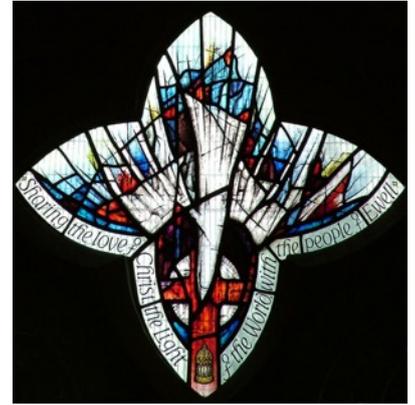




EWELL PARISH NEWS



The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 554

March 2019

60p

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



LENT COURSE Why should we care for God's creation?

12 March – 'My property?' Why did God create the world? Where's creation going?

19 March – 'Creation groans' If God created a good world, what went wrong?

26 March – 'Do not fear!' Is 'care for creation' a lost cause?

2 April – 'Speak up' Do Christians have any influence on those in authority?

9 April – We may reflect on issues we would like to discuss further

All welcome. Tuesday evenings in the Parish Room. See p6 for details

CONTENTS

The Vicar writes2, 3 & 4
In and around our parish....4
Enjoy some peace & quiet..4
Report from the PCC.....4



Suggested prayers.....5
Fun Day Wednesday.....5
Lent course.....6
World Day of Prayer.....6



Celebrating marriage....6 & 7
Board Games Afternoon....8
Flowers for Easter.....8
From the Parish Registers..8
Organ Recital.....8
Coffee Mornings.....8
Children's pages.....9 & 10
Bereavement Café.....11
Nuts in May.....11
Calendar for March.....12
Quiz Night.....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 April edition is noon on Monday 18 March.

The Vicar writes

"The voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land." This wonderful verse from the Song of Songs is part of a beautiful passage celebrating love, spring, and the natural world. For us today, the voice of the turtle dove is a rare thing indeed- I have never heard one. Their population in the UK has declined from 250,000 in the 1960s to around 5,000 today and continues to fall. The reasons are multiple- from desertification in Africa over the turtle doves' migratory routes, to changing land use in Britain, including intensive farming practices.

This Lent we are hoping that many people at St Mary's will think about care for the environment as our focus of study, prayer, and giving. The first thing that comes to mind when we think of Lent is 'giving something up', or fasting. This too is relevant. Greed and unbridled consumption have an enormous effect on the natural world. Giving something up is a sign of something that is good for the soul, but also good for the environment.

You'll find in these pages information about our Lent course, and the services planned especially for the First Sunday of Lent which take up this theme. We hope that, as a practical outworking of Lent this year, St Mary's will consider what we can do as a church to support nature and the environment around. Perhaps we can find a part to play in ensuring that, in the future, the voice of the turtle dove will be heard in our land.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

In the last couple of years, St Mary's has been fortunate enough to receive some very generous legacies. The PCC's policy is that 25% of bequests goes to help us meet the shortfall in our running costs each year. 75% goes towards major projects: much-needed repairs, improvements, and new ministry. We have seen improvements in our church hall and our AV system in the past year, and plans are underway to improve the parking and loo facilities in church, among other things. But the PCC has felt strongly since we received these recent legacies that as well as improvements to the buildings and grounds, it was essential to invest in ministry in our church. After a year of research, discussion, and prayer, we have ascertained that the most important addition to our ministry team will be a children and families worker. In recent months, several of the nearby mid-sized churches, very like ours, have recruited children & families workers. This is becoming increasingly common- one might say necessary- for mid-sized and larger churches. We are blessed with a dedicated and gifted team of volunteers who work in children's ministry. But if we were not to recruit someone now we would have to make significant reductions in what we offer: and we don't want to reduce our offering, we want to increase it, especially developing in the 12+ age range. For all the recent growth in the several congregations that make up St Mary's, we need to consolidate what we offer to young families, to offer the very best in worship and activities.

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;
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**Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE DipCivil
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**Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Dr Patrick Miller
MA PhD; Email: assistantpriest1@stmarysewell.com**

READER

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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.

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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 NESBOT

On Tuesdays in term time, students from NESBOT are serving simple lunches 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!

