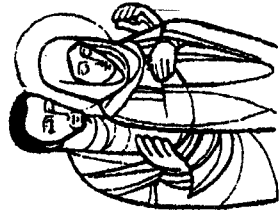


**Radio 3** has been playing the complete works of J S Bach, and, in association with the Royal College of Organists, organists of parish churches have been invited to play the familiar *Toccata and Fugue in D minor* (not the Dorian) on this Sunday. Julie Ainscough will be playing it after the Sung Eucharist today.

St Mary the Virgin,  
**EWELL PARISH CHURCH**  
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**WEEKLY NOTES**

**18 December 2005**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Sponsor's Note.** Remembering my grandson, Mark Nicholas Saunders, who would have been twenty-six tomorrow. J.M.S.

For the second week running there is no Weekly Paragraph today, but at least there is there is no extra page of notices this week. As we begin the count-down to Christmas today with the General Decoration of the Church, I hope that everyone will have a happy Christmas, deepened and enriched by the sacramental reception of the living Christ in our Christmas Holy Communion. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our own church and parish, and in the wider Church we pray in the Anglican Communion for the Church of Ireland. In our diocesan prayer we pray for all those who, though not regular churchgoers, will be attending the various services in our churches over the Christmas period. In the parish we pray for the parish members of the Mothers Union. Our systematic prayer for the people living in the parish begins again today, as we pray for those living in Aragon Avenue.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**0800 HOLY COMMUNION**

*Book of Common Prayer rite*

The Prayer Book rite, which we have about quarterly at 0800, can now be followed (with about 98% accuracy) in Order 2 of 'Common Worship', beginning on page 229. Unlike the monthly Prayer Book Sung Eucharist in the Matins slot, the BCP rite at 0800 follows the 1662 order without any deviations from the printed text, except that the long exhortations are omitted. In order to achieve this, the simple rule is to disregard any *indented* material in the text.

The Collect and Readings are on a separate paper. In the Prayer Book scheme of things the familiar Collect for the First Sunday in Advent is said after the Collect of the Day.

**0930 SUNG EUCHARIST**

*Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers, Children's Hour and Crèche.  
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 378  
Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198  
Setting of the Eucharist: *Howells* in E flat  
The hymns today are on a special slip, or else printed below, and a further two are from 'A Hundred Hymns for Ewell'

**Leaflets and posters.** A sizeable amount of the parish has been covered so far in the 'Leaflet Drop', though quite a bit still remains uncovered. I am very grateful to all who have helped out so far, and I hope that the majority of the remaining leaflets may be taken today. This is a case of 'post-box evangelism', and 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' of the table by the west door, if you have a convenient window or gate. Anyone who would like to have one laminated for use out of doors should call at the office tomorrow. W.R.H.

We have had greetings from the boys' home at **Jeel al Anjal**, and the card will be put on the Christmas tree later this morning.

Copies of the important **Report of the Parish Finance Review Group** are available for the general congregation, and there are twenty-five or so left out of the forty copies placed in the Welcome Area. A clearly-presented **Statement of our financial position** is also in the Welcome Area, on the blue notice-board. The Report is made in the light of the facts disclosed on the displayed Statement.

**Peter Pledge** is in hospital recovering from an operation for a broken hip. However, he sends best wishes for Christmas to all his friends at St. Mary's.

A reminder that **The Bible Reading Fellowship Notes** have now arrived, and are available in the Welcome Area for subscribers. There are also back copies – quite a number, in fact – which those who do not belong to the BRF might like to take as tasters. Anyone wishing to join the BRF should have a word with Eve Myatt-Price or (as she is temporarily housebound) with the Vicar.

A reminder that there are **Assorted Rotas and Service details** now available. There is a paper giving amended details of the services at the beginning of next term. January arrangements have been changed, and the opportunity has been taken for the details to go on until the beginning of Lent. The Altar servers rota is in the sacristy, and readers' rotas are in the Welcome Area. Large copies of the readers' rotas are pinned up in the Welcome Area, together with 'guidance notes.'

**Next Sunday.** On New Year's Day, being realistic, there will only be **ONE** service in church. There will be a congregational Parish Eucharist at the merciful time of **1030**, as last year. The choir will be on holiday for the one Sunday. Choral services will resume with a simple Sung Eucharist on the evening of Friday, 6 January at 1900, **the Feast of the Epiphany.**

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

*Running-order overleaf.*

Introit hymn: Come thou Redeemer of the earth (*on slip*). [Tune: NEH 19 ii.]

Introduction, Prayers of Penitence, *Kyrie eleison*

Collect of the Day: page 378

Old Testament Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Gradual Canticle: HHE 21 *A Song of Micah and Isaiah*. [Tune: Glasgow]

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Hymn:

[Tune: NEH 390 ]

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Come, Lord and Saviour, and abide,  
Behold the King of glory waits; Our hearts to thee be open wide;  
The King of kings is drawing near, May we thy constant presence feel,  
The Saviour of the world is here. To all thy grace and love reveal.

The Holy Gospel reading from St Luke. *The Annunciation to Our Lady*.

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney*. Reader.

Nicene Creed: page 173

Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: HHE 23; Collection.

[Tune: NEH 11]

[This metrical text of all the Advent Antiphons ('The Great Os'), including the final 'English' one about Our Lady, is quite long. Those who wish to sit for the hymn should feel free to do so.]

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198

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

Hymn at the Invitation to Communion.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus (*on slip*).

Anthem during Communion: I sing of a Maiden. *Hadley*

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

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

*All stand* after the anthem for the Post-Communion prayer: page 376

*All sit* for Choir Presentations. *All stand* for The Blessing and Dismissal.

Advent Carol: People, look east, the time is near (*on slip*).

Organ Voluntary: Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565). *J S Bach*\*

[\*See note below.]

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 coffee for the workers.

Responses: page 8, followed by Venite (shorter version)

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

First Lesson from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah. Blue book: page 439

Benedictus: page 11

Second Lesson from the Revelation to St John. Blue book: page 439  
Hymn 6; Collection.

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 our 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, cleaning the silver, checking the candles, and making the place look happy. What cannot be done today will be completed on Tuesday morning. This is meant to be a happy parish occasion, so please join in.

1800 Evening Prayer, said in the Parish Room.

### In church this week

Monday 1530 Funeral of Mrs Olga Cooper. (Cremation at Kingston at 1420.)

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Saturday 1300-1400 This is a designated time for those who may wish to

*Christmas Eve* 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

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, but it will be the Christmas pattern of services rather than the regular Sunday one. Most regular members of the congregation will be aware of our Christmas arrangements, and there is no need to reproduce things yet again on the Weekly Notes, except in the most basic way for the benefit of any visitors today who might be here over Christmas. 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 to 2335 before the Mass begins. There is Holy Communion on Christmas morning at 0800 and 1200, and the *Sung Eucharist at the Crib*\*, which begins at 1000. As last year, there will not be Christmas Choral Mattins at 1100; at present we are not able to provide it.

\*These are the two most suitable services for children.

### Other events and notices.

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.

Tuesday From 1030: a further opportunity for odd jobs before Christmas: sorting out candles, cloths, cleaning vessels; and that sort of thing. Any help would be very welcome

Wednesday No Wednesday Coffee Morning this week: it resumes on 28 December