

St Mary the Virgin  
EWELL PARISH CHURCH  
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## WEEKLY NOTES

14 December 2008

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### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

‘*Gaudete Sunday.*’

**Sponsor’s Note.** Remembering my grandson, Mark Nicholas Saunders, who would have been twenty-nine on Friday. J.M.S.

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The unusual liturgical colours for today remind us that Advent moves on. The concentration on the darkness of a world, in which life is lived apart from God – now as well as ‘then’ – and of a world living constantly under the judgement of God – again, now as well as then – starts to give way to the joyful expectancy of the generous love of God, who in Christ visits and redeems his people. However, unless it happens to be Christmas Eve (not the case this year), the rose *décor* is only seen on the one Sunday, and next week we are once again reminded, as we see the Advent purple return once again, that we stand in need of a Saviour, and in one sense the darkest moment of the world’s night is just before the dawn. It is slightly different at 1100, when we follow the old English colour sequence with the Book of Common Prayer rite. The English custom was to use blue in Advent, which perhaps helps us realise that Advent is not quite the same sort of season as Lent. In recent years the modern Latin rite has also started to think this way, and the canticle *Te Deum laudamus*, which used not to be used in Advent, is now used during the season, and we have been availing ourselves of this provision here. The great Advent canticle, however, is the *Benedictus*, and we shall be using a metrical form of it at the 1100 service today.

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Our thanks must go to Jonathan Holmes for bringing his choir on Advent Sunday from Emanuel School for the Advent Procession here. It was a wonderful and richly devotional occasion. We also had a splendid carol service in aid of CHASE hospice care for children on Wednesday of last week, organised by the magazine *SURREY LIFE*, at which we welcomed ‘Surrey Harmony’ a splendid Ladies Barbershop Group (if ‘group’ is the right word – there were about fifty of them), and various celebrities. Our own Parish Choir was in great form, and the number of very positive comments from visitors on the night all seemed to confirm the view that St Mary’s music is at a very high level of excellence at the present time. We look forward to some great music over the Christmas period, and the plans for the *Nine Lessons and Carols* next Sunday evening, and also for the *Midnight Mass of Christmas*, are very exciting.

**Our prayers today.** We pray for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion\* we pray today for the Church in Australia. In the Diocese of Guildford we pray for all the church choirs in the Diocese, as they rehearse their music for Christmas. In the parish we pray for the people of Ewell United Reformed Church, and for the Minister, the Reverend Pat Hall. In our systematic prayer for the parish we pray today for those living in Purberry Grove.

\* We have now resumed the Anglican devotional cycle, without actually completing some of the other Christian groups. This is to get us back on track for the convenience of those compiling the Weekly Notes after I have gone. W.R.H.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

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| <b>0700</b> | <b>MATTINS</b>        | Psalm 80.   |
| <b>0800</b> | <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> | <i>Common Worship rite.</i><br>Order 1 in traditional language: page 207. Collect of the Day: page 378.<br>Eucharistic Prayer A: page 216. Other Advent material: page 300. |
| <b>0930</b> | <b>SUNG EUCHARIST</b> | <i>Common Worship rite.</i>   |

There is a separate leaflet for this service. The hymn-book for the service today is the green *New English Hymnal*. Children's Hour; Crèche available on request.

Preacher: *Mrs Wendy Varney, Reader*

Eucharistic Prayer F.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Victoria*, Missa O Magnum Mysterium

Hymns: 15, HCE 66 (t.89 ii), Salus aeterna (t. 171 ii), 170 (ii), 465.

Anthem: This is the record of John. *Gibbons*

Organ: Carillon. *Murrill* JC

*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 SUNG EUCHARIST

*Book of Common Prayer rite*

Setting of the Eucharist: *Batten*, Short Service

Creed and Gloria: *Merbecke* .

Small *red* hymn-book today, and Card A.

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Troait hymn: 50. 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: 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5. *The Stewards of God's mysteries.*

Gradual hymn: 473

The Holy Gospel: St Matthew 11: 2-10. *The ministry of St John Baptist.*

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Biddings to Prayer and the Offertory sentence.

Offertory Hymn: *The Benedictus* (Card A, No.2); Collection.

[Choir: HCE 1;t.NEH 148]

After the hymn, 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: AMR 384 ii. [Choir use NEH 269 part 2.]

During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)

Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord always. *Anon (attrib.Redford)*

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men; the Lord is even at hand. Be careful for nothing, but in all prayer and supplication let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

[*Philippians 4: 4-7; 'Great Bible' text, mid-16<sup>th</sup> cent.*]

After Communion: The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44.

