



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 574

November 2020

60p



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

Sunday 8 November **Remembrance** **Sunday online**

9:30am Morning Prayer online

10:45am Watch online: Wreath-
laying and Civic Act of
Remembrance

12noon St Mary's Kidz online

5:30pm Holy Communion in church

Online services can be found at
www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live
*The 10:45am ceremony at the War Memorial is
not open to the public this year because of safety
concerns; all are encouraged to watch online.*

CONTENTS

The Vicar writes	2&3
A Bird of Prey in the Borough.....	4
Bach to Bach at last.....	4
Harvest gifts.....	4
A warm 'thank you'.....	5
Our hall is open again.....	5



Prayers for November.....	5
Obituary Revd Dr Patrick Miller.....	6&7
Funeral Address for Malcolm Davis.....	7
The River.....	8
From the Parish Registers..	8
From our Children and Families Worker.....	8
Financial Update.....	9
ECO tip for November.....	9
Publish your Christmas Greetings in EPN.....	9
Day for All report and competition winners...10&11	
Operation Christmas Child.....	12
PCC report.....	12
Growing Peas.....	12
Children's pages.....	13&14
Foodbank Wish List.....	15
Our on-line quizzes.....	12

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The Vicar writes

At the Coronavirus press conferences and briefings, we often see a scientist, a medical adviser, and a politician.

Science, of course, brings together people of all faiths and none in a common endeavour to understand the world. There have been, and are, some religious believers and leaders who have been at odds with scientific consensus, there is an even stronger current in Christian belief of rational enquiry into nature. As someone who studied both physics and theology at university I am particularly drawn to the approach of St Augustine, the great theologian and bishop of the 4th century. He spoke of two 'books' which God has written: the Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture. God, he said, reveals himself in both, and if we think they are at loggerheads, we have misunderstood one or the other. Many centuries later, some Christians who were among those developing the scientific method argued for the importance of collecting data and conducting experiments, because, they said, we need to show humility and not assume we already know the facts: we need to read the 'book of Nature'. God creates order, and law, and God is faithful, and his Book of Nature can be read by relying on this order and consistency. In the present pandemic, then, those of us who are Christians can acknowledge the work of scientists, of whatever belief, as pursuing the investigation of the truth for the common good.

Medicine and the work of healing has always been dear to Christians. The Roman emperor Julian the Apostate, who rejected Christianity complained in AD362 that the followers of Jesus were looking after not only sick and poor Christians, but anyone else who was sick or poor too, and this example was drawing so many to the faith. In that same century, hospitals were built in every cathedral town. Today, of course, those involved in health care work together across faiths and belief systems. This is a great thing, a common cause against the evils of sickness. For those who work in health care who are Christians, they can see themselves as continuing the work of Christ. Jesus healed the sick wherever he went, and he handed over his earthly work to his followers when he ascended to heaven. All those who work in the healing of the sick are doing God's work.

Politicians are needed, in the present crisis, to take advice and weigh up the arguments. There are questions which science cannot answer. What is the value of a human life? Where should the balance between freedom and safety lie? I don't think science could ever answer such questions. For me as a Christian I would indeed now be turning from the book of Nature to the book of Scripture to help me form answers to those questions, along with the teaching of the church, and the wisdom of people from all traditions. It's easy to get frustrated with the decisions politicians make: I certainly do. But on the other hand, it is not an easy job. There are no obvious answers. I am glad I don't have to make those decisions myself. Scripture tells us to pray for our leaders, and I think this is very much needed at the present time. Christians should pray for the scientists, medics, and politicians, and the many others who are working to fight the pandemic and care for those in need.

ALL SOULS' DAY

Each year at St Mary's we keep a day of thanksgiving and

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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

memorial for the lives of our loved ones who have died and All Souls' Day this year is Monday 2 November. Sadly, there will not be a public service this year, but the names of the departed will be prayed privately by our clergy in their devotions in church, and a short, simple online video service will be broadcast on our Facebook page. If you would like names of departed family or friends included on the screen as part of the service, email parishoffice@stmarysewell.com by Tuesday 27 October, or deliver to the parish office. The service will be removed from Facebook after one week.

IN CHURCH IN NOVEMBER

Please note that from 15 November, we are envisaging a change to the Sunday pattern, or it might be said, a change back. The main Sung Eucharist service in church will return to 9:30am. This is partly as winter nights are drawing in, and partly so that we can unite our online and in person congregation in one service. This service will be live-streamed, so those who are used to attending church virtually at 9:30am on Sundays can continue to do so.

Sunday 1 November: All Saints' Day

9:30am Morning Prayer on Facebook live
11am St Mary's Kidz on Facebook live
5:30pm Parish Eucharist in church

Monday 2 November: All Souls' Day

There will be a recorded service posted online on Facebook in the evening commemorating the departed.

Sunday 8 November: Remembrance Sunday

9:30am Morning Prayer on Facebook live
10:45am Wreath-laying at the war memorial and Civic Act of Remembrance broadcast on Facebook live. Sadly, in the current circumstances, we are not able to open this to the public and there is no access to the churchyard during this ceremony.
12noon St Mary's Kidz on Facebook live - please note the different time this week.
5:30pm Parish Eucharist in church

Sunday 15 November: Second Sunday before Advent

9:30am Parish Eucharist in church and on Facebook live
11am St Mary's Kidz on Facebook live

Please note that, assuming all goes according to plan, this will be the first Sunday of the new pattern. We are moving the Parish Eucharist service in church back to the traditional pre-COVID time of 9:30am. This will be live-streamed on Facebook live simultaneously. All those who currently attend the 9:30am service don't need to do anything differently. All those in church and at home will be joining together in worship. We hope this will be the pattern for now and for the future.

