



EWELL PARISH NEWS



The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin

No.432

January 2009

60p

Sharing the Love of Christ, the Light of the World, with the people of Ewell

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Let us begin the year by acknowledging that we need to be repossessed by Jesus and given His direction for our lives.

With world stability unravelling, today's Sixth Formers find themselves facing the same challenges faced by Sixth Formers in 1945, - to rebuild the world and create a society that works. The parallel is strong.

The 1939 - 45 war was over. Blame for the devastation it caused has to be laid at the parents and grandparents. Now the 2008 Bubble has burst, blame has to be laid at the present Sixth Former's parents and grandparents.



The essence of the challenge is unnervingly straightforward, even mundane -

"If the human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another, and science will do for them all they wish and more than they can dream."

(W.S.Churchill)

The fact is that human beings who have not had their nature repossessed by Jesus, do not behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another. Visit any Council, Parliament or International Forum to see how. The problems sitting in the Chamber often fail to even address the problems on the agenda.

St. Mary's suggests five practical daily steps.

1. Silence. We need to free ourselves from distractions to hear the prompting of God in our hearts.

2. The Lord's Prayer. Each phrase can enlighten us in a different way each day.

3. Honesty. A desperate honesty with ourselves about our own motives will often reveal to us where we ourselves may be part of the problem we are facing.

4. Bible Reading. A few verses daily, read slowly and carefully, can widen our minds a mile.

5. Recognise Evil.

Just as Churchill's words seem straightforward, even simple, so do these five suggestions. Yet the whole package is inordinately difficult, well beyond the power of individuals to manage alone; God has to hold us on course.

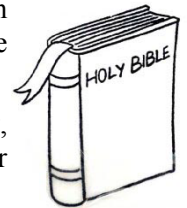
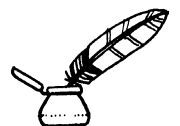
Which is why we need to pray for each other,
And which is where we see the difference between -

"Science will do for them all they wish and more than they can dream" and Ephesians 3.20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"

Churchill could only promise the things of life, the writer of Ephesians spoke of life itself.



Evil is the last point. It exists. It will do everything possible to confuse us. The great thing is to laugh at it the moment we recognise it. It cannot bear to be laughed at, and retreats in confusion, especially from where there is love.



THE VICAR writes

We have had an interesting time over the early part of the Christmas period this year, including the unusual feature of a service for which people actually pay to go to church. This was the Carol Service organized by the magazine 'Surrey Life' in aid of CHASE hospice care for children, which is based at Loseley Park near Guildford. It is an organization which we have in the past supported as one of our Christmas Charities. A figure in excess of £2000 was raised for the hospice's work. The Parish Choir was in excellent form, and we received many words of praise for our singers at a party afterwards at Ewell Castle School. There was also a magnificent Ladies Barbershop Choir, about fifty of them, who were based in the north aisle, and who made their own very different contribution to the service. Various notabilities were present. Those concerned seemed very content with the arrangements here, and they hope to come back again next Christmas. Other events during Advent included the *Procession with Readings and Music for Advent*, and once again this service was sung by the Choir of Emanuel School, who can always be relied upon to give a wonderful interpretation of what is often particularly difficult music.

After saying that, this regular column in *Ewell Parish News* continues in a sort of limbo world, because most of the rest of our Christmas services have yet to take place, because copy-dates for *EPN* have of necessity to come fairly early in the month. However, if past experience is anything to go by, Christmas will be a busy and joyful time for many at the Parish Church. A great deal of lovely music is being prepared in order to enhance our worship over this period, and much of this is new. Some is for the revived *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, and there is also a tremendous (that is probably the right word) setting of the Eucharist at the Midnight Mass, the *Missa Salve Regina* by the French composer Jean Langlais. The choir is now in a position to tackle music of this complexity, and we must be grateful to Jonathan Holmes, Jeremy Cole and all the singers for all the hard work they have put in, and indeed for the sheer versatility of it all. Where else would one find Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* and Messiaen's *Dieu parmi nous* on two successive Sung Eucharists?

Anyway, the limbo mentioned above continues as January approaches and eventually begins. This is a different sort of limbo. Many will now know that I shall be leaving St Mary's on 11 January, and will be moving away not all that long afterwards to our house in Wales. If I were to say anything about this in these pages, it

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH

020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com

CLERGY

Canon W R Hanford MA BD LLM Vicar of Ewell
Ewell Vicarage, Church Street, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2AQ
The Reverend Patrick Miller MA PhD (Honorary)

READERS

Mr Reginald Saunders MA MEd 020 8393 5550
Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr David Crick 07850 709461
Mr Jonathan Gocher 020 8224 5942

SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

The Wayfarers and the Sunday School meet in conjunction with this service, and there is a Creche provided in church.

