



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 575

December 2020

60p



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



St Mary's wishes you a very Happy Christmas

Please keep an eye on the following
page on our website:

www.stmarysewell.com/xmas

We will update it as and when we have
details of our Christmas services.

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The Vicar writes

Christmas couldn't be cancelled. There certainly seemed to be forces attempting to cancel that very first Christmas. The vicissitudes of taxation and registration brought Mary and Joseph far away from family and friends as the time of Jesus' birth drew near: they couldn't even find a bed to lie in. Yet even so, God was born among them, and God's messengers surrounded the crib. Herod's murderous rage drove the Holy Family into exile, all that they had planned for now seemingly impossible. But however far they were driven, they were never far from God, and they held the Christ child close.

Christmas can't be cancelled. I hope all of our plans and hopes for Christmas may come to fruition this year, but it seems probable that all of us will have to make some accommodations to the very strange circumstances of 2020. Some households will be facing a first Christmas without a loved one; others may not be able to gather as they wish; still others face financial uncertainties about their futures; and the church services which are at the heart of Christmas for many of us will be very different this year. But Christmas will not be cancelled. Our plans might be turned upside down, but God's plan will work through this. Whatever shape Christmas takes, we will be wise to keep our eyes open for God's messengers, in the shape of friend or stranger. Whether we worship in church or online, alone or in company, we can know God is still closer to us than we are to ourselves, that we are surrounded by the angels who sang on that hillside "Glory to God in the highest."

Christmas won't be cancelled. At Christmas, the word became flesh. A new human life entered the world, like us in every way, but also fully divine. God had entered the world, and had chosen to do so as a human being. One day, he'd have work to do: sin to defeat, the gates of eternal life to open. But for now, that first Christmas morning, he would do what human babies always have done and always will do. Sleep, and feed, and cry - and simply be. Because of that child, the stories of all our lives are changed and re-oriented.

Taxes and Herods could not - viruses and lockdowns cannot - cancel Christmas. Christmas will be different, certainly. But, whatever form it takes, it

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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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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

will be a day for Christians the world over to remember that Christ is born in Bethlehem, and that God has united himself to us not just for one day, but in every time and in every place, and into eternity.

IN CHURCH IN DECEMBER

I would usually write here all the details for the services we have planned for Christmas. At the time of writing, there is a lot of uncertainty around what we will be allowed to do.

Whatever restrictions might or might not be in force, we intend to continue with a service online at 9:30am each Sunday. If possible, this will be a service in church, livestreamed to those at home. There will also be St Mary's Kidz on Sundays at 11am. You can join in at www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live. Keep an eye out online for information about if and when church can open to congregations again. There will be a recorded Christmas carol service posted on Facebook at 5:30pm on Sunday 13 December, with music from our parish choir. On Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December, we will post a recorded all-age crib service "Arrival at Bethlehem" - the online equivalent of our very popular Christmas afternoon family crib services. Both will be on www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos.

When it comes to Christmas Day itself, even if public worship is allowed again what we can do will have to be significantly curtailed from normal years. There won't be any congregational carols. Whereas Christmas services usually fill the church with 500 people, social distancing means we can't accommodate more than about 50 people. In addition, the church needs to be thoroughly cleaned between services, which is difficult to achieve between Midnight Mass and Christmas morning. We are likely therefore to have only one public service, and attendance will probably have to be limited by (free) tickets. I shall be extremely sad if it comes to this, but at the moment it seems inevitable: I appreciate it means that most of those who come to church in their thousands in a normal year will be disappointed. As I wrote above, Christmas won't be cancelled, but it will be very different.

If you are able to gather with family or friends at Christmas, or even if on your own, I encourage you to sing some carols, say a prayer, and maybe read aloud the Christmas story from Chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel in the New Testament of the Bible. If you can join in our online activities - online worship, coffee or quizzes - please do so. It will be really good to see you. If that would be something new to you, we are happy to help and explain how to get it all working.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Russell Dewhurst



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ADVENT

Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Church's year. We say farewell to the Sunday Gospel readings from Matthew, and begin to engage with the Gospel of Mark, with occasional readings from John.