This is also essential for our future, to ensure we properly reflect the age profile of Ewell in our congregations.

We will be advertising this exciting opportunity during March, for interviews in early April. Our Children and Families' Worker will support our existing team, help it to grow, get involved in the various services and activities, and help to expand what we offer. Watch out for more information on our website. If you know anyone who might be interested in this vacancy, please do let them know. Please pray for a successful appointment to be made. Exciting times are ahead!

ELECTORAL ROLL

The nearest thing the Church of England has to a membership list is the electoral roll for each parish. This is nothing to do with voting for politicians, it is a list of those who associate themselves with a given church. Technically, being on the electoral roll allows you to vote at the annual meeting, gives you certain rights in connection with marriage, funerals, burial, baptism, and pastoral visiting, and allows you to stand for certain offices in the church. But more broadly, it is a measure of how many people support the local church. This year the electoral roll in every church has to start again from scratch. This means everyone has to fill in a new form, whether or not you have been on St Mary's electoral roll before.

Please consider joining the electoral roll. It indicates to the powers that be the number of people who feel a sense of belonging to St Mary's. If people don't sign up for the new electoral roll there is a danger the church is seen as being in decline. You need to be aged 16 or over, you need to have been baptized (i.e. christened), and prepared to say you consider yourself a member of the Church of England (you can belong to another church as well of course). By the time you read this, electoral roll forms will be available in church and on our website.

The electoral roll closes on 7 April - please get your forms in before then to be on the electoral roll in time for its publication! (It will re-open later in the year, so late entries are still very welcome.)

IN CHURCH IN MARCH

Every Sunday there is a simple said service of Holy Communion at 8am and a Sung Eucharist at 9:30am (which includes Children's Hour, our Sunday school, in term time). Other services vary each week.

On Sunday 3 March our all-age Praise@11 service is at 11am and we'll be getting ready for Lent, with pancakes.

Lent is the period of 40 days of fasting, prayer, and preparation for Easter. On Wednesday 6 March we mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. At 12 noon there is a simple said service of Holy Communion, then at 8pm a Sung Eucharist with hymns and a sermon. At both services there is the chance to receive a mark of ash on the forehead for those who wish it, as a sign of beginning this season.

On Saturday 9 March the first organ recital with the newly repaired Father Willis organ takes place. Jonathan Holmes begins the season at 7.30pm.

Sunday 10 March is the First Sunday of Lent. At 9:30am, the preacher will be Rich Bee from A Rocha, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. Services continue at 11:15am with Choral Mattins. Then at 5pm, our All-in service, for all ages, continues the theme of caring for nature. It's followed by Club Sandwich at 6pm, our youth group for 7-11s.

Continued on page 4



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The Vicar Writes: continued from page 3

Our monthly service especially for toddlers- Toddle Up!- is on Sunday 17 March at 11am. Then at 5:30pm, Choral Evensong is sung by the parish choir.

On Sunday 24 March our service at 11:15am is Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism, with singing from St Mary's Singers.

There is a quiz on Saturday 30 March to raise money for the parish choir. On 30 & 31 August and 1 September, they will be singing three days' services at Liverpool Cathedral. We are therefore raising money to help choir members' travel and accommodation costs and the quiz is the first of a number of other fund-raising things over the next few months. Keep an eye on posters and the website for more details.

Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 31 March, and our special all-age Praise@11 service for the day is at 11am.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Russell Dewhurst

ENJOY SOME PEACE & QUIET!

Enjoy some peace and quiet!

A small group has enjoyed meeting in January and February from 8-9pm in the Parish Room being still and quiet in God's presence, enjoying some music and hearing some words from a spiritual writer.

Everyone is welcome. The dates for the next three months are 18 March, 15 April (Monday in Holy Week) and 20 May. You get to the Parish Room by coming to the back of the church. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with The Reverend Sue Ayling (020 8337 6347 or assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com)

REPORT FROM THE PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 15 January, just two days after the congregation came together for 'A New Year for St Mary's'.

Most of the meeting was taken up discussing the proposed budget for 2019, prepared by the Finance Committee, and which was approved by those present.

Following the positive feedback from the congregation on Sunday 13 January about the proposal to employ a Children and Families Worker, the PCC tasked the Children's Support Group with drafting a job description and person specification.

