



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 571

August 2020

60p



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

St. Mary's has re-opened after lockdown



Throughout August there will be a short and simple service of Holy Communion on Sunday evenings in church at 5:30pm and the church will be open for private prayer on Thursdays, from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Please observe social distancing when attending church. Please do not attend if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

Our online Sunday Mattins will be continuing for those who cannot attend church. Club Sandwich is also continuing throughout the summer.

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The Vicar writes

We have been very fortunate at St Mary's during these tumultuous months that we have been able to offer such a broad range of ministry. Pastoral care, often by phone, online, or letter; assistance with practical needs; a full range of children's services and groups online; online worship including music, sermons, and other contributions from a variety of St Mary's people; social activities and buzzing social media. All during this time, the ongoing expenses (insurance, maintenance) etc have continued while our income has drastically dropped, particularly from cash collections and hall bookings.

As we enter August, traditionally the quietest time of the year for church, it seems right to mark all our thanks to everyone who has enabled all of the above, and much more, to continue throughout these past months. In particular those who give of their time and talents, our volunteers, office holders, and employees, and all those who support the church through regular planned giving or other donations.

Many other churches have not been so well-placed and have had to make very difficult decisions to make ends meet. Many more are having to make hard choices for the future. With God's blessing, we should be able to weather the storm thanks to so many people, as mentioned above, and to those who have generously given gifts and legacies in recent years. One such person was Eve Myatt-Price, a long-standing member of St Mary's, who left a significant sum to the church in her will. I recall her saying to me some years ago that she would not restrict her legacy for any particular purposes, because, she said, "something always comes up. We can't know now, but you'll need the money for something, and I wouldn't want it tied up for one thing when you needed it for another." The generosity of Eve and others has already allowed us to complete some of the recent projects such as the new toilet facilities in church, but just as important is the fact that we have a financial 'buffer' that we have been able to put against this difficult year of Coronavirus. Rather than having to close anything down, we have been able to continue serving the community, and should be ready to bounce back as and when it is safe and permitted to do so in the coming months. Thank you, Eve. You knew something would come up, though you can't have guessed it would be this. Thank you to everyone who has given, often with generosity and sacrifice, and allowed St Mary's together to do the work we trust God is calling us to do.

NEW WAYS OF GIVING

As a practical addendum to the above, there are a couple of ways that you can give to support St Mary's

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

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CLERGY

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The Parish Office is on the south side of the church.

The Parish Office is closed to visitors at present. Please telephone or email instead.

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Secondly, you can now also make a donation by text. Text EWELL 5 to 70085 to donate £5. Texts cost your donation plus one standard rate message. Change the 5 to the amount you'd like to give, up to EWELL 20 to give £20.

If you would like to find out more about regular giving, or about leaving a legacy, please get in touch with our stewardship recorder, Miriam Massey on 020 8394 0453 or plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com.

It is a difficult and precarious time for many, and I know some of those who usually support St Mary's financially will be finding it very difficult to do so.

For all of us who, to use the words of the Collect, "profess and call ourselves Christians", support of God's church is a duty we should consider with prayer and reflection.

EWELL VILLAGE FAIR

Our biggest fund-raising event of the year, Ewell Village Fair, sadly could not take place this year. We have put together a video for our regular fairgoers, saying how much we miss celebrating EVF together. You can find it on our Facebook page and website. We look forward to EVF 2021!

IN CHURCH IN AUGUST

Things are changing every week as regards what is permitted in churches as in many other walks of life. At the time of writing, I expect that in August we will continue with a Sunday pattern of

9:30am Morning Prayer online at www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live

5:30pm Holy Communion in church.

Our all-age and children's services will take a break for August, but Club Sandwich will continue on Zoom: get in touch for more information.

Please observe social distancing at services in St Mary's. Please do not come to church if you have Coronavirus symptoms, but let us know so we can help in whatever ways we can.

We are also opening the church on Thursdays 5:30pm-6:30pm at present for private prayer.

If possible, I would like to return to more of our usual range of services to church from September, but we will have to wait and see what is possible and advisable nearer the time. Whatever happens, it's my intention that there will continue to be services online in one form or another. As ever, watch this space!

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Russell Dewhurst

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CAFE NESCO

On Tuesdays in term time, students from NESCO are serving simple lunches in our church hall (London Rd, opposite the church) between 12 and 1.30pm.

