

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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www.stmarysewell.com

## WEEKLY NOTES

30 November 2008

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**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.**      *The first day of a new Christian Year.*

**The Flowers** in church today are sponsored by *Ken Fry*, who is 86 today. We wish him a happy birthday.

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‘Now is the time to awake out of sleep.’ The familiar words of St Paul to the Romans on this particular day form the basis of the Advent message. In the Collect of the Day the same emphasis is put on the word ‘now’. New every Advent is the love of God, for Advent puts before us the message of the world’s hope being truly fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This message is not, however, just an annual affair; it is a daily one. God’s love for his creation comes with RSVP on it, and that is why Advent has a marked concentration on our own response to God. The Christ who comes to every human heart is seeking a place of welcome there, and Advent is a time when we are called to re-assess our welcome for the living Christ. The various themes of Advent are not designed so that we can somehow enter in the spirit of the first Christmas Day; they are meant to prepare us for the living Christ who comes daily to be born anew in our hearts, and who will one day look searchingly into our eyes.

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Last year’s equivalent of this evening’s service was a wonderful occasion, and after looking at what is planned for tonight I have every reason to think that this year’s service will be even more memorable. I hope there will be a reasonable measure of support for these young and highly-talented singers from Emanuel School from the host church. At the end of the day we need to recall that it is *our* service that they are leading. A great deal of work goes into the compilation of the distinctive rite of the Advent Procession, and it is a service which deserves to be far more widely known by members of the regular congregation here. A few copies of the service are available for inspection in the Welcome Area. W.R.H.

**Our prayers today.** In the worldwide Church we pray for those who belong to the various Evangelical Churches and other related Christian groups. In the Diocese we pray today for the Lord Bishop (Bishop Christopher). Within the parish we pray for our band of altar servers, and in our systematic parish prayer for the people of the parish we pray for those living in Preston Drive.

### SUNDAY SERVICES.

**Year B readings begin today.**

#### 0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.  
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.

#### *Common Worship rite*

Collect of the Day: page 376.  
Other Advent material: page 300.

#### 0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

#### *Common Worship rite*

<p>There is a separate leaflet for this service. Crèche available on request. Preacher: <b>The Vicar.</b>      Eucharistic Prayer F. Setting of the Eucharist: <i>Batten</i>, Short Service Anthems: Zion hears her watchmen’s voices. <i>J S Bach</i> Hymns: 425, HCE 29 (t.52), 451 (St Theodore), A, 286, 9. Organ: ‘Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland’ (BWV 661) <i>J S Bach</i> JH</p>
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<p><i>Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary’s today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in church today between the 0930 and 1100 services.</i></p>
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**1100 CHORAL MATTINS** *Book of Common Prayer rite*  
 Sermon by *Mr Reginald Saunder, Reader*  
 Responses: Green book, page 8. Music: *Byrd*  
 Venite (shorter form)  
 Office-hymn: 5  
 Psalm 96. *The Lord is the Judge of the earth.* Page 251  
 First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11. *The consolation of Israel.*  
 Te Deum: page 10 *Stanford* in B flat  
 Second Lesson: Romans 13: 8-14. *'The night is far spent; the day is at hand.'*  
 Hymn 14  
 The Creed (page 12) and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer, the  
 Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 51).  
 Anthem: O thou the central orb of righteous love. *Wood*

O thou the central orb of righteous love, Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, As stars around thy throne, set in the height	Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, Our nature all shall feel eternal day, In fellowship with thee, transforming clay To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.
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Prayers. Hymn 7; Collection. The Blessing  
 Organ: Allegro Risoluto from the Plymouth Suite. *Whitlock* JC

**1645 Organ Music and dimming of lights** before the Advent Procession begins.  
 Details of the music are on the service paper.

**1700 A PROCESSION WITH MUSIC AND READINGS FOR ADVENT.**  
 The service is sung by the Chapel Choir of Emanuel School, Clapham, together  
 with members of the Parish Choir, and under the direction of Jonathan Holmes.  
*There is a special leaflet for this service.*

**In church this week.**  
 Tuesday **1000 Holy Communion**

**Other events and notices.**  
 Monday Visiting ringers during the afternoon.  
 Tuesday 1430 External Affairs Committee meeting.  
**Wednesday** 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall; a weekly time for warm fellowship  
 and nice warm coffee. This is the regular weekly slot for members of the  
 congregation to have a period of quality time together, and also to welcome anyone  
 else who might care to drop in. Regular members of the congregation who have not  
 been before will be especially welcome; they will see familiar and friendly faces. It  
 is always a jolly time.  
 Friday During the evening the choir will be singing carols in the Village.

**Folding and bundling of Christmas leaflets.** After a really splendid start on the morning of the Gift  
 Day we had a major disappointment at the official 'fold-in' and bundling on Tuesday, because *no-one*  
 turned up at all; a great pity. So we are now a week behind, since (because of the Portsmouth  
 excursion) no office-time was available on Friday for the Administrator and myself to drop everything  
 else and do the job ourselves, and on Saturday the Vicar was away. There may be some plans  
 announced in church today, but I cannot disguise my disappointment about this. W.R.H.