Sunday 22 November: Christ the King

9:30am Parish Eucharist in church and on Facebook live
11am St Mary's Kidz on Facebook live

Sunday 29 November: Advent Sunday

9:30am Parish Eucharist in church and on Facebook live
11am St Mary's, Kidz on Facebook live

Please keep an eye on our website, Facebook, and notice boards for additional services during November, including Evensong, Advent etc. The current situation means all our plans have to be provisional and may need to be changed at short notice.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Russell Dewhurst



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A BIRD OF PREY IN THE BOROUGH

Although most of these articles of mine are the result of a simple question put to me by a reader, just occasionally a vivid personal experience occurs which demands to be 'shared'. One such 'spark' lies behind this present essay. It came about this way. While walking through Horton Country Park this September and happening to look up at the sky (it was a fine day) a hobby dashed over. I could see its long, scythe-shaped wings and bold head-markings. For anyone not realising how exciting this was, a hobby is a falcon – kind of bird of prey – which, though not rare, is unusual enough in Epsom to cause a thrill.

Birds of prey like the hobby seem to possess a charisma of their own. It is extremely unlikely that one can be described as having 'charm' in the way you can describe your garden robin as having 'charm'. But a bird of prey is different. I suppose there are various factors that go to make up what I call 'charisma' such as their comparative rarity, their size and the dexterity with which they catch their prey.

Note I am not including owls in this essay. Though classified as birds of prey, these popular nocturnal birds deserve an article all to themselves.

After the hobby had gone and all the excitement had died down, my companions (both fellow RSPB members) and I speculated on what birds of prey can be found in the borough. I think the most likely species are kestrel, sparrow hawk, buzzard and peregrine. Is the hobby not likely then? No, in that they do not breed in this part of Surrey. Most years a few pairs nest on Thursley and Chobham Commons where they can catch their chief prey – dragonflies. All birds of prey have phenomenal eyesight. Buzzards are large brown birds and can be seen where woodland meets open country. They nest in trees and hunt for voles and other rodents in fields. These birds are expert in using thermals – rising currents of warm air – to soar and circle. In recent years the buzzard has overtaken the kestrel in that nationally it is our commonest bird of prey. Kestrels are unique in that they hunt by hovering over a field or even road verges: I have seen them alongside A3 Esher By-pass and they also find the meadows in Horton Country Park a good source of prey. The sparrow hawk has a different method of hunting. It relies totally on surprise to capture small birds (not only sparrows but some as big as parakeets). They can really be found in suburban gardens as much as in open country. Fourthly, the peregrine, really a cliff-nesting species which has adapted to man-made cliffs such as high buildings. A pair has taken to building a nest on top of the West Park water tower. The peregrine makes use of its phenomenal eyesight to single out its prey and attack it at speed in what is called a 'stoop'.

In conclusion, one more bird of prey has been reported in the Chessington area and it is only a question of time before one is seen in the borough. This is the Red Kite. Bigger than a buzzard, it also nests in trees but differs by its long, angled wings and forked tail. To see any one of these rare birds would make your day a red-letter day.

TT

BACK TO BACH AT LAST!

Jonathan Holmes returned to a sunlit St. Mary's at lunchtime on September 22 to resume his journey through the complete organ works of Bach. Although he continued the series online through lockdown it was good to hear Bach once again in church played on the Father Willis organ.

The programme started with an early work - the Prelude and Fugue in C minor BWV 549.

Particularly moving were the Chorale Preludes from the *Orgelbüchlein* which followed. Composed between 1708-17, these were three contrasting and most beautiful pieces which clearly seemed to reflect the moods indicated by the texts which were helpfully printed in the programme.

Perhaps by way of contrast Jonathan then played two pieces in a lighter vein which are not now considered to be by Bach.

The concert finished with the Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 565, arguably the best known piece in the organ repertoire and probably one of the most virtuosic.

It is extraordinary to think this composition was nearly lost to posterity. It was eventually published in 1832 and subsequently performed by Mendelssohn in 1840. Through the twentieth century it gained in popularity partly through the orchestral transcription made by Leopold Stokowski which was then used in the opening of the Disney film *Fantasia* in 1940.

I was particularly excited to hear this piece live after hearing many recordings. It was clear from the enthusiastic applause how much Jonathan's wonderful performance was enjoyed by all present.

The next lunchtime Bach recitals will be on 17 November and 8 December (to be confirmed) at 1.05 - 1.35.

BS

HARVEST GIFTS



Many thanks to all those who brought harvest gifts to church this year. We couldn't have our usual harvest services in the normal way, but many people brought gifts when the church was opened, and others were brought to our Holy Communion service. These gifts have been donated to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. During this time of rising unemployment, businesses closing, and uncertain futures, the calls on the Food Bank's resources are increasing. All of us who are able may wish to consider ways in which we can support their work, not just at harvest, but throughout the year. At harvest, we thanked God for his generosity, and we are called to be generous in return.

RD

A warm 'thank you' to St Mary's from a newly ordained Deacon



On Sunday 11 October, I was one of 12 ordinands ordained Deacon in the Diocese of Guildford. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were not able to be ordained at Guildford Cathedral but instead 7 separate services took place around the diocese and I was ordained at St John the Evangelist Church, North Holmwood. The service was a wonderful, intimate celebration

and although I was only permitted to have three guests present, it was very reassuring to know that so many people were watching the service online and celebrating alongside us.

Despite the challenges that 2020 has presented, God has blessed me with a supportive church family and I have been overwhelmed with the love and support I have received not only from my own church but also from St Mary's Ewell, the church in which I spent much of my childhood and youth. Many of you will remember my mother Jean Parmiter with whom I would regularly attend church as a child and I still remember with great fondness the youth club that St Mary's ran when I was a teenager in the late 80's.

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers, they are much appreciated, especially as I step out now into my Curacy as an Ordained Local Minister at my home parish of St Mary's Fetcham.