'Beginnings' suggest that something has ended, and I wonder if there is any sense that this 'New Year' in the life of the Church does indeed herald that something has ended and something new is about to begin. These past months since we became aware of COVID-19 have certainly brought about much that has, for the time being at least, ended, as we have lost so many of the freedoms we once enjoyed.

A major theme of Advent is the yearning for light to shine in the darkness, whether we are thinking about the darkness that is in our world, or indeed our own inner darkness that we so often have to confront. Advent lifts our eyes towards the hope of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, sharing our humanity and shining with the love of God. It is a love which the darkness can never overcome. Our Christmas lights and candles twinkle as a reminder of this deeper truth. We are hoping to have a large, lit Christmas tree outside St Mary's this year, so that, although we may not be able to offer our usual Christmas services, we can visibly proclaim the joy of Christmas to everyone who passes by.

On a personal level, Advent marks a new beginning for me as I return to the ministry team and preach on Advent Sunday. You will no doubt be aware that I have been taking time out from active ministry since Charlie's fall in July. It was absolutely the right decision, although none of us likes to face the reality that we are, actually, very dispensable! What I have discovered during this period (if I didn't already know) is how important it is to look after ourselves, especially if we are to be fit to give anything to others.

I am pleased to say that Charlie is doing really well and I want to thank you all for your understanding over these past few months, especially Russell, who has been very supportive of us both throughout.

No doubt we shall all enter Advent in a different place than perhaps we have in previous years, for we can hardly be the same as we were before Covid struck. Let us journey together through Advent with renewed hope for the future, trusting that whatever challenges may beset us, we shall be sustained and encouraged by the hope that the light of Christ our Saviour will shine in the darkness, bringing us all the 'tidings of comfort and joy' of Christmas.

Maggie



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



On Remembrance Sunday this year, England had just entered the second lockdown. Government regulation and advice seemed to be changing on an almost daily basis, but in the end we were able to bring together a small but reverent service and ceremony at the war memorial. The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, the Worshipful Humphrey Reynolds, laid a wreath on behalf of everyone in the Borough, and our MP, a representative of the Royal British Legion, and our churchwarden Nicholas Allsopp also laid wreaths. Many other wreaths were laid earlier and later in the day by the usual organizations who take part. At the ceremony, we observed the 2 minutes' silence together, and a very skilled cornet player from the Epsom and Ewell Silver Band led us in the Last Post and Reveille. We prayed for those in active service, and remembered the fallen. The service was live-streamed so others at home could follow, or watch later. A very different Remembrance Sunday from other years, but we were glad to ensure an Act of Remembrance for our community could go ahead.

RD

Prayers for Advent



This year, the season of **Advent** – a time of preparation for Christmas when we remember the birth of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ - may well be very different from that of previous years as the Corona virus continues to prevent us from going about our lives normally.

Advent has always been a time of prayer and preparation and it can still be so this year. Whether or not we manage to return to worshipping in church, we can still nevertheless keep the season of Advent in our own homes.

Why not make your own Advent wreath like the one shown in the picture above or just light one candle at a certain time each day and take a few moments to reflect and pray? Here are some short prayers to help get you started.

There are four Sundays in Advent.

Advent 1 – Hope

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace by your faith in Him, until, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you overflow with hope. (Romans 15 v 13)

Dear God, these past months have proved a challenge for us all in so many ways. For many, the Corona virus pandemic has brought the darkness of fear, uncertainty, loneliness, depression, poverty and despair. Lord, we name before you those we know who are going through such times of darkness. We also bring our own worries and uncertainties to you and we ask, gracious God, that you will grant them and us the light of hope. Amen.

