



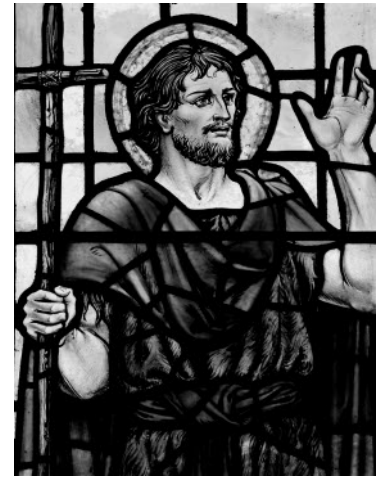
EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin

No.415

August 2007

60p



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

MANNERS MAKYTH MAN

The following is an edited extract from a national newspaper:-

"The company which is to be sold to a private equity group-----

---is famous for its aggressive sales practices which have sometimes overstepped the mark.

For some it is emblematic of all that is wrong with the industry.

---notorious for going in with high valuations to win business and charging well-above-average commission rates----

It was fined four years ago for---

It's success, however, is indisputable, and will net almost £380m. for ---"

The use of the word "success" demonstrates a distinctly non-British set of values, suggesting that practice doesn't matter so long as profit accrues.

The way in which our society is sliding in matters of respect, manners and honesty is a clear indication of what we worship.

Here at St. Mary's we unambiguously, clearly, simply, uncomplicatedly worship a God of Love, with fellow-feeling for all those we know and meet, including those who cause us trouble, pain and suffering.

This brings us into constant conflict with money-grubbing even though in our world we can't live without some money. It can be but a short step to regarding a job as "good" because it is well-paid; a short step to regarding an investment as "good" because it pays large dividends; a short step to not noticing the goodness of people who are kind, polite, considerate; a short step to considering corners can be cut on honesty.

Our present Christian task seems to be to revitalise Jesus' values in the body politic. With some people deluding themselves that God may not exist, the expression "Jesus values" is useful, for He did exist. To put His straightforward "Love your neighbour as yourself" to the (mis)directors of the firm in the newspaper report above is not easily done.

Some may respond to "the spirit of the thing", others to "British values". One never knows, but in this post-Trinity Sunday period we may be forgiven for saying that the present situation is such that "if The Holy Spirit didn't exist, we'd have to invent Him".

Look at what He did with Peter, Philip, Saul, Ananias, Cornelius, in the early chapters of Acts and countless others down the ages.

As so often the poets come to our aid, and the aid of all those seeking "British" attitudes - whether their disposition is militant or peaceful, and whether words like 'success' and 'good' have been demeaned by materialism.

I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

William Blake

Give me scallop shell of Quiet,
My staff of Faith to walk upon,
My scrip of Joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of Glory, Hopes true gage,
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

Sir Walter Raleigh



THE VICAR writes

SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT THIS MONTH

This month is always a time when St Mary's goes into a much-needed period of simplified activity, and in recent years this has been made all the more necessary by the Village Fair taking place at the end of July. We can all do with a bit of a break now. I shall be on leave for most of the month, though I shall be back in church by the weekend of 25/26 August. It also seems no bad idea for my space in this somewhat uneventful month to be occupied by the formal Annual Report which has to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting around Easter. The substance of my own Review of the Year has already been printed, but this document is an official account of what we have been doing, and for the benefit of a wider readership than just those who attended the APCM this document should make interesting reading. Certainly it makes very clear, even if in somewhat formal style, the sheer extent of what actually goes on in running a busy parish, and also the fact that so many people at St Mary's Ewell work very hard in various areas of parish life out of love for God and his Church. The general hands-on activity at the Village Fair has once again reminded us of this, but the Annual Report emphasises that such good work goes on in a host of different ways right throughout the year.

There is a lot planned for the autumn, and some of the details are in this month's paper.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Richard Hanford

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006

This is an abridged version of the Report presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29 April, and does not contain such items as the names of all those on the Parochial Church Council, the correct postal address, the names of our bankers and other information of that sort. There are clear directions as to how the material is to be presented, but in an abridged version such things are not needed. After that sort of information the substance of the Report continues thus:

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend St Mary's are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The committees are constituted to make full use of the professional expertise available within St. Mary's.

Standing Committee. This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee. The Committee was set up in 2006. It oversees all expenditure and it monitors income.

Estates Committee. Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of plant, such as the church buildings and fabric, the churchyard, the church hall and the vicarage.

Health and Safety Committee. This committee was set up in 2006 to deal with health and safety at St Mary's.

External Affairs Committee. The Committee has overall responsibility for St Mary's charitable fundraising, and for our overseas links with the parish of Corriverton in Guyana and the Jeel al Amal boys' home in Bethany. At Harvest, it supervises the distribution of food-

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

CHURCHWARDEN

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

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.

STOP PRESS!!

In spite of three cloud-bursts on the day, the surplus from this year's Ewell Village Fair is the MAM-MOTH sum of £10,347 and still counting.

The organisers, Ian and Kathie Burgess would like to thank everyone who played a part, large or small, in the success of this major fund-raising event for St. Mary's.



stuffs and clothing for the homeless and elsewhere, and of flowers to those parishioners bereaved during the previous year.

