



# EWELL PARISH NEWS



The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin

No.413

June 2007

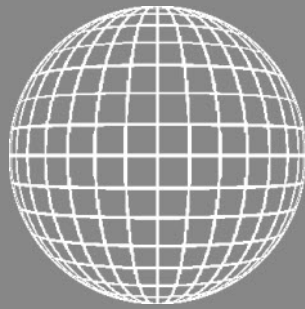
60p

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

**"GOD MADE THE COUNTRY, AND MAN --- "**

## TIME

**The Most  
Influential  
People in  
The World**



are those whose prayers Jesus hears and passes on to the Father.

### **The Time 100**

dwelling in that time-warp spun by recent events and the media,

whereas God the Father creates, builds and develops from ever and forever. Our present Environment and Climate Change excitement is really about whether worldlings are destroying God's creation and what the future holds for worldlings.

The fact that many Gadarene Swine are now trying to dig in their trotters and halt the headlong heat (Epsom and Ewell's afternoon temperature in April was 10<sup>0</sup> above average) cannot hide the fact that the world's media is part of the problem, and that Hell, far from being Dante's Inferno, might just be a mundane suburban burn-up.

John The Baptist, one of two cousins who became, and have remained, the fulcrum of history, addressed the people of his day with – "Oh, generation of vipers,

who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Whether we today regard the media as a generation of vipers, a snake-pit, a can of worms, or a journalistic maze, we need to recognise that, while Time's 100 Influential People may help (and help more if we pray for them) any real hope for the future lies in those who, unknown and unsung, pray The Lord's Prayer every day out of a sincere love for God and their fellows.

Are we in St Mary's among them? Are the good people we live among busy with private prayer? Are we really praying for God's world, or just to prolong such present comfort as we have?

These are testing questions which may become more testing if the predicted warmer weather arrives.

Our Father,  
Which art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name,  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
As it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.



# THE VICAR writes

## ONLY ONE CHURCHWARDEN ELECTED

We were not able to elect a second churchwarden at the official meeting on 29 April. It was not clear that this was going to happen, for a variety of reasons, until the morning of the actual day. The position is that Mr David Crick is the elected churchwarden, and Dr Dance remains in post until 31 July. After that, unless someone surfaces in the meantime, we shall only have one churchwarden, which is far from being an ideal state of affairs, when we are nearing the time of an interregnum in the parish. Those most directly involved in these things are much concerned about the situation, and we hope that this is not going to be more than a very short-term problem, but I have to say that no-one has so far made 'discreet inquiries', and we are not a little exercised by the problem. Anyone who feels that a four-year term in office is something that could be taken on should have a word with either of the churchwardens or with myself.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Usually at this time of year I include some extracts from my annual Review of the Year, which I give at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. However, one of the results of having to have an Annual Report as a fixed feature of the APCM is that the Vicar's own review is not quite the same vast document that it tended to be in past years. Not everyone sees the Annual Report, because not everyone attends the APCM, so this year the substance of the Annual Report will be printed in *Ewell Parish News*. The extracts printed below from my own Review really only supplement the material in the other document. However, they do enable me to say (amongst other things) some words of thanks to people who really deserve them, and for which the formal structure of the Annual Report does not really make provision. Here are some of the main points of my own Review.

'My brothers and sisters in Christ', as I look back over some of these yearly reviews I keep finding all the signs of a busy and active Christian community, and although some years are clearly more eventful than others, there is never a time when St Mary's seems to stand still.



None of this would be possible were it not for the willing offering of time and talents by so many people, some of whom hold office in the parish, whilst others just get on quietly in the background, but all doing things which are essential to the life and work of a busy parish church. I must particularly pay tribute to the work of the retiring churchwarden, Dr David Dance. A man of high academic and professional ability, he has brought that mind to bear on the very different complexities of St Mary's Ewell, and in a whole range of activities he has been the model of a hands-on and mind-on churchwarden. I have valued his counsel and support greatly, and it is good that he will be continuing as Chairman of the Finance Group and a member of the Standing Committee of the PCC. His four years have been very eventful, and with the very real support of Jenny he has exercised his office of churchwarden here with distinction. After a year in office David Crick has settled into post, and has been dealing with his own specialities, particularly in connexion with chairing a new Health and Safety Committee. Lynne Yuille continues her long service as the Administrator here, and it is difficult to know how much we owe to her calm efficiency in the office. Roughly once a term the Vicar, Churchwardens and Administrator meet for the sort of meeting which really only concerns them. All sorts of detailed points come up on what is usually quite a long agenda. These meetings seldom finish before 11.30 p.m. Then I must express my own thanks, as well as those of the congregation, to those who assist me in the actual conduct of Christian worship. The list is long, as a glance at the various rotas reveals quite clearly. Obviously I must single out the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller, who can always be relied

## St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH

# 020 8393 2643

Website: [www.stmarysewell.com](http://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

Dr David Dance 020 8393 4804 Mr David Crick 07850 709461

## 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: [stmarysewell@btopenworld.com](mailto:stmarysewell@btopenworld.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.

