



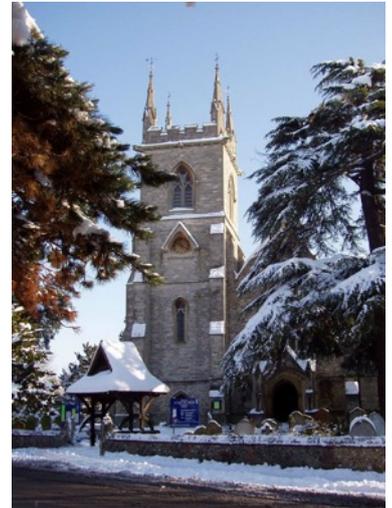
EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 552

January 2019

60p



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

2019 at St Mary's

- Jan 6 Epiphany
- Jan 13 A New Year for St Mary's
- March 6 Ash Wednesday
- April 19 Good Friday
- April 21 Easter Day
- April 28 APCM
- May 11 Spring Dinner
- May 18 Spring Market
- June 2 Beating the Bounds walk
- June 9 Pentecost
- June 29 Garden Party
- July 13 Ewell Village Fair
- Sept 8 Bishop of Guildford visits for
our Patronal Festival
- Sept 21 A Day for All
- Oct 6 Harvest Festival
- Nov 10 Remembrance Sunday
- Nov 23 Winter Dinner
- Dec 1 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 25 Christmas Day

CONTENTS

- The Vicar writes2, 3 & 4
- In and around our parish....4
- From the Parish Registers..4
- New beginnings4



- Suggested prayers.....5
- Fun Day Wednesday.....5
- Organ Recital Philip Berg....6
- Tree Fund Day.....6
- Bill Rackham obituary.....7
- Re-leathering the
church organ.....8



- Black and White Dinner.....9
- Children's page.....10
- Bereavement Café.....11
- Calendar for January.....12
- Coffee Mornings.....12
- EPN copy dates for 2019..12
- Board Games afternoon....12
- Repair of
Father Willis organ.....12

COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: epn@stmarysewell.com. Handwritten or typed copy will only be accepted by prior agreement (call 020 8393 4804). Please do not embed photos in WORD files, but send the images separately. Copy date for the February edition is noon on Monday 14 January.

The Vicar writes

I stayed up very late to watch the 2015 General Election, after following the news quite obsessively in the run up beforehand. I decided the next morning that, now all the excitement was over, I would try not to spend as much time following politics. After all, there wouldn't be much happening for the next few years, would there? Well, as you know, I couldn't have been more wrong. The 2016 Referendum was followed by the 2017 snap General Election, the Brexit negotiations have been on-going for two years, and the US political scene has also been generating plenty of news.

I am writing the day before the parliamentary vote on the EU withdrawal agreement, and I have absolutely no idea what the state of play may be by the time you are reading this. But one thing I am fairly certain about is that 2019 will continue to be 'exciting', if that is the word, in the political arena.

At the same time, I expect we are all conscious of how divided society is becoming. Perhaps because of social media, where it is de rigeur to express opinions rather forcefully on Facebook and especially Twitter. There is nothing wrong with clear expression of opinions, of course. But it is equally important to be respectful of those with whom we disagree, and indeed to remember that in most cases our friends and families (and churches!) will include a range of opinions on many matters. Everyone, however we vote, is a child of God.

Whatever happens in the year ahead, I hope that as a society - nationally as well as in Ewell - we will be able to look upon one another as fellow citizens, who may take different views on political matters, but who are generally speaking all seeking the common good. Media and social media can sometimes whip us up into thinking the worst of those with whom we disagree. Perhaps my New Year's Resolution will be to try to think the best of others, and especially of those with whom I disagree.

IN CHURCH IN JANUARY

Every Sunday there is a simple said service of Holy Communion in the intimate setting of the chancel starting at 8am. Then at 9:30am the Sung Eucharist, which includes choral music and children's hour, and is followed by coffee in the hall.

The Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday 6 January: the wise men finally arrive at the crib! At 11am our all-age service of Praise@11 is an informal service of Holy Communion. We hope that younger members of our congregation who have been admitted to Holy Communion, or have been confirmed, will come along with their families to this service. It would also be an excellent service for anyone interested in finding out more about Holy Communion.