Internal Affairs Committee. This committee deals with the general provision of pastoral care at St Mary's.

Children's Support Group. This group, made up of all those involved with children's activities at St Mary's, meets termly.

Ewell Parish News Committee. Supervises the nature and distribution of the parish paper.

Pro Musica. A combination of a think-tank and a decision-making body, acting as a half-way house between the PCC and a music department staff meeting.

Social Committee. Devises and manages social events for the parish.

Church Website Group. Oversees St Mary's website and encourages and facilitates its use. Advises on the computer-based facilities in the church office.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC is to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Hall, for the churchyard immediately surrounding the church, for the large churchyard extensions in Church Street and for the interior of the Vicarage.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

There are 166 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll which was renewed in 2007, a year early due to the Synod elections. Despite regular reminders over a period of five weeks, a significant number of regular members of the congregation failed to complete registration forms. [Note: The Roll re-opened after the APCM, and the number is beginning to increase again.]

Family Services, of which there are 7/8 per year, continue to draw families who are not regular members of our 11.00am congregation. Mothering Sunday and 'All Creatures Great and Small' were particularly well attended. St. Mary's is greatly indebted to Kathy Burgess and Vicky Gocher for their tireless input. On Mothering Sunday members of the choir formed a small music group which accompanied the service.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met four times during the year with an average attendance of 69 per cent. Reports were received from the various committees, and discussed as necessary.

There was a theft from the church safe in March 2006 amounting to approximately £265. Following the theft, a review was made of the security of our monetary collections and procedures were tightened. The sum of £678 was recovered from Ecclesiastical Insurance in relation to both the monetary loss and the cost of changing safe and door locks.

Christian stewardship. Planned giving through stewardship envelopes and standing orders remained unchanged from 2005. White gift-aid envelopes for occasional giving have been well used at Sunday services and weddings.

The Finance Committee has introduced a system of financial planning and budgetary management which has been implemented for 2007. Bids for annual expenditure for each area of church activity were prepared, and then discussed and approved by the Finance Committee and the PCC.

Following consultation on a **review of parish share**, figures for 2007 have been assessed on the basis of each parish in the diocese paying the full cost of its clergy, with other costs shared according to measure of the attendance at services and the prosperity of each parish.

A **gift-aided donation** has paid for the new computer in the church office, which now has a broadband connection.

The **Village Fair was very successful.** This main fund-raising event for St Mary's is enjoyed by a large number of people and raises the profile of St Mary's in the community. The **Hymnathon** and **Fair Springboard** contribute to the costs of the Fair.

The **Reverend Dr Patrick Miller** continues to help on an informal basis. In the absence of any formal ministerial support for St Mary's, his help is crucial to maintaining a full complement of services. Dr Miller has run well-attended Lent courses during the last four years.

Maintenance work carried out by members of the Estates Committee continues to save St. Mary's a considerable amount of money.

The association with **NESCOT** is ongoing. During 2006 students worked in the Garden of Remembrance

Continued on page 4

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Continued from page 4 **THE VICAR WRITES**

and undertook hedging tasks in the churchyard. This association benefits both St. Mary's and the College.

David Slattery will cease **mowing the churchyard** at the end of 2007. If no volunteers come forward, the commercial cost of mowing for 10 months a year will be at least £6,000.

Ewell Parish News is now being laid-out by a volunteer. This should result in a saving of more than £1,000 in 2007.

St Mary's is **very grateful** to all who undertake voluntary work on behalf of the church.

Work on the church hall continued, with the first stage of refurbishment of the existing toilets, redecoration of the hall and restoration of the floor.

A Health and Safety Committee was set up in 2006 and much hard work has been undertaken to improve the safety of those in the church's buildings. St Mary's is **now up to standard on fire risk assessment**. A formal no-smoking policy has been implemented within the Church building and the Church Hall. During 2007 a general risk assessment will be undertaken on the Church Hall, followed by the Church, and thereafter **annual risk assessments** will be carried out each autumn.

Meetings were held with Councillor Pamela Bradley and Ewell By-pass residents about fly-tipping on the unadopted lane between the by-pass and churchyards numbers 4 and 5. A gate has now been installed at the shopping centre end to prevent further tipping. The Estates Committee **agreed a contribution** towards the cost of removing the current rubbish which is causing damage to the church fence.

The **parking restrictions** imposed at the end of Summer 2006 have led to increased long-term parking outside the church and in Church Street, spilling over onto the churchyard forecourt. It has become almost impossible for visitors to park during the week and weddings and funerals have been adversely affected. Signs have recently been erected in the private foreground to the churchyard extension, restricting parking to those visiting St. Mary's and/or the churchyard.

A Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2007.

An electrical inspection made in early 2007 indicates that the **Church wiring is sound** and that remedial costs to the system should be much smaller than feared.

Three Organ Recitals, by Jonathan Holmes, Julie Ainscough and David Davies (from the Cathedral) were given in aid of the Music Fabric Fund.

A second-hand A-frame for the second grand piano was acquired, allowing the piano to be moved around.

