

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

23 November 2008

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CHRIST THE KING.

*The Sunday next before Advent.*

*At the end of each Christian Year, before it all  
begins again in Advent, the Church proclaims:*

CHRISTUS VINCIT  
CHRIST CONQUERS

CHRISTUS REGNAT  
CHRIST REIGNS

CHRISTUS IMPERAT  
CHRIST COMMANDS

The words of that ancient chant probably say it all.

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At present we are having a run of three Sundays with something quite distinctive happening in the evening. Last week it was 'The Year's Mind Book Requiem', and it was not exactly massively supported, even after a fair amount of publicity. (The choir sang the *Fauré* Requiem most beautifully.) Tonight it is Solemn Evensong and Benediction, and there is a word elsewhere in the Notes about this particular rite; and next week there will be the Advent Procession. At the risk of saying the obvious, these services are not primarily designed for our small but faithful Evensong congregation. The evening slot – and indeed the Mattins one from time to time – can furnish us all with very convenient opportunities to experience some really distinctive forms of worship, some of which are only appropriate at a particular season perhaps once in the year, or (like last week's service) virtually unique. Those who prepare for these services put a great deal of work into them, and I hope that in the last few weeks, before all we can think about is Christmas, we can think of availing ourselves of some of these unusual and enriching opportunities for worship. This is probably the last time for me to make this sort of plug. I hope it won't be entirely in vain. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray for those belonging to the Presbyterian Churches (like The Church of Scotland). In our Diocese of Guildford we pray today for the whole Diocese\* as such, on the day when we are all united in our common praise of Christ the eternal King. In our parish prayer we give thanks for another Christian Year of worship and witness at St Mary's. For those living within the parish boundaries we pray today for the people of Portway Crescent.

\* *Note:* It is important to realise that 'The Diocese' means 'The Bishop (of Guildford), his clergy and people.' That is the proper definition of the ecclesial unit which forms 'the Diocese.' This is something not always fully understood, and it is often understood as just describing the contents of a map, or else – less desirably – it is code for 'the staff.' Occasionally officials from Diocesan House have telephoned to say 'This is the Diocese here', to which I wearily reply, 'So is this; which bit are you?' In fact, I wish that objectionable habit would stop. W.R.H.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

*Book of Common Prayer rite*

*This service is of 'the Sunday next before Advent', not of Christ the King.*

The usual note about this; it makes things easier. The Prayer Book rite, which we have about quarterly at 0800, can 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 actual text, except for the omission of the long exhortations. In order to achieve this, the simple rule is to *disregard any indented material* in the text, and this includes the gospel responses (which are not in the BCP). The Collect of the Day and the Readings are, as usual, on a separate paper.

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST

*Common Worship rite*

There is a special leaflet for this service. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: **Mr Iain McKillop**, *Ordinand in Training*..

Eucharistic Prayer B, with Preface of Christ the King.

Hymns: 338, 349, (Anthem), 295, 476.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in F,

Anthem: O how glorious is the Kingdom. *Harwood*

Organ: Toccata and Fugue in F (BWV 540). *J S Bach* JH

*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 MATTINS AND HOLY BAPTISM

*Congregational service. There is a special leaflet for this service.*

Organ: Sortie in E flat. *Lefébure-Wély* JC

## 1700 SOLEMN EVENSONG and BENEDICTION.

[**St Cecilia Evensong of Baroque Music.**]

Introit: Cantate Domino. *Pitoni*

Latin text of Psalm 149, verses 1 and 2; page 312.

Responses: Green books, page 18 Music: *Reading*

Office-hymn: 134

Psalms 93 and 99 Pages 249 and 254

Psalm 93: *The majesty of God*; Psalm 99: *the holiness of God*.

First Lesson: Daniel 5.

*The misuse of kingship: the story of Belshazzar's feast.*

Magnificat: page 19 *Purcell* in G minor

Second Lesson: Colossians 1: 11-20

*The nature of the eternal Kingship of Christ.*

Nunc dimittis: page 20 *Purcell* in G minor

Creed (page 20) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the

Responses and Collects (first Collect on page 71).

Anthem: The Hallelujah Chorus (from *Messiah*) *Handel*

[It is a tradition in this country to stand for the Hallelujah Chorus.]

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever. King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah.

Prayers. Hymn 394 . Short reading by *the Vicar*

Hymn 486

**Benediction.** *There may be further organ music, but all kneel when the bell rings.*

O salutaris. (Hymn 269, part 2)

Hymn 352, verses 1-3. [Choir use OEH 381 first tune: *Corona*]

Tantum ergo. (Hymn 268, part 2) [Latin note on MS]

Benediction: *Organ music throughout, and the bell is rung. After Benediction the organ music continues, while the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the place of reservation. The bell is rung once more, and all stand for the final hymn.*

Hymn 352 (verses 4,5; Diademata, E flat).

Organ: Organ Concerto in B flat. *Handel* JH

## In church this week

Tuesday

**1000 Holy Communion**

(The last of the November Requiems: for departed priests of the parish.)

**1145 Funeral of Mrs Dora Scott.** Cremation follows at

Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, at 1315.

### Other events and notices.

Monday	Holy Communion to the housebound. 2000 Meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee.
Wednesday	1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Time for a relaxing break, a chat and a coffee. (Tea, if you prefer.) At <b>1100</b> the Vicar gives the last of the talks on <i>Sinners of Ewell</i> , based on names from the Year's Mind Book. This final one is ' <i>Still more Sinners of Ewell.</i> '
Thursday	1800 The Vicar attends a reception and book-launch (he didn't write the book) at The British Academy. It is a Keble College Oxford event.
Friday	Coach Excursion leaves from outside the Church Hall for Portsmouth. Please be there at 0915 to ensure swift boarding for departure at 0930; we generally take a while to get on board, and there is limited waiting time for the coach.
Saturday	Vicar at the Surrey County Conference for the Royal British Legion Women's Section at Chobham.