Meanwhile, on the same weekend, the parish choir are

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com

Registered Charity Number 1128409

CLERGY

Vicar: The Reverend Russell Dewhurst MPhys BTh LLM; 020 8393 1297; Email: vicar@stmarysewell.com

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE DipCivil Law BA(Hons)Rel&Th; 020 8337 6347; Email: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller MA PhD; Email: patrickmiller@ntlworld.com

READER

Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991

Mr Nicholas Allsopp 07899 818400

Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851

Publicity and Social Media Officer

Mrs Kalli Pasqualucci Email: publicity@stmarysewell.com

SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

The Sunday School meets in conjunction with this service in term time. There is coffee in the church hall between the 9.30 and 11 o'clock services on Sunday mornings, to which all are welcome, and especially newcomers and visitors.

LATE MORNING SERVICE varies by Sunday in the month

The usual pattern is our all-age **Praise@11** on the first Sunday at 11am; 11.15am **Choral Mattins** on the second Sunday; 11am **Toddle Up**, a short and very informal service for toddlers and their families on the third Sunday; and 11.15am **Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism** on the fourth Sunday. The pattern changes on special occasions: see the calendar on the back page for details of this month.

1700 Second Sunday of the month ALL-IN An inclusive all-age service with something for everyone. Followed at 6pm-6:45pm by Club Sandwich, a youth group for 7-11s.

1730 Once a month CHORAL EVENSONG Just like a cathedral Evensong in our own parish church. Usually the third Sunday but see the calendar on the back page for details.

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

ON WEEKDAYS

Morning prayer is *usually* said at 9 am Tuesdays, in church. See the Weekly Notes or phone ahead to make sure. The Eucharist is celebrated on Tuesdays at 10 am, at the Side Chapel.

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)

Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

St Mary's Church is in London Road, Ewell, and the Parish Office is on the south side of the church.

The Office hours are normally 9.30-12.00 Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, but please check before visiting as appointments are usually needed.

The postal address is:

St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

**HANDMADE
PICTURE FRAMES**

All Frames -
made in Our Studio
Free local collection
& Delivery



With this
voucher

M: 07748 712133
25 The Headway
Ewell Village
www.handmadepictureframes.

singing at Wells Cathedral: Sat 5th - 5.15pm Evensong; Sun 6th - 9:45am Eucharist, 11:30am Mattins, and 3pm Evensong. Supporters from Ewell will be most welcome!

On Sunday 13 January, coffee after the 9:30am Sung Eucharist will be in church. Then at 11am instead of a service, there will be a meeting open to everyone in church "A New Year for St Mary's". This will be a chance for the whole church to discuss our vision and plans for the year ahead. There will be updates on the projects currently underway and a chance for everyone to discuss our priorities for the forthcoming year. Note there is no All-in Service this month.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place every January, and the Sunday during that week this year falls on 20 January. Our late morning service is Toddler Up!, a brief and very informal service especially for the very youngest and their families. Then at 5:30pm, Choral Evensong is sung by the parish choir. Like all our services in January and most of February, there will be no organ accompaniment because of the repair work- as Jonathan Holmes explains elsewhere in these pages there will still be wonderful choral music at Evensong and at all the choral services.

Our annual Board Games Afternoon will take place on Saturday 26 January (3-5pm - please note the changed time) in the church hall. Tea, coffee, squash, and homemade cakes are on offer as well as a wide selection of board games - or bring your own. I will be happy to teach any from my own collection! This is always a very good afternoon that sees all ages from our church and parish come together for a fun time.

On Sunday 27 January a service of Morning Prayer and Holy Baptism will take place at 11:15am, with the singing led by St Mary's Singers.

Remember every Tuesday (except 1 January) there is also a said service of Holy Communion at 10am, followed by coffee in church.

CHURCH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW YEAR

Children's hour is our Sunday school taking place during the 9:30am Sung Eucharist, and is back from 6 January.

St Mary's runs two Toddler Groups, on Mondays (1:15 - 2:45pm) and Thursdays (10:00 - 11:30am) in the Church Hall opposite the Church. Monday's group starts back on 7 January, and Thursday's on 10 January.

Fun Day Wednesday is a group for children aged around 4-11 with craft and game activities set out so that children can choose what they want to do. Parents and carers stay and have a tea or coffee and chat. From 3:30-4:30pm on Wednesdays in the church hall, starting back on 9 January.

Café NESCOLT is a cafe serving lunch and snacks open to all, on Tuesdays 12 noon-1:30pm. The food is prepared and served by students from NESCOLT, please do come along and support this venture in our Church Hall, very reasonable prices and very good food. The café starts up again on 8 January.