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

Everyone welcome!

Postponed till further notice



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WHY DO WE WATCH BIRDS?

Summer is a quiet time for garden birds. After the trials and tribulations of securing a territory, finding and keeping a mate, incubating eggs and rearing young - all of which impose great physical strain on a bird - they are in dire need of a break. For many, too, it is vital they shed their old, worn feathers and grow new ones.

It may be a useful opportunity for us to consider some fundamental questions. One of these must be, why do we watch birds? What is the pleasure in so doing? For many of us derive endless enjoyment from watching the daily activities of birds in our gardens. After all, they are always there: even in cities there are birds we tend to take for granted such as pigeons or sparrows.

In my limited experience, having travelled to or lived in European countries only, the hobby of birdwatching seems to be restricted to the British Isles. In Germany, Hungary and Poland people certainly spend much time in the countryside, whether walking or gathering fungi or berries for food, but few go specifically to look at birds. Those who do go and look at them all seem to be scientists. The situation there resembles this country before the Second World War; but of that, more next month! For now, let us concentrate on birdwatching as it exists today.

The period of, and just after the Second World War seems to me to be the defining moment as far as birdwatching is concerned. During the War everyone was eager to grow their own food and that persisted for several years of rationing afterwards. All gardens and allotments were devoted to the growing of vegetables; nothing went to waste that could be eaten. A saying in my own family that still 'does the rounds' is to the effect that you can eat every part of a pig except its squeak. Kitchen scraps, bread crumbs etc were put out for the birds all year round and not only in winter. Winters were colder then, birds more desperate for food.

Moreover, along with feeding of birds and enjoyment of watching their antics in the garden, was increasing awareness of the existence of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and what it strove to do. Although the RSPB had been founded back in the 19th century it always seemed clique-ish; After the war it sought to widen its membership by appealing to the young; to that end the RSPB established a junior branch, the Young Ornithologists' Club (YOC) now called Wildlife Explorers. Indeed, the RSPB has, controversially, attempted to metamorphose itself from being a strictly birds only affair to one that seeks to demonstrate how all of nature is connected. However the publicity made by RSPB to all sorts of nature-related issues has grown over the years: when one is young is the time to get involved. I remember the 'Torrey Canyon' catastrophe when an oil tanker ran aground and thousands of sea birds were smothered in crude oil.

Not only the RSPB. Thanks to radio and television, bird-related and other wildlife organisations receive publicity. Among these wildlife personalities was Sir Peter Scott with whom I received my moment of fame on the radio, and whose name begins my next essay in the series 'Why do we watch birds?'

A VIRTUAL - DAY FOR ALL



Anyone who has been involved in the organisation of an event knows that it takes many weeks if not months of preparation and decision making before it can happen. This is just as true for the planning of Day For All, the event that St Mary's has run for the past seven years each September. This year, the DFA planning team has had to work with the uncertainty of what will be allowed in the weeks to come due to the restrictions of the covid-19 virus. Rather than cancel DFA completely, a variety of activities and items of interest will be posted online for people to take part in and enjoy.

This year, the *VIRTUAL DAY FOR ALL* will be on Saturday, 26 September. It has taken as its theme, *Handle With Care*, in line with St Mary's becoming an Eco Church. This will also be the subject for the popular Photo Competition which will also be run electronically. There will be two categories: 12 years and under and 13 years and over. In the meantime, think of any photos you'd like to submit (up to two).

For the first time this year there will be a competition based on an acrostic poem i.e. the first letter of a word, such as 'summer,' forms the first letter of a line of verse, example -

Sunshine warming my toes,
Underwater fun with my friends,
Making homemade ice cream on the porch,
Many long nights catching fireflies.
Early morning walks to the creek,
Revelling in the freedom of lazy days.

Choose any word that represents the theme of 'Handle Nature With Care.' There will be three categories - 12 year and under, 13 years and over and a family effort, with the children's contribution being at least half of the finished poem.

There will be something for children to make at home and send a picture of it in for judging and for everyone to see (see also page 8).

Full details of everything that will be happening will be found in the September edition of the Ewell Parish News and online at www.stmarysewell.com.