God Bless

Julie Partridge (nee Parmiter)

OUR HALL IS OPEN FOR BOOKING AGAIN

Over the last few months there has been a working party looking at various aspects of our fantastic hall and how we can maximise this under-appreciated and under-utilised village asset.

There are some really exciting changes afoot and you may have already noticed some cosmetic improvements to the exterior.

After a period of inactivity it is great to say that the hall doors have recently reopened again. We have regular classes of Diddi Dance and adult yoga amongst our current bookings and we hope to welcome more soon, including our Guides and Brownies back again.

We know that due to rules and regulations not all church/village halls are able to open and we have seen increased enquiries of late. Please contact the hall on 0208 614 0714 or hall@stmarysewell.com if you are interested in hiring or have any feedback on the hall usage.

Prayers for November



November is traditionally a time for remembrance.

As the Corona virus pandemic continues to affect the way that we go about our ordinary lives, it seems unlikely that the large civic services of remembrance, for those who have died in war, will be able to be held in the same way as previous years but this should not prevent us from taking time for our own private acts of remembrance. And it remains important that we do so.

As November is a time for remembering, let us also take time to reflect on memories of the past year, both good and bad. How have these unprecedented times affected our own life? Whilst there have certainly been dark times of individual hardship, loss, isolation from family and friends, there have also been moments of light in unselfish acts of courage and kindness. The pandemic has brought out both the worst and the best in humanity. We need to learn from these experiences and maybe change the way that we think and act in the future.

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember, we must not forget.

We remember and we pray, for remembering is not enough.

Lord, help us to be serious about learning from the mistakes of the past; remembering those who died in battlefields both near and far, remembering those who though they survived, suffered in life.

And as we reflect on the challenges the corona virus pandemic has brought during the past year, we pray the comfort of your loving presence for all those who have died as a result and for the families and friends left bereft. We give thanks for all those in the many caring professions who have worked tirelessly to help all those affected, even though for some it has cost them their lives. Strengthen them with your love that they may continue to work effectively as the challenges of the winter season approach.

Lord, make us your answer to our prayers. May we too be instruments of justice, sources of peace, faithful in prayer and action, loving you with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbours as ourselves, that your kingdom may come and that we may all share in your peace. AMEN.

THE REVD DR PATRICK FIGGIS MILLER

1933 - 2020

Patrick had an interesting and varied life spanning 87 years. He was born in 1933 in Calcutta, India, moving to England five years later, in 1938. He attended St John's School Leatherhead and applied to Christ's College, Cambridge expecting to study modern languages. Before going up to Cambridge he had to do his National Service. He was appointed a midshipman by the Admiralty and after a year studying Russian in London, he joined the flagship HMS Newcastle where he was active as a highly skilled cryptographer. His skill at languages as well as his ability to solve riddles and demonstrate quick understanding led to the strange situation that he knew before anyone in the West that Stalin had died. Two hours later the news was broadcast internationally but he already knew from the communications between Russian pilots that Stalin was dead. His love of the sea never left him and he remained a passionate and capable sailor, passing the Yacht Master Certificate necessary for confident sailing, spending weeks every summer with John Dickinson on his yacht, sailing through the night to France. The sea was his de-stressing treat, his downloading from all the human activities.



The experience during the Korean war led him to abandon the study of languages and choose the study of Theology at Cambridge University instead, repeating a step his father had taken too when he became a priest after a career in business. He was ordained in 1959 and shortly afterwards married Margaret and together they raised two children, Richard and Louise. Patrick became a curate at Great St Mary's Cambridge and later Canon Librarian at Southwark Cathedral. Religion was a constant companion in his life but after Southwark he exited the payroll and entered the life of education.

In his first post at Manchester Grammar School he was Head of Religious studies whilst also teaching Russian. The time at MGS proved to be a very fruitful period in his career, laying the foundations of lifelong friendships, great interest in ethical and moral issues leading to a book and later a PhD on dilemma thinking. The MGS period of his life provided many wonderful stories of Patrick taking groups of extra clever boys to Russia, where an absent minded young genius found himself in trouble with the Russian police after being found photographing aeroplanes in his pyjama bottoms whilst on an innocent bicycle ride.

Leadership and teaching occupied Patrick for most of his career, moving from being Principal of Sunbury College to Principal of Esher College. He raised what was once a boys' grammar school to an immensely popular sixth form college which was oversubscribed and expanded year after year. He modernised the curriculum, catering for more inclusive subjects which allowed the students to equip themselves for

life not just university. He expanded the Arts and Theatre subjects, introduced Media Studies, Business Studies, Psychology as well as Typing and Secretarial Skills. Education for everyone was a pleasure and he invited famous speakers to give lunch time talks. The lunchtime talks, called College Focus, gave the students a chance to address politicians, actors, comedians, religious dignitaries, journalists, editors, environmental campaigners, animal rights representatives, the MD for the milk marketing board, BBC producer, the ENO Director and even to everyone's amusement, a famous Sex Worker, Miss Whiplash. Just to mention a few there were Prunella Scales, Ian Hislop, Cliff Richard, Cardinal Hume, Neil Kinnock MP, Canon Eric James and Canon Keith Pound, Stephen Pimlott, not to forget Miss Whiplash. This gave the staff and students a marvellous opportunity to engage with real decision-making adults from all walks of life. Besides offering fascinating opportunities for contact and role modelling Patrick also took care of his "teaching family" by devel-

oping a counselling department where all students and staff could benefit from expert psychological help. His educational vision was inclusive, progressive and outcome focused, which did not mean that more academic subjects such as classics or philosophy were neglected. He allowed History of Art to become an A-level subject arguing that understanding art formed a good general basis of education. To summarize the amazing expansion of Esher College he compiled a book of contributions by staff: *Esher College, the formative years, 1980-1998*, a fascinating testimony.