There is coffee in the church hall between the Eucharist and Mattins on Sunday mornings, and a chance for members of the congregation to meet or visitors to be welcomed to St Mary's.

1100 MATTINS

(Third Sunday in each month SUNG EUCHARIST to the Book of Common Prayer Rite)

1200 HOLY COMMUNION

(On Greater Festivals and on the last Sunday of the month except in December)

1830 EVENING WORSHIP

Either at St Mary's or at Ewell United Reformed Church. Details are on the Notice Board or on the Weekly Notes.

Occasionally there are variations from this pattern; details are given in this paper, on the Notice Board or on the Weekly Notes available on Sundays.

ON WEEKDAYS

The Eucharist is normally celebrated at present on Tuesdays at 1000, and at other times as printed on the Weekly Notes. Most of the Weekday services take place in the Parish Room (entry through the door on the Church Street side of the Church).

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:
Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)
Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

This is in the Sacristy on the south side of the church and is open from 0930 to 1300 on Monday to Friday, (though at present it is not usually open on Thursdays). Also on Friday evening from 1830 to 2000, except in August, the office is open particularly for routine enquiries about Baptism, Banns of Marriage, Confirmation, or fixing up later appointments.

The Vicar is not usually available on Thursdays, and would be grateful not to be contacted on routine matters. Emergencies are different.

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The photos on the right show Dame Jacqueline Wilson and Max Clifford enjoying the Chase Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's on 10 December.

would in some ways pre-empt the proceedings at the TA Centre on 3 January, not to mention my own pulpit farewell on the morning of 11 January. So Sunday 4 January will be Vicar's Limbo Sunday as well as being our observance of the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord. After the events of the evening before we return to the normality of a routine, but busy, Sunday morning, and it is almost as if the preceding evening hadn't really happened. However the following Sunday is going to be quite a day. I shall preach formally for the last time at the Sung Eucharist (I say formally, because there will a sermonette at the 11 o'clock Baptism rite at Mattins), and that will be the occasion for marking the end my time with you in Ewell. In the evening, the keynote will be rather different; it will mark the end of forty-six years in the active ordained ministry of the Church, of which just over half has been spent in this parish. It will be a great joy to welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury as the preacher on this occasion.

So I shall write some words of thanks, and say a few other things perhaps, in the February paper. In a way the wheel has come full circle: in December 1982 this column was headed 'Canon Hanford writes:' since at that stage I was still at the Cathedral, where I was a full-time Canon ('Residentiary' is the actual word), and had not been inducted here. There was also a picture of myself and the family outside our house in the Cathedral Close, our daughters looking very young and sweet, as indeed they were, for the eldest was only nine when we moved here, and the youngest only three. After that, for somewhere around 312 subsequent columns (and with one of those daughters married, and Susan and myself now grandparents), the normal heading has been month by month 'The Vicar writes:' Next month the time will have come for the heading to be once more 'Canon Hanford writes:' since my official connexion with the parish will be at an end, and since I am once again a Canon of the Cathedral, although an honorary one this time, the December 1982 caption returns once more.

With all good wishes for 2009, and all that it brings. These are exciting times for St Mary's people, and I am sure that the parish is now more ready than ever before to embrace new challenges and opportunities, and to accept leadership from a new priest, who will most certainly not be a carbon copy of myself.

Your friend and Parish Priest,

Richard Hanford



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A HAPPY OUTING BY ALL ACCOUNTS

COFFEE MORNING COACH TRIP - A WHITE CHRISTMAS (AT LEAST IN PORTSMOUTH!)

On 28 November a coach left Ewell for the Victorian Festival of Christmas held in the Historic Dockyard Portsmouth. As soon as the coach was underway we were offered small bags of sweets, a topical quiz, together with writing implement and a variety of leaflets about Portsmouth to assist us in planning our day, courtesy of Longhurst's, the Funeral Directors.