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GIVING TO ST MARY'S

As with most churches and charities, the current situation has reduced St Mary's income. Thank you to all those whose regular giving continues to support St Mary's: it is much appreciated.

If you would like to make an on-line one-off gift, large or small, it will be very gratefully received by St Mary's. Please visit:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1006677>

This link is also on our website.

If you'd like to find out about other methods of giving, please contact our parish stewardship recorder Miriam Massey on plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com or 020 8394 0453.

Miriam will be happy to talk you through how you can support St Mary's through regular giving, or by making a one-off donation free of processing fees, e.g. bank transfer.

Prayers for August



A prayer during a summer that is different!

Lord, the Covid-19 pandemic has isolated your people from each other.

Although it is hard, **R**emind us that we can always rely on **Y**ou for strength to face whatever befalls.

The path ahead remains uncertain. **O**n our own, the challenges can seem insurmountable.

We pray that you will **S**end Your Holy Spirit to empower us.

Show us what you would have us do.

Help us to **R**eflect and remember all that **Y**ou have done for us, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we travel **O**nwards through the coming months and years, help us to change our ways and follow only **Y**our ways.

Whether we realise it or not, **Y**ou always **A**nsWER our prayers, even if it is not in the way we expect.

Help us to **D**o what is right, protecting the world that **Y**ou have so lovingly provided for us and may this

Summer be truly one to remember - a time for rest and relaxation but a turning point; a crossroad in history; a time to choose which way to go! **AMEN**

NEW WAYS OF BEING CHURCH CONTINUED ...

Sue writes....

As Russell writes in his letter (pages 2-3) St Mary's doors are open! We were able to share this good news in the July monthly Newsletter from the Ministry Team to church members who aren't online or who appreciate having hard copies of resources. If you are one of them and haven't received a letter, please do let us know. In the Newsletter we acknowledged that it won't be possible for everyone to come to St Mary's - much as they'd like to - and promised they'll be especially in our prayers. As and when it is possible for us to take Home Communion to people we shall do.

I hope that all of you are aware that over the past few months everyone associated with St Mary's is invited to pause for a moment every day at noon and to pray the Lord's Prayer, either in the silence of your heart or aloud. Sometimes I forget, though I do try and remember to set an alarm to remind me! I've found it a great blessing for several reasons. It's good to stop and stand still, it's good to connect with God for a few moments praying the words that Jesus taught us and it's good to be conscious that other members of St Mary's are praying at the same time, so we are together at midday, even though in different places. Do give it a go if you haven't so far. I pray that it will bless you.

Something else I've found a blessing is part of this month's Eco Tip (page 5). A few weeks ago I put out in my garden, filled with water, a large dish which would normally have contained one of my flower pots. Almost immediately house sparrows and a robin started to enjoy drinking from it, including young ones who were a bit wobbly on the rim of the dish! It's also been used on different occasions as a bird bath by a blackbird and by three young starlings in the dish together! They were having great fun and watching them lifted my spirits and connected me with God, the creator of all things. My cat has been specially trained not to catch birds but it might be a hazard in some gardens.

Maggie writes...

Retreat - to Advance - in a new way!

Many of you will be familiar with the practice of going on retreat, taking a few days away in order to rest, be still, have some space, and re-charge the batteries. Some retreats are themed, such as a painting retreat, or addressing the experience of bereavement, but others are individually guided. In this case each person on retreat has one-to-one time each day with their retreat guide to talk about whatever is an issue. Complete confidence is assured, and it is so helpful to be able to share with someone who has wisdom and insight and can help you to see things more clearly, often from a different perspective. In the process of 'being' rather

than 'doing' there is a gentle awareness of the presence of God, and the time to listen to him. It restores the soul.

It obviously isn't possible at the moment to stay at a Retreat House, so I have just experienced a new way - an on-line, Zoom retreat! I wondered what it would be like. A very helpful introduction beforehand enabled me to make special spaces at home - a place to worship, a place to be creative, a place to reflect, to read, to pray.....

There were fifteen of us all taking part in an individually guided retreat, joining together with members of the Northumbria Community. It was amazing to realise that we came from all over the world, as well as the UK. There was someone from Japan, another from Australia, one from the USA, and Ireland. When we first met, the retreat guides introduced themselves, and I felt an immediate affinity to one of them and hoped that she would be my guide. She was!