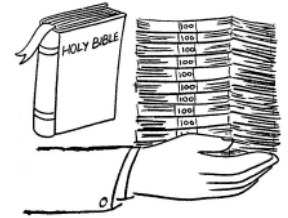
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upon give us thought-provoking words from the pulpit and equally thought-provoking discussions during Lent. Wendy Varney and Reg Saunders continue to give us of their own distinctive styles, and I must pay tribute to the way in which Wendy Varney has taken on board funeral ministry, something which I know to be greatly appreciated. Iain McKillop has also given us not just works of art but words of wisdom; we wish him well as he nears the time for attending a Selection Conference in connexion with ordained ministry among us. It is difficult to know who else to mention, for fear of leaving people out, and so I formally but sincerely thank everyone else for all that they do; but I will make just one exception, and that is David Slattery. David tends to churchyards, but also tends those who visit them. A man of sensitivity in word and deed, David has exercised a ministry in the churchyard for which we must all be truly grateful. He has given us wise counsel in bodies like the Standing Committee, where he has that unerring gift of recalling us all to fundamentals. Nevertheless, he cannot go on in the churchyard for ever, and the Annual Report fires the warning shot that he will be finishing there at the end of this year, and it spells out the implications of this.



We expect to receive shortly a very substantial legacy from the estate of the late Olga Cooper. Those responsible for the finances here will be the first to say that it cannot come too soon. We have been very prudent in our housekeeping, as the accounts will reveal, but we are still living beyond our means, and we cannot blame everything on the Diocesan Quota. Our Christian Stewardship has greatly improved as a result of Parish Funding Programme in 2005, but Miriam Massey (our Stewardship Recorder) will be more than ready to welcome into the planned giving scheme any who are not yet members of it. I would ask those in the scheme to keep their figure under an annual review, and perhaps think of a place for us in their wills.

Although we do not have many members of the congregation who are not involved in some additional aspect of St Mary's life to that of Sunday worship, it is clear by a glance at the Annual Report how much work is actually put in by individuals, how many 'person-hours' are put in, how much is done quietly in the background, how much time is spent in committee-work, and all out of love for God and his Church. St Mary's is a church well-used and well-loved, and I am constantly reminding myself of the work that is done by so many members of the congregation. People do take new things on, and perhaps this is the point to thank Jenny Dance for taking on the job of assembling (if that is the right word) the *Ewell Parish News* in place of Mr Les Winter who has now retired. This is a detailed and artistic job, and already there are signs that different hands are at work. This may also be the moment for thanking Lloyd Mullen for his editorial work, and indeed for his editorials, which are generally quite thought-provoking, and not infrequently raise eyebrows.

However, there are some significant gaps. There is a fair amount about the External Affairs Committee in the Annual Report, but I must add one or two not very welcome points. Firstly, it is a matter of growing concern to me that no-one has yet surfaced to take charge of the committee. The famous Toronto Statement, way back in the sixties, said that the Church which lives for itself will die by itself. Our external concerns are important ones. This year our Lenten Project had something of the domestic about it, since it concerned our twinned parish in Guyana, and the provision of a more substantial church for the aboriginal Amerindians some fifty miles up country from Corriverton. But it is obviously still something external; and our charitable giving at Christmas, and our Michaelmas Market in the autumn are an important way of bringing home to ourselves that the Church of God is a worldwide body, and all God's people are meant (as the scripture says) to 'bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.' I am stressing this point today, because - secondly - I am aware that the Michaelmas Market is not all that far away. The External Affairs Committee chooses the four particular charities each year. There is no chairman of External Affairs; but more importantly there is as yet no-one to run the Michaelmas Market. It will be a tragedy if we cannot mount this event. It was new last year, having replaced the pre-Christmas Market, and it was a pleasant and happy occasion. Ruth and Frank Stockwell have run both events for some years, and we have known for quite some time that last year would be the final market which they would run. I shall frankly be very dismayed (for what that is worth) if no-one surfaces to take this job on. Ruth Stockwell can certainly give any information about it. It is in no way as demanding as the Village Fair, but unless someone takes it on there will be no Michaelmas Market this year; four charities will lose out; and we shall have to ask ourselves some hard questions about living for ourselves and dying by ourselves.

The preparations for this year's Village Fair are well under way. All the money from that comes to us. I have heard mutterings that some of the money should be given away, but I do not share that view;

*Continued on page 4*

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*Continued from page 3* **THE VICAR WRITES**

it is a major part of our annual income. We lay on a Fair for the Village, and it presents an opportunity for all who come to it to support the parish church which exists for them - whether or not they ever come through its doors. Last year's Fair was, I think, the best I can remember. The takings once again were good, the atmosphere great, and it just seems to get better and better each year. Ian and Kathie Burgess have once again done a splendid job, though they themselves will be quick to say that it is a team effort, and our thanks must go to all who worked so hard on the day. St Mary's Fair is the envy of most of the other parishes around here.

We received a beautiful set of rose vestments from Barbara Cannon in memory of Frank, and matching falls for the pulpit and lectern have now also been received as part of this benefaction. We are very grateful to Barbara for this generous gift. We have got some very fine vestments now, as befits a fine parish church such as ours. Some of the older stuff was, quite frankly, very unworthy for use in the sanctuary. We have recently received a welcome gift from Valerie Fuller in the form of a small snuffer; the big snuffers quite often drop wax about the place - the little one doesn't. Sermon courses have included an Advent one from Wendy Varney and Iain McKillop on 'Christ the Refiner', and I have been giving a course on



the Lord's Prayer, of which half has been given, and the second half will take place after Corpus Christi. At the versatile 1100 slot we have had a delightful Valentine-tide Mattins, when we welcomed back couples who had been married here. They ranged from some of those married within the past twelve months to some who were married here many years ago. It was a lovely occasion, and perhaps it is the sort of thing we should be doing about once every three years or so. (So tell the new Vicar, because I shall have gone by then.) Also at 1100 there were two Lenten services of Mattins with Stations of the

Cross and music by J S Bach. Our Stations are very versatile, and it was good to have them down on the pillars during Lent.