The leather work on the **organ pedal board** was replaced in early 2007. Further major repair work to the organ is not anticipated for some time.

Successful social evenings were held in the church hall on Shrove Tuesday 2006 and 2007. In each case a three course meal and entertainment were provided for 60 parishioners and guests.

Children's Work. St Mary's keeps up to date with policy, procedures and good practice for the care and protection of children. Our Child Protection Officers are Karen Allen and Jayne Strutt.

The crèche operates at baptisms and when Children's Hour is on holiday.

Children's Hour has been divided into two age groups, the better to meet individual needs. It is hoped to have more opportunities this coming year for the young people to present their work to the 9.30 a.m. congregation.

The age range at **Wayfarers** has narrowed recently to between 13 - 16 which makes discussion easier to manage. One aim this coming year is to encourage the older members of the choir to stay in church for the sermon on those Sundays when there is no Wayfarers session.

Toddler Groups. Our three groups continue to thrive. There is always a waiting list for membership. There is much praise for the varied and high quality equipment, and mothers are appreciative of the efforts of those involved. There have been two evening gatherings for the Toddler mothers/carers. It is hoped to progress to regular

termly meetings with talks and demonstrations, and so to take St Mary's to the wider community.

External Affairs. The timing of the **main fundraising event** for external charities changed in 2006 when the Christmas Fair was replaced by a **Michaelmas Market**. Takings were similar (£1,350) but a sponsored silence and sing by the Brownies and Guides raised £350 making an excellent total of £1,700. The money was divided equally between **Age Concern Epsom and Ewell, Leatherhead Wildlife Aid, USPG and Water Aid**. St. Mary's is very grateful to volunteers Ruth and Frank Stockwell who established the new format, after running previous Christmas fairs. The accounts also show the payment of £1,172 from the **Christmas Market 2005**, which was divided equally between **Mercy Ships, Oasis Trust, Samaritans Purse** and **Send a Cow**. £680 raised through the **Christmas 2005 cash collections** was divided between two children's charities: **CHASE Hospice Care for Children** and **Task Brasil**. All these payments were made in 2006. **Christmas collections in 2006** raised £753.77 which was divided between **Starlight** (brightening the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting wishes and providing entertainment in hospital) and **Orbis** (saving children's sight). These payments were not made until 2007.

The **Lenten Project** raised £702 for **PHAB**, the local organization which brings together the physically handicapped and able bodied. A member of the External Affairs Committee was invited to attend a session organized by PHAB and thanked for the money raised by St. Mary's. **Children's Society Boxes** raised £540.

Thanks to the **Wednesday Coffee mornings**, £1,000 was raised for the the **Jeel al Amal Boys' Home** in Bethany during 2006. As we were unable to send the money out to Bethany direct, the amount was sent to the building fund for the Lazarus Girl's home, a 'sister' charity with a UK base. The cheque was not sent until 2007.

Large quantities of dried and tinned foods were again collected at Harvest and divided between **Waterloo Christian Centre** and **Vaughan House, Guildford**. Sorting and delivering is a considerable task for the volunteers involved, but the goods are much valued by their recipients

Financial Review

Total expenditure during the year was £138,239 and **total income** £120,933. The income was similar to that in 2005, but expenditure was reduced because less was spent on renovation work. The overall deficit between income and expenditure was £17,306. The inclusion of gains in investment assets means that at the end of the year the overall balance sheet showed £122,116 in unrestricted funds, £17,687 in restricted funds, and £39,198 in endowment funds giving a total balance of £179,001.

During the year £16,406 was transferred to the current account from restricted funds (for expenditure on repairs to the church during 2004 and the refurbishment of the church hall in 2006), legacies totalling £200 were received and £14,698 was spent on major building works in the church hall.

The church has been informed of a legacy from the estate of Olga Cooper which is expected to be in excess of £140,000. Payment is anticipated in the first half of 2007.

Reserves Policy. The Parish reserves are that part of our income funds which are freely available for our general purposes. They therefore exclude all restricted and endowment funds. The Parish has no pension asset or liability. The Parish has designated funds and has a policy of attempting to reserve amounts to provide for future expenditure. The fund(s) are reviewed annually. At present there is a Building and Organ Fabric Fund for anticipated expenditure on the maintenance of the church, church hall and organ during the next five years.

Investment Policy. Funds which are surplus to immediate requirements are held in Deposit Funds with The Central Board of Finance - Church of England, as Government Stock, and as small investments. The Central Board of Finance accounts provide a competitive interest rate and the opportunity for postal deposits and instant withdrawals. The Government Stock and small investments represent less than 4% of our assets.

SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Prayer of the Ox

Dear God, give me time.
 Men are always so driven!
 Make them understand that I can never hurry.
 Give me time to eat.
 Give me time to plod.
 Give me time to sleep.
 Give me time to think.

Carmen de Gasztold

Prayer of the Butterfly

Lord!
 Where was I?
 Oh yes! This flower, this sun,
 thank you! Your world is beautiful!
 This scent of roses . . .
 Where was I?
 A drop of dew
 rolls to sparkle in a lily's heart.
 I have to go . . .
 Where? I do not know!
 The wind has painted fancies
 on my wings.
 Fancies . . .
 Where was I?
 Oh yes! Lord,
 I had something to tell you: Amen.