Discussion also took place around the need to continue with the 'topple testing' of headstones in the churchyard and a way of making safe the growing number of old monuments deemed to be unsafe.

The next PCC meeting will be on Monday 8 April to approve the annual report, prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 28 April.

LD

IN AND AROUND OUR PARISH

March brings the beginning of Spring, longer days, daffodils, and of course the beginning of Lent. This is what is happening in and around our Parish in March.

There is a Concorde Golden Jubilee Celebration at Brooklands Museum in Weybridge on Saturday 2 March. Tickets are available at

<https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com>.

Bourne Hall will be covered in flowers and Spring-time cheer on Saturday 9 March for the annual Herald of Spring. There will be floral displays, a show garden, arts and crafts stalls and family activities. Attendance is free. The event will be open from 9.30 - 17.00.

Also on Saturday 9 March, there is a Jumble Sale at Epsom Methodist Church. The sale is hosted by the Guides, in order to raise funds for trips and activities for the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

On Sunday 10 March, there is a Celebration Farmers Market in Cheam Park. There will be stalls selling street food, fresh produce, ales and crafts. There will also be live music.

St Mary's Church, Cuddington has a Home Made Sunday taking place on Sunday 17 March from 11.00 - 12.00. You can buy homemade cakes, preserves, cards and crafts.

There is an Epsom Common History Walk taking place on Sunday 17 March between 13.00 - 16.00. Tickets cost £5 per adult and £2.50 per child. For more information, contact Stewart Cocker on scocker@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or 01372 732473.

The Epsom Garden Society Spring Show takes place at St Martin's Junior School on Saturday 23 March from 14.00 - 16.00. The event is free. For more information, contact Catherine Flitter on

catherine.flitter2@ntlworld.com.

If you are interested in bee keeping and buying local honey, then you can visit the local apiary in Ewell on Saturday 30 March from 11.00 - 14.00. For a price list or more information, email

info@epsombeekkeepers.co.uk.

The Rural Life Centre in Farnham (GU10 2DL) is having a celebration of steam driven toys from yester-years. Saturday 30 March from 10.00 - 17.00.

There will be a Spring Show, hosted by the Ewell Horticultural Society on Saturday 30 March from 14.30 - 16.30. The show will take place at Blenheim High School. Entry is free, as is parking; and there will be flower displays, cookery, photography, crafts, refreshments and a raffle. For more information, contact Margaret Angus on 020 8393 1749 or email eha_details@ewellhortassn.co.uk.

Have a wonderful March and beginning of Lent; and if you have any events or news that you think should be included in the March article of 'In and Around Our Parish', then please email me on publicity@stmarysewell.com

Kalli Pasqualucci

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SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Prayers for Lent



At the beginning of Lent, we meet Jesus in the wilderness. He rejected temptation, and we are reminded to be like Him. At the end of our journey through Lent, we

meet Jesus in all His humanity, pain and suffering, and we are reminded that He was just like us. Throughout His ministry and journey to the Cross, Jesus' own life was rooted in prayer to His heavenly Father. Let us make this Lent a time when we too endeavour to root all that we do in prayer.

Lord Jesus,

When we find ourselves 'in the wilderness', faced with our own helplessness;

When the road ahead is unclear and our dreams obscured by doubt and uncertainty, help us to fix our eyes on you. Help us to make the right choices, however difficult that may be.

You know what it is like to face temptation, having been tempted in the wilderness. Yet you remained steadfast. Help us to fix our eyes on you. Help us to make the right choices, however difficult that may be.

During your earthly ministry, you reached out to all manner of people, healing them and opening hearts and minds to the knowledge of God's unconditional love for each one of them.

You know each one of us inside out. Thank you that you accept us no matter who we are or where we come from.

As you entered Jerusalem, you were celebrated, worshipped, adored. Help us to worship as those who laid their palms before you. Help us to offer you all that we are and all that we have.

Yet, despite the celebrations and acclamations, you were eventually rejected, vilified and tortured and knew all manner of pain. You understand our pain and suffering. Be with each one of us when we struggle; when we feel hopeless and helpless. Give us hope when life seems dark. This Lent, we pray that you will help us to fully understand the meaning of the Cross and that, as you promised, you will walk beside us throughout our earthly lives and guide us in the right path.