CONFIRMATION in 2019

During the course of 2019 I plan to run confirmation groups both for adults and (later in the year) for teenagers. If you would like to find out more about the Christian faith, possibly leading to a service of confirmation by the Bishop, please do get in touch. We usually meet for around six to eight sessions (the adult group would be a weekday evening), in an informal group setting as a chance to discuss the

Continued on page 4

**St Mary's
Toddler
Groups**

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

For more information:

Tel. 020 8393 4804

**CAFE
NESCOLT**

On Tuesdays in
term time, students
from NESCOLT are
serving simple lunch-
es in our church hall
(London Rd, opposite
the church) between
12 and 2pm.

Soup, sandwiches,
salad, and cakes,
with tea, coffee, and
soft drinks.

Everyone welcome!



WA TRUELOVE & SON LTD
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
& MONUMENTAL CRAFTSMEN SINCE 1885



Serving the local community

- 24 hour call out service
 - Home visits available
 - Horse-drawn funerals
 - Monumental masonry
 - International repatriation
- For further details about Truelove guaranteed pre-paid funeral plans
Call FREEPHONE
0800 074 3797

EPSOM 01372 723337
14/18 Church Road KT17 4AB

Also at: Banstead • Caterham • Cheam • Coulsdon • Dorking • Leatherhead
Mitcham • Morden • Oxted • Reigate • Sutton • Wallington • Worcester Park
www.watfild.co.uk • info@watfild.co.uk

**To hire the
Church Hall**
please contact

020 8614 0714

or visit

www.stmarysewell.com

**PAINTER &
DECORATOR**

A.L. BOVIS

Reliable friendly service
for all exterior and interior
household maintenance
and improvements
Free estimates given

01737 359581

The Vicar Writes: continued from page 3

Christian faith, and our own experiences of church, and to find out all those things about church and Christianity you've never had the chance to ask. I always enjoy the discussions and the wide range of people from all different backgrounds who tend to make up our confirmation groups, and look forward to hearing from you soon: vicar@stmarysewell.com or 0208 393 1297. You don't need to be sure of what you believe, or to have made your mind up about confirmation, please do get in touch.

WELCOME PACK

At "A New Year for St Mary's" on 13 January (11am in church, open to all) we plan to launch a new Welcome Pack which has been put together by our publicity officer Kalli Pasqualucci. This will include lots of information about St Mary's, aimed especially at newcomers, but also of interest to those who have been involved with St Mary's for some time. Packs will be given out on 13 January, and will then be available in church or from the parish office for anyone who would like one.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Russell Dewhurst

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR!



Life can be so hectic and being still a rare gift! A new group will be meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month from 8-9pm in the Parish Room. We shall spend time being still and quiet in God's presence enjoying some music and hearing some words of Julian of Norwich (see page 4 of both November's and December's EPN) or another spiritual writer or the Bible. You get to the Parish Room by coming to the back of the church.

Everyone is welcome. The dates for the first three months of the year are 21 January, 18 February and 18 March. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with The Reverend Sue Ayling (020 8337 6347 or assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com)

IN AND AROUND OUR PARISH

I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and that you are settling into 2019 well.

If you haven't seen it yet, you can still book to watch the pantomime Jack and The Beanstalk at the Epsom Playhouse until 6 January. Tickets cost from £15, and are available to buy at the Playhouse, on 01372 742 555 or on the Epsom Playhouse website.

There is a monthly Indoor Market at St Mark's on Great Tattenhams KT18 5RD on 5 January (first Saturday of the month). There is free admission, refreshments and stalls available from 10.00am - 2.00pm.

On 12 January, there is a Vicious Vikings workshop for children, at Bourne Hall Museum Kids Club. Taking place from 1.00pm - 2.30pm and costs £5 per child. For more information contact David Brooks on 0208 394 1734 or email dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Sunday 13 January is the day that Surrey's largest Wedding Show will be taking place at Epsom Downs racecourse. There will be over 60 wedding suppliers and three fashion shows. Entry and parking are free. The show is open from 11.00am - 4.00pm.

Come and Sing with the St Cecilia Chorus in Banstead on 26 January from 10.30am - 4.00pm. Tickets are £15 and include tea, coffee and music hire. For more information, call 07796 348226.