Carmen de Gasztold

Humility

O Lord, help me not to despise or oppose what I
 do not understand.

William Penn 1644-1718

Expelled from Oxford University and imprisoned several times for his Quaker faith, Penn was a passionate defender of religious freedom. Because of a debt King Charles II owed to his father, he was granted land in America and there founded the state of Pennsylvania, a refuge for persecuted Quakers and a 'holy experiment' in religious community.

At the End of the Day

This prayer is one of the earliest Christian prayers recorded.

Be off, Satan, from this door and from these four walls. This is no place for you; there is nothing for you to do here. This is the place for Peter and Paul and the holy gospel; and this is where I mean to sleep, now that my worship is done, in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.

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 IN THE CHURCH HALL**

DO COME AND JOIN US

THE PARISH IN ACTION

No.1: ARRANGING SUNDAY

g) The 'Occasional Offices': *Funerals*

'Arranging Sunday' has turned out to be a convenient turn of phrase to cover all the various services at St Mary's. Not all take place on Sundays, and the most obvious of these are the weddings and funerals. We shall take the funerals first, so that this whole series can end on a more jolly note next month, when we shall have a look at weddings.

'Arranging' a funeral means different things to different people. For a family it means contacting a Funeral Director, agreeing some basic principles (e.g. is it to be a burial or a cremation, and whether or not there is to be a religious service), and then concentrating on the more domestic side of things which surround a death: dealing with various legal officials, and perhaps arranging some form of gathering after the funeral. For the Funeral Director it means ensuring that the specific wishes of the family are (as far as possible) carried out, and that everything happens with due propriety and sensitivity. The church side of things only happens when a Christian funeral is requested. It is perfectly possible to have a humanist funeral (or memorial meeting), and generally these are conducted with care and dignity, but obviously without any religious element to the proceedings, though the majority of funerals still have an obviously religious input. Church of England funerals fall into two broad types: there are those conducted from a particular church, and also those conducted at a particular church. In the first category are the majority of funerals conducted by Church of England clergy: these are the funerals which take place entirely at a crematorium. In this first instance, and as far as it concerns St Mary's, the Funeral Director contacts the office, a date and time are fixed, and basic information is received and noted, and eventually the Vicar (or the Reader) makes contact with the family, and things go on from there. Around here the Funeral Directors are very helpful, and if the service is to be 'C of E' they normally contact the Vicar of the parish in which the deceased resided, and only search elsewhere if there is no priest or Reader from the parish available at the proposed time. In some places they are not so helpful, and clergy have found that regular members of their congregation have been buried or cremated without their knowledge, and sometimes this can cause considerable distress. 'They said they would arrange with the Vicar' could mean different things to speaker and listener. Occasionally Funeral Directors from afar do not understand that permission for an interment in a family grave (which is, of course, always readily given, even though technically there is no 'right' as such*) does not include provision for a funeral service in the church, and that whilst we can provide someone to officiate at the Committal for a funeral coming from a long way away, any church service should be where the deceased came from. In other words, not unlike the combination of 'church and crematorium.' We do not have the resources here to provide 'cemetery chapel' facilities for those coming from afar.

Problems of this sort obviously do not happen when there is a service for a parishioner, conducted in the church. However, there are many things to be dealt with before the funeral takes place, and the nature of the service in church will often depend upon the identity of the deceased. There is clearly a difference in the 'feel' of a the quiet funeral of an elderly parishioner who is to be buried in the churchyard with (say) a husband who died fifteen years before, and where perhaps only about a dozen or so people are present, and the funeral of either a local notability (perhaps a Councillor) or a regular member of the Sunday con-

gregation. Tragic funerals are another category, and these call for immensely sensitive treatment; we have had several of these over the years. Then, some of the funerals go on to the crematorium for the Committal; in the case of others it is just the short journey to the churchyard. All are different, all are unique, yet at the end of the day they all basically seek to do the same thing: to mark, through the service of the Church, the passing of one soul into the nearer presence of God. All other aspects of a Christian funeral are subsidiary to that.

The Vicar or Reader nearly always meets the family before the funeral, except occasionally when everything is very straightforward and it can all be sorted out on the telephone. In most instances such a meeting is a very constructive time, as details of the service are worked out, and perhaps arrangements are made for a member of the family or a friend to give a tribute, or for some musical feature to be incorporated, and possibly a discussion over the choice of any hymns and the scripture readings. It is very rare for families to be 'pushy' at this time; generally they are only too happy to be guided by the professionals (clergy, undertakers and legal officials), but occasionally this is not so, and then things can be very stressful to all concerned. Most clergy have horror-stories about funerals, including such things as unsuitable and lengthy tributes full of doubtful jokes, and musical items which go on for so long that virtually all the allotted time at the crematorium is used up, and there is barely time left for the Committal. In these circumstances it is far from easy to get the funeral back on track. Fortunately such occasions are very rare, and most clergy find that funeral ministry is something in which they feel they have exercised a pastoral ministry. In the case of a non-church funeral it is often the case that a carefully-worded introduction to the service is necessary in order to set the scene, and to establish the Christian context in which the funeral is taking place, because not infrequently the expectation is not quite on that wavelength. (It was as recent as this year that the Vicar seriously contemplated - for the first time in forty-four years of ministry - not continuing with a funeral because of the bad behaviour of those present, but he steeled himself and went on with it.) At funerals conducted at, or from, St Mary's there is always the mention of prayer at the parish church on the following Sunday, and of an invitation (which goes out with the harvest flowers) to the Requiem at All Souls, where once again the name of the deceased person will be mentioned in the prayers. Every year there is a number of those who accept this invitation, and are grateful for this ongoing feature of Christian prayer. Regular members of the congregation are normally added to the Year's Mind Book, and they are prayed for on the Sunday nearest to the date of death.