Leaving the coach in Portsmouth we were charged to be back at 4.15pm else there would be "dire consequences". My group headed for the Dock and were soon mingling with "fat policemen", sweeps, town criers and numerous others making up the Victorian-clad crowd. Walking among the various gift stalls we were assailed by a group of "ladies of the night" who took a liking to our various hats and gave us a rendering of "Where did you get that hat?" We witnessed felons being dragged off to gaol sporting real balls and chains and Sweeny Todd shaving an unsuspecting member of the public. With no dreadful outcome in this case! And it snowed! (Courtesy of modern technology)

We spent the morning revisiting some of the ancient ships in the Dockyard and shopping from the craft stalls. (Some had some real bargains!)

After a quick late lunch we were ready to tackle some more serious buying at the designer outlets of Gunwharf Quays. Here we ran into some others of our group and were able to compare bargains before returning to our coach in good time (and before it



was turned back into a pumpkin?)

The return journey was marked with a glass of low alcohol fizz and a mince pie to celebrate the Vicar's last

coach trip with the Coffee Morning. The quiz was marked and the prizes awarded. At Ewell we gathered all our shopping bags together and struggled off the coach. One of the party had purchased a stereo sound system and had four large bags. Luckily she had some friends who were happy to lend a hand.

A huge vote of thanks to Joan Boulden and her team for organising the trip, and Longhurst's who provided the entertainment and snacks.

WHERE ARE WE OFF TO IN 2009?

A VICTORIAN FESTIVAL OF FUN

The Coffee Morning coach outings take place twice a year - One to a seaside town and one to a destination with religious interest.

The Vicar has been involved for many years and as well as being part of the "Organising Trio" he has accompanied us on many of our excursions.

So as this year was different due to the Vicar's planned retirement we decided to plan an extra outing which would be the last one with the Vicar on board.

"A Victorian Festival of Christmas" at Portsmouth sounded interesting and "different", so on Friday 28 November 28 of us climbed aboard the coach and headed that way.

It didn't seem to matter that it was raining, after all it was November and it had its advantages -

No traffic to speak of, no delays at Hindhead (massive roadworks to construct a tunnel under the Punchbowl are in progress), and no crowds at the festival.

We duly arrived at the Gunwharf Quays and all went out separate ways.

The Spinnaker Tower was inviting and well worth ascending to see the panorama of spectacular views and the thrill of standing on the glass floor and looking down 100m below.

The Victorian Festival in the historic dockyard offered numerous attractions.

Many adults and children in Victorian dress created a great atmosphere which added to the many shows, activities and stalls.

Snow was falling in 2 streets which was realistically produced by 2 machines.

For the children there was a roundabout and an animal corner with a lovely donkey who stood quite still looking extremely bored.

The French market offered delightful Provencal printed tablecloths, a vast selection of cheese, delicately perfumed soap from Marseilles and many other "calorie filled edibles".

A horse and carriage was on hand to take "Queen Victoria" around.

Of course HMS Victory stands proud and was open for anyone wishing to go aboard and look around. Father Christmas was installed on HMS Warrior.

Finally there were many outlet shops offering bargains galore, lots of coffee shops and restaurants to re-charge your batteries.

It was time to return to the coach with our many purchases, to sit back and relax.

As the journey home progressed, a few words of thanks were said to the Vicar for the large contribution and enjoyment he has brought to our outings - pointing out places of interest along the way and divulging endless information on churches, cathedrals and cities.

We shall certainly miss having him on board with us.

Everyone was handed a glass of Elderflower Fizz with which to toast the Vicar and wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Tony Ennor then gave the answers to a quiz which he had compiled and given out earlier. This was won by the Vicar who received a model of HMS Victory.

Our thanks go to Tony, Martin and Eileen, our friends from A & E Longhurst on the Kingston Road for serving the drinks and mince pies and for adding some fun to the day.

It was an enjoyable day with happy memories.

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SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Lord of my life, to Thee I call
Be in my heart today,
And make me think and speak and act
As thy dear child always.
The image of Thyself in me
At my creation given,
O let it both mature and grow
And fit me for thy heaven.

O God our Father, help us to nail to the Cross of thy dear Son the whole body of our lower nature, the wrong desires of the heart, the sinful devisings of the mind, the corrupt apprehensions of the eyes, the cruel words of the tongue, the ill employment of hands and feet; that the old nature being crucified and done away, our new being may live and grow into the glorious likeness of thy dear Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with Thee, world without end.

Eric Milner-White

May the strength of God pilot us,
May the power of God preserve us,
May the wisdom of God instruct us,
May the way of God direct us,
May the shield of God defend us,
May the host of God guard us against the snares
of evil and the temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us,
Christ before us,
Christ in us,
Christ over us.