During the years at Esher College he married Susanne, completed his PhD, retired and moved to Ewell. In Ewell, St. Mary's Church became his new spiritual and religious home. He was welcomed warmly and joined soon with preaching, lecturing, singing and participating in the many activities of the church. The wonderful working alliance he formed with Russell Dewhurst, Vicar of St Mary's Church and the church seniors allowed him to use his ability to combine his breadth of interest in philosophy and human life with religion. His sermons were never esoteric but always based on a mature insight and useable principles of human existence. We walked away feeling wiser and supported by better insights. He was invited to give Lent courses about ethical subjects and inter-faith issues of his choice, administered with professional standards of presentation and hugely appreciated by all participants. He joined the St Mary's singers, and even until recently, tried his skills at online ministry. St. Mary's was an important part of his life for many years.

Continued on page 7

Patrick Miller Obituary continued from page 6

Patrick never retired. After his PhD in Philosophy, he wrote a second book, "Dilemmas and Decisions, a critical addition to the curriculum", led and developed the nationwide effort of Learning for Living, a philanthropic organization giving prizes for ethical insights by school children and later shaped and managed the local Patient Participation Group. He kept his link with the Navy by becoming the educational representative of the Admiralty Interview Board, and carried out duties as the Naval Flotilla's Chaplain. His varied career and the requirements of each one enabled him to combine an unusual set of qualities. The

teacher, the priest and not least the Naval Officer made him capable of showing great empathy, kindness, but also critical thinking, inspiring enthusiasm, whilst carrying on with great self-discipline, a steely will power and an orderly thoroughness. He was a true Renaissance man. Most gifted of all was his sense of humour which allowed him to reap positivity everywhere. The twinkle in his eye, his naughty tales and jokes made him more loved and admired than if he had been all too serious.

His was a life fully lived and given the best go he could.

Susanne Miller

FUNERAL ADDRESS FOR MALCOLM DAVIS

Even if our bible readings this afternoon were already familiar to us, in each situation, the words strike us afresh. The writer of Ecclesiastes speaks of "a time to refrain from embracing"... a sentiment that strikes us particularly forcefully today, a day when embracing is what feels clearly the right thing, and yet we must indeed refrain.

And it seems to me so very appropriate to have shared three bible readings at Malcolm's funeral service, as we spoke often about scripture. The last time I saw Malcolm in hospital, what he wanted to talk about was the bible readings from church that morning, what we had to say about them. He was interested: in the words, the meaning. He'd often talk to me briefly about some point in a sermon at the church door. Once I knew he was an engineer, I was a bit in awe of him. You see, I studied physics, but the difference with engineers is, they have to actually make things work! But even so, I think we shared a little something of the way of seeing the world.

Much of Malcolm's life I have only recently found out about from Sue. Malcolm was born in Edmonton and was evacuated with his mother to Suffolk during the war. He had to get to know his father on his return home after war service.

In September 1954 he went on to do an apprenticeship with British Oxygen and studied for an HND at Enfield Tech, where he met and made friends with a group of fellow students, some of whom are here today.

He became a Chartered Mechanical Engineer and a member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

After National Service, some of which was spent in Cyprus, he worked for various companies on a variety of projects- including 3 years working on a dam in connection with the public water supply in Hong Kong. (After that Malcolm was, apparently, always very careful about the use of water at home.)

On his return to the UK he met Sue with a group of friends dancing at Brent Town Hall and married in 1981 after moving to Epsom for a post at W. S. Atkins.

He was lucky to have had the unique experience of working on the Channel Tunnel with the French and Americans, during which time he rented a flat in nearby Hythe.



He enjoyed his retirement - walking with the Epsom and Ewell Ramblers regularly covering 10 miles each Wednesday. He was an enthusiastic volunteer with the National Trust at Headley Heath and a member of Ewell Probus Club. He had a general enjoyment of life, especially music and the countryside.

While it's sad we can't sing any hymns today, the great pieces of music we are listening to at the beginning and end are also an important part of our tribute to Malcolm.

It was good to have Malcolm as a faithful member of our church, quietly supporting in the background

with kind words, and important practical help bringing the flowers to church which Sue would arrange. I am sure he expressed those same virtues in other areas of his life as well.

I think that engineers, like physicists, appreciate the down to earth measurements and equations, the practical knowledge that can be seen and known. Today we hand Malcolm over to something that cannot be directly seen: the love of God. It's something which, Scripture tells us, cannot be measured, but it can be known through Jesus Christ. The story of his life and death and resurrection points us to a love that goes beyond earthly measure; it's a truth that cannot be comprehended by any equation, but can be grasped by the human heart. When all the towers and temples built by human hands have crumbled, even then hope, faith and love abide. And the greatest of these is love. Amen.

Russell Dewhurst

THE RIVER

The river glistens in the sunshine –
 liquid crystal, sparkling, joyous –
 such beauty lifts the soul
 and for a moment cares and worries are transcended
 in a living blaze of reflected light.
 Be still and drink in the moment,
 hold the joy, be refreshed and uplifted.

Oh, but then, without warning,
 a dark cloud obscures the sun's rays
 and the beauty is gone.
 The water now looks dark grey
 and all around is shrouded in shadow.

So like life.
 One minute everything's fine
 I've 'got it'!
 And then it all changes
 in the twinkling of an eye.
 The heart downcast,
 the eyes reflecting the sadness.

But wait ...
 Surely the cloud has been formed
 by the very water that once sparkled,
 heavy now with raindrops, impossible to contain.
 They cannot help but fall
 drenching the land with their gift of life
 and filling the river in a stream of constant renewal.
 Soon it will sparkle once again
 and those who behold it
 will know joy.

Maggie Marsh

I wrote this while sitting up in bed in our flat in Dartmouth, overlooking the River Dart, on a glorious morning. This is exactly how it happened, and how I reflected on it.

