

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

26 November 2006

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING.

The Sunday next before Advent.

'Who is the King of Glory?' asks the psalmist twice in Psalm 24. The answer is 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.' The Old Testament picture is taken over into the Christ of God, who takes our humanity into his conquering glory. The King of Glory triumphed in the final conflict, in which death and life contended, and he won through triumphantly through loving sacrifice and resurrection life and power. The battle's celebration feast, to keep the imagery going, is in the eternal presence of the Father. Meanwhile, here on earth we praise the one who overcame the old order of sin and death, and made all things new in him. At the end of the liturgical year it is right to bask in a rare moment of spiritual euphoria, and to thank God for Jesus, who as Christ the King reigns in eternal glory in the glorified body of our human nature. Next week brings us very much back to earth. Advent takes us back to a world preparing, a world under judgement. There would have been no 'Christ the King' if there had not been a wondrous incarnation. Christmas has happened because this world needed it to happen. The restrained nature of our Advent worship in church is because it all focuses on the annual realisation that the world constantly stands in need of the Saviour. In earthly historical terms that need was met when Love came down at Christmas. When Christmas comes, Christians have pretty good cause for rejoicing, for we know why it all happened in the first place, and how the Babe of Bethlehem was to be Suffering Servant, Risen Saviour, Ascended Lord, and Christ the King.

Thank you. Just a personal note of thanks for the musical surprise after the Greeting of Peace on the occasion of my birthday last Sunday. What I suppose was 'liturgically naughty' was greatly appreciated by the recipient, and I did indeed have a 'happy birthday.' My thanks to whoever initially hatched the plot (if that's the right way of putting it), and to all those who sang the birthday greetings so enthusiastically. It was very kind; bless you all. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray today for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray for the work of The World Council of Churches.* In the diocese we pray for the ordinands in training. Within the parish we pray for the new Tuesday evening Fellowship Group, and for the people living in Grange Mansions.

* This is the last Sunday of a period of about two months or so, when we have been praying for a different part of the worldwide Church, before resuming our systematic prayer for different provinces of the Anglican Communion. The Anglican cycle of prayer resumes next Sunday on the First Sunday in Advent, beginning with A for Australia.

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today.
Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the
church hall between the 0930 and 1100 services.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION
Order 1: page 167.

Common Worship rite
Collect of the Day: page 426

Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184 [omit responses in *red* brackets].

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship rite

Wayfarers and 'Children's Hour'; Crèche available.
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 426.
Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Proper Preface: page 326.
Setting of the Eucharist: *Britten*, Missa Brevis in D.
(Gloria and Creed: *Shaw*, Folk Mass)
Note: Apart from the Processional hymn and the final hymn, all the routine hymns of the service, including the Consecration Acclamation, are printed on the readings' paper today. *The New English Hymnal* is therefore only needed at the beginning and the end of the service.

Processional hymn: 352

Kyrie eleison.

Gloria in excelsis: traditional language text on page 211.

Collect of the Day: page 426. *Readings on the yellow paper.*

Old Testament Reading from the Book of Daniel.

Gradual hymn: Hail Redeemer, King divine. [Tune: CC1:]

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Remain standing for the Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional text on page 213.

Then all sit.

From now until Christmas Eve 'CHRIST THE REFINER' will be the theme of a series of Advent sermons at the Sung Eucharist. The subject will be explored by Wendy Varney, Iain McKillop and the Vicar. This section of the service will have a variable content. It will include intercessions and will normally end with two verses from the hymn 'Soldiers of Christ, Arise.' After today shorter credal formulae will be used during these weeks immediately after the Gospel reading. Today **Iain McKillop** will introduce the course under the title:

Christ, the Refiner of our View of God.

Soldiers of Christ, arise, And put your armour on, Strong in the strength which God supplies Through his eternal Son; Strong in the Lord of hosts, And in his mighty power: Who in the strength of Jesus trusts Is more than conqueror.	Stand then in his great might, With all his strength endued, And take to arm you for the fight The panoply of God: Faith for a shield to bear, All girt with truth and light, Breastplate of righteousness to wear, Salvation's helmet bright.
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Remain standing for the Greeting of Peace.

Hymn at the Collection: The image of the unseen God. [Tune: AMR 297]

Then all sit for the Offertory Anthem: Lift up your heads. *Mathias*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Who is this King of Glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of Glory. [Psalm 24: 7-10]

Then all stand for Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188; Preface on page 326.

Consecration Acclamation on readings' paper.

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

Hymn at the Invitation: Christ Jesus was revealed in flesh. [Tune: *Deganwy*]

During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God). *Britten*

Post-Communion Prayer (the 'Stir up' Collect): page 426.
The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and Dismissal.
Hymn 486.