Advent 2 – Peace

The Lord is near; have no anxiety, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. The peace of God which is beyond our utmost understanding will guard over your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4 v 6,7)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and Where there is sadness, joy... Divine Master; Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

(Prayer of St Francis of Assisi)

Advent 3 – Love

For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life.....nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8 v 38,39)

Lord, thank you for loving each one of us with a love that is unconditional. Knowing that you love us, help us to share that love with others – with our family, friends and neighbours, that that part of the world where we have influence may become a better place and we may become the people you created us to be. Amen

Advent 4 – Joy

Acclaim the Lord, all people on earth, break into songs of joy, sing psalms (Psalm 98 v1)

Lord, as we approach Christmas, help us to receive your love with joy. We welcome you here and now. You are good and you are worthy to be praised. You wrap each one of us in arms of grace, you smile on us. We are yours and you are here. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being our Saviour, our hope and our friend. Amen.

ALL SOULS DAY

Like so many days in 2020, All Souls Day was different from usual. At 12 noon hundreds of names of departed loved ones, and former members of our congregation, were included in the Requiem Eucharist attended by a small group from our ministry team. At 4pm an online service was posted on our Facebook page, including part of Fauré's Requiem sung by our parish choir. We are more conscious than ever this year of those from our community who have died, and it was good to ensure they were remembered in church at the altar, and by the wider community on social media.

RD



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020 - ALL WRAPPED UP!



Despite all the difficulties of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and a second lockdown, St Mary's was yet again a local drop off point for **Operation Christmas Child** this year. Many thanks to all those who joined in filling a shoe box with gifts for needy children around the world. In total, we received **71** boxes and they are now on their way to a processing warehouse in Tonbridge. There is likely to be an inevitable delay in the boxes commencing their onward overseas journeys because of all the varying restrictions in recipient countries linked with the global pandemic. However, OCC are determined to ensure that they do get to destination countries as quickly as possible.

Although the number of boxes we have collected has been very much lower than in previous years, I understand from my contacts at OCC that, because of difficulties with shopping normally at the moment, there has been a significant increase in people creating virtual gift boxes by going online. If you would still like to contribute in this way, you can pay for the Samaritan's Purse charity to assemble (and deliver) a shoebox at <https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

Nationally, OCC has extended its collection period to include the period Dec. 5 -14 so if you wish to take part, you can still do so. St Mary's will not be a drop off point during that time, but you can find other drop off locations by going to the OCC website.

Linda Staff

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERALS

Let light perpetual shine upon them

27 October	Melanie Crick, aged 63
29 October	Peter Rodney Miller, aged 93
5 November	Paul Vincent Dickinson, aged 84

Ashes interment

3 November	Patrick Figgis Miller (Priest), aged 87
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FROM OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

Hi everyone,

**'It's the hap-happiest season of all,
With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings,
When friends come to call,
It's the hap-happiest season of all.'**

These are the lyrics taken from the song 'It's the most wonderful time of the year' by Andy Williams and that it most definitely is.

For us as Christians it is the most wonderful time of year, not only because we are able to cuddle up warmly under blankets next to the fire whilst toasting marshmallows, not because we can drink way more hot chocolate and soup than usual or even because we get to put up the Christmas tree and enjoy seeing all the lights and beautiful decorations around us - but more importantly because it was the time when Jesus, our Saviour was born.

We are truly blessed because during this special time, we receive the greatest gift of all. **Matthew 1:21** says, "She shall bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." He is God's gift to you. Jesus Christ, the Saviour came to forgive us and cleanse us of all our sins. How blessed are we? Let us use this season to remember four very important messages - Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. I pray that all four of these will fill your life in every single way, both now at Christmas time and forever more.

What's happening at St Mary's Kidz

On the **29 November** we will be having a very special St Mary's Kidz service all about **Advent**. We are going to be having fun songs, stories and craft activities - and you will even be able to see how to make a really awesome Advent calendar for the month ahead. Make sure not to miss out. This service will take place on Facebook Live at 11am via the St Mary's Ewell page.