The group met together four times a day for a short act of worship, which followed the rhythm of the monastic tradition - Morning Prayer at 9.00 am; Midday Prayer at 12 noon; Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm and Compline at 9.30 pm. Celtic liturgy is wonderful and I loved the times we spent together with God.

Most people Zoomed from their homes, but one chap took his I-pad out in the countryside, so we could see lovely scenes surrounding him, and when he volunteered to read one of the psalms his voice was accompanied by the most abundant and beautiful bird-song! It was such a joy to hear and seemed to enhance the psalmist's words!

There was also the opportunity to meet to chat socially, and it was so interesting to hear what was going on all over the world and to marvel at how close we all felt to each other, despite the miles separating us. It was a very tangible experience of the closeness and intimacy of God, holding us all in love.

It was an amazing and special experience - and perhaps rather surprisingly, it worked! I have come away feeling renewed and refreshed and very blessed.

Maggie

POSTSCRIPT Lots of people are saying 'As we come out of lockdown, we hope we don't lose the good things that have happened over the past four months.' As a church family may we continue the new ways we've learnt of being church both by remembering to pause during the day to connect with God and by enjoying that extra dimension nature can bring of closeness with God.

Sue

A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN ST MARY'S LIFE AS A CHURCH!

Just over a year ago an article in EPN asked the question "Climate change – can we make a difference?" The church Eco Group is delighted to announce that at 4pm on Friday 10 July St Mary's registered as an Eco Church! Doing so has started our church on a new journey – because the PCC believe we can make a difference to climate change for the better and want us to take action to do so.



The background is that Guildford Diocese is an Eco Diocese and encourages parish churches to register as an Eco Church under the scheme run by the charity A Rocha in partnership with Christian Aid, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, and Tearfund <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>. See also <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos/269709954290223/> The vision is for a vast network of churches as local centres of creation care in the community – shining beacons of hope for a brighter environmental future.

At the heart of the Eco Church scheme is an online survey that enables churches to record what they are already doing to care for God's creation, to reflect on what further steps they can take and then to act accordingly. The survey covers all areas of church life: Worship and Teaching; Management of Church Buildings; Management of Church Land; Community and Global Engagement; and Lifestyle. As a church completes the survey they collect points towards an Eco Church Award. There are three levels of Eco Church Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Our church Eco Group have suggested to the PCC some ideas for action over the next year and some ideas for action over the next two to five years which will help us move towards our first Award. The ideas are quite varied but to give you a flavour here are just a few for possible action under the five headings during the next twelve months –

- Worship and Teaching – *more hymns about creation*
- Management of Church Buildings – *use re-cycled paper in the Parish Office*
- Management of Church Land – *plant flowers to encourage butterflies and bees*
- Community and Global Engagement – *Organise a walk for local people to get out and enjoy God's earth in our local area once a year.*
- Lifestyle – *encourage church members to do a personal carbon footprint audit.*

Some other actions have already been taken which score points on the Eco Church survey - we had a special Sunday on 28 June which related to caring for God's creation <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos/671985620197926/> and Praise@11 on 5 July celebrated God's creation <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos/267347269>

[9645886/](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos/9645886/). Eco Buddies has been formed for our young people and they contributed a video to the special service on 28 June. For the future the *Virtual Day for All* on 26 September has an environmental theme (see page 4).

We've acknowledged before in EPN that the problem of protecting and restoring the natural world is such a huge one that it is easy to be so discouraged that we do nothing. We can be encouraged by the motto of Dr Ruth Valerio, environmentalist, author and currently Global Advocacy and Influencing Director for Tearfund - 'Many small steps in the right direction.' **and** by St Mary's registering as an Eco Church which is a big step in the right direction. The Eco Group look forward to sharing in future months more about this new journey we are on both as a church and as individuals.

If you are interested in joining the Eco-group or would like to know more please get in touch with the Reverend Sue Ayling (assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com or 020 8337 6347). Also if you don't have internet access and would like hard copies of information about Eco church, please get in touch with Sue.

THE ECO-GROUP'S TIP FOR AUGUST

Looking after wildlife in hot weather.