[*Gloria in excelsis* is omitted in Advent.] The Blessing. Hymn 266

Organ: Prelude and Fugue in E minor. *Bruhns* JH

## 1800 Evening Prayer

### In church this week

Monday	1830	<b>Ewell Castle Junior School Carol Service</b>
Tuesday	1000	<b>Holy Communion</b>
Wednesday	1100	<b>Ewell Castle Senior School Carol Service</b>

### Other events and notices.

Monday	2000	Sacristy Meeting
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**ON WEDNESDAY:** You are invited to  
**THE COFFEE MORNING CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
 1030-1300  
 in the Church Hall.  
**Coffee, comestibles and crackers. Sherry and mince pies.**  
*Singalong to some favourite carols.*  
**Grand Raffle and Auction.**  
*Donations for prizes would be appreciated.*  
 Do come along and join in the Festivities.

Please note that there will be no Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 24 December. Back in business on 31 December, New Year's Eve.

**The Children's Society.** Thank-you to all who bought Christmas Cards this year. £340 was raised, of which between 50 and 60% benefits the Society. S.H.

**The Christmas leaflets; state of play.** After a little prodding, so I gather, at the recent PCC meeting, it is good to see that my disappointment expressed last week has been turned into genuine gratitude to all those who have rallied round on this matter. The three tables of leaflets are now down to one, and even that one is by no means full. There are just about thirty or so streets left uncovered, and it would be good if they could all go today. As one might expect, the three giants (Epsom Road, Ewell By-Pass and Meadow Walk – about 120 houses in each) still remain uncovered; is there a chance that 'a team' might be the solution to this perennial problem? Of the other remaining streets, there are a few tinies of about half-a-dozen houses or so, but most are around the thirty or forty mark. I haven't the nerve to do more than just mention the name of the late nonogenarian, Mr John Beams, for the third week running... W.R.H.

**Sanctuary matters.** The paper about this for Communion Assistants and some others is now available on the table by the sacristy door, together with a list for all those concerned to tick when they collect their copy. It is important that those concerned tick the list, because, if only one person does not know that the drill is changed, then we have a recipe for trouble and confusion. 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 Sarah Stovell on 020 8393 0786. Volunteers to help with decorating the hall on Christmas Eve, drivers, washers-up, and table hosts would all be much appreciated.

**Year B readings.** These have now begun, and 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 Christmas, and also for Mattins (or Evensong, if appropriate). The Mattins readings 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, and the astringency of his narrative and his 'crisis theology' will sound very different from that of St Matthew, particularly in the case of familiar passages.

**Last call.** Application forms for the **Gala Dinner** to be held on Saturday 3 January to mark the Vicar's retirement are still available in the Welcome Area. It has to be done this way for security reasons at the T.A. Centre, and names and addresses are needed. The forms are easily found: they are in a garish shade of dayglo pink. **Please note that the cut-off date for applying for tickets is 20 December, i.e. Saturday of this week.**

**Eucharistic Prayers.** I wrote about these a fortnight ago, and it was interesting to discover at the Cathedral last Sunday, when they were having their monthly Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist, that in fact they were using the so-called 'Interim Rite' (which I had mentioned in my note). In this sense they were using a rite which was covered by the little-known provision for using formerly authorized texts, and in this instance one which is also covered by rubric in Order 2 of *Common Worship*.

**Next Sunday.** This is always an important and pleasant Sunday at St Mary's, and this will be even more so this year with the Parish Carol Service in the evening. However, that is something *in addition* to our regular morning activity on this particular day. It is going to be a busy day for many. Morning services are at the usual times, though with very basic Mattins at 1100, because of the General Decoration afterwards. Once again I hope that many people will take part in the enjoyable activity of decorating the church for Christmas in the second half of the morning. Not many did so last year, as I recall, and the main part of the church looked less jolly than usual. (Can't say the same about the chancel, after the choristers had been let loose in it.) Coffee is in church, and there are usually mince pies for the helpers. Do bring streamers and tinsel and whatever, or cut holly and greenery from the churchyard – we have no end of it out there. I have often said, and repeat it now, that the business of decorating the church is *an enacted parable of welcome*, and in that sense it is a devotional pre-Christmas activity. As one of today's hymns puts it: *'Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.'* And for 'hearts' also read 'church.'

**And a final reminder. Next Sunday at 1700:**

**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 this year; the choir has been working very hard.*

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