

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
Tel. 020 8393 2643  
[www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)

## WEEKLY NOTES

3 December 2006

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**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.**      *A new Christian Year begins today.*

**Year C readings begin today; most of the gospel readings will be from *St Luke*.**

St Augustine once wrote, 'We are an Easter people, and our song is Alleluya.' It is also true that we are an Advent people, and our prayer is 'Come.' The prayer 'Come, Lord Jesus' is at the very end of the Bible, and it is also the heart of the Advent message. The Coming of Christ is at the very centre of the Christian life, for we believe in the Christ who *came* as the child of Bethlehem, as the Saviour who is known to us in the breaking of bread – the one who *comes* in sign and sacrament, and as the Lord of glory who *will come* at the end of time. Advent is a season with a message of its own; it is not just the start of the count-down to Christmas.\* The Advent message of judgement, hope and watchfulness speaks perhaps more powerfully and profoundly than any other season to the present state of the world. It bids us identify with the message of the prophets of the Old Testament as they – in their own day, and with their own hopes – looked forward to the dawning of God's deliverance. The Advent hymns constantly emphasise the note of judgement now, and that of judgement to come. In a world like ours at the present time it is not hard to understand what is meant by judgement *now*. We sometimes talk of contemporary events as being one day 'judged at the bar of history' – the judgement to come. We would do better to see the world *constantly* standing under the judgement of almighty God, who as eternal Ruler and King is himself (as the hymn says) the 'Judge eternal, throned in splendour, Lord of lords and King of kings', and therefore the Lord of all History.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our church and parish at the beginning of a new Christian Year. We start once again today to pray in the worldwide fellowship of the Christian Church for the various provinces of the Anglican Communion; today our prayer is for the Church in Australia. Within the Diocese of Guildford we pray for the ministry exercised in the rural communities, and in the parish for our servers of the sanctuary at St Mary's, and the people who live in Glenwood Road.

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.

## 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 Mattins 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 follow the text, the simple rule is to disregard any *indented* material. The Collect and Readings are on a separate paper. Because we follow the old English colour sequence for Book of Common Prayer services, the liturgical colour at 0800 will be blue. The more familiar Advent colour, purple, will be used at the other services.

### 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

#### *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed.  
 Order 1: page **167**. Collect of the Day: page **376**  
 Eucharistic Prayer **F**: page **1xx**. Proper Preface: page **300**  
 We shall be using Eucharistic Prayer F throughout Advent at the Sung Eucharist. The text of the prayer is particularly appropriate for Advent.  
 Setting of the Eucharist: *Batten*, Short Service.

Introit hymn: 425 [Thomas à Kempis introduces the Christian Year.]  
 Black book: page 167. The Greeting and the Prayers of Penitence.  
*Kyrie eleison.*  
 [Gloria in excelsis is omitted in Advent. It returns at the Midnight Mass of Christmas.]  
 Collect of the Day: page 300.  
*Use the blue readings paper from this point until after the Holy Gospel.*  
 [Old Testament Reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah.  
 Remain seated for the Gradual Psalm 85 (on readings paper). [Tune: AMR 471]  
 New Testament Reading:  
*All stand for the Advent Sequence (on readings paper). [Tune: 171]*  
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.]  
 During Advent we shall be using alternative and shorter forms of the Creed, and the Creed will come before the sermon, not after it. Today we shall use the traditional language text of the Apostles' Creed on page **142**.  
*After the Creed, 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 be speaking on the title:  
**Christ, the Refiner of the Nations.**

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.	From strength to strength go on. Wrestle and fight and pray: Tread all the powers of darkness down, And win the well-fought day: That, having all things done, And all your conflicts past, You overcome through Christ alone, And stand entire at last.
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The Greeting of Peace.  
 Offertory hymn: 9. Collection.  
 Eucharistic Prayer F: page 1; Proper Preface on page 300.  
 Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.  
 After the Invitation to Communion: Hymn 6.  
 During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).  
 Anthem: Zion hears her watchmen's voices. *J S Bach*  
 [Similar, but not identical, words at Hymn 16, verse 2.]  
*After the anthem all stand for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 182.*  
 The Mutual Salutation, Advent Blessing (page 301) and the Dismissal.  
 Hymn 495.

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 CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader.*

Responses: page 8 Music: *Plainchant* [Latin note.]

Venite (shorter version) Office-Hymn: 5

Psalm 96 The Lord is sustainer and judge. Page 251

First Lesson: From Isaiah 52 Blue book: page 422

The promise of deliverance.

Benedictus: page 11.

Second Lesson: From Romans 13 Blue book: page 425

Christian living in a time of expectancy.

Hymn 2 [Tune: 493]

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,  
the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page ).

Anthem: Zion hears her watchmen's voices. *J S Bach*

[*Similar*, but not identical, words at Hymn 16, verse 2.]

Hymn 14. Prayers. Hymn 466; Collection. The Grace

## 1800 Evening Prayer

### In church this week

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

### Other events and notices

Monday 2000 Meeting of the Finance Group.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the church hall. Tea-drinkers  
should not feel excluded. A pleasant and relaxing time with  
familiar and friendly company. It is an open occasion; anyone  
can come.

Thursday 1200 Epsom Deanery Chapter at Howell Hill.

*This note appeared last week:*

**'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.'

***I am sorry to say that no-one turned up at all on Tuesday – a very great disappointment.*** However, I am immensely grateful to the coffee-drinkers of Wednesday morning (and one or two others), who turned disaster into resounding success. This is, in one sense, the easy bit, which makes me much more concerned about the harder bit, which is the actual distribution. *N.B.* There are **only three weeks in Advent this year**, so the buzz-word for this important operation is certainly not *mañana*. Please help in any way, if at all possible, for this is really an important work. Hopefully by today most of the bundles will be available in the Welcome Area. It would be a great kindness if members of the congregation who live outside the parish also took part in this annual task, since they form a sizeable part of the congregation. There are also **Christmas posters** available, and these can be found close by the Christmas leaflets. We need to tell Ewell that the doors of the parish church are open for them all at Christmas, and our brightly-coloured posters explain what is on offer at St Mary's.

**Next Sunday.** Morning services at the usual times. At 1100 there will Christian Family Praise for Advent. Evening Prayer will be said at 1800.

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