If you have a garden, patio or balcony please take a moment to think how you might be able to help nature during hot weather. A simple step is to provide a shallow dish of water for thirsty birds, mammals and even insects. But do make sure you change this water daily. Other actions are to top up your bird

feeder and scatter some tasty apple chunks for thrushes, blackbirds and other animals; provide a shady spot using rocks, stone slabs, tall grass for frogs, toads and newts seeking shelter from the sun; top up your pond; water your plants (from a rain barrel) and lastly, keep it a bit messy! (Taken from A Rocha's July E-letter. You can sign up to receive a monthly letter here <https://arocha.org.uk/>)

If you don't have a garden, patio or balcony have you thought of getting a window bird feeder? Contrary to what you might think, window feeders are likely to decrease the chance that a bird will fly into your window because birds tend to fly into glass when they see a reflection of the sky.

If you have any ideas you'd like to feed in or a favourite tip to share please get in touch with the Reverend Sue Ayling:

assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com or 020 8337 6347.

FROM OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER



Woaaah- cannot believe we are already in the 8th month of the year. How time flies when you are having fun. This has been a great year for the children's services in many ways, as although we have not been able to meet in church, we have brought church to you in a different way with a number of fun and interactive services.

I would just like to take this time to thank everyone who has been involved in these services and has made them such a huge success.

In the month of August we will be taking a break from most of our children's services, but do not fear, we will be back in September, eager and ready for the next part of the year. We have some **INCREDIBLE** initiatives, services and events happening, so make sure not to miss out.

These are some of the events/groups that you can look forward to in August

We will be continuing with **Club Sandwich** in August and these will take place on **9 and 23 August**. If you are 7-11 years old or 12 and up, then Club Sandwich is the place for you to be. It is an awesome youth group with loads of fun activities, games and crafts to keep you entertained. Would love to see some new faces, so be sure to come along and join in. For more information please contact me on families@stmarysewell.com.

On **30 August** we will be having a **Family Games Night** via Zoom. It will be in the form of a quiz aimed at children and families and is a great event that is not to be missed. There are going to be a number of topics covered from old and new times and so is one where everyone can be involved. More details will be sent out closer to the time but I really hope we have a number of families involved as it is not only fantastic for us to see you all but is a great way to meet and chat with other families in the church, whilst having a great time together.

We are also going to be hosting a number of competitions over the Summer period. If you haven't heard yet, St Mary's has become an Eco-Church. What a fantastic honour that is and we cannot wait to bring you more activities and events that bring awareness to God's beautiful creation.

On **26 September**, we will be hosting a **Virtual Day for All**. This is going to be an exciting and interactive day for the whole family to get involved in. The theme is **Handle with Care** and is all about taking care of our beautiful world and the nature and environment around us. We are so passionate about making a big change at St Mary's with regards to this and we cannot wait for you to

be involved in all the great opportunities we have coming up. (More information about the Virtual Day for All in the September edition of EPN)

Activities to keep you busy this Summer

We have a lot of exciting competitions and events that will be taking place over the next few weeks as we draw closer to the Virtual Day for All but a number of the competitions that will be judged prior to the day require you to put on your creative hats beforehand and become 'busy little bees' in getting started on your projects. (Submission dates to be announced in the next edition)

Re-create an animal - For this project, you are going to be able to create your own animal out of recycling materials. It can either be an animal that already exists, a new animal you have thought of, or you can even add two animals together to make something completely original such as a flying-elephant or a fishy-giraffe. Have fun with this as this is your chance to be a animal creator and come up with really unique, creative ideas. Once you have completed your project, please snap a picture of it, it can include you with your animal or just the animal if you would prefer. Send your pictures to families@stmarysewell.com. Once the due date is finalised, judging will take place and the winner will be announced. Looking forward to discovering some GREAT animals!!

Acrostic poem - As I mentioned earlier, the theme for Virtual Day for All is Handle with Care. We are holding a poetry competition whereby you need to create your own poem using any word that you feel represents the theme. These can be words such as awareness, creation, environment or anything else you can think of. This is a great opportunity for families to work together, to create a masterpiece. There are going to be 3 categories that you can enter, based on which one you would like to take part in. There is a children's group (Up to age 12), and adult's group (From 13 years and up) and a families group, where families can work together to create a poem (see also page 4).

Photo competition - We are going to be having an exciting photo competition based on caring for God's creation and Handling it with care. Keep your eyes open for more information.

We are really excited for all these events and projects that are taking place and we cannot wait to see what incredible things you can create.