FROM OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER



Hi everyone,

'There is nothing more beautiful than someone that goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others' - Mandy Hale

October was the month of Harvest and when I think of Harvest I think of two very important messages - giving to others and growth. How wonderful is it that these two can work so beautifully together when we choose to help those in need. We not only lighten the burden of another but we also grow to be better people. How wonderful is that!

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank every special person who donated to the Harvest Food Bank drive. Your donations are very appreciated and have helped to make the world a little brighter for someone else.

The month of November is about Remembrance and our children's services are going to be focused on remembering some really incredible people.

In our busy daily lives we often forget to take time out to remember and thank those people who do so much to make our lives amazing. This month we will take time to remember and appreciate these people and to give thanks to them in a very special way.

On November 8 (closest Sunday to the 11th) we will be celebrating Remembrance Sunday which will be one of our special November services. This day is celebrated to mark the day that World War 1 ended - at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918.

On this day, we take time out to remember, thank and appreciate all the men and women who have given their lives for our country. What a fantastic celebration!

In our other November services we will be remembering to thank and appreciate other amazing people who give endlessly to ensure we live in a beautiful, safe and lovely world - our parents and families, our teachers and school staff, our community and our police, hospital staff, paramedics and firemen.

'All of the best heroes are ordinary people who make themselves EXTRAordinary.' Gerard Way

November is also about remembering those in need. Operation Christmas Child is a great opportunity to do just that. We are hoping to see a lot of donations this month towards that and I am setting a goal for us to bring in 150 boxes. Come on St Mary's, let's make this happen! More information to be found on page 12.

Stay safe and take care,

Sandi Keene

Email: families@stmarysewell.com

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)

24 September Dorothy Cornell, aged 84



FINANCIAL UPDATE

You may recall that I wrote in the June edition of EPN that the finance team had focused their efforts on understanding and managing the continued impact of COVID-19 on the Church and its financial position.

The summer fair has not been able to take place this year, which is a key annual income source for the Church, the Church Hall has been largely unoccupied with bookings significantly down and donations have also declined as congregation members have not been able to access Church in the same way. At the same time, many of the bills and expenses the Church has to pay have remained. This includes payment of the Parish Share, our largest individual item of expense, in full.

The Finance Committee has met a number of times to consider how the Church might reduce certain expenditure, without impacting pastoral needs, and also increase income where it can.

We remain grateful for all the donations we continue to receive, be that regular giving or one-off amounts.

In April we submitted a financial update to the Diocese of Guildford, who has asked parishes to estimate the impact of COVID-19 on church cashflows and resources over an initial three month period. As a result, we received £3,333 by way of COVID-19 support from the Diocese of Guildford.

We have subsequently submitted a further financial update to the Diocese of Guildford on the potential impact of COVID-19 on our Church over a longer period. The Diocese of Guildford intends to make financial support available to churches during Q3 and Q4 of 2020. However, they encourage PCC reserves to be used in the first instance and ask that the drawing down of their support is based on need.

As I explained in the online presentation of the 2019 accounts to the congregation on 26 April 2020, we have a solid financial position as a result of generous legacies in recent years. This has meant, despite a very significant net financial impact during 2020, COVID-19 has not financially crippled us and also enabled us to continue to provide a wide and frequent range of services to the congregation during this difficult time.

We continue to monitor the position, in conjunction with the PCC, and consider potential mitigation factors to limit any financial impact caused by COVID-19.

It is great news that the Church Hall, our fantastic community asset, has reopened again to external activities. There is more about the work of the Church Hall working party on page 5 of this edition of EPN.

John Baker, Treasurer

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.



THE ECO-GROUP'S TIPS FOR OCTOBER

Thank you to Caroline Keenan for this month's tip

RECYCLING: You may not be aware but there are many items that used to have to go into your black bin (i.e. landfill) that can now be responsibly recycled which is great news for the climate.

For example, all soft plastic wrapping (bags, tubes) can be dropped off at M&S on Tolworth Broadway. They have two big bins ready for your rubbish! Hard plastic (bottles, pots, tubs and trays), as usual, goes in your green recycling bin, though not if it is black. All plastic must be clean, obviously.

Medicine blister packs can now be recycled - they used to have to go in your black bin but Superdrug in Worcester Park now takes them.

Crisp bags, chocolate and sweet wrappers, biscuit wrappers, loaf bags, dried pet food bags, old tooth brushes and empty toothpaste tubes and make up are all accepted by a company called Terracycle that recycles lots of rubbish. Brand names pay for the plastic to be recycled into new plastic which is more brilliant news for the environment! The nearest drop off point is in Tolworth but I am happy to collect it. I have a special recycling bin outside my house in Ewell Court. I'll accept clean soft plastic for recycling as well, to save you having to drive to Tolworth or Worcester Park.

If you collect bits of clean foil and scrunch together until they form a tennis ball size or larger, that can then go in your green recycling bin.

For more information, please email me at

c_keenan2004@yahoo.co.uk

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.

PUBLISH YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETING IN EPN

In December EPN we plan to include a page of Christmas greetings to EPN readers from members of our church family.

If you would like us to include a greeting from you, please email it to epn@stmarysewell.com no later than Friday 13 November. You will need to post early for Christmas!

An early Merry Christmas & thank you in anticipation!

EPN production team



“DAY FOR ALL” with a difference.

One of the good things to come out of the covid-19 virus is the way in which people have not allowed it to stop events, wherever possible, from happening. They just found different ways to make them happen. ‘Day For All,’ which has taken place in September for some years now, is a good example of the indomitable spirit that the people of St Mary’s have. With the support and advice from a number of talented people, the planning team put together a “Virtual” Day For All, comprising lots of videos and competitions covering different subjects but all with the theme, ‘Handle With Care.’