AMEN

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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 francesmiddle@yahoo.co.uk.

LENT COURSE 2019

Why should we care for God's creation?



Each Tuesday evening through Lent, with the help of a Bible passage, a video presentation and discussion we'll be looking at a different topic around the question of why we should care for creation and be concerned about the environment. The dates and topics are listed on the front cover of this issue of EPN.

There is a booklet for individuals to buy which includes ideas about how to go about putting into practice the imperative that we can and should each one of us make a difference in caring for creation through the choices we make in our every day lives. You may like to consider buying the booklet whether you are doing the Lent course or not. The price is £2.99 and you can order it by emailing parishoffice@stmarysewell.com or ringing 020 8393 2643 or signing the list at the back of church.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesdays through Lent. Everyone is welcome. Each evening is self-contained so do come along even if you can't make all the sessions. The venue is the Parish Room which is accessed from the back of the church. Any questions to The Revd Sue Ayling on 020 8337 6347 or at assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com.

COME – EVERYTHING IS READY!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



World Day of Prayer is an annual service held on the first Friday in March each year. There is possibly no other service other than those celebrating Christian festivals where countries around the world are praying for the same people of a country on the same day. Each year the focus is on a different country. This year it is the turn of Slovenia. The women of that country have produced the service which tells a little of their way of life. Their stories reflect the political and economic situation of Slovenia from the time it was a socialist-communist state to the present day. Their wish is that the service, its readings, prayers and hymns might be both a blessing and a challenge to everyone who comes to the service.

The service booklet contains far more than the words of the service. It also gives some background information of the social and political history that has gone to make Slovenia what it is today.

The service for this area will be held on Friday 1 March at 2 pm at Ruxley Church, Ruxley Lane. It will be followed by refreshments.

DB

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Our annual service to mark the celebration of marriage takes place on a Sunday near St Valentine's Day and those who have been married at St Mary's are invited to attend the service. This year the service was held on 10 February and we welcomed 102 adults and children to our church.

The hymns and readings were those that are frequently chosen for weddings. The first reading was taken from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 13, which is the well-known passage about love. The second reading was taken from St John's Gospel chapter 2, the Wedding at Cana in Galilee. The preacher was the Vicar and the anthem was "Set as a seal" by Walton.

Afterwards those invited enjoyed a glass of "fizz" with members of the regular congregation.



Before the service we interviewed three couples who had been married, or who are about to get married, at St Mary's. Thank you to Maria, Nigel, Emily, John, Hannah and Josh for sharing your stories.

Nigel and Maria Bird

How did you meet? We met through scouts but no idea exactly when.

Who proposed? And where did you get engaged? Nigel proposed at Il Capriccio in Ewell with a selection of diamond rings to choose from. He did not get down on one knee!

When did you get married at St Mary's Church? September 2008 just a few days after my birthday. Nigel always says if he forgets my birthday he definitely won't forget our anniversary!!

What made you choose to get married at St Mary's? Nigel has been attending St Mary's since birth so there really was

only one church.

Tell us something special or unique about your wedding...



The Ewell St Mary's Morris Men were invited and kicked off the evening reception with some dances and lifted me in the air which was pretty scary with a strapless dress.

As Nigel's brother was my first husband's best friend he ended up with the dubious privilege of being best man at both of my weddings.

What was your wedding song? And why did you choose it?

It was Cliff Richard - For Life. Chosen because of the words about love being for life.

Emily and John Larkin



How did you meet? At Coombe 6th Form College in New Malden when we were just 16.

Who proposed? And where did you get engaged? John got down on one knee on the pebble beach at Seaford in East Sussex. It was June 2015 and sunny, but really windy! After we went to the pub to celebrate with a bottle of champagne and fish finger sandwiches.

When did you get married at St Mary's Church? April 2016. It was a bit drizzly but luckily the sun came out for the ceremony.

What made you choose to get married at St Mary's? St Mary's is such a beautiful church and we had been attending the 9.30am service for almost a year previously.