Then I really must apologise for the unacceptably long delay in getting the two books *in situ* in connexion with the Garden of Remembrance and the Millennium-Jubilee window. These have not been forgotten about, but both I and Iain McKillop - who are both concerned in different ways with these matters - have not been able to process these matters as quickly as we might have hoped. However, the delay cannot be allowed to last much longer, and I hope (and indeed expect) that by this time next year we shall see both books in position.

Three of our junior choristers did exceptionally well in the RSCM awards last autumn: Rebecca Gocher got her Bishop's Award with distinction; Neil Fraser also got his, and with merit; and Emma Chubb got her Dean's Award. In November Jonathan Holmes brought his choir from Emanuel School to sing the wonderful Duruflé *Requiem* at the evening Requiem on All Souls Day. An augmented choir sang Mozart's *Coronation Mass* at the Midnight Mass of Christmas.



We have come a long way together these twenty-four years, and now we are really on a much-needed plateau. It is a time for some consolidation, and for thinking about the things we do reasonably well here, and which make St Mary's what it is. Certainly by Christmas next year you will be moving on without me, and will need God's grace and human skills to prepare for the arrival of your new priest. Meanwhile, we carry on what we are doing, to God's greater glory, and for the good of his Church and people. God bless you all!

Your friend and Parish Priest,

Richard Hanford

**THE BEATITUDES - 21st Century Virtues?**

*You are warmly invited to join us for fellowship and study on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Room. This month we will be looking at the "Beatitudes" in Matthew 5:3-12 & Luke 6:20-23.*

**THE BEATITUDES** - At the heart of Jesus' teaching are these few simple verses, the "Blessed are...s" that many of us remember from childhood. But are they SO simple? The exultation of meekness, poverty of spirit and purity certainly don't seem to reflect virtues that are popular aspirations for 21st Century life. They were probably also revolutionary for many of Christ's hearers. We will be considering what they meant in their time and how they apply to us today, as individuals, as the Church and to the World.

- Tu 5 June Reading the Beatitudes in context... What are they?
- Tu 12 June Should "Meekness" and "Poverty" be 21stC aspirations?
- Tu 19 June Do we still hunger for "Righteousness" and "Purity"?
- Tu 26 June "Peacemaking" and "Mercy" after 9/11
- Tu 3 July Is the church strengthened by "Persecution" and "Insult"?
- Tu 10 July SUMMER BREAK

**VENUE**

The Parish Room (entry at the back of the church)

Tuesday Evenings

7.30 - 8.00 pm Coffee & Chat .

8.00 - 9.30 pm Discussion and Study

to be sure to finish by 9.30 pm

*We look forward to seeing you there and hope that all will feel welcome to attend. If you know anyone who you would like to invite, please do! Lifts can be arranged.*

**Contact: Iain McKillop: Tel. 01932 341687**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when people insult you ... because of me."*

**Matthew 5:3-11**

**BACK AT THE OLD JOB**

The Vicar has been back at the Cathedral several times recently, doing his old job of singing the weekday Choral Evensong, since the present Precentor is having a period of sabbatical leave. By a curious coincidence, on the very first occasion the parish and parish priest being prayed for in the Diocesan calendar of prayer was St Mary's, Ewell. The first time also took place on a day when the Friends of Cathedral Music were meeting at Guildford, another one coincided with a meeting of the Cathedral Council (of which the Vicar is a member), and yet another with a meeting of the College of Canons. The Vicar says that it has been a pleasant trip down Memory Lane. It is now nearing twenty-five years since he left the Cathedral after five years as Canon-Precentor to come to Ewell, and there have been four Precentors since then.

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### St Mary's Toddler Groups

Sessions are held on Monday afternoon,  
Thursday & Friday mornings  
in term time in the church hall.

For more information:  
contact Jenny, tel 020 8393 4804



## FFEE MORNINGS

WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY  
FROM 10.30 am – 12 noon

DO COME AND JOIN US

Coach Outing to Eastbourne

The coach for Eastbourne on Thursday 21 June will depart from St Mary's at 9.30 sharp and return to Ewell at 18.00 - 18.30.

There are a few seats still available at £10 each, and anyone who is interested should contact Joan Boulden or Lynne Yuille without delay.

## SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
 Forgive our foolish ways;  
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
 In purer lives Thy service find,  
 In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
 Beside the Syrian sea,  
 The gracious calling of the Lord,  
 Let us, like them, without a word  
 Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
 O calm of hills above,  
 Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
 The silence of eternity,  
 Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
 Till all our strivings cease;  
 Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
 And let our ordered lives confess  
 The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
 Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
 Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
 O still small voice of calm.

*John Greenleaf Whittler, 1807-1892*

This popular American Quaker was born on a farm in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and he worked hard for a meagre education. After some success as a poet and in local politics he was planning to run for Congress, but, following his "inner voice", he sacrificed political ambition to become a champion of the abolition of slavery.