There were fun things for children to make as well as things that adults also could make with children or by themselves. Cookie cutter bird feeders and cards with flower seed that can be planted looked particularly fun to make.

If you missed seeing the videos or would like to see any of them again, they are still available to watch on the St Mary’s website. (The competition entries were removed after a week.) The videos, lasting about ten minutes each, included wood turning, tips for the garden, a tour of Priest

Hill, a nature reserve in Ewell and a tour of the inside of St Mary’s church. They were all long enough to whet the appetite and perhaps encourage the viewer to find out more.

One of the videos, “Caring for your body,” was a gentle exercise video and is easy enough to follow for anyone who needs to unwind and take a breather.

If you want to watch any of the videos go to:

<https://www.stmarysewell.com/a-virtual-day-for-all-videos/>

The winning entries for our three competitions: photography (Handle with Care - illustrate how we look after our world), Acrostic Poetry and Creative Creatures (create your own animal out of recycling materials) are shown here. These and the highly commended entries can be seen on our website and Facebook page.

“Virtual Day For All” was not able to offer the usual homemade soup at lunch time or tea and cake during the afternoon but the online programme more than made up for it.

DB

ACROSTIC POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS

Age 13 and over: Joint Winner

W is for wonder, I wonder who you are.
I is for interested I'm interested to meet you.
N is for niece, not long now.
T is for Teresa. This your name.
E is for everyone, everyone can't wait to see you.
R is for rely. You will be able to rely on me.

Andrew Nelson

Something special that he could see,
His greatest blessing when he looked at me,
Interested in what we would do to his Earth.
Not knowing whether we would treat it with worth,
Giving us something breath-taking to share- hoping
we would protect it with care.

Sandi Keene

Age 13 and over: Joint Winner

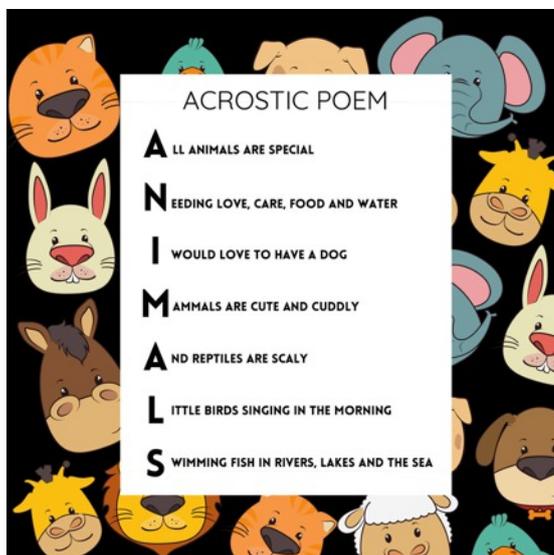
Ditches choked with litter,
Ivy strangling trees,
Songbirds being silenced,
All nature on its knees.
Parasites are gloating,
Pollution clogs the air,
Every creature cries for help.
Are we ever going to care?
Ruining the world around us,
In denial of the pain,
Now we must admit - we're the
Generation of shame.

Abby Graham-Maw

Age 13 and over: Highly Commended

Valerie Wood Nigel Bird

Age 12 and under: Winner



Adrian Pasqualucci

Age 13 and over: Third Place

For all the creatures great and small,
Lord God, blessed us short and tall.
Our Father gave us breath and life,
Unleashed us to the world with great delight,
Reassured that we would take his gift,
In our gentle hands and to him would lift,

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WINNERS

Age 13 and over: Winner - *Lucy Morrell*



Age 13 and over: Third Place - *Kalli Pasqualucci*



Age 12 and under: Winner - *Sam Marshall*



Age 13 and over: Second Place - *Sarah Holmes*



Age 12 and under: Second Place - *Dante Pasqualucci*



Age 13 and over: Highly Commended

*Jay Price Rufus Graham-Maw
Tim Price David Dance*

CREATIVE CREATURE COMPETITION WINNERS



Congratulations to:

Zack Siddle Ben Siddle Pixie Dunkley Lili Dunkley Emma Dance

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - A REMINDER!



For those who have not joined in with this project before, **Operation Christmas Child** is one of the many projects organised through Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift filled shoeboxes to over 168 million children in more than 100 countries around the world: frequently to children who live in dire circumstances who may never have received a Christmas present before.

Here at St Mary's, we are supporting Operation Christmas Child once again this year, despite the restrictions that the corona virus pandemic has imposed on us.

Local families with children are especially welcome to pop along to **'Open Church' on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 anytime between 5.00 and 6.00pm** to drop off their gifts.

Russell, our vicar, will be there to say hello and to bless each box as it arrives.

The main campaign will be taking place during the week, commencing November 9 when you will be welcome to drop off your shoe box gifts via the Parish Room, entrance via Church Street, on -

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
between 10.00 and 12.00 noon or
2.30 to 4.30pm;**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
between 10.00 and 12.00 noon**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
between 10.00 and 12.00 noon.**

This year, to comply with all the new health and safety regulations, everyone will be invited to put their shoe box gift directly into a large cardboard crate. The boxes will not be checked so please fill them up. I know it can be expensive so why not fill a box with those who are in a 'bubble' with you or those you are able to freely associate with?

Once crated up for collection, the vicar will bless the boxes and pray for their safe delivery to whatever destination around the world and that they may prove to be a blessing to the children who will eventually receive them. Last year, we collected 274 boxes. The challenge is to see if we can match that number or even exceed it, despite the ongoing difficulties of these uncertain times. Come on, we can do it!

Just remember that a shoebox isn't just a shoebox, and these gifts aren't just gifts. They are a tangible way for us to show God's love and care for children all around the world and the world certainly needs a lot of love more than ever!