[This popular hymn is, of course, a revisiting of the great moments of the Christian Year. Next Sunday, as a new Christian Year begins, we shall start the Eucharist with Thomas à Kempis' great hymn, *O Love, how deep, how broad, how high*, which does the same thing, but in a mood of gentle anticipation. Today we give thanks and praise for God's victory in Christ, as we boldly proclaim Jesus as Lord and King.]

*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.*

- 1100 MATTINS** *Book of Common Prayer rite*
Sermon by *the Vicar*
Responses: green book, page 8.
Metrical Venite: Card B, No.1. [Tune: AMR 220 (i)]
Psalm 93 The Lord reigns. Page 249
First Lesson from the Book of Daniel. Blue book: page 630
Metrical Te Deum: Card B, No.3. [Tune: AMR 40]
Second Lesson from the Letter to the Ephesians. Blue book: page 633
Hymn 349
Creed (page 12), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects
Hymn 345, verses 1,5 and 6 only. Prayers
Hymn 134 (Collection) The Blessing
- 1200 HOLY COMMUNION** *at the Side Chapel.*
Order 1: page 167; Collect: page 426; Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188.
- 1830 CHORAL EVENSONG**
Responses: Green books, page 18 Music: *Darke*
Office-hymn: **AMR 220** [*second* tune]
Psalms 24 and 99 pages 166 and 254
Two 'royal psalms'; the Lord of hosts lives and reigns.
First Lesson: Jeremiah 23: 1-6. The Lord, the righteous King.
Magnificat: page 19 *Sumsion* in D
Second Lesson: Colossians 1: 11-20
The exaltation of the glorified Christ.
Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Sumsion* in D
Creed (page 20), Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects.
Anthem: Lift up your heads. *Mathias*
[Words printed above at the 0930 service.]
Prayers
Hymn: **AMR 216** Sermon by *the Vicar*
Hymn: **AMR 217**; Collection. The Blessing

In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**
1930 for 2000. The **Evening Fellowship Group** meets in the
Parish Room. Further information from Iain McKillop (Tel.
01932 341687).

Other events and notices.

A reminder that routine events are not usually mentioned on this list: they include such items as the Toddler Groups, bell-ringing practice, Choir Club and Choir Practice. Further details about these activities may be obtained from the Office. This little note, which has appeared occasionally before, will appear every few

weeks or so for the benefit of any newcomers or visitors. However, this is not a particularly busy week at St Mary's; some weeks are and some weeks aren't.

Tuesday 1030 Folders and Bundlers in the Parish Room (see below).
2000 Valentine Meeting, and Meeting of the Website Group.
Wednesday 1030-1200. **Coffee Morning** in the Church Hall. A warm welcome to anyone who cares to join us. This is the regular weekly slot for members of the congregation to have a nice period of quality time together, and to welcome anyone else who might care to drop in. There will be a **Grand Bring and Buy Sale** this week. Do come and support the sale, and make it a special one for the children in the Holy Land.
Also, Advance Notice: **The Christmas Party** is only two weeks away, on the morning of Wednesday, 13 December.

Copies of the Vicar's **Remembrance Sunday sermon** are available at the book-trolley *after* the services today for those who would like a copy of it.

'Valentine Mattins.' We plan to hold a celebration on the Sunday before St Valentine's Day for those who have been married at St Mary's, and we would particularly like to invite all who have been married at St Mary's within the last three years. Whilst we have the addresses of all who *arranged* to get married here, we do not in many cases have their later addresses. If anyone knows of the current address for any comparatively recently married couple, we should be glad to be informed. Details (on paper, please) to the Vicar or Churchwardens, or else to the office – via the letter-box, if there is no-one there. Further details in due course.

Folders and Bundlers. It is once again the time for our annual Christmas paper blitz on the parish. This is now the only occasion in the year when we try to contact every home in the parish with information about what happens here at St Mary's. This is the best time of year to do it, because (quite frankly) this is when people who do not normally come to church are more likely to do so. First of all we need 'folders and bundlers' **this Tuesday, after the Eucharist** (say 1030) to get everything ready for the distribution. The Christmas leaflets will be available as from next Sunday. *N.B.* There are only three weeks in Advent this year for the actual distribution, so the buzz-word for this important operation is certainly not *mañana*. Please help in any way, if at all possible. This is an important work.

Next Sunday. It is the **First Sunday in Advent**, and the Christian Year begins all over again. Year C readings begin next Sunday. Normal Sunday arrangements next week, but with the quarterly Book of Common Prayer Eucharist at 0800 (including the famous passage from Romans about 'chambering and wantonness').

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