

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

7 December 2008

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

A 'Farrergraph' today: that is, one of Dr Austin Farrer's short weekly paragraphs for the Holy Sacrament, which he delivered at the 'early service' to his undergraduates at Trinity College, Oxford, in the middle years of the last century. He kept them standing after the Creed, which is the position for the sermon-slot in the Prayer Book rite; they had to be alert for the Farrergraph, not seated for it. Over the years we have used many of these paragraphs at the 8 o'clock service here. They are always full of good things, thought-provoking, richly devotional, and exquisitely written. Here is one for Advent.

'Advent is a coming, not our coming to God, but his to us. We cannot come to God, for he is beyond our reach; but he can come to us. For we are not beneath his mercy. Even in another life, as St John sees it in his vision, we do not rise to God, but he descends to us, and dwells humanly among human creatures, in the glorious man, Jesus Christ. And that will be his last coming; so we shall be his people, and he everlastingly our God, our God-with-us, our Emmanuel. He will so come, but he is come already, and he comes always: in our fellow-Christian (even in a child, says Christ), in his word, invisibly in our souls, more visibly in the Holy Communion. Opening ourselves to him, we call him in: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: O come, Emmanuel.'

Most of the visiting carol services at St Mary's this year take place during the coming week, and it is always good to find the church full of young people and their families. There is also the large-scale Carol Service on Wednesday evening, organized by the magazine *Surrey Life* in aid of CHASE hospice care for children at Loseley Park, Guildford. We are very much on the map this week. Domestically, our publicity for our own services over Christmas is largely achieved through the annual house-to-house delivery, but the extended mention of the Carol Service on 21 December at the end of the Notes is meant to be a reminder that we all have responsibilities in the field of personal evangelism, and Christmas is a comparatively easy time for this. Two points may be borne in mind as one considers things like leaflet distribution or inviting others to join us in church. The first is to remember the fact of 'the doctrine of the nearest Christian,' the reality that there is *at least* one person for whom each one of us is quite literally the nearest Christian, and it should not take too much hard thinking to realise that we have spiritual responsibilities in that particular area. The second is 'like unto it, namely this': to ask oneself, when was the last time I actually invited someone to come to church with me? One does have to swallow too hard in order to invite someone to come to a Christmas Carol Service with readings and lovely music. W.R.H.

Our prayers today. We pray for our own church and parish, and in the worldwide Church we pray today for those who belong to the family of Pentecostal Churches. In our Diocese we pray for the other parishes in our own Epsom Deanery, and for the Rural Dean, the Reverend Stuart Thomas. Within our parish we pray for all our Communion Assistants, and for the people living in Primrose Walk.

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.
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SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 **HOLY COMMUNION**

Order 1: page 167.

Eucharistic Prayer F: page 198.

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 377.

Other details for Advent: page 300.

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST*Common Worship rite*

There is a separate leaflet for this service. No hymn-books are needed today, since the hymns are printed out on the readings paper. Most of the hymns come from our two local books. Wayfarers and Children's Hour; and Crèche available on request.

Preacher: *The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*

Eucharistic Prayer F

Setting of the Eucharist: *Wood* in the Phrygian Mode

Anthem: O sacrum convivium. *Tallis*

Hymns: 12, HCE 65 verses 1 & 2 [t. (MS) *Un bel enfant*], HHE 21 [t. Glasgow], HCE 22 (t.216), HCE 68 (t.201).

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in F# minor. *Buxtehude* JH

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1100 CHORAL MATTINS

Sermon by *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader.*

Responses: page 8

Music: *Byrd*

Jubilate (Psalm 100): page 254.

Stanford in B flat

Office-hymn: 1

[Second tune]

Psalm 98 *The Lord is the Judge of the earth.*

Page 253

First Lesson: Isaiah 52: 7-10. *Glad tidings to an exiled people.*

Benedictus: page 11

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11. *A call to be ready and watchful.*

Hymn 3

The Creed and the Greeting; then all kneel for the Lord's Prayer,

the Responses and the three Collects (the first Collect on page 52 *sic*).

Anthem: Teach me, O Lord.

Byrd

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments, for therein is my desire. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. O turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity, and quicken thou me in thy way. O stablish thy word in thy servant, that I may fear thee. Glory be, &c

(*Psalm 119: 33-38*)

Prayers.

Hymn 500; Collection.

The Grace

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in D (BWV 532).

J S Bach

JC

1800 Evening Prayer**In church this week**

Tuesday	1000	Holy Communion
Wednesday	1900	Surrey Life Carol Service in aid of CHASE
Thursday	1400	Ewell Grove School Carol Service
Friday	1100	Ewell Castle Carols (Years 1 & 2)

Other events and notices.