You can see Jive Talkin' performing The Bee Gees at Epsom Playhouse on Saturday 26 January from 7.30pm - 10.15pm. Tickets cost £22.50, and are available to buy at the Playhouse, on 01372 742 555 or on the Epsom Playhouse website.

I hope that you have a lovely January and if you have any events or news that you think should be included in the February article of 'In and Around Our Parish', then please email me on publicity@stmarysewell.com.

Kalli Pasqualucci

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

**And now, Lord, what is my hope?
Truly my hope is even in thee
(Psalm 39, used in the BCP Burial rite)**

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 25 November | Adam George Barthel-Samways
aged 42 (<i>burial of ashes</i>) |
| 27 November | Dennis Charles Palser, aged 91 |
| 1 December | Michael Chick, aged 74 |
| 3 December | David William Benke, aged 91
(<i>burial of ashes</i>) |

Greenfield

Independent, family run estate agents, specialising in all aspects of residential and commercial property sales, lettings and management



020 8393 0077

www.greenfieldewell.co.uk

55 High Street
Ewell Village
Surrey KT17 1RX

TOM O'SULLIVAN DECORATING

Family business, quality decorating

Checkatrade member since 1999

Quality interior and exterior decoration
Reliable, qualified, insured and CRB checked
See customer reviews at:

www.checkatrade.com/tomosullivan

Tel: Home - 0208 337 3942(evenings)

Email:

tom.osullivan@virginmedia.com

FUN DAY
WEDNESDAY

Meets every Wednesday 3.30-4.30 in term time in the Church Hall. Craft, activities and games set out for children to dip in and out of. Drinks and snacks available. For children aged around 5-11 but older and younger are welcome! Parents/carers please stay and have a drink and a chat. £1 per session - no need to book. Any questions contact Fran Siddle on 07944-761629 or francesiddle@yahoo.co.uk.

SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Prayer for the New Year



O Lord,

At the beginning of this New Year, help us to be like those wise men who sought an earthly king but were instead led to a humble stable and found you, the One born to bring freedom, forgiveness and a hope of heaven. Like them, may we also be led to that Light, to you who opens eyes to understanding God's Word and Truth.

Lord, you make all things new; you bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year; for all the potential it holds. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray that you will make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able and let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you may be honoured by our lives and others be drawn to you.

AMEN

ORGAN RECITAL by PHILIP BERG

We were delighted to welcome the distinguished organist Philip Berg to St. Mary's on Saturday 2 November for the last concert of 2018. This was also the last concert before the 'Father' Willis organ falls silent while urgent repair work is carried out early in 2019.

In his introduction to the recital, St. Mary's Director of Music, Jonathan Holmes, described briefly what has to be done and why it is so urgent. Those wishing to know more can read the article on p8 of this EPN or find a video, in which Jonathan explains the job in more detail, on the church's Facebook site, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/>.

Mr Berg has been Master of the Music at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, in London, since 1995. He was also Director of Music at St. Paul's Preparatory School (Colet Court) for over 25 years and has recently retired. Since 1995 Philip has presented the annual Bach recital at the Chapel, and has completed a long-term project to perform Bach's complete organ works. It was a pleasure, therefore, to hear him play three works by Bach tonight. These three all demonstrated the range of sounds of which the Willis organ is capable. Firstly, the **Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 547**. During his lifetime, Bach was renowned all over Germany as an organ-player and teacher. I was reminded of a Trio Sonata, by Bach, which we heard at a recital earlier this year: a practice piece for his students in which the hands and feet learn to play independently of each other. Far less 'showy' a piece is the **Pastorella BWV 590** that uses manuals only, i.e. no pedals. However the pedals came into their own in Bach's mighty **Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor BWV 582** which took us to the interval. For me personally this piece must rank as the crowning glory of Bach's entire organ output. Twenty-one variations on the theme presented at the outset and culminating in a magisterial fugue on the same musical 'subject' (the 'tune' in musical parlance).

After the interval we heard music by other composers. Marcel Dupré was an organ pupil of Charles-Marie Widor, who expressed the opinion that Dupré's **Prelude and Fugue in G minor, opus 7 no. 3** is "unplayable". In its sheer luminous virtuosity, for both feet and hands, I found myself thinking of that piece by Chopin, the Prestissimo from the B flat minor piano sonata, which sounds like the wind blowing over a child's grave. The French organist Gaston Litaize was born in 1909 which makes him a younger contemporary of Dupré. Among Litaize's organ compositions is **Lied** – or 'song' which we heard next. The name Felix Mendelssohn is not immediately associated with organ music, yet he composed many fine things for the instrument including the **Sonata in D major, opus 65 no. 2**. It has three movements. Next, **Nimrod** by Elgar, one of the 'Enigma' Variations. The organ arrangement is by an old Ewell organist whose music we often perform on Sundays - William Harris. **Chanson de Matin** – morning song – is also by Elgar arranged this time by A.H. Brewer. The **Piece heroique**, by César Franck brought the evening to an 'heroic' conclusion.

