

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

16 December 2007

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

'Gaudete' Sunday.

Sponsor's Note: Remembering my grandson, Mark Nicholas Saunders, who would have been 28 on 19 December. J.M.S.

The meeting for the election of a new churchwarden ought not to be a prolonged affair. I am sure we are all glad that Mr Jonathan Gocher has agreed to accept nomination to this office, and we wish him well. Otherwise, the Christmas countdown effectively begins today on *Gaudete* ('Rejoice') Sunday, with its note of joyful anticipation of God acting so mightily and yet so lovingly in the mystery of the Incarnation. The unusual rose-colour at 0800 and 0930 hints at the new dawn. The Rejoice-passage from Philippians – which gave this Sunday its distinctive semi-official name – no longer comes up regularly in its traditional place as the Epistle reading at the Eucharist; this year it will be at Mattins. However, it will be the text of the anthem at 1100, a well-known and somewhat jaunty work by Purcell. The Gospel reading is again about St John Baptist today. The sterner Advent themes of the Four Last Things would actually give us Hell today. I wonder whether... W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for two Provinces in Australia: Victoria (Melbourne) and South Australia (Adelaide). In our own diocese we pray for the church choirs as they rehearse their Christmas music, and in our parish prayer for the new churchwarden to be elected today. In our systematic prayer for those who live in the geographical parish we pray today for those who live in Shortcroft Road.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

0700 MATTINS Psalm 33.

0800 HOLY COMMUNION *Common Worship rite*
Order 1: page 167. Collect of the Day: page 378.
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184. Other Advent material: page 300.
Post-Communion Prayer: page 376.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*

Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available, if needed. Collect of the Day: page 378 . Other Advent material: page 300 . Eucharistic Prayer F : page 198 . [This prayer is very suitable for Advent.] Setting of the Eucharist: <i>Palestrina</i> , Missa Aeterna Christi munera. All the hymns at 0930 come from <i>A Hundred Canticles for Ewell</i> .
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Organ music before the service: Advent Chorale Prelude: 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland' (BWV 661; from 'the Eighteen'). *J S Bach*

Introit hymn: HCE 68. A Song of the exiles' Redeemer. [Tune: NEH 201]

Then black book, page 167. The Invocation, Greeting, Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*.
 The Collect of the Day: page 378
 Old Testament Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.
 Gradual Canticle: A Song of the wilderness. HCE 22. [Tune: NEH 216]
 New Testament Reading from the Letter of St James.
 Metrical Psalm 85. Hymn HCE 54. [Tune: AMR 471]
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
 Sermon by *the Vicar*
 Nicene Creed (sung today): traditional language text on page 213.
 Intercession; then all stand for the Greeting of Peace.
 Hymn at the Collection: The Benedictus. HCE 1. [Tune: NEH 148]
 Then *all sit* for the Offertory Anthem: This is the record of John. *Gibbons*.

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, but spake plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou, that we may give an answer unto them that sent us? What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord. (*St John 1: 19-25*)

All stand after the anthem for Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198.
 The Lord's Prayer, etc. back on page 178.
 After the Invitation to Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God), first section.
 During the Communion: *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God), second section.
 Hymn: A Song of the Covenant. HCE 66 [Tune NEH 89 (ii)].
 (*Please remain seated or kneeling for this hymn*)
All stand after the hymn for the Post-Communion Prayer: page 376
 The Mutual Salutation, the Blessing and the Dismissal.
 Hymn: HCE 29. A Song of the Spirit. [Tune: NEH 52]
 Organ: Fugue on 'Wachet auf.' *Reger*

1100 MEETING OF PARISHIONERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A CHURCHWARDEN.

1105 Sermon by *the Vicar*

o/c SUNG EUCHARIST *Book of Common Prayer rite*

Service: <i>Viadana</i> , Missa l' hora passa. Creed: <i>Merbecke</i>

Organ music before the service: Advent Chorale Prelude: 'Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn' (BWV 601; Orgelbüchlein). *J S Bach*

Introit hymn: 5
 Then green Prayer Book: page 31
 Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33
 Greeting and the Collect of the Day
 (*There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings*)
 The Epistle: A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians
 Gradual hymn: 15.
 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.
 Nicene Creed: page 34. The Offertory sentence, then *all sit* for the Offertory anthem: Rejoice in the Lord alway ('The Bell Anthem'). *Purcell*
 [Collection taken as usual at this point in the service.]

