 Altar servers' rehearsals for tomorrow. Both services
 need rehearsal; there is nothing too complicated, but with the
 Bishop here we ought to do a little polishing of the normal
 routine. (There will be one minor alteration at 0930.)
 1700 The usual Colour Party rehearsal for the mid-morning
 service.

The Christmas Market. *Only a fortnight to go.* There are handbills about this at
 the book-trolley for the benefit of anyone who was not here last week, when they
 were given out with the Notes. The Market will be held on Saturday, 26
 November, and as usual will be in aid of four particular charities: *The Samaritans*,
 '*Send a Cow*', *Oasis (for homeless and displaced teenagers)*, and *Mercy Ships*.
 There is information about the four charities in the Welcome Area. Stallholders
 are listed on the handbill and in Ewell Parish News, and all are in need of items for
 their stalls. Ruth Stockwell would be happy to have any suggestions or offers of
 help. Please telephone her on 202 8393 0650.

SUNDAY SERVICES

HOLY COMMUNION
 Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. *Common Worship rite*
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Collect of the Day: page 497.

SUNG EUCHARIST
 Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available in church.
 Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 425 (*sic*)
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Fauré, Messe Basse*.
 All the hymns are from *A Hundred Canticles for Ewell*.

Introit hymn: 62. *A Song of Deliverance*. [Tune: *From strength to strength*. *Naylor*]
 Greeting, Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*.
 Metrical Gloria in excelsis: at Hymn 99. [Tune: 139 i]
 Collect of the Day: page 425. *Readings, as usual, on a separate paper*.
 New Testament Reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.
 Gradual canticle: 92. *A Song of God's Assembled*. [Tune: OEH 534]
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
 Sermon by *the Vicar*.

Nicene Creed: page 173.

[When the Creed is being said, rather than sung, we are now proclaiming the
 Creed really confidently and vigorously. Please keep up the good work.]
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Offertory Hymn: 96. *A Song of God's Judgement*. Collection. [Tune: 171]
 Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 After the Invitation to Communion: *Agnus Dei*
 During the Communion:

Hymn 98. *We adore thee, O Christ and we bless thee*. [Tune: 3 ii]
 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 419
 Remain standing for **The Welcome to the newly-Confirmed**.
 They will be presented with their Confirmation certificates
 and a small devotional manual. The familiar 'Defend, O
 Lord' prayer will be said. (All reply: **Amen**.)
 The Blessing and Dismissal. [Tune: 478]
 Hymn 15 Short version of the *Benedicite*.

>Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today.
 Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in
 the church hall after the 0930 service.