TT

TREE FUN DAY

St Mary's was a very busy place at the beginning of December with lots going on and its limited resources were used to capacity. In the past, Fun Day has been a morning and afternoon event. Despite **Tree Fun Day** only being held in the afternoon this time, there were still lots of activities to keep 40 children happy. Four groups, named *The Stars*, *Baubles*, *Fairy Lights* and *Candy Canes*, moved around four activities so that everyone had a go at each activity.

Making greetings cards using potato, carrots and fingers as part of the printing process was messy - but fun. Making elasticated bracelets proved popular.

Anything to do with food never fails to please. Decorating edible Christmas trees with as many sprinkles as it was possible to get on the plate was a challenge of their own making. Never let it be said the children didn't put their minds to the task. It was with some trepidation that the children were told to leave their creation to dry on designated pews. As the new pew runners were only put in place a few days earlier, it was going to be a baptism of fire for them. Everyone was relieved to see at the end of the day that a dustpan and brush removed any unwanted debris.



It is incredible how far PVA glue can spread across a table when in the hands of a child. The challenge was to make a paper plate minus the center into a holly wreath which was successfully achieved. These wreaths were to adorn the church windows of the north aisle over the Christmas period.

The fourth activity was a variety of board games in which children and adults of all ages could take part. What it lacked in mess, it made up for in noise. During the afternoon, children who were to take part in the nativity in church on Christmas Eve, were given the opportunity to rehearse their parts. A part of the rehearsal was the dance routine using pompoms to add to the effect.

To conclude the afternoon, children showed their dance routine for the benefit of parents who had come to take part in the short service before taking the children home.

Would we do another Fun Day? Yes, of course we would, just as soon as we get the glue off the tables!

DB

WILLIAM ARTHUR RACKHAM

9 May 1924 - 26 August 2018

Bill passed away on 26 August 2018 at the age of 94.

William Arthur Rackham was born on 9 May 1924 in Islington, London to parents Joseph and Ethel Rackham. He was one of six.

Bill said his life began when he joined the RAF at the age of 17. His medical prevented him from joining air crew and he spent the war as ground crew. This didn't prevent Bill from flying, pilots would often let him take the controls whilst ferrying or testing aircraft. It also didn't prevent Bill from danger, he narrowly escaped death when his airfield was attacked by Luftwaffe ME109s. It didn't prevent him from exposure to the horrors of war as he witnessed the liberation of concentration camps.

Bill was very aware of how his war time experiences had given him invaluable life skills and shaped his character, he never took anything for granted.

After the war Bill worked in what was Debenham & Freebody's in Oxford Street. It was there that he met his wife to be, Jean Mellows. For Bill it was love at first sight and he would follow Jean to the station after work in the hope of a few words before she took the train home. They were both fond of amateur dramatics and joined the Cavendish Players. Before long they had been cast opposite each other in a production called 'Love in the Mist'. As their own love blossomed they performed in many productions together.

Bill and Jean married in 1951 at St Giles church in Ashted. In 1953 they moved to Ewell Village where they remained for the rest of their lives. Bill had undertaken accounting and commerce qualifications via night school and was now working in the city. They continued their thespian activities with the Epsom Operatic Society performing in many musicals, Oklahoma, Annie Get Your Gun, Kiss Me Kate. However, the family began arriving, Gillian (1952), Christine (1954), Fiona (1962) and David (1967) curtailed their availability, although that didn't stop the family being exposed to, and learning to love, the songs and performances from the era.

Upon moving to Ewell, Bill and Jean soon joined the congregation of St Mary's. Bill's faith was integral to his being and remained, unwavering, throughout his life. At St Mary's they quickly made friendships, that lasted a lifetime, and they, and the family, began contributing in a variety of roles in the church community. Jean, daughter Christine and Fiona taught at Sunday School and

David sang in the choir.