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice.
[Philippians 4: 4-7]

After the anthem, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration
Hymn at the Consecration: 313
During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)
After Communion: Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44 (Gloria in excelsis omitted in Advent.)
The Blessing. Hymn 7.
Organ: Fantasia and Fugue in G minor (BWV 542). J S Bach

1630 Evensong and Holy Baptism. *Separate service paper.*
There will not be Evening Prayer next Sunday, nor on 30 December.

In church this week

Monday **1830 Ewell Castle Junior School Carol Service.**
Tuesday **1000 Holy Communion**
1930 for 2000 Evening Fellowship in the Parish Room.
Wednesday **1100 Ewell Castle (senior) School Carol Service.**

Other events and notices.

Monday Holy Communion to the housebound.
Wednesday The Wednesday Coffee Morning has a rest now for two weeks,
We re-open on **Wednesday, 2 January, 2008.**

Christmas Leaflets. I am grateful to all who have taken these. At least half of them have gone, but we only have ten days left to get the remainder around the parish. For some reasons the congregations have been smaller over the past fortnight, so perhaps today will see most of the remainder of the leaflets gone. They are available on the tables in the Welcome Area. This may indeed be a Christmas chore, but a moment's reflection will reveal quite how important this task is. There is no other occasion in the year when we have a complete circulation of the parish, and Christmas is the most obvious time to do it, when there is a general measure of goodwill towards the Church. As well as giving details of our Christmas services, the leaflet also contains much general information about what goes on at St Mary's. ***Please help in this, if it is at all possible,*** and not necessarily just in one's own street. A fair number of St Mary's folk live outside the parish, and we would much appreciate their help in this job. Also, two or three working together might be the best way of tackling some of our longer streets like the Epsom Road, Meadow Walk, or the Kingston Road (as far as just past the Highfields estate); most years it is one of these three streets which is left uncovered, and this is a pity. Advent this year lasts little more than three weeks, so it would be good if most of the remaining leaflets went today, so that we can see whether we have a crisis next Sunday. W.R.H.

There are also **Christmas Posters** available, some A3 and some A4. Last week the Notes hinted that it would be good if most of those also got taken, but ***scarcely any*** of the A4 ones were taken away. ***Ewell needs to know that its Parish Church as well as its pubs expects to be busy over Christmas, and invites everyone to come.*** That is why there are fairly large posters outside the church as well. Would anyone like to offer some of them to the shops, offices, pubs and restaurants in the Village? In fact, anyone with a 'prime site' – a corner house or a large and conspicuous window – is particularly asked to help us in this way. It really is important. W.R.H.

The Christmas Card box. This is once again in position. It is a facility we offer for internal Christmas mail, and has been much appreciated for quite a number of years, since it saves postage. However, every year we find cards in the box which are intended for people who are known to be housebound, and who cannot possibly collect their cards from church. ***We do not do a delivery service,*** so these cards are wasted. Also, it may be worth checking on who is likely to be away over Christmas. To my knowledge there are already some cards appearing for people who are known to be

away over the festive season. The tables with the cards will be cleared after the services on 30 December. W.R.H.

Sacristy Rota. Those who have collected their rotas may possibly care to look at the one on the surface adjacent to the book trolley, because of its attachment, which has been there since the rotas first came out. Mr Kasey does most of the duties at 0800, but that is only because, apart from Wendy Varney on certain occasions, there is no-one else to lend a hand at the 'early service.' If other Communion Assistants could volunteer just once per rota (i.e. twice a year) it would be a very considerable help. So far only one person has offered, and done a turn on the rota. With sometimes a further three services to conduct on Sunday morning I should be glad not to have to administer the chalice as well at 0800. If anyone would care to initial the sheet it would be much appreciated.

The new **Readers rotas** for 0800 and 0930 are available today in the Welcome Area. They last for a year. I am very grateful to those who help out in this way.

Next Sunday. The normal, if somewhat unusual, pattern for this particular Sunday, will be followed, and the Vicar's column in this month's *Ewell Parish News* says something about this in connexion with our general preparation for Christmas. **Jonathan Gocher will be admitted to office as Churchwarden during the Sung Eucharist, and since the Archdeacon is actually free next Sunday he is coming here himself to admit him.** (Otherwise I would have been delegated to do it.) So please come next Sunday at 0930 or 1100 prepared to enjoy making the church a happy-looking place for Christmas. Do bring greenery, tinsel, streamers, in fact anything that will make the church look merry and joyful. Otherwise, just bring some secateurs to cut greenery from the church grounds. Coffee will be in church, and then Choral Mattins, lasting just about ten minutes (sic) will be followed by the General Decoration of the church. Angelus and mince pies at 1200.

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