## THE 2007 SERIES OF ORGAN RECITALS AT ST MARY'S, EWELL

Saturday, 16 June 19.30

**SIMON GREGORY***Programme:*Mohrentanz: *Susato arr. Rawsthorne*Concerto in D minor BWV 596: *Vivaldi arr. J. S. Bach*Ein Stück für ein Orgelwerk in einer Uhr K. 594: *Mozart arr. Henking*Sicilienne: *J.S. Bach arr. Vierne*Wachet Auf Ruft Uns Die Stimme BWV645: *J. S. Bach*Overture to "St Paul": *Mendelssohn arr. Best*

## INTERVAL

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29: *J.S. Bach arr. Guilmant*

Three Dances Caracteristiques from "The Nutcracker":

*Tchaikovsky arr. Nevin*

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Dance Arabe

Dance of the Reed Pipes

Berceuse and Finale from "L'Oiseau de Feu": *Stravinsky arr. Besly*Imperial March: *Elgar arr. Martin*The Funeral March of a Marionette: *Gounod arr. Best*The Stars and Stripes Forever: *Sousa arr. Biggs*Hornpipe Humoresque: *Rawsthorne*

Admission by ticket £5 in advance or £6 at the door

Under 16s get in free!

Interval refreshments available

Next recital: 8 September: *Jonathan Holmes***'OF CYCLE-CLIPS', DILEMMAS & 'HERE ENDETH'  
DR PATRICK MILLER'S LENT TALKS 2007**

The laundress, as she liked to call herself, was walking along the perilous path down the dark side of the church. It was a murky night. She was battling with the pouring rain and a harsh gale. She was startled to hear a sudden loud peal of bells. She looked up at the bell tower, stumbled, and narrowly missed falling into an ancient, sunken grave. She clung to something grassy in the dark. I suppose the bell-ringers have to start suddenly, there's no other way with bells, she thought, wiping the mud off her hands.

She reached the back door steps and thankfully grabbed the iron ring of the heavy oak door and heaved it open. She failed to notice the clump of muddy grass attached to the heel of her right shoe. Fortunately, the dog walkers, who frequent the churchyard, had been diligent in doing their duty with the plastic bags.

She was one of the last to arrive, and as she stood there in the light of the Parish Room, she could see people busily dragging out the familiar metal chairs, from the piles stacked against the walls. There was a motley gathering of people, still wearing their gloves and scarves against the chill. Some were frequent churchgoers, others lived nearby and were curious. The remainder were habitual, seasoned Lent Talk attenders, except for two who declared "We usually never darken the doors of a church, but we do want to discuss the dilemma of *Poverty*, global poverty, and to hear what the Church is doing about it."

The titles of Dr Miller's talks: *Life and Death Matters; Modern Superstitions; Poverty; Do We Need The Church?; Medical Dilemmas* and *Media Ethics* were daunting, and intellectually demanding. The nervous laundress began to wish she had stayed at home to iron altar cloths. But in no time at all, she was engaged in spirited discussion and noticed some people were even being argumentative for the sheer hell of it.

Dr Patrick Miller could and did spring surprises on his audience. At the start of the talk on *Modern Superstitions*, he began by asking Canon Richard Hanford, to imagine himself as an

antique dealer. Could this have been an allusion to the age of the congregation? The Vicar had to concentrate on one of those plain plastic stacking tables, that quietly proliferate in meeting places such as church halls. He described the age of the table, the purpose of its design, its value, the materials employed in its manufacture, the relation between its form and function and its aesthetic value. Next Gilda was asked to describe the table from the point of view of a housewife. She deftly described cakes, tea cups, linen table cloths, napkins, teaspoons, milk jug, sugar bowl and teapot. It all sounded delicious and mouth-watering. The laundress was thankful that she had not been given the housewife theme. The only image that she could summons up was a mug on a bare wooden table, no saucer, just a spoon, with the newspaper propped up on a milk bottle, a cloth to mop up the drips, and the dog snoozing under the table. But the dog part of this image was not to be despised. When discussing *Life and Death Matters*, and the 'eternal stability of existence,' Dr Miller referred to something the French philosopher and theologian, Peter Abelard had said, "Happiness is a dog sleeping in the sun. He is ... out of time".

They continued to discuss the table from the viewpoints of a carpenter who described the materials and skills used in its construction, a civil servant, a historian, and so on. She wondered if somebody would be asked to knock twice on it, and hear a ghostly voice answering or, perhaps see it begin to revolve. But she was not concentrating properly. Dr Patrick Miller had moved on to explaining how Christianity differed so significantly from Spiritualism and other superstitions.

Without realizing it, she had learnt from this exercise much about the variety of viewpoints human beings can have, concerning even the seemingly, most straightforward aspects of life, let alone religion. The memory of this talk would linger on in the mind for some time to come. It was summed up for her in one of Dr Miller's quotations on freedom of speech, in the discussion on *Media Ethics*: "Truth, in the great practical concerns of life

*Continued on page 8*

## THE PARISH IN ACTION

### No.1: ARRANGING SUNDAY

#### f) Special Sundays and Festivals.

This was to have been the last piece of Item No.1, but there is a lot in EPN this month, and the bit about arranging the 'Occasional Offices' will need to be held over until next month. 'To repeat some key words about this first item: 'Whilst there is clearly much more to say about *The Parish in Action* than just talking about arranging Sunday, the fact remains that the arranging of our worship and the offering of it remains the first claim on the activity of any parish church. All churches are centres of worship and mission, but the worship comes first. Most of the 'mission' is not dependent upon the church building; in normal circumstances the worship always is.'