Bill was a faithful member of the 11 o'clock congregation. He joined in as enthusiastically with the toddler service as with choral mattins. He was a founding member of the St Mary's Singers, singing in that choir at dozens of baptisms. He assisted in many other ways over the years, such as banking the collections and generally being a welcoming figure and friend to many in the church.

Family and home were central to Bill and he was an immensely strong, kind and supportive father, grandfather and great grandfather. His family eventually extended to four children, 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was involved in all aspects of family life and provided unstinting support.

In 2004 Bill's first grandchild Natalie tragically died from meningitis aged just 20. Despite his

own grief he supported Natalie's family magnificently until the day he died - and even after - no funeral flowers, donations were welcome to the charity supporting meningitis research set up in Natalie's memory.

In 2006 his beloved wife Jean's Alzheimer's diagnosis meant he became her full time carer. She was eventually confined to King Alfred's care home in Banstead. Bill immediately became part of the fabric of the home, joining the committee and becoming a volunteer.

Jean passed away in 2011. Bill struggled with his loss and it prompted him into rekindling his love of the theatre. He rejoined the Epsom theatre group and took part in their production of Oklahoma, 50 years after his and Jean's original appearance in 1961. He even donned his tap shoes for their next production, Crazy for You, at the grand age of 88.

Bill was a very open hearted and enthusiastic gentleman. He embraced life 100% and always brought sunshine into the lives of those around him. He always made time for people and had the gift of making people feel special. He lived a long life, one blessed with good health.

In Feb 2018 with health and mobility waning Bill moved to the Red House in Ashted, a stone's throw from where he began his married life. In May he celebrated his 94th birthday surrounded by family, friends, residents and staff. He continued to spread his unique brand of sunshine until the end of his earthly life.



RE- LEATHERING OUR FATHER WILLIS ORGAN

The Organ by Henry Willis, one of the most important Victorian organ builders, dates from 1889, quite late in 'Father' Willis's career. By this time, he had built the organs in The Royal Albert Hall, Salisbury Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Alexandra Palace and many more cathedrals, churches and concert halls.

The present Ewell instrument replaced a similar sized instrument by Willis installed in St. Mary's in 1865, which was destroyed by fire in 1973. The then vicar, Peter Hogben, managed to purchase the present instrument from St. Augustine's Church in Highbury, which was under threat of closure. Fortunately St. Augustine's is now a thriving church, but their loss was Ewell's gain.

The 1889 Willis was rebuilt in 1975 by Rushworth and Dreaper. However, it is now 43 years since that rebuild, and in fact not all of the organ was rebuilt then, especially the leatherwork that was deemed to still have 'some life' in it!

The decision not to replace leatherwork in 1975 seems justified, as until this year most of it has 'held out'.

We realised all was not well during the hot summer when, most uncharacteristically, the Great Organ (this is the name for the mechanism and pipes controlled by the middle keyboard) began cipheringthe term used when a note inexplicably 'plays itself' and won't stop. This happened just before a big memorial service, where I was asked to play the Widor Toccata! Fortunately, I could play the Widor on the 3 loudest stops on the organ, which are on a different mechanism, so once I had jammed off the offending note, I managed to get through the service without further trouble!

The offending Great Organ mechanism has now been releathered to a much higher standard than the shoddy work, which had been done to it at some stage by a poor organ builderprobably in the 1930s. There was evidence of much 'patching up' of the leather. The sheepskin was perished and completely black through London pollution.

Once the Great Organ mechanism was out and at the workshop, the parlous state of the main 3 bellows....the lungs of the instrument, became visible.

The cracks in the leather had at some stage been disguised by being covered in some sort of white tennis shoe type paint...another example of poor organ building the organ had suffered at some stage in its life.

The paint has now lifted and cracks of about 2 metres running horizontally along the seams of the bellows are clear to see. At present it is just luck that these cracks haven't burst open, so we are hoping that the bellows will last until after Christmas!

In January and February, the bellows are to be taken out and completely re-leathered. This is a major opera-

tion and probably has never been done since the organ was made in 1889 so it's long overdue.

The front pipes have to come out and the bellows brought down with lifting equipment to be taken to Organ Design's workshops in Liss, Hampshire for refurbishment.

Our organ should then have good lungs well in to the future. It's worth thinking about the longevity of pipe organs. How many other mechanical and engineering marvels last so long? A certain local school, where I'm organist, is now on its third electronic organ in twenty years...and the present one now ten years old is already technologically completely out of date!