**Gift Day result.** Everyone will be glad to know that the Gift Day on 22 November raised just over  
 £1200 for our four designated charities, and there may be a little more still to come. For a venture only  
 one year old, we must declare it a success. Last year about the same amount was raised, though there  
 was also an additional £200 cheque on that occasion. All in all, it was a pleasant and very happy  
 occasion, and this may well now be the right way ahead for our major annual fund-raising for outside

charities. The actual amount raised is in fact comparable with what has hitherto been raised through the Christmas or Michaelmas Markets, and certainly this has now been achieved with infinitely less effort. There will, of course, be two children's charities supported through the cash collections at the Christmas services. When all this is joined to the money raised by the Annual Lenten Project, and what comes from Children's Society boxes, it is clear that St Mary's produces a considerable amount of money for external causes in the course of a normal year, and we can be reasonably pleased about that. The display boards for the four **Gift Day Charities** are still available for inspection in the Welcome Area. They give details of *The Mission to Seafarers* (what some of us will remember as 'The Missions to Seamen' – it's the same organization, but now with perhaps a more appropriate name), *Sight Savers*, *Mission Aviation Fellowship*, and *The Princess Alice Hospice*. The boards will be removed tomorrow, so last chance for a closer look today.

**The Eucharistic Prayers.** The beginning of a new Christian Year is perhaps a convenient point to explain something about St Mary's usage of the material provided in *Common Worship* for the various Eucharistic Prayer in Order 1. The arrangement for 0930 (it is slightly different at 0800) is that most of the available Eucharistic Prayers are used, with only two that normally are not; those prayers are D and H, but this is only because they do not quite relate to our own style here, as a quick glance will show. *In Advent* we normally use Eucharistic Prayer F throughout the season, because the text of the prayer, particularly in the Preface, has overtones which clearly relate to the general devotional mood of the Advent season. We tend to use Prayer B for major festivals, not least because it is a developed form of the earliest surviving complete text of the Eucharistic Prayer, and on greater holy-days this is probably a unifying devotional point. Eucharistic Prayer C clearly derives from the Book of Common Prayer text, and is normally used on the Sundays in Lent, because of its obvious concentration on the Passion of Christ. Outside these seasons all the prayers are used (except D and H), and this enables the congregation at the Sung Eucharist to have an acquaintance with quite a considerable range of Eucharistic prayers, with six in regular use. In fact the range of additional authorized texts is now quite large: they include (obviously) the Book of Common Prayer rite, the traditional language prayers of *Common Worship*, and a little-known provision for using formerly authorized texts, such as the Eucharistic Prayer in Series 2, or the so-called 'interim rite', in which the Consecration Prayer of the 1662 rite was followed at once by the Prayer of Oblation, and joined by the word 'wherefore.' In any case it all blurs at the edges these days: when Bishop Randolph has visited us from Guyana we have generally used the West Indian Rite, a phone call to the Bishop of Guildford regularising what was planned.

The mention of **Bishop Randolph George** is also a reminder that copies of the Guyana Diocesan magazine *El Dorado* are available for free in the Welcome Area. The current number contains the sad, but not unexpected, news that Bishop Randolph (who is, in fact, in his eighties) retires at the end of the year, so it is unlikely that we shall be seeing him any more at St Mary's.

**'SURREY LIFE' Carol Service in aid of CHASE.** This is a reprint of what appeared a little while ago. There are posters up about it now. The printed service-lists also give basic details of this event, which is being held at St Mary's *next week* on Wednesday 10 December at 1900. It is a fund-raising event, with all proceeds going to Chase Hospice Care for Children. We have supported *CHASE* in the past through our Christmas Day cash collection donation. The magazine '*SURREY LIFE*' is organizing this particular service, in consultation with the Vicar. It is an occasion at which one actually pays to go to a service in church. Last year's service at Shere was a wonderful success, and the service at Ewell has already been devised, and there will be some distinguished visitors, including Max Clifford, who is one of the patrons of CHASE, and Dame Jacqueline Wilson. The Parish Choir will be in action, and there will also be a ladies' Barbershop contribution. We are expecting a full church. All ticketing will be done through *Surrey Life*, **and not through St Mary's**. The tickets cost £10, but there are also VIP tickets which include entry to the party afterwards at Ewell Castle School, and these are also available at £15 each. To reserve tickets and for more information please call 01903 703745.

**Sanctuary matters.** I have not forgotten that I said I would be bringing out some guidelines in the light of one or two 'curious happenings' recently. It is just about now coming to the top of the list, so it ought to be out next Sunday. 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).

**The laundry request.** Many thanks to those who have answered this *crie de coeur*. All is well now, and an arrangement is in hand. This business has to do with the larger items of church linen, for which it is probably too much of a burden for one person to take on. The smaller items, the purificators, corporals, lavabo towels and the like – and those are actually normal words in sacristy-speak – are regularly looked after by Marion Rao. The late Doris Frost, who used to do this job some years ago, always referred to it as ‘the holy laundry’, which is ‘polite-speak’ for what generations of sacristans have more irreverently called ‘the sacristy smalls.’ W.R.H.

**Next Sunday.** The services are at their usual times. The Vicar will be away for most of the morning, though he will be the celebrant at the 0800 Eucharist. He is preaching at the Sung Eucharist in the Cathedral later that morning. This is about the last comparatively peaceful weekend at St Mary’s for some time, and certainly this will be the case with weekdays, for the Carol Service Season is upon us. Our own Christmas arrangements are much the same as usual, though with the added feature of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* on the Sunday before Christmas at 1700.

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