Special Sundays are really of two types. There are those where a particular feature has some bearing on the liturgical calendar, and there are those which involve external factors, such as Remembrance Sunday. At St Mary's some distinctive features happen every year; some only occasionally. Some are now and again missed out, because even a twelve-month interval may not really be long enough. 'Here we are again' can sometimes be said with resignation rather than with eagerness, when it comes around with unfailing regularity. So perhaps in one year the local feature of *The Procession of the Scriptures* on 'Bible Sunday' may be missed out, but perhaps something like *The Procession of the Three Kings* may have re-appeared earlier in that same year. At St Mary's some of our special services relate to the musical tradition here, and into that category come such services as *The Reading and Music of the Passion* or (something we have not had for some years) *The Advent Procession*. However, all these occasions have to be devised or compiled, and this process often needs consultation, documents printed, and various aspects of the proceedings rehearsed. Sometimes the rehearsals involve different groups: singers, readers and servers. They may all have different jobs, but together they combine in the actual service to make their own distinctive contribution to the overall act of worship itself.

The festivals obviously have features which set them apart from routine Sundays. Christmas has its carols. However, normally there is much additional preparatory work to take place. Some things are obvious, like putting up the Christmas Crib, but it all takes time and effort, and often a good measure of painstaking care. A good example is the Easter Garden, something which cannot be hastily assembled; much loving care goes into it each year, and it is clearly a labour of love. Similarly, there is always something different, even spectacular, about the church flowers on these occasions, even though it is not always easy to say exactly what makes these displays so special and different.

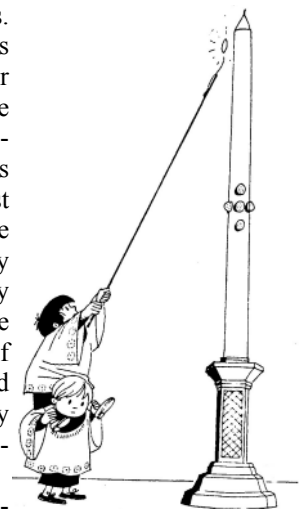
Devotionally, our life at St Mary's revolves around two main focal points, which are conveniently roughly six months apart. One is Holy Week and Easter, and the other is the Patronal Festival. (Christmas in one sense looks after itself; surprisingly, there is a basic simplicity to the arranging of Christmas services.) Holy Week has some of the most beautiful services in the year, but which at the same time can be spiritually very demanding, even draining. Palm Sunday at St Mary's used to involve (quite properly) an outdoor Procession of Palms, but in recent years we have done 'a measure of retrenchment' and returned indoors, but there are still plenty of things to do with leaflets,

palms, the 'parish donkey' (actually it belongs to Ewell Grove School), and a complicated memorandum which varies from year to year, because there are different ways of 'doing' Palm Sunday, and we have availed ourselves of most of the options over the years. Maundy Thursday has, arguably, the most complicated service of the entire year to arrange, bearing in mind that it has to take into its system such features as the Reception of the Holy Oils, the Footwashing, the Procession to the Altar of Repose, the removal of all but the most basic of features in readiness for the starkness of the bare church of Good Friday, and then the maintenance of the Watch of the Passion until midnight. Some of the detailed preparation for Good Friday has to take place at the end of the Watch at midnight. Similarly, putting everything back on Holy Saturday, and assembling all the features of the Easter Liturgy, is something which cannot be rushed, because it is all part of an enacted parable of our waiting for the Risen Christ.

The Patronal Festival also has features which necessitate a fair amount of preparation. It is usually spread over two Sundays, one of which also serves as the Dedication Festival; the Patronal Festival Sunday concentrates on our patron saint, and her response to the call of God, whilst the Dedication Festival concentrates on our local church and its role as the local manifestation of the body of Christ. Various devotional features have evolved to emphasise the devotional character of these days: there is the post-Communion Procession of Our Lady, and the renewal of our own baptismal vows on the Patronal Festival Sunday, and on the Dedication Festival there is provision for the various parts of the church to be visited, and the implications of each item reflected upon.

Spread around the year are other distinctive acts of worship. Sometimes the architecture of the building, or some particular feature of it, will ultimately dictate how a certain day is observed. Candlemas is a good example, and at St Mary's we have observed the festival in several ways. However, we have a major Candlemas feature at St Mary's, and that is our great west window, which depicts the Candlemas scene. One text of the Candlemas rite which we use actually takes part of the procession up to the west window itself, and that is probably due next year. Here too there is much by way of preparation, and (in this day and age) various safety points to be borne in mind, when most members of the congregation are carrying lighted candles. That is one of the reasons why we discontinued the Christingle Service some years ago.

All the preparations for these services involve orders of service, memoranda, rehearsing of music and movements, and often finding additional equipment which is only occasionally used. In the case of occasions like Remembrance Sunday there are also other 'cultures' to take into account: there is the matter of civic conventions and protocol, and of



*Continued from page 7* **THE PARISH IN ACTION**

liaising with the Town Hall; there is the matter of being sensitive to the ex-Service community, and of taking into account that many young people will be present, who will have little awareness of what goes on in church. (It always amazes me, however, that these young people always listen most intently to the sermon on Remembrance Sunday; they don't fidget or mutter - they concentrate and listen.) In services of this sort, and indeed at the Midnight Mass of Christmas, the presence of those who are unfamiliar with our ways dictates in some measure how the proceedings are to be conducted. Both Remembrance Sunday and Midnight Mass are good examples of how essential is such sensitivity. We cannot expect people to know our in-house tunes (like, say, the melody of the Creed), or the pointing of the psalms, and a careful balance has to be struck between choral and congregational music on the occasions when we have a large congregation comprised mainly of people who are not on a wavelength which is natural to us but not to them. At the end of the day, they have come to us, and hope to find something which speaks to them as well as to the regular congregation. If this is the case with formal services, it is even more important, perhaps, in connexion with the so-called 'Occasional Offices', when we are ministering within a specifically family-and-friends context, and the last in the series of 'Arranging Sunday' will deal with these occasions, even though - apart from Holy Baptism - they seldom take place on a Sunday.