Bless you and thank you

Linda Staff

(You can pick up a leaflet from church or download the information directly from the Operation Christmas Child website. Please do check out the Operation Christmas Child website for more details regarding what can or can't be sent as many regulations for destination countries may have changed. Thank you)

PCC REPORT

The PCC met via Zoom on 22 September.

The first part of the meeting was once again taken up by the Finance Team reporting on St Mary's current financial position. Income continues to be badly affected by the ongoing restrictions – no income from the Hall, limited donations from planned giving envelopes and no Summer Fair. The team have cut costs where it has been possible, but the deficit is running at around £7,000 every month.

Tim joined the meeting to update the PCC on the progress so far of the Hall Working Party.

Marketing has been a key focus - new signage will be going up outside the Hall, a new logo has been designed and a new website is being built.

Some good news – following the implementation of a comprehensive risk assessment, the Diddi Dance group have begun to meet again. Also, enquiries for bookings are being received from groups whose previous

venues are either too small or are unsuitable for them to be able to adhere to COVID restrictions.

Russell reported that the weekly communion service may move back to the morning, as evenings will become dark earlier once the clocks go back. Also, he is looking into ways in which services could be live streamed from church. Our Data Protection Compliance Officer has produced a policy to ensure privacy for those attending the services. With COVID restrictions looking likely to be in place for some months to come, consideration will also be given as to how to live stream Remembrance and Christmas services.

Some time was also taken up with planning for the upcoming APCM - the bishop has given permission for this to be held via Zoom on 13 October.

Stay safe, keep well,

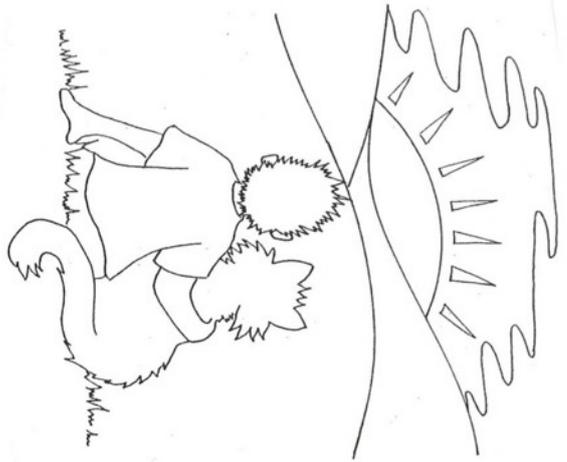
Liz Divall

GROWING PEAS

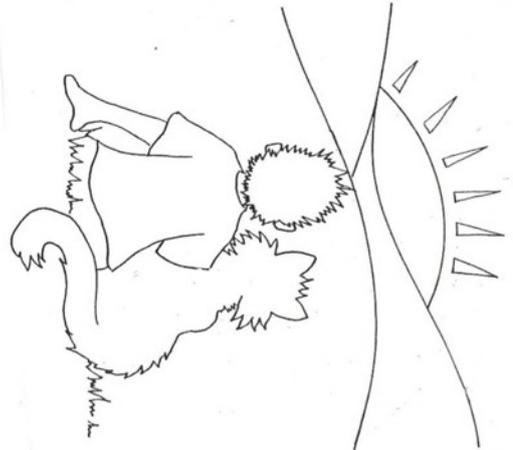
There can be few better experiences than eating your own grown food. You would hopefully grow it organically and eat it soon after picking when it is at peak freshness and flavour. Coming towards the end of the year, we have less choice but we can still find tasty vegetables that love cooler weather. It is possible to sow Peas in October and you will get a lovely early crop next year. But to mice, pea seeds are a delicacy and the seeds will need protecting or they will disappear within hours. A ground level layer of prickly stems or leaves, such as rose stems or holly leaves on the top should do it. Choose a smooth type of pea seed (as opposed to wrinkly ones) because any water will run off them, so they are better for colder and wetter weather. They will also need sowing in a well-drained place to avoid them rotting. A good cropping variety for over wintering is Douce Provence. To sow, make a drill about 5cm deep and water the base before planting the seeds. Place them 5cm-10cm apart and rows should be 30cm apart. These compact plants can be grown in small spaces, and will produce sweet, succulent peas from May onwards.

Denise Donovan

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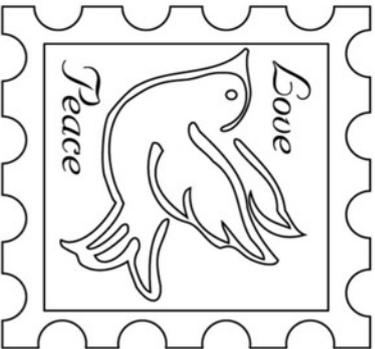


"At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them."



"We will remember
them."

Can you spot 5 things missing?