Normally the Funeral Service used is the modern rite in *Common Worship*. It is very flexible, and allows for several features not really possible in the older rite. The older service is sometimes used for non-eucharistic 'in-house' funerals of particular members of the congregation who have been associated with a more traditional style of Anglican liturgy over the years. This form of service, normally known as Series 1, has a dignity of its own, but does not have the degree of flexibility of the modern rite. This service effectively took over from the somewhat grim rite of the Book of Common Prayer, and when people ask for the 'old service' this is, in practice, what they actually mean. Occasionally there are strange and curious requests at a funeral, and

Continued on page 8

ORDINAND FROM ST MARY'S IAIN McKILLOP BEGINS ORDINATION TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER

It is great news that Iain McKillop has been accepted for ordination training, and will begin his training for Ordained Local Ministry at the Guildford Diocesan Ministerial Training Course in September. After Iain arrived at St Mary's a few years ago it soon became plain that we had among us a man of deep spirituality and with quite extraordinary artistic gifts. St Mary's now constantly bears the visible signs of that particular combination with the wonderful Stations of the Cross and Resurrection on the front of the gallery screen. The re-styled Tuesday evening Fellowship Group is under his guidance, his prayers at the Eucharist have always been sensitively crafted, and we have learned much from him from the pulpit. We wish him well as he moves towards a new stage in his spiritual formation, and no doubt there will be more to say about this in the next few months.

All creatures great and small

Today (Sunday 1st July) was an overcast and wet day....our third week of such days! However, this was lifted wholeheartedly by the "All Creatures Great and Small" service at 11:00 a.m.

This is a regular feature on the Vicar's calendar, and rightly so; I think I have made the last three - though this year was more important as our son, Otto Henry, is now 16 months old. He is now old enough to appreciate the animals - just - and certainly old enough to disrupt proceedings with his fascination with things furry. We had guinea pigs, hamsters, cats and dogs. In the recent past, the police have graced us with their magnificent horses, and there have been peacocks and a goat....

Another long standing presence at this service is John Haynes, who travels in from Dorking (driving himself at 90!), bringing his soft friend Tim the tiger. John is a brilliant presence, just wish I could get over my own embarrassment to bring my soft friend, Ducky!

Damian Merciar



THE FUN OF THE FALL

(My wife told a friend that my name was Lloyd and that I tended to faint at sermon time)

Acts of Faith

Those people, who by custom do attend the services at churches in the town came to expect a more impressive end and in its absence could be seen to frown.

All were sincere, and many were devout but none more so, the congregation knew, than Lloyd, who, quite dispelling any doubt, would lie prostrate beside the second pew.

And when less ardent worshippers arrived he would be pointed out as one to know, unbidden and without a thing contrived, he'd stretch upon the flags from chin to toe.

If sermons proved too dull, perhaps too long people looked to Lloyd to prompt a close and stretch his noble, gentlemanly form along the aisle from toe-cap up to nose.

But, always modest, seeking no remark, his pious swoon not always came to light; he'd just sink sideways in the semi-dark and slip down on the hassocks out of sight.

If only others from this guide would learn, devotion's acts would prosper all the more; perhaps whole congregations in their turn might fall full length upon the hallowed floor.

Albert Oxford

Bikes, Badges, Balloons - and Bedlam

Move over "Tour de France" here comes the Thursday Toddlers' peloton!

On 28 June Toddlers and their leaders got on their bikes (or pushed toys) around the church hall as part of the National Bike Ride on behalf of the NSPCC. Cheered on by parents and grandparents they raised over £200. Although an attempt was made at traffic control the participants had their own views about the direction to take. Everyone taking part left with a "goodie bag", badge and large green balloon.



A big thank you to all our sponsors.

JD

Continued from page 6

THE PARISH IN ACTION

in rare cases it is simply not possible to accede to them, though generally speaking there is a fairly liberal approach taken here. In the case of regular worshippers, the discussions will obviously include whether the funeral should take the form of a Requiem Mass, particularly when the deceased has normally and regularly attended the Sunday Eucharist.