### **Agnes May (Babs) Peerman R.I.P.**

Babs Peerman, elder sister of Edna Attwood, lived a long and full life - celebrating her 90th birthday last December. We give thanks for that life. She will be missed by very many people.

She was born in 1916 at Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey and remained on the Island of Sheppey until after her marriage to Jack in 1939 at Minster Abbey Church.

Babs' great love was her family - with 3 children, 10 grandchildren and quite recently a great grandson (who is called Jack after his great-grandfather). She took a very great interest in what they were doing.

Recently she had been delighted to see three of her grandchildren married and to know that another grandchild is soon to be married.

The importance to Babs of her Christian faith was illustrated in her various activities.

She was involved with the Sunday School at St. Barnabas, Mitcham and St. John's, Old Malden. At St. Mary's she was on the Missions Committee and after Jack died in 1983 she took over from him as a trustee of the Ewell Parochial Trusts. She remained very committed to Missions and Charities right to the end of her life.

She was a great believer in the power of prayer. Prayer and Bible Study were very important in her life. At St. Mary's she was a committed participant in a small Mothers Union group who met once a month to pray together. When she was able she used to go on Retreats organised by the MU. The Mothers' Union midday prayer was something she continued until very recently. Over the last few years she became an "Indoor" member and later a "Twilight" member ... and it has been said of such people that they are the Mothers' Union's treasures.

She was a regular communicant - in later years receiving the sacrament at home.

Her life was characterised by love. Love for God, love and concern for her family and compassion for those who have been less fortunate in life.

*Continued from page 6* **'OF CYCLE-CLIPS' ...**

is... a question of reconciling and combining of opposites...Only through diversity of opinion is there...a chance of fair play to all sides of truth" (J.S.Mill, 1859, Essay on Liberty)

The following week they discussed *Poverty*. She felt guilty that she did little about it, beyond giving some annual donations to charity and exuding sympathy.

Dr Miller quoted from the poet William Blake - "He who would do good must do it in minute particulars"

She thought of Edna, who year after year, asked everybody she met at church to knit a square. Those squares were sown together to make blankets for the homeless.

The laundress had been too idle to respond. She was reminded of the quotation from "King Lear, "Nothing will come of nothing"\*.

The cynics in the group were encouraged to speak and to explain their views on global poverty. One declared 'The Church is rich, why else do bishops live in palaces and wear golden vestments?' The attempts of Church and State to deal with global poverty is ineffectual. The Church is too busy arguing about women bishops.' To their surprise, they were enthusiastically invited to come back for the rest of the course, to continue making challenging statements.

They were into the fifth week of the Lent talks when they started discussing *The Church, is it necessary? What is it for?* There were various contentious views expressed. Some thought it remote and unfriendly, others thought there was too much ritual. They discussed the widely varying styles of service held in surrounding churches. Some talked of services where the language of the litany had been 'dumbed down'; others referred to church music being played on guitars and drums instead of the traditional church organ. At this point Dr Miller introduced us to the poem "Church Going" by Philip Larkin:

"Once I am sure there's nothing going on  
I step inside, letting the door thud shut.  
Another church: matting, seats, and stone,  
And little books; sprawlings of flowers, cut  
For Sunday, brownish now; some brass and stuff  
Up at the holy end; the small neat organ;  
And a tense, musty, unignorable silence,  
Brewed God knows how long. Hatless, I take off  
My bicycle clips in awkward reverence,.....  
.....  
Mounting the lectern, I peruse a few  
Hectoring large-scale verses, and pronounce  
"Here endeth!" much more loudly than I'd meant."  
.....

Dr Miller supplied the group with four verses of this poem, muttering that he had omitted a further three. He did not explain why. When she returned home, the laundress found the poem in her "Anthology of English Literature", and discovered that the missing verses would have been irrelevant for her church, after all, one of them began with the line "Or after dark, will dubious women come". The other two verses were similarly inappropriate. The following Sunday she was tempted to show other people the three omitted verses. She liked to make people smile, even laugh. But on reflection, she felt it was a bit frivolous for church, especially during Lent, better to let sleeping dogs lie.