St Patrick

Come, Holy Spirit...
Wash away the dirt,
Water the dry places;
Heal the wounds;
Bend the rigid mind;
Warm the cold heart;
Direct the wayward will.

Thirteenth century prayer

Prayer For God's Help
O God, from whom to be turned is to fall,
to whom to be turned is to rise,
and with whom to stand is to abide for ever;
grant us in all our duties your help,
in all our perplexities your guidance,
in all our dangers your protection,
and in all our sorrows your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

☕ COFFEE MORNINGS

**WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY
FROM 10.30 am – 12 noon
IN THE CHURCH HALL**

DO COME AND JOIN US

Table Top Sale Coming Soon

The last Coffee Morning Bring & Buy Sale in its "old form" was held in October, after which Barbara Cannon decided to "hang up her cashbox". Barbara has run these sales for some years and we thank her for the contribution she has made in raising money for the Jeel Al Amal Boys' Home in Bethany.

We plan to introduce a new form of Table Top Sale with a difference.

Each sale will have a specific theme and generally be limited to merchandise which falls within the relevant category.

For example

- Gifts, unwanted presents and confectionery
- Groceries, preserves and cakes.

Items should be new/unused, with no bric-a-brac please.

The sales will run on the bring & buy basis and from time to time be accompanied by a raffle.

The first Table Top Sale will be on Wednesday 28 January 2009 with the theme:-

"Gifts, unwanted presents and confectionery".

We need YOUR support in order to make this new venture a success, so please come along and join us for a cup of tea (or coffee) and participate in the sale if you can.

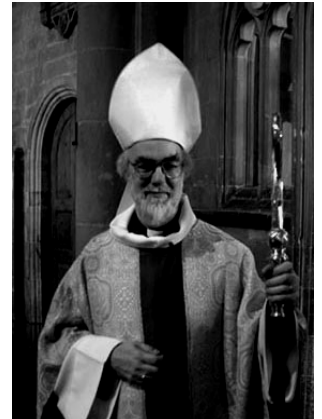
10.30 -12.00 in the Church Hall.

Don't forget all the money raised at the Wednesday Coffee Mornings goes to help the children at "JEEL".

FIRST AND LAST

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most reverend Rowan Williams, will be the first Primate of All England to visit St Mary's. He will preach at our Vicar's final service on Sunday 11 January at 1800.

It will be good to welcome Archbishop Rowan to St Mary's, and hopefully many members of the congregation will have the chance to meet and greet him.



A SPECIAL PRAYER

GOD OUR FATHER

You have welcomed each one of us in Jesus and called us to be His Body in this place;

Send us your Holy Spirit,
at this time of uncertainty and change,
to fill us with vision, energy,
and faithfulness in prayer,
that we may be true to our calling
to bring new life to our community;

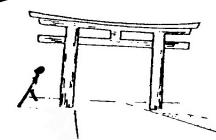
And guide with your heavenly wisdom
those who are to choose a new Incumbent for this
parish,

that the one whom we receive
may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people:
ready to serve us with joy,
to build us up in faith,
and to lead us by example
in loving obedience to your son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

EPN COPY DATES 2009

Middy on Monday

January 12
February 9
March 16
April 13
May 18
June 15
July 13
August 17
September 14
October 12
November 16
December 14



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."

IN MEMORIAM
ALICE SAHHAR 1934 – 2008
(Bethany)

We have recently received the sad news that Alice Sahhar has died.

Alice began taking in abused, abandoned and unwanted boys in 1972 when she and her husband Basil realised the great need to provide shelter for these children.

The only house available was being used to keep sheep, but nevertheless they decided to rent it. It would accommodate 10 boys, and so it all began.

Life was hard, but Alice, a devout Christian fought on for “her boys”, convinced of the necessity to provide them with a good education to set them up for adult life.

In 1982 the first stone was laid for the building that was to become and still is the Jeel Al Amal Boys’ Home in Bethany. It means “Generation of Hope”. It would accommodate 100 boys and have a school which another 100 boys could attend on a daily basis.

It was Alice’s wish to live to see the completion of the building for the girls’ home before she died. Well, money is currently being raised for the windows – so it’s almost there.

She was a wonderful lady.

May she rest in peace.

It is thought that “her family” will take over from her, but we have no details.