Tell us something special about your wedding... Getting married at St Mary's was incredibly special. It felt so personal and it was lovely to have some members of the congregation join us. The service and our time in the church was the highlight of our day by far. We all stayed behind after the ceremony to have photos and a glass of fizz before heading to our reception round the corner at The Neapolitan Kitchen. Before we left we had a big group photo of everyone from the balcony, it's one of our favourites.

What was your wedding song? And why did you choose it?

It was 'Can't take my eyes off you' by Andy Williams. It's a bit of a Larkin family anthem. We wanted to get everyone on the dance floor singing the chorus "I LOVE YOU BABY!",

it definitely got the party going!!!

Is there anything else that you would like to share? The Marriage Preparation Day was also an important part of getting married at St Mary's. It helped us look past the mad rush of table plans and food orders and think about our future together. Even after knowing each other for so long, we still thought about and discussed things that had never come up before.

Hannah Crick and Josh Massen



How did you meet? We met on an online dating site. Our first date consisted of Sunday roast - best way to my heart!

Who proposed? And where did you get engaged? Josh proposed to me under the moonlit arches of Lincoln Cathedral, a week after taking me to Paris for my birthday. He is originally from Lincoln, so it meant a lot to him to pop the question in his home city. It was the beginning of December, so the city was all set up for Christmas, which made it all the more magical.

When are you getting married at St Mary's Church? July 2019

What made you choose to get married at St Mary's? My parents met in the church choir in the 1974, married at St Mary's in 1981, and went on to have my brother, sister and me. We were all christened and later confirmed at the church. My siblings and I all joined the choir, and each became Head Chorister. We're jokingly called the Von Cricks, as every family member (including paternal Grandmother, and maternal Aunt) have all sung in the choir! All my grandparents are buried in the churchyard, so I wouldn't have ever dreamed of getting married anywhere else. Lynne tells me I'm the only bride she's ever met who's been able to tick off every church connection on the qualifying list!

Tell us something special about your wedding... The most special thing about our wedding will be walking down the aisle in front of all my old chorister friends, arm in arm with my Dad, down the same aisle he walked with my Mum 38 years prior. My Mum was diagnosed with terminal cancer four years ago, so I am truly blessed that she will be able to attend, after being given a life expectancy of 12 months. Our 17 month old daughter, Freya, is going to be a flower girl, so I am very excited to see her walking down that famous family aisle.

What is your wedding song or the hymn you've chosen? We have chosen "Blessed be the God and Father", by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, as our anthem during the signing of the register. This was the anthem I sang during my RSCM Bishop's Award examination (I passed!). The lyrics are absolutely beautiful; "Love one another with a pure heart fervently", is my favourite line - and a wonderful motto to live by.

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON



Board games afternoon was introduced to St Mary's by Russell when he became our vicar. A keen games player, Russell enjoys an opportunity to introduce us to a wide range of board games old and new (as well as playing with his Christmas presents!).



About 30 people, age range 1-97, braved the cold January afternoon. Racing "cars" around a track propelled by finger flicks was popular (last year's winner, boy racer George, won yet again!) and there were three tables where Scrabble was hotly contested. Other games included: For Sale! and Dr Who Fluxx.

Homemade cake and tea were an added attraction. This was a very pleasant way to spend a cold January afternoon - and there is now a demand to repeat the event more frequently. Why not!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERALS

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

4 February Donald Edward Fraser-Jones, aged 92

7 February Roy Henry Coleman, aged 85

11 February Derek David Brian Lee, aged 39

CUP FEE MORNINGS

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

DO COME AND JOIN US

FLOWERS AT ST. MARY'S

Spring will soon be upon us, the dark winter days will be behind us and with that we can look forward to the spring flowers bursting up through the ground, and buds on shrubs and trees, reminding us of the gift of the circle of life. Fresh flowers in church are a popular way of celebrating this season of regeneration. Once again you are invited to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one which will be combined with the floral displays that are being planned by the team for St Mary's this Easter. Isn't our lovely church building even more beautiful when enhanced by lots of flowers?