Marion Rao

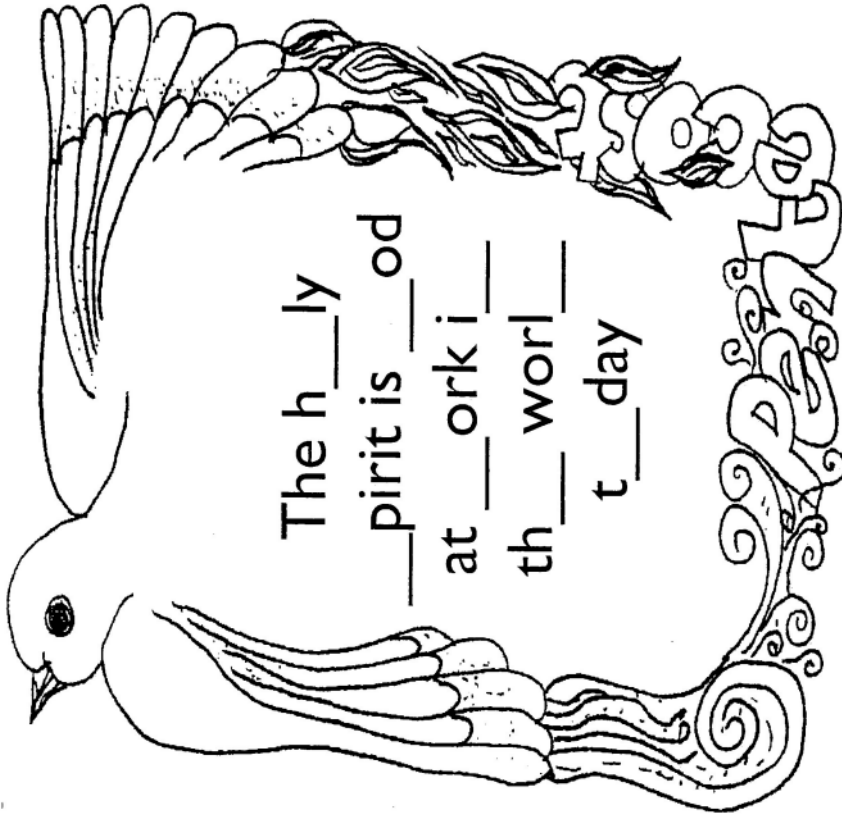
\* Shakespeare's King Lear I.i (92)

Pages 9 and 10 can be cut out if needed

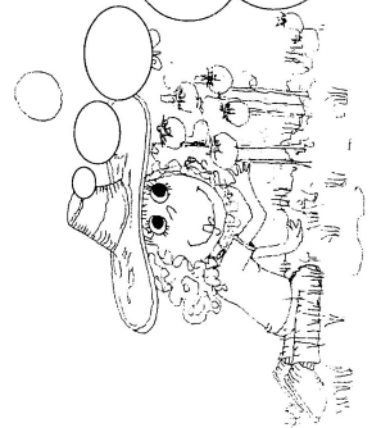
# Young Church May

27<sup>th</sup> May 2007: Day of Pentecost; John 8-17 (25 - 27)

Fit the letters of good news into the gaps



Let us pray for God's church on its birthday.  
 Let us pray that the Church family may grow in many ways in the coming year. Amen.



At Pentecost the disciples had a marvellous surprise – the Holy Spirit came to them!

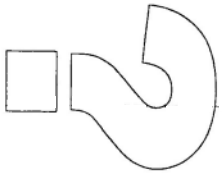
### A Pentecost word search for you to do

B W F F T X S F F Y V C S W L E Y  
 Z Z F F Q N G P C C E N J R R X Q  
 F J Y Y U J E J I U Q P I R U C  
 S Z T T T Y J D D G R E F I S Z M  
 Z F H F F V P N I N I K Y S E N  
 E M A L L F O P T F I T N N V E  
 J Q Z L T V E A T N N U D U A J  
 S H G U U C D E H N O W S R H  
 T W Y V V O Q C N V Z C T B R  
 R X F S P R A I S R R D W I N D  
 O P T W K F H T A U J V H E J  
 N R A J R Q U O J R A W W D O  
 G X Y A A D O G I L L U R M K O N  
 Q M I H R C R E Z Y X J R R V N  
 E D U S E L P I C S I D F E G

- AFFRAID BRAVE CONFIDENT DISCIPLE DOVE
- FIRE FLAME GOD HAPPY HOLY
- KITE PRAISED SPIRIT STRONG
- TONGUES WHITSUN WIND PENTECOST

### Did you know?.....

- A dove's feathers weigh **MORE** than its bones
- A dolphin has a bigger brain than a human
- Another name for Pentecost is Whit Sunday.

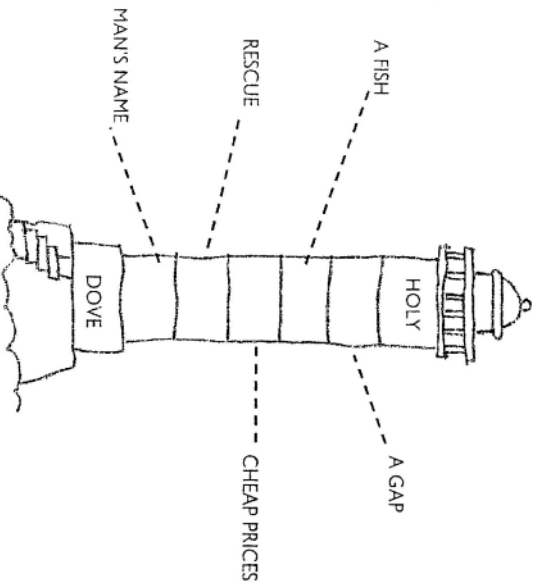
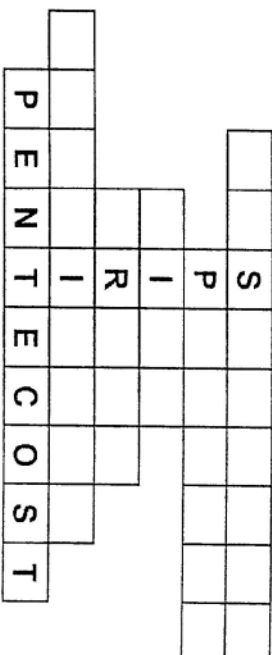
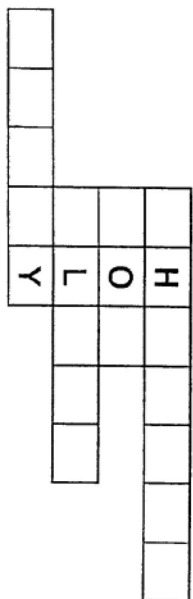
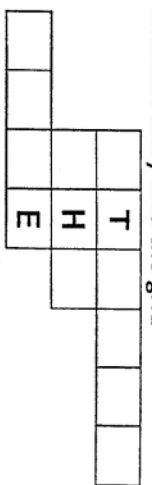


Some families go out and fly kites because it reminds them that the Holy Spirit came like a rushing wind to the disciples at the first Pentecost.

Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells Youth and Children's Parishes Team

### Fill the 12 words of the Pentecost story into the grid

- Whitsun
- Fire
- Flame
- Strong
- Wind
- The
- Disciples
- Happy
- Brave
- Confident
- Praised
- God



Climb the  
 lighthouse from  
**DOVE** to **HOLY**  
 changing one letter  
 at a time, to make  
 a new word to  
 match the clue

## FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

### HOLY BAPTISM

**Be Christ's faithful soldier and servant**

6 May            Jessamy Anna Stevenson  
                       Sophie Ellen Alcock  
                       Sophie Louise Rose Barrell  
                       Isabelle Anne Barton  
                       Frankie Ronald Harley

### CONFIRMATION

**Strengthen them, we beseech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter  
 (BCP Confirmation rite)**

At the Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit, Guildford on 7 April 2007 at the Paschal Vigil,  
 by the Bishop of Guildford

Christina Jane Chubb

### HOLY MATRIMONY

**Till death us do part**

28 April            Richard James Udny-Lister and Victoria Rebecca Whitby

### FUNERALS

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord**

27 April            Agnes May (Babs) Peerman, aged 90  
 21 May             Eileen Mary Wood, aged 80

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### Lent Lunches

Three Lent Lunches were held during March in St Mary's Church Hall, to raise money towards a new brick church building at our twinned Parish in Guyana. Soup (sometimes homemade ) roll & butter, cheese, cups of coffee & tea were served to about 30 people on each of these occasions. With a well supported Bring & Buy stall and an excellent raffle each time, the sum of £450 as raised.

Thank you to all who supported these enjoyable Wednesday lunches.

### Fair Springboard

The sun shone beautifully for this springtime event held in the Church Hall. Tables laden with homemade cakes, tables groaning under the weight of hundreds of bedding plants and perennials, tables filled with books, bric-a-brac, and jewellery. There was an opportunity to buy tickets for the Summer Fair Grand Draw and the Springboard Raffle while enjoying the refreshments. We know that at least £470 was raised with some more plant sales to be added. A special thank you to Evelyn Jarrett for the huge contribution of plants, all carefully grown-on to be perfect for the day.

Thank you to everyone for making this such a happy social occasion, at the same time raising funds for the running of the Summer Fair in July.

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# Calendar for June



- S 3 **TRINITY SUNDAY**  
Junior choristers half-term; the services will be sung by the choir seniors
- M 4 1000 Vicar attends the Guildford House of Clergy meeting
- T 5 Vicar attends the College of Canons at Guildford
- W 6 2000 Meeting of the Social Committee
- Th 7 **CORPUS CHRISTI**  
1900 Solemn Eucharist and Corpus Christi Procession *Altar Servers and Communion Assistants' Festival.*  
Service sung by the Choir of Emanuel School, Clapham
- S 10 **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
**External Solemnity of Corpus Christi**
- M 11 2000 Meeting of the Finance Committee
- Sat 16
- 1930  
**ORGAN RECITAL by SIMON GREGORY**  
*Admission £6 (£5 in advance); under 16s free.*
- S 17 **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
1100 Prayer Book Sung Eucharist  
1600 Choral Evensong (see below)  
At 1500 the Vicar conducts the annual Surrey County Wreath-Laying ceremony at the Brookwood Memorial to the Missing.
- M 18 Holy Communion to the housebound.
- T 19 1730 Vicar officiating at the cathedral
- W 20 2000 Meeting of Vicar, Churchwardens and Administrator
- Th 21 Coffee Morning coach outing to Eastbourne
- S 24 **ST JOHN BAPTIST**  
0800 Book of Common Prayer Eucharist  
1600 Choral Evensong.

## SUMMER CHORAL EVENSONGS

This is a new venture this year, and it begins this month. Because it is something which has only recently been decided upon, the fine tuning has yet to be done, and full details cannot be given as yet. However, they will soon be available on our website, and on the Weekly Notes. The idea is that there will be a short run of four or five weeks of Choral Evensong at 'cathedral time', in other words round about afternoon tea time, and there will in fact be tea either before or after the service (that is one of the points to be decided). Now that the four-part choir is re-instated, this is a chance for the evening repertoire to be explored once more. Many members of the congregation appreciate the choral tradition at St Mary's, and this short series of Summer Choral Evensongs is an opportunity for those who wish to attend a formal, structured and non-eucharistic choral service to do so. There will not be a sermon at the service; the congregation at St Mary's is not short-changed on sermons, and there does not seem to be the need for one on these occasions. The service should normally last somewhere around forty minutes. If it is successful, we shall repeat this short season of afternoon choral services next year.

Sunday, 1 July. Advance notice that on this Sunday at 1100 there will be the annual service entitled *All Creatures Great and Small*, to which we invite all pets and their owners. This popular service seems to be growing each year.

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