We plan to donate the money raised through the Wednesday Coffee Mornings during 2008 to the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany building fund.

JB

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

HOLY BAPTISM

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all (Ephesians 4:5)

23 November Ryan Luke Baker
 Charlie John Evans

HOLY MATRIMONY

A gift of God in creation, and a means of his grace, a holy mystery’
(Alternative Service Book Marriage rite)

6 December Richard James Innes Pocock and Rachel Teresa Broadbridge
 13 December Benn George Askey and Nicola Chadd

FUNERALS

I will come again and take you to myself (St. John 14:3)

24 November Lynn Teresa Blicckett, aged 73
 24 November Lilian Betty Dyke, aged 87
 25 November Dora Scott, aged 86
 2 December Mary Kathleen Nicholson, aged 88
 5 December Iris Helen Fiddleman, aged 74
 8 December Hilda May Anderson, aged 93
 15 December Peter Marshall Holland, aged 78

Is your New Year's Resolution to do Voluntary Work in 2009?

The Brigitte Trust needs volunteers now to cover the Epsom, Caterham and Banstead areas

A diagnosis of cancer can turn the whole household upside down – practical needs like driving to hospital appointments and simple jobs like picking up prescriptions can suddenly be difficult to achieve and there is sometimes no-one at hand to share some of the many feelings and fears.

For over 25 years the Brigitte Trust has been offering help to families suffering the effects of cancer and other late-stage illness, with a free service of emotional support and practical help at home. It is preferable for most people to stay in their homes, with pets and familiar possessions around them, and with family and friends visiting freely. With the help of The Brigitte Trust it is possible for a loved one to stay at home for much longer.

The Trust supported 189 families last year and we desperately need more volunteers from Epsom and the surrounding area to visit families referred by The Marsden and local District Nurses.

A free training course for volunteers is being held at 138 Miles Road, Epsom, starting on January 22nd

Please contact Betsy Ashbourne for more information and a volunteer pack on b.ashbourne@btinternet.com or phone her today on 01306 881816

Forward In Faith, Guildford

**Wednesday 21 January 2009
8 pm**

**Paul, Apostle of Christian
Unity: the Broken Body of
Christ in the Teaching of
Paul**

with Fr Rob Esdaile,
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church
Thames Ditton

at St Nicolas' Parish Centre,
Bury Street, Guildford

HURRAH FOR CHRISTMAS!



Squeals of delight and laughter greeted "Uncle John" the puppeteer and magician who came to entertain the Toddlers at their Christmas parties. John always provides an interesting show, for both adults and children. He can always be assured of a lot of "help" when he visits St Mary's as all the children are keen to see where the disappearing Santa really goes and how the puppets work.

Father Christmas also made surprise visits ahead of Christmas Eve, much to everyone's pleasure.

A big thank you to all who helped make the parties special. They know who they are!



EXPLORING THE FULLNESS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY TO FIND BETTER WAYS OF LIVING TODAY

**Sunday 1 February 2009
6 pm**

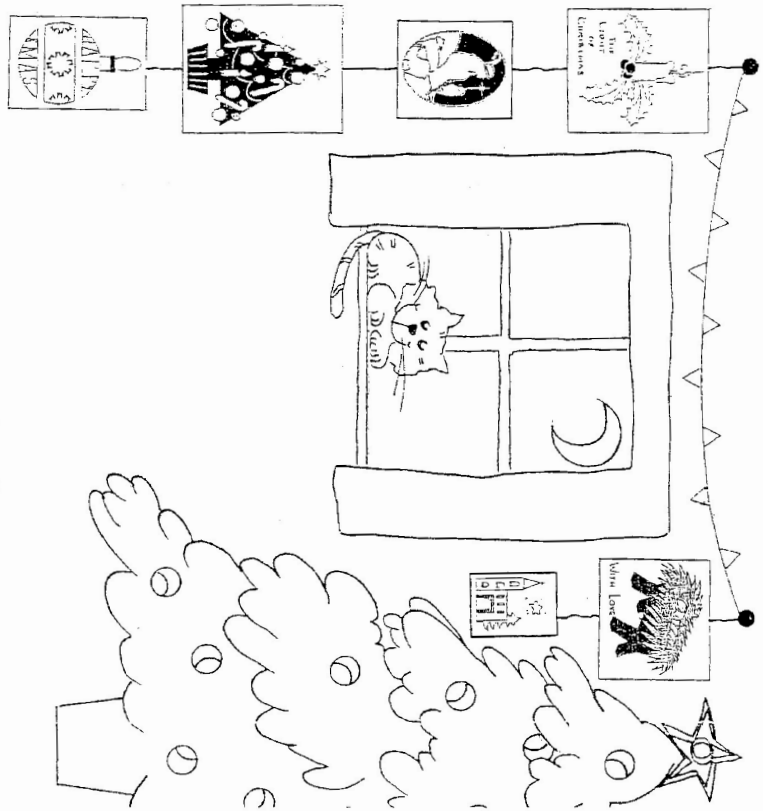
**SERVICE OF ORTHODOX
VESPERS
with a choir**