We are hoping to have two live children's services, in church during the month of December (if permitted by regulations). These will be a great way for families to return to church and to spend some time together during the festive season. More details will be sent out in the Children and Families weekly mail so if you haven't yet subscribed to this, please email me at families@stmarysewell.com so I can get you sorted.

There will be St Mary's Kidz weekly services at 11am every Sunday, leading up to Christmas and they will be packed with some great songs, videos, crafts and activities, so make sure to check them out on our St Mary's Ewell Facebook page. We will also be having our weekly Children's hour service, which is always a fantastic time, so why not come and join and have some fun. This service takes place at 10:15am every Sunday via Zoom. Contact Kathie at childrenhour@stmarysewell.com for more details.

Christmas services

Be sure to check the St Mary's Ewell website, the Weekly Children and Families Mail and the St Mary's Ewell Facebook page to find out what fantastic Christmas services and activities will be taking place.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas as once again, we as a church family celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

All the best

Sandi

Children and Families worker

MELANIE CRICK

16/01/1957 - 30/09/2020

A congregation of 30 plus the full choir were present at Melanie's funeral on 27 October. The service was live-streamed enabling friends and family who could not be present for reasons of health, distance or numbers to share the occasion. We know there were those watching from North America, France, India, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.



Melanie was born in Stockport, Cheshire to two proud Yorkshire parents. At the age of about 4 she moved south in 1961 first to Kenley and then to Ewell following her father's promotion to be Deputy Editor of the "Daily Express" - just in time for one of the coldest winters we have had here. She went to the Reception Class at Ewell Grove School before moving to Greendale School in Banstead. There she met a wonderful group of girls who still meet regularly. She had been going to the youth group at St Paul's, Howell Hill but got a 'free transfer' to St Mary's at the age of 17 when the then Vicar here knew of her singing voice and told her there were boys in the choir!! So she joined and our eyes first met across the choir stalls and it did not take me long to realise that she was very special. We knew we were right for each other and, in our very early 20s talked of the future. Mel's father sadly passed away in 1977 and we put our plans on 'hold' as she was the only breadwinner at home. We eventually married in 1981, had three wonderful and amazing children and had a happy life. She was my soulmate, and we made a great team. We were fortunate that my salary meant she could do what she wanted - to stay at home and be a happy home-maker - something she excelled in doing. She was ever supportive of me and my refereeing, which took me off all around this country and abroad.

Her working life as a qualified Medical Secretary saw her work at St Peter's Hospital in Covent Garden, St Helier Hospital, Epsom General and, finally, at The Royal Marsden. She worked across many different specialities from urology and dentistry through to diabetes and endocrinology and, finally, Nuclear Medicine. She made friends at each hospital and it was lovely to see representatives of each of the local hospi-

tals at the service. On the way to the crematorium the cortege went past Epsom Hospital to allow staff there to wave goodbye.

Mel had a wonderful singing voice and served the choir here for 45 years. Not only was she a Chorister, she was, for a time, our church Unit Guide Leader. She also served on the Parochial Church Council as a member, then Secretary. She was very

much part of the fabric of St Mary's worshipping community.

She was amazingly popular and had a huge number of friends and acquaintances. The children would dread going out with her to the shops as it didn't matter where she went, she would always know somebody and have to stop and chat.

She was fiercely proud of her children and all that they and I achieved, there being little doubt we would not have achieved as much without her selflessness and constant support. She was absolutely adored by her grandchildren and quite a few 'adopted' children and grandchildren as well.

We will each remember Melanie in many different positive ways but mainly, I suspect, for her cheery personality and that wonderful laugh!!!!

'Thank you' to all those who have helped us through our journey over the past seven years. Your love and care has eased the pain and angst immeasurably. The family and I are immensely grateful.