'You can't use up creativity, the more you use, the more you have.' - Maya Angelou

Sandi



JEAN MARGARET BENKE

13 March 1930 - 8 April 2020

Jean spent her whole life in Ewell. She was born on the 13th March 1930 at Waysmeet, Epsom Road, a home her father built. He was a Master Builder and founder of the Ewell building company, Bradley & Arthur and a very prominent builder in the area for many years. Jean attended the local schools and grew up with her brothers John & Michael, only leaving the borough for one of her jobs with Shell Oil at Teddington, to which she cycled from Ewell.

Jean met David at a dance at the Drift Bridge Hotel in 1950 and they married at St Martin's Church in Epsom in the spring of 1953 followed by a reception where they first met. Their first home was in the flat above the stables on Ewell High Street where Martin (named after St Martin's Church) joined them in 1955. The family moved 500m to Purberry Grove and a further 3 boys, Roger, Graham & Philip arrived. Then in 1968 moved to Mount Pleasant, another 500m and still a Bradley & Arthur house, where finally a daughter, Heather joined in 1970.

Jean loved her family above everything else and was a wonderful mother, wife, sister, grandma and friend. She welcomed everyone into her home and for some time when the family was growing up, her kitchen was fondly known



as Jean's Café! Jean was a keen member of Ewell Townswomen's Guild held in Ewell Village on the first Wednesday of every month and she would often give neighbours a lift there and back and was a member of the welcoming committee. She and David were regulars in the congregation at St Mary's and her Christian faith was a big part of her kind, caring and patient personality. She loved the village fete and would plan her holidays around attending and enjoyed baking for the cake stall.

Jean and David were married for 65 years and their marriage was strong and enduring, never more so than in the last years of their lives when David suffered with cancer and passed away in 2018. During their marriage they provided support and love for many people not just their family and were always keen to help others.

Sadly Jean's health failed in her last years and Alzheimer's cruelly took its course. Even when she finally came to have care at Priory Court and moved there last September she was calm and thankful, she enjoyed Russell and Sue's visits.

She leaves a great legacy behind her, 5 children, 11 grandchildren and an inspiration to remember, Jean was loved by so many and will be missed.

Heather Field

ST MARY'S CHILDREN'S HOUR



On the 23 March 2020 our Government announced a complete shutdown, only essential shops would open. No school for our children, parents started working from home where possible. A complete new way of life was starting.

On Sunday 29 March Children's Hour online Zoom started.

Wow! What a response. The children had received their story and activity in advance and so Zoom Sunday took off.

We kept the pattern of a normal Sunday with the children's greeting, singing our action songs, which was quite amusing watching a slight delay in time as we put our best foot forward, right arms became left and ups became downs!

Each week since the children and parents have met up each Sunday, slight changes have been made by showing story videos and PowerPoint story pictures with voice overs.

It has been brilliant being able to not only see the children each week but also to see their weekly activities and catch up with their news. Many thanks to all the parents who have taken on the task of cutting out and assisting with the gluing.

Thanks also go to Sue Ayling, Assistant Priest, Sandi Keen, Family and Children's Worker, Valerie Wood, Churchwarden, Vereena, for all her technical support, and last, but not least, Rosemarie Henson, my partner in crime, for all their support in joining in each week.

We hope that the children and their families will remember that although St Mary's doors were closed God's care and love didn't shut down.

To find out more about Children at St Mary's go to the church website at www.stmarysewell.com.

KB

JOHN WHARTON

19 February 1926 to 12 April 2020

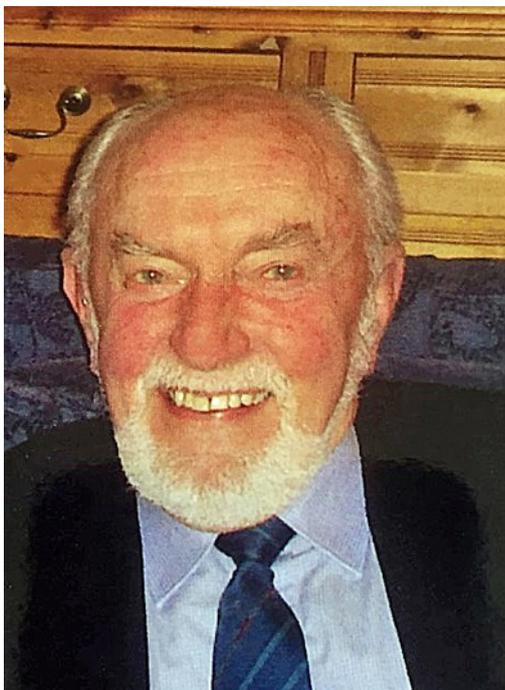
John grew up in Wimbledon, and despite enlisting in the RAF, during WW2, was, on reaching the age of 18, called up to be a Bevin Boy, which necessitated him moving to Chesterfield, where he spent about 4 years working as a coal miner.