**Choral Evensong** tonight is a 'St Cecilia Evensong' in the sense that the festival of this (very) shadowy patron saint of musicians falls at this time of year, and from the late seventeenth century musicians seem to have thought fit to mark the occasion one way or another. Tonight's music is in fact mainly from that period, so it is mainly baroque music which will be heard at Evensong tonight. It includes *Purcell's* exquisite 'Hear my prayer', his jaunty setting of the evening canticles, and the Hallelujah Chorus and an organ concerto by Handel. This is a case of 'popular classics' in a big way tonight, and a jolly (and jolly good) way to round off the liturgical year. The mood changes at the end of the service to a different way of expressing Christian joy and devotion, as we move into the rite of Benediction, about which there is a brief note below.

**Benediction.** The rite of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude evening worship tonight. The service of Benediction does not happen very frequently at St Mary's, though in recent years the evening Mass on the feast of Corpus Christi has had the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at the conclusion of the rite. We are having it tonight for two reasons: firstly, it is in any case an appropriate way to round off the liturgical year on the feast of Christ the King, by our kneeling in love and prayer before the sacramental presence of Christ the eternal King; but also we shall be having another form of the rite at the service on 11 January, when the Archbishop is here. Tonight's service is a simpler version of this, mainly for the benefit of those who will be involved one way or another in the conduct of the service on 11 January.

**Year B readings.** These begin next week. The readings are available on the left-hand window-sill in the Parish Room, and last until the Fifth Sunday in Lent. In a box on the *right* window-sill are the readings for Mattins (or Evensong, if appropriate). These are actually for Year C, according to our scheme of doing things here, but it will be much easier for all concerned if they are used in Year B this time, particularly for whoever will be drawing up the Weekly Notes. At the Eucharist the main selection of Gospel readings will come in Year B from the Gospel according to St Mark.

**Christmas Folding.** This may not be one of the most exciting of jobs, though the Advent prayer 'Stir up' (used in Church of England today, a week before Advent as if to emphasise the point) actually reads *Excita nos*, 'Excite us, O Lord.' Once a year we make a blitz on the entire geographical parish, and we do so at Christmas, because that is when people are most likely to be receptive as far as the Church is concerned, and perhaps we ought to be excited about that, for as well as giving details of the Christmas services the leaflets give much general information about St Mary's as well. So it is a piece of practical evangelism. Folding and delivering are a twofold package, but some people who are not likely to be able to deliver might possibly be able to fold. There will be a ***Fold-in after the Tuesday morning Eucharist*** (it doesn't matter whether you have been to the service or not), and possibly at the Coffee Morning on the following day. ***Please help, if at all possible, either with the folding, or with the actual distribution.*** We aim to have everything ready by next week-end, and possibly with some of the leaflets already taken. The amount of office-time spent on producing the leaflets is quite considerable; it is always a bit disappointing to find some of the roads uncovered by the Sunday before Christmas. It doesn't matter when they are delivered, but could they please be taken early? I think at this time of the late John Beams, who lived outside the parish, but who well into his late eighties and early nineties delivered leaflets (and indeed Christian Aid envelopes) to street after street; his trudging partook of the nature of the heroic. Can we aim for a total cover of the parish this year? W.R.H.

**Do not let the tinies read this bit!** We need a volunteer to play *Father Christmas* on the evening of 5 December when the choristers are carolling around the Village. Any offers to David Crick or Jonathan Holmes. Sustenance but no pay!

**The missing laminated posters** (*Notes 9 Nov*) have now turned up, having been placed exactly where they had been before. My thanks to the ‘replacer.’ Ah, well... W.R.H.

**‘Alone at Christmas.’** The **Christmas Day Lunch** will be held this year at the United Reformed Church. If you would like to be on the guest list – or know of someone who may be interested – please telephone 020 8393 0786. Volunteers to help with decorating the hall on Christmas Eve, drivers, washers-up, and table hosts would all be much appreciated. Further information from Sarah Stovell (tel.no. as above).

**Does any one use a laundry?** Second time of asking. We need to have some large altar cloths laundered more or less now, so that they will be ready for Christmas, and for various reasons we do not want to fix up an ongoing laundry commitment at this stage. Please would anyone who can help in this way contact the Vicar or the Administrator? It may be a dreadful pun, but it really is a pressing matter. W.R.H.

Application forms for the <b>Gala Dinner</b> to be held on Saturday 3 January to mark the Vicar’s retirement are now available in the Welcome Area. It has to be done this way for security reasons at the T.A., and names and addresses are needed. The forms are easily found: they are in a garish shade of dayglo pink.
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**Next Sunday.** The **First Sunday in Advent**, and a new Christian Year begins. It will be quite an eventful one for St Mary’s. Advent is a season in its own right, and has much to teach us. Morning services are at the usual times, but in the evening at **1700** there will be the lovely **Procession with Music and Readings for Advent**, at which the music will be from the Choir of Emanuel School once again. There is some particularly fine – and demanding – music which the young singers are going to give us, and it is good to welcome them once again. Earlier this month, at the All Souls Requiem, they gave us a truly stunning performance of the *Durufle* Requiem.

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