Tuesday	1200	Epsom Deanery Chapter meeting at St Mary's, Cuddington.
	1830	Annual Candlelight Celebration at A & E Longhurst, 21 Kingston Road
	1030-1200.	The Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. All welcome; there is also tea provided for those who care not for the ground bean.

The Christmas Leaflets are all neatly arranged in the Welcome Area, all ready for the general distribution throughout the parish. I am grateful to those who bundled these during the past week.

Please help, if it is at all possible; it really is quite a task, but an exceptionally important one, since it is the one time in the year when we try to get something into every house in the geographical parish. Please do not look glum at the prospect; it may be a chore (I cannot think of anyone who has ever told me that he or she enjoys doing it), but a moment's reflection will reveal quite how important a task this really 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, and it isn't trespassing to deliver in a street other than one's own. Two or three people 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 beyond the Highfields estate); most years it is one of these three streets which is left uncovered, and this is a pity. It would be good if most of the leaflets went today, so that we can see how matters stand as the month moves on. Nor does it matter when they are actually delivered, but could they please be taken from church today, so that we have some idea of what the position is tomorrow morning? Once again (as I mentioned about a fortnight or so ago) I always 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 the Christian Aid envelopes in May) to street after street; his trudging partook of the nature of the truly heroic. Can we aim for a total cover of the parish this year? W.R.H.

The External Affairs Committee will soon be thinking about our Lent Project for 2009, and they would welcome suggestions, and also ideas for the four 'Gift Day Charities' next year. Please contact Lynne Yuille in the office in the first instance.

The Vicar is away at the Cathedral for most of the morning, and he will be preaching at the Sung Eucharist there. However, he will celebrate the 8 o'clock Eucharist at St Mary's before going off to Guildford. Most people will know by now that the police shot an armed man in the cathedral grounds last Sunday. No doubt the Dean will speak about it in the course of today's services.

Ewell Parish News for December is available today.

In connexion with the **Gala Dinner** on 3 January to mark the Vicar's retirement: please note that the cut-off date for applying for tickets is 20 December.

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. The tables with the cards will be cleared after the services on 28 December. W.R.H.

Next year's **Lent Lunches** are already being arranged, and the dates are 4, 11, 18, and 25 March. Anyone who would be willing to take charge of one of these sessions (basically it is a case of soup and bread and cheese) would be very popular with the External Affairs Committee. Please contact Lynne Yuille, if you are able to help.

The Annual **Candlelight Celebration** at our local Funeral Directors, A & E Longhurst, 21 Kingston Road, on Tuesday evening at 1830 is a gentle occasion of remembrance. Candles will be lit in memory of loved ones, and there will be light refreshments.

'**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 boxed item below is a reminder of something new this year. About fifty members of the congregation have signed up to say that they are coming to this, and hopefully there will be many more. This is the first time for many years that our singers have been in a position to mount an additional choral service over the Christmas period, and the 'Nine Lessons' is re-instated this year after a gap of many years. Much as it is a well-known example of familiar Christmas worship, I need to emphasise that this is an *additional* service to our normal pattern of worship on the Sunday before

Christmas, and it is of some importance that it is seen as such. We always have a very busy Sunday morning that day, with the General Decoration of the Church after a very brisk Mattins, and it is not the intention that the morning arrangements should be adversely affected by the additional evening service. (If they are, I shall mention it in my turn-over notes, which I plan to send to my successor.) Having said that, the evening service on 21 December may well attract people who are actually looking for a non-Eucharistic Christmas service, which has a different and more structured character than our very successful family-orientated service on Christmas Eve, so it is worth spreading the word around that St Mary's 'own' Carol Service is on 21 December at tea-time. W.R.H.

Sunday, 21 December

17.00

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The full 'traditional' service, made familiar on the BBC in the annual broadcast from Cambridge. There will be the familiar congregational hymns and carols, as well as choral items for Christmas by many composers, including J S Bach, Weelkes, Darke, Howells, Mathias and Vaughan Williams. There are at least four completely new works in the Christmas choral music at St Mary's this year; the choir has been working very hard.

Next Sunday. This is *Gaudete* Sunday, the Sunday when there is a rather more jolly feel to the predominantly serious character of the Advent season, and one can begin to feel the final countdown to Christmas. The liturgical colour of the day is *rose*, except at the Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist at 1100 when (following the old English colour scheme for BCP services) it is *blue*. Services are at the usual times.

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