Lilies are £3.50 each. Last date for ordering is Sunday 31 March. Please contact Lucy Morrell on 020 8873 2184 or email lucy.morrell@ntlworld.com with details of how many lilies you would like and the name of the people to be remembered. Cash is preferred, or cheques can be made payable to St. Mary's Flower Arrangers and given to Lucy, or dropped in to the Parish Office in an envelope.

The main arrangement by the pulpit can also be sponsored at almost any time after Easter to celebrate a special occasion, anniversary or loved one, provided there isn't a wedding that weekend, and recognition can be put in the weekly notes if you wish. Two weeks advanced notice is helpful.

LM

ORGAN RECITAL

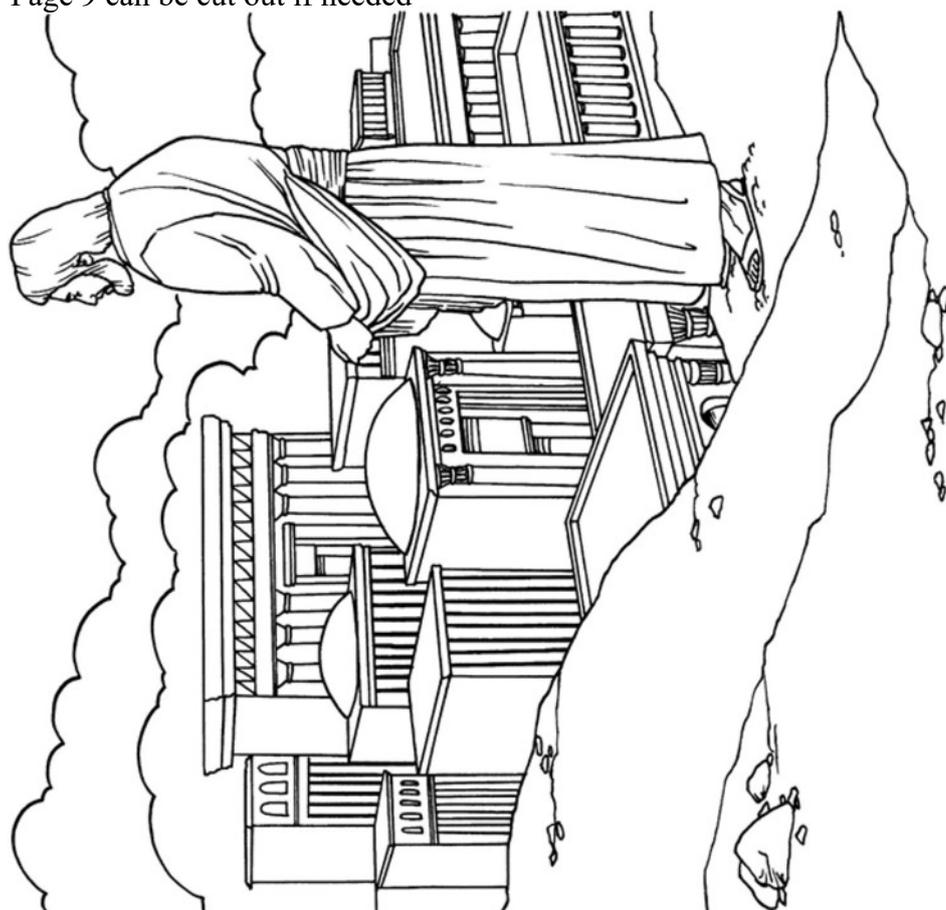
Jonathan Holmes

Opening recital once the bellows are
back!

Saturday 9 March at 7:30pm

Tickets are £8 on the door
or £7 in advance through Eventbrite
Under 16s qualify for a reduced ticket
price of only £1

Page 9 can be cut out if needed



Jesus, you know what it is like to be tempted.
 You know what it is like to stand up for what is right.
 Help me when I have to do the same.
 Amen



Young Church Mass

10 March February 2019, the First Sunday of Lent; Luke 4:1-13



Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days

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NUTS IN MAY

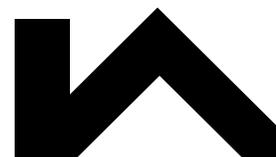
The next church social evening will be held on

Saturday 11 May

3 course meal and entertainment.

Tickets cost £10 and will be on sale after services
and from the Parish Office from late March

Please note the date!



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