In the meantime our Willis soldiers on, and, apart from the bellows at present, is in remarkably fine condition. Inevitably with such a large and complex machine parts wear out, but they can always be repaired. The sound of the Willis pipes still ring out to lead our worship and recitals, being true to the sound that Father Willis voiced them to speak over 130 years ago. We have a BIOS (British Institute of Organ Studies) certificate because the organ is a significant instrument of Willis, still with its original voicing and some original mechanism.

Works, which remain to be done include the refurbishment of the keyboards, pedal board and Swell pedal, the cleaning of the Swell and Great organs, repair of some pipes, and the replacement of the pneumatic motors (the noisy crashing sounds made when the stops are changed) with silent solenoids. This is why we constantly need to fund raise at our recitals and concerts to keep the organ in tip-top condition for us, and future generations.

(A complete list of the work done to the organ over recent years and its history can be found on the NPOR website.)

Whilst the organ is away, we will manage with the vintage Broadwood piano, and I shall be working my way through Bach's great 48 Preludes and Fugues, from 'The Well-Tempered Clavier'.

The Choir will be focusing on delightful unaccompanied music of the Renaissance.

You can help us keep the organ playing by coming to our concerts, or sponsoring a voluntary. We are also looking for more volunteers to help our team with the refreshments and with the screens at the recitals

Jonathan Holmes, Director of Music



BLACK & WHITE THEMED EVENING

1 December 2018

The Black and White theme of the evening was dramatically presented as the guests entered the church hall and gathered their glasses of bubbly, with all the tables decorated with napkins, beautifully presented candle holder bottles and the menu all reflecting the vivid contrast of extreme light and dark -no shades of grey there!



The tone of the event was further elaborated with delightful little cards on the tables, which bore a series of sayings on the wonders of black and white and pictures of black and white clad ladies from the twenties and thirties. Thus, the scene was set for some sophisticated nostalgia, buoyed up further by the explanatory notes on the wines for the connoisseurs. The cultured air of the proceedings was confirmed by the Latin Grace from his college days that Russell delivered. (Quite a lengthy piece, not just a hasty, "Benedictus Benedictat" for the good people of Ewell this time if you please!) The efforts of the organisers were suitably complemented by the attire of those present. Sartorial elegance on the part of the ladies was the order of the evening and the gentlemen did justice dashing to the theme, too.

The food and drink were delicious marvels, with Boeuf Bourguignon as the main course and the two-tone motif even echoed in some of the desserts, such as the meringue with blackberry accom-

paniment. Cooking was by the loving hands of Rosemarie and her team in the Tardis-like kitchen and service was a model of pleasant efficiency.

Amusingly but efficiently compered by churchwarden Valerie and David from the social committee, the proceedings flowed smoothly along. It appeared that no expense had been spared in engaging top entertainers, with Jonathan at the piano providing accompaniment throughout. George partly divested himself to gasps of anticipation - or possibly concern - from the ladies, but then donned a "Right said Fred" outfit to sing that very funny song with total aplomb.



The main act was St Mary's Players in their presentation of "Murder at the Vicarage"- a bird had been done in, but who had done it? It had been written and directed by Jenny, who also made an excellent "living in a bubble" Lady Mary. She played the part with flair and panache accompanied by her lap dog and suitably ensconced in her baronial hall - a magnificent stage set with family escutcheon, including a Griffin Rampant surmounting a Saracenic scimitar and the whole mounted on



cloth of gold. (The heraldic thread was sustained by the two supporters holding up the door of the hall.) She was attended by Bumbling Butler Bunter, [played by Steve], who struggled to follow her orders for cosmopolitan cocktails. Mistress of disguise was Gilda who



presented a diverse range of alter egos as she played a series of high-profile sleuths all attempting to assist the baffled aristocrat. Valerie kept up the tension with her lively narration and the dénouement was finally presented by Russell, type-cast as the vicar.

With a grand finale Community Singing of what Jonathan called a selection of "wildly contemporary music", this was a joyful and exhilarating evening. Your out-of-Ewell correspondent can't wait for the next happy and perfectly conducted St. Mary's event.