Returning to Wimbledon, he met his wife Jean on the platform of the local underground station and was so taken with her, he started attending her church, St Lukes, where he came to faith, before in the 1960's, moving to Cheam with Jean, son David and daughter Sarah.

During the 1970's, John first started coming to St Mary's, where he quickly settled into the life of the church, and in fact, in 1979, John was one of the founding members of the Ewell St Mary's Morris Men.

As well as having a strong faith, John was always actively involved in whichever church he was part of, and whilst a member of St Mary's, ran the youth club for several years (not recently though!!) and he served as churchwarden and youth leader at St. Paul's, Howell Hill. He was also for many years very involved in the annual St Mary's church fete.

John was always enthusiastic about anything he enjoyed. For a while it was orchids, where he filled the conservatory with blooming plants, and then, once he and Jean had moved to Ewell, he discovered the joys of Bonsai trees. Most people would be happy with 1 or 2, possibly several, but not John. Oh no, at one stage he had 362, which took up a line of staging from one end of the garden to another. He also, perhaps not surprisingly, given the amount of practice he



had, became so proficient that he would give lectures and lead workshops on the art of Bonsai at Bourne Hall.

John had always enjoyed art, and became part of a local art group. His work was of such a high standard that, along with that of other members of the group, it featured in several exhibitions, again at Bourne Hall.

Both bonsai trees and paintings were for a number of years to be found for sale at the church fete in aid of the work of St Mary's.

He was also very gifted musically, having played, as a young man, in a dance band. His instrument at that time was the saxophone, although his real love was the piano, either playing himself or listening, in particular to a Canadian jazz pianist by the name of Oscar Peterson.

In 2014 John was diagnosed with bladder cancer, and, despite being told that he was unlikely to live for much longer, continued to be, well, John!, defying the medical "experts" for the next 6 years, although in 2019, due to progressively failing health, he and Jean moved into Priory Court care home in the village, where, sadly, he passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, 12 April.

John loved his garden, but most of all he was a family man, and loved them all dearly. He leaves behind a wife, 2 children, 5 grandchildren, and to date, 5 great grandchildren.

Described by many as "a lovely man", he is and will be greatly missed.

Ad multos annos!



St Mary's is richly blessed in being able to count among our family several Assistant and Retired Clergy. Two of them, Canon Margaret Marsh and the Revd John Baxter, were ordained priest on the same day twenty years ago. Maggie and John shared a wonderful conversation with us about their time leading up to ordination and the years since, which you can watch on our Facebook page. As a priest who has not quite

attained the dizzying heights of twenty years seniority, I am so grateful for Maggie and John and all our assistant clergy for their wisdom, humility, energy, and grace. I learn a lot from both of them, and benefit enormously from their sermons and examples. Thank you both, Maggie and John— ad multos annos!

RD



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FOODBANK WISH LIST
- AUGUST

The Food Bank list of needs this week seems to be longer than ever. This reflects the growing number of people who need help as more firms, both large and small, announce redundancies.

The urgently needed things are: **biscuits, shampoo, toilet rolls, pump soap, deodorant, shaving foam, adult tooth brushes (singles, please), adult tooth paste, sanitary towels, baby shampoo, hair conditioner, household cleaning products, custard,**

sugar (500g bags), breakfast cereal (not porridge), cooking sauces (without alcohol, please), powdered milk, long life fruit juice, tinned vegetables, tinned rice pudding, long life sponge puddings, treats (chocolate etc.), washing powder/liquid/tablets.

Items not wanted at the moment: baked beans, pasta, pulses, rice, tinned soup, porridge.

Thank you for your support.

DB



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