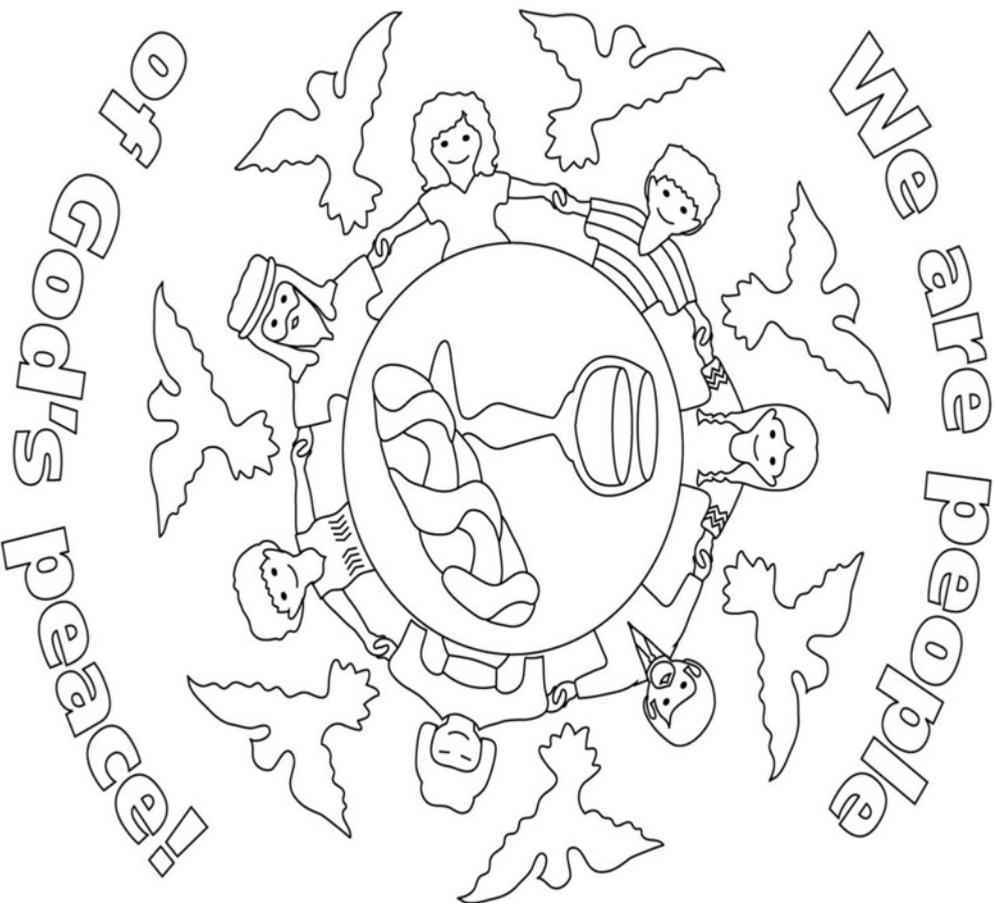


Lord, unite the nations
In the cause of peace;
May love be our banner,
Faith and hope increase.
Breaking down barriers,
Reaching out a hand –
Brothers, sisters marching
To the promised land.

Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Go Team
Remembrance Sunday 2020

Young Church May

Remembrance Sunday



Today is Remembrance Sunday

Produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Go Team
Remembrance Sunday 2020

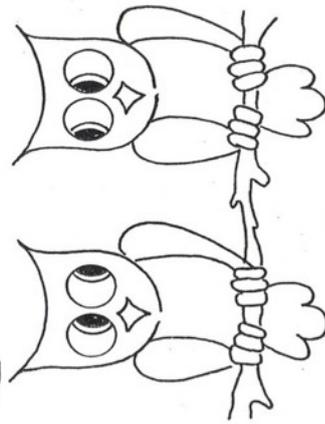
Page 14 can be cut out if needed

When old people start talking about the past, what do YOU do?

Do you think, "how boring", and yawn?

That's sad. And it's not very kind.

Be interested! You could find out something important

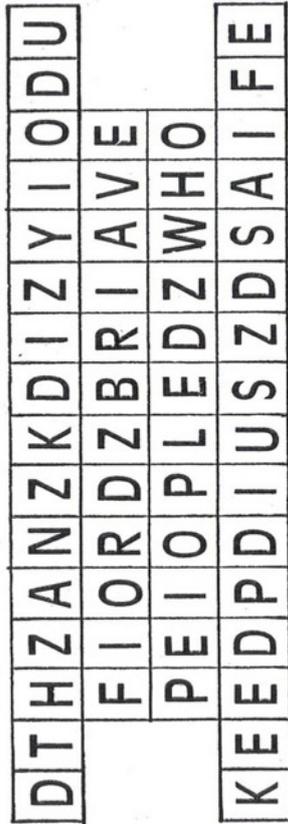


Can you help these two owls to puzzle it out?

And which of these four words means the same as the owls' word? Is it:

- a) railway b) recollect c) racetrack d) raindrop

Can you puzzle out this DIZ puzzle?



Find and colour in 8 squares with D

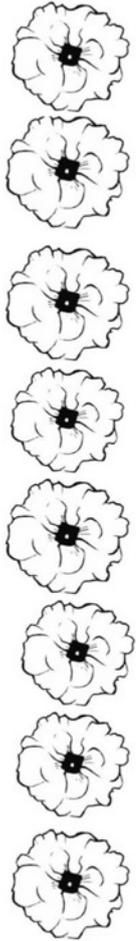
7 squares with I

6 squares with Z

And now what message do you get?



Remembrance Sunday is also known as **Poppy Day**, because it is traditional to wear an artificial poppy. They are sold by the Royal British Legion, a charity dedicated to helping war veterans.





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FOODBANK WISH LIST - NOVEMBER



Epsom and Ewell Foodbank is committed to supporting our communities. As well as providing food, they continue to provide support to individuals and families remotely through telephone and zoom sessions. This includes practical support such as help in claiming benefits as well as support around mental health, including counselling.

At the moment they cannot meet the demand for this extra support, and so are currently searching for extra funding to increase their capacity for this work.

If you would like to help Foodbank with their costs by making a donation, then you can do so online

<https://epsomandewellfoodbank.enthuse.com/Donate#!/>

If you wish to send a donation the address is:

[Generation Resource Centre,](#)
[Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG. Tel 020 8786 8221](#)

Here are the items that the Foodbank most needs:
tinned fish, biscuits, rice, sugar (500g packs), packet soup, tinned potatoes, noodles, UHT milk - full fat or semi, instant mash, pet food, cooking sauces, male/female deodorants, shower gel, shampoo / conditioner, shaving foam, washing up liquid, washing powder, pump soap, baby shampoo, baby wash.

Please ensure items are sealed and unopened, in date and do not contain alcohol.

As ever, thank you for your support.

DB

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