MYE

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

Losing someone you love can turn
your world upside down

Talking about it helps

Third Tuesday each month

2:45pm–3:45pm

St Mary's Church Hall (opposite
church on London Road)

Tel 0208 393 2643

Open to all: just turn up


Princess Alice
Hospice

Caring when it matters



Alan Greenwood & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors

www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com

The Funeral Service that caters for everyone's needs

- A choice of the latest Jaguar or Mercedes Hearses and Limousines
- Home visit arrangements
- Pre-paid funeral plans
- Memorials
- Quality Service 24 hours day



The Greenwood Family are directly involved in the running of the Company, ensuring that your wishes are carried out with the utmost dignity and precise attention to detail.

83 High Street, Ewell Village, KT17 1RX **020 8393 0197**

425 Kingston Road, Ewell, KT19 0BT **020 8786 7476**

706 London Road, North Cheam, SM3 9BY **020 8150 9525**

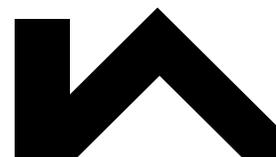
RAISE FUNDS WHEN YOU SHOP ON LINE!

Have you heard about
easyfundraising?

It's an easy way to help raise money for St Mary's! If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, iTunes, eBay, Expedia or HMV, then please sign up for free to raise money while you shop!

There are links on the church website to help you

So far 37 people have signed up
and have raised £968 for St Mary's



All roofing and guttering repairs

30 years experience covering
Worcester Park and close by

Valleys, Bays etc.

All new work guaranteed

Free estimates

Special rates to O.A.P.s

J L Hellings & Son

Tel: 020 8788 1459
100 Kingsmead Avenue

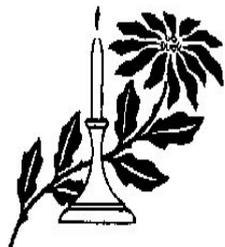
ALFRED & EWART LONGHURST

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS

- A complete, caring professional service
- Estimates and advice freely given for funerals and memorials
- Flexible pre-paid funeral plan - details on request

21-23, KINGSTON ROAD, EWELL

020 8393 1077



Calendar for January

- T 3 2000 Meeting of the Social Committee
- S 6 **THE EPIPHANY**
0800 Holy Communion
0930 Sung Eucharist
1100 Praise@11
- T 8 1000 Holy Communion (said) at the Side Chapel
2000 Meeting of the Children's Support Group
- W 9 No access to church
- T 10 No access to church
- S 13 **SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**
0800 Holy Communion
0930 Sung Eucharist
1100 "A New Year for St. Mary's"
- M 14 0930 Holy Communion to the Housebound
- T 15 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Side Chapel
2000 Meeting of Parochial Church Council
- T 17 1000 Holy Communion to The Old House
- S 20 **THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**
0800 Holy Communion
0930 Sung Eucharist
1100 Toddle Up!
1730 Choral Evensong
- M 21 1400 Holy Communion to The Elders
2000 Julian Group meets in the Parish Room
- T 22 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Side Chapel
- S 26 1500-1700 Board Games afternoon in the Church Hall
- S 27 **CANDLEMAS**
0800 Holy Communion
0930 Sung Eucharist
1115 Morning Prayer and Holy Baptism
- T 29 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Side Chapel

ORGAN REPAIR

Our Father Willis pipe organ will be out of action from 9 January 2019 until mid-February for major repairs. Service music will be a mixture of unaccompanied and accompanied by piano during this period. See also page 8.

☕ FEE MORNINGS

**WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY
FROM 10.30 am – 12 noon**

DO COME AND JOIN US

Improving homes inside and out

Oakdene Home Services

Home Maintenance
Painting & Decorating, Gardening & General DIY

Roger Phillips

TELEPHONE: 07831 663 323
EMAIL: oakdenehomeservices@gmail.com

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON

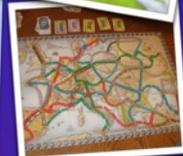
**Saturday 26 January
3-5pm in the church hall**



All Ages
Welcome

St Mary's Church plays board games!

Come and join us 3-5pm at St Mary's Church Hall for some board game fun. Games of luck and skill, familiar games, some new and unusual games, suitable for young and old. Free tea & cake will be served. No need to book - just turn up!



St Mary's Ewell
www.stmarysewell.com

EPN copy dates for 2019 We welcome articles from members of the congregation, especially reports on parish activities. These should be sent to epn@stmarysewell.com before noon on the following Mondays:

14 Jan 11 Feb 18 Mar 8 Apr 13 May 17 June 22 July 12 Aug 16 Sept 14 Oct 11 Nov 9 Dec

Please see the bottom of page 1 for details of our copy requirements.