followed by a talk by Deacon Constantine on
Icons

at St Nicolas" Church, Bury Street, Guildford

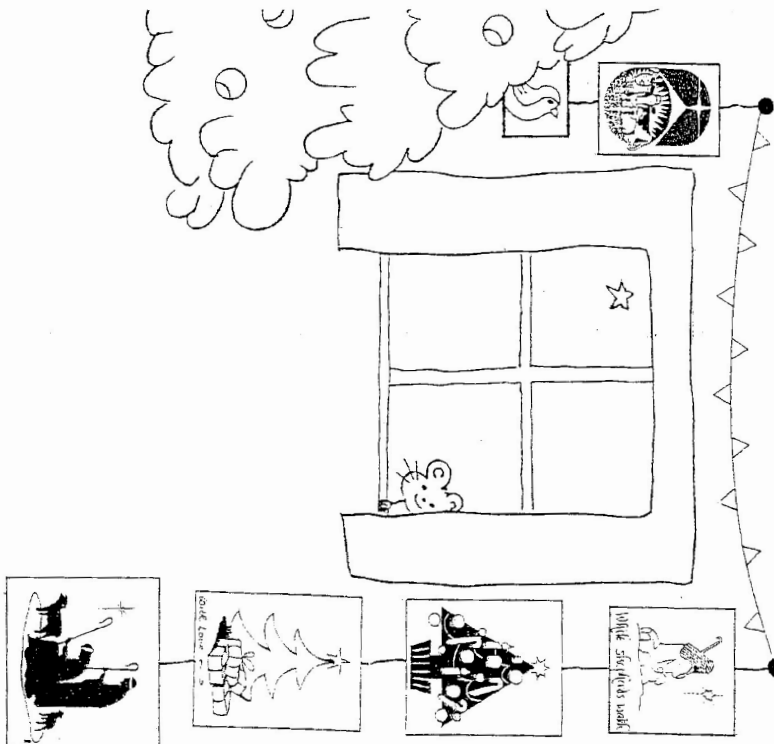
Page 10 can be cut out if needed

Here is a room with a Christmas Tree after all the presents have been opened!



- Can you spot?**
- Two cards the same
 - Two cards with the same words
 - A robin
 - Seven sheep

Can you guess the cat's name? Here's a clue...
... it's LEON backwards



Can you see one card that says "Xmas" instead of Christmas? Is that sad??

By the way How old is a Christmas tree? Fir-ty, of course!
What do you call the lights on a Christmas tree? Fir-y lights!

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St Mary's Toddler Groups

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Monday afternoon,
Thursday and Friday
mornings during term time
in the church hall.

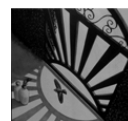
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Calendar for January



- S 3 **Gala Dinner** at the TA Centre
- S 4 **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**
Procession at the Sung Eucharist.
- S 11 **THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**
Book of Common Prayer Eucharist at 0800.
Procession at the Sung Eucharist.
Holy Baptism at Mattins.
1800 Solemn Evensong (see page 6)
- T 13 1430 External Affairs Committee Meeting
- W 14 2000 Standing Committee Meeting
- S 18 **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.
- W 21 1930 Estates Committee Meeting
- S 25 **THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL**
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends today.
- W 28 2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

There are several routine events which are not usually mentioned in the Calendar, largely because they concern particular people on a regular basis, and those concerned do not really need to be constantly reminded of days and times. However, others may wish to know about them. These activities include such things as the three Toddler Groups, bell-ringing practice, Choir Club and Choir Practice, the Wednesday Coffee Morning, Friday morning flower arranging and the like. Further details about these activities may be obtained from the Office: details of opening hours on page 2. There is also appropriate information on our website at www.stmarysewell.com. This note will appear every few months or so just as general information.

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