The detailed arrangements for a funeral vary considerably. If it is 'direct to crematorium' there is little for the priest actually to 'arrange.' Everything is done by the crematorium authorities, who are generally speaking very sensitive to the general approach of the various clergy. One local crematorium seems to know which clergy like background music at the committal and which ones do not; they also know which clergy prefer to have a crucifix rather than a bare cross. (The late Canon Howarth used to be most insistent on that point.) These little touches are much appreciated. There is obviously more to be done when the funeral is in church. Generally, though not always, an organist has to be arranged, and possibly some unusual music sorted out. One considerable nuisance in recent months has been the necessity for the Vicar or a churchwarden to get up extremely early in the morning in order to put the cones and notices outside. Seldom is this completely successful. Since Surrey County Council meddled with the street parking arrangements outside the church and the hall, we have to contend with very early morning commuters, who park outside the church and then walk from the church to the station. The cars are there all day, and our representations to the County Council have been studiously ignored. This has sometimes meant that a hearse cannot park directly outside the lych-gate, and quite often the more ill-bred have actually blown their horns at funeral cars trying to manoeuvre into position. In church various jobs have to be done: the décor is normally changed to purple, candles are arranged where the coffin is to be, funeral books and possibly hymn books are got ready, holy water placed near the coffin, and any special features bargained for. Sometimes visiting readers will need to get a sound-level on the

microphone. Sometimes musicians need to practice. If the service is eucharistic, then all the preparations for a nave-altar rite have to be made. Occasionally there may be a civic presence, and then the customary courtesies come into play. In the case of the funeral of a regular member of the congregation we generally provide our own service-leaflet, and there are one or two other in-house features which are more meaningful to the congregation at such a funeral than might be the case when there is no ongoing connexion with the worshipping life of the church. It all takes time, but at the end of the day a funeral needs to be an occasion which is taken seriously by all participants, the preparations all done with care, and proceedings conducted with reverence and dignity. Canon Scott Holland's purple passage about death being 'nothing at all' has perhaps been too freely used; Archbishop Rowan Williams has certainly got reservations about it, for death is most certainly 'something', and something very overwhelming. Indeed it is the one certainty of our lives. The Church is privileged to be involved with God's people at this point, and it is good that generally speaking the Church's ministry is appreciated. Although occasionally the clergy get post-funeral complaints (one came to the Vicar of Ewell complaining that he hadn't listed all the specific financial benefactions of the deceased), most clergy have received many heartfelt thanks by word or letter after conducting funerals, and in human terms such thanks are gratefully received. At least they serve to confirm that we are largely on the right lines in as far as funeral ministry is concerned.

** It may not be generally realised that, as the law now stands, the only people with rights of burial in a churchyard are the residents of the geographical parish, those on the church's Electoral Roll, and those who are found dead in the parish. Having said that, the parish priest has discretion to allow others to be buried therein, and this is normally freely exercised in obvious instances, as in the case of a burial in what is considered to be a 'family grave'; but, apart from the three categories just mentioned, there is no actual right in law for anyone else to be buried in the churchyard - even in the family grave.*

THE 2007 SERIES OF ORGAN RECITALS

AT ST MARY'S, EWELL

Saturday, 8 September at 19.30

JONATHAN HOLMES

PATRONAL FESTIVAL RECITAL

ON THE MIGHTY 1889 FATHER WILLIS ORGAN

Programme:

J.S.Bach - Prelude and Fugue in E minor {BWV 548} "The Wedge"

Mahler - Adagietto Symphony 5 [arr. Pearsall Mansfield]

Bolcom - Free Fantasia on "O Zion haste" and "How firm a foundation"

A George Gershwin Tribute [arr. JSH]

Middelschulte - Passacaglia in D minor on "Ein Feste Burg"

Mussorgsky - Pictures at an Exhibition [arr. Keith John]

Admission by ticket, £5 in advance or £6 at the door,
but under 16s get in free!

Interval refreshments available

Next recital: 6 October: *Huw Morgan*

A performance of

Noye's Fludde

by Benjamin Britten

Saturday, 29 September 2007 at 19.30

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performed by

The Parish Choir

along with

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Pages 9 and 10 can be cut out if needed

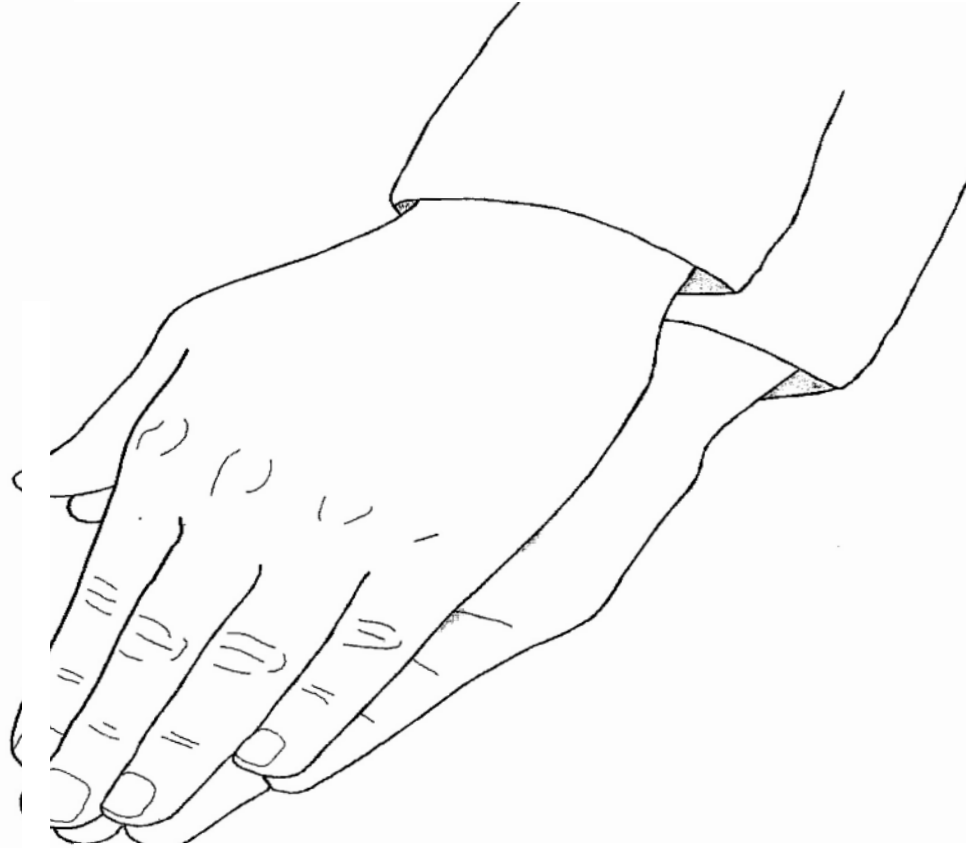
Young Church Mag

29th July 2007: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost; Luke 11:1 - 13

On the 30th July we remember especially **William Wilberforce.**

William was born on 24 August 1759 and became a Member of Parliament in 1780. He became a Christian in 1784 and then concentrated on trying to abolish the slavery. The slave trade was abolished in 1807. William died on 29 July 1833.

William Wilberforce



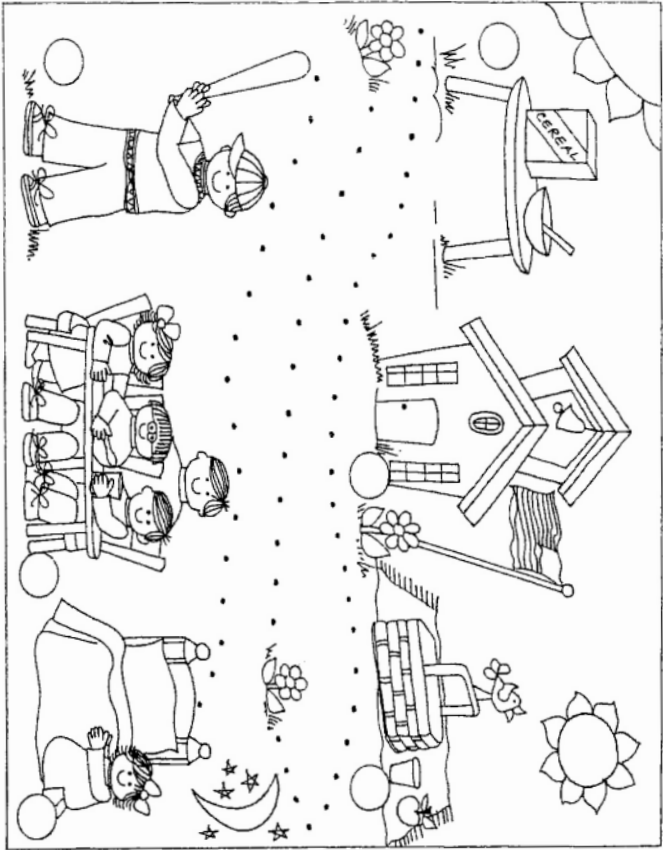
One of Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray; so he gave us the Lord's Prayer



Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours now and forever
Amen

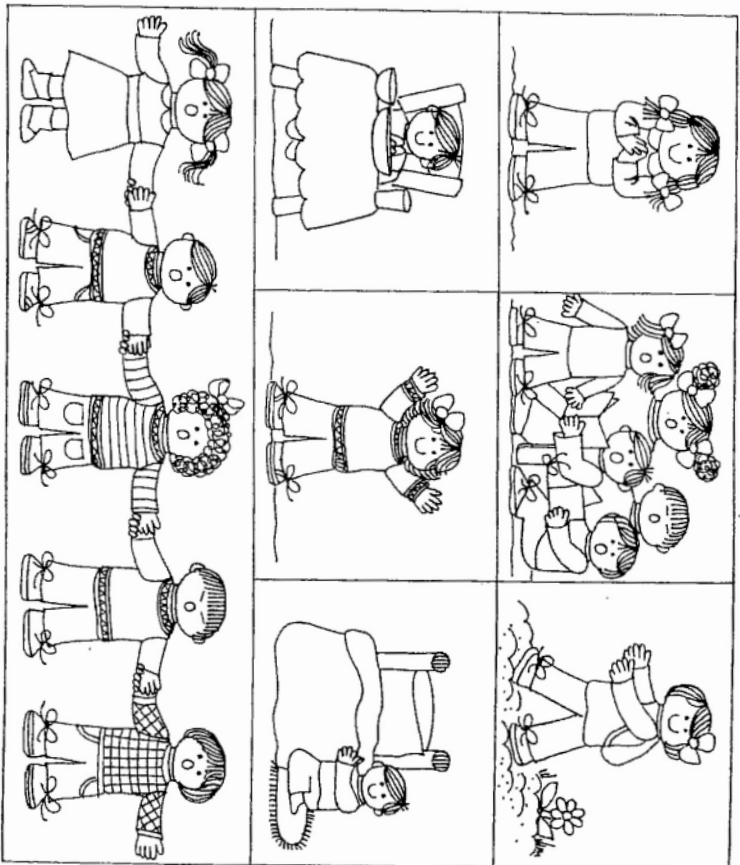
We can pray anytime, day or night. We can pray at home, school or church. We can pray indoors or outdoors. We can pray alone or with others.

Join the dots to make a pathway from morning to night.



Katie was talking to her brother, Alex. "What's prayer?" she asked. "It's talking to God and listening to God and feeling close to God." "Do you have to kneel down to pray?" she asked. "You don't have to but some people find it helps," said Alex. "Can you only pray in Church?" Kate continued. "No! You can pray anywhere!"

We can pray anywhere and at anytime. Can you think of a prayer to say with each of these pictures?



FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

HOLY BAPTISM

A member of Christ, the child of God (BCP Baptism rite)

17 June	Phillip Cisek-Ndlovu Samuel Michael Imrie
8 July	Courtney Louise Holden

HOLY MATRIMONY

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

22 June	Colin Belton and Zoe Wagstaff
23 June	Matthew Christopher Wiltshire and Victoria Charlotte Stedman John David Kerr and Maria Lourdes da Silva Moreira
30 June	Adam John Hillman and Laura Michele Devaney
7 July	Gary Charles Kemble and Joanne Marie Booth

FUNERALS

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

27 June	James William Manners, aged 81
9 July	Dorothy Lilian Hunt, aged 83

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NEW ORGAN SCHOLAR AT ST MARY'S

JEREMY COLE

There have been some changes in the musical life of St Mary's in recent months, and after the series '*Arranging Sunday*' has finished with the September item on the marriage rites, the first instalment of the next part of the series '*The Parish in Action*' will deal with the musical side of life at the parish church. There is quite a lot to report, but some things can be mentioned in advance.

Most notably is the recent appointment of *Jeremy Cole* as Organ Scholar here. It may not be generally known that an organ scholarship was endowed here some years ago, but we have not had anyone in post for quite a considerable time. Jeremy is a very gifted young musician (he is fifteen) from Kingswood, and already an extremely accomplished organist. The scholarship takes effect from September, but he is already here with us, and we have already heard him in action at several of the choral services. With an organ scholar in post, life is much easier in the Music Department. One by-product of this is that the Vicar will not have to act quite so frequently as organ long-stop. We hope Jeremy will be happy with us; already he and his family seem to have settled in very easily with us.

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Calendar for August



There is always a very thin calendar at St Mary's for the month of August. There is no Sunday evening worship, the Tuesday morning Eucharist is discontinued for the month, the choir has a three week break, and the Sunday morning services for the first three Sundays are in their simplest form. However, the Wednesday Coffee Morning continues through the month. Services resume their normal form on 26 August.

S 5 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

S 12 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

S 19 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The 11 o'clock Prayer Book Sung Eucharist is moved to next Sunday

S 26 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The services resume their normal style today, and the choir returns after the summer break. The monthly Prayer Book Sung Eucharist is at 1100, and there will be the usual 1200 service as well.

The week of the Patronal Festival begins on the following Sunday, 2 September. Since it comes at the beginning of the month it will be convenient to give the main details at this stage, otherwise there is barely a week's notice. Normal service-times apply; only particular features or differences are noted below.

Sun 2 Sept. **Sunday of the Dedication Festival**
0930 Sung Eucharist with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the Procession of the Parish Church.
1100 Mattins and Holy Baptism
1700 Choral Evensong

Tues 4 1000 Requiem Mass for Past Worshippers

Sat 8 **The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
1000 Holy Communion (High Altar)
1430-1630 **Garden Party**
at 46a Ewell Downs Road (see below)
1930 **Patronal Festival Organ Recital**
by **Jonathan Holmes** (see page 8)

Sun 9 Sept. **Sunday of the Patronal Festival**
0930 Sung Eucharist and Procession of Our Lady
1100 Choral Mattins
1830 Choral Evensong (*Old Choristers' Reunion*)

GARDEN PARTY - NOT TO BE MISSED!!!

After the weather was a bit of a "Wash Out" earlier this summer, St Mary's are organising a Garden Party on Saturday 8th September from 2.30 - 4.30pm at 46 Ewell Downs Road, when we hope the sun will shine on us. Pimms and fruit punch will be served on arrival, followed by a delicious cream tea. As with all our social occasions, there will, of course, be suitable entertainment for a pleasant relaxing afternoon.

Transport to the venue can be provided if required. Tickets at only £3.50 each, are available from David Dance or the office.

For further information, please contact Rosemarie Henson on 0208 224 2713.

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