We have received 136 cards and letters, a lot more messages via social media and some lovely flowers. This, I think, shows the love, affection, and esteem in which Melanie was held by a vast number of people in her life from school friends, college friends, and work colleagues as well as those she made here at church and truly everywhere she went. It is a testament to Melanie's popularity that the service has been viewed on-line over 1,500 times and is a wonderful way of thanking God for her life.

May she rest in peace

DRC



THE ECO-GROUP'S TIPS FOR DECEMBER

Greening your home

With 40% of UK emissions coming from households, our homes have an important part to play in meeting the UK's 2030 emissions reduction targets. As temperatures drop in an increasingly warming world, you can help to tackle climate change and reduce your heating bill by testing how draughty or leaky your home is. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think key-holes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials.

Now is also a very good time to prepare for winter by sticking tinfoil or radiator panels between the wall and radiator, as these will help reflect heat back into your room during the colder months.

I'm dreaming of a 'green' Christmas....

Please think about the environment when purchasing Christmas cards and wrapping paper.

Most cards are paper based and can be recycled, along with their envelopes. However any ribbon or glitter will have to be removed before recycling.

Wrapping paper can only be recycled if it passes the 'scrunch' test. That means if you scrunch up the paper and it doesn't spring back it is non-foil and in most cases can be recycled.

Please check with local recycling centres.

Further information on Christmas recycling and much much more is available on the website recyclenow.com. 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.

THE ECO-GROUP'S NOVEMBER LITTER PICK

The photo opposite shows some of the litter, including the wheelbarrow itself (!), found in the vicinity of the old church tower. Many thanks to the litter picking team



PCC MEMBERSHIP

Our PCC members after the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting held using Zoom on 13 October are:

Revd Russell Dewhurst - Vicar, Chairman
Valerie Wood - Churchwarden, Vice-Chairman
Nicholas Allsopp - Churchwarden
Kathie Burgess - Deputy Churchwarden
Humphrey Reynolds - Deanery Synod member
Wendy Paxman - Deanery Synod member and Pastoral Assistant

Revd Sue Ayling - Assistant Priest
John Baker - Joint Treasurer
Gill Bird
David Boosey - Joint Treasurer
Donna Boosey - Joint Treasurer
Ian Burgess - Security Manager
Helen Crossley - Safeguarding Officer
Barbara Gibson-Sykes - Pastoral Assistant
Charles Johnson - Health and Safety Officer
Valerie Smither
Andrew Sykes - Pastoral Assistant

Secretary: Liz Divall

The following church officers, who are not on the PCC, have been appointed by the PCC:

David Dance - Data Protection Compliance
Miriam Massey - Stewardship Recorder

St Mary's thanks all PCC members and appointed officers for taking on these important roles and sends them good wishes for their periods of office.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

To all EPN readers
 Wishing you a very happy Christmas and
 praying that 2021 may be a happy and blessed
 New Year and very different from 2020!
 Russell, Elaine and William



To all those seen and unseen this year,
 I wish you a very Happy Christmas and
 every blessing for 2021.
 Thank you all for your continued support.
 Valerie, Churchwarden.

May the peace of the Christ-child
 enfold you this Christmas and every
 day through 2021
 Sue Ayling



Wishing everyone all the blessings
 of Christmas - Love, Joy and Peace
 Maggie and Charlie

Christmas Blessings to everyone
 and Best wishes for a Happy
 New Year.
 Rosemarie and Mike

Lucy, Godfrey & Leo Morrell
 wish you a Happy Christmas
 and all the very best for 2021

Wishing all our much missed
 friends a safe and peaceful
 Christmas and New Year
 Gill and Richard

Happy Christmas and hopefully a
 covid free 2021
 Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom and
 Ewell Humphrey and Gill



Wishing everyone at St Mary's a
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New
 Year
 Gillian Merrick

Christmas greetings and all
 good wishes
 Gilda and John Everson

May you find peace, hope and joy
 this Christmas. With love to all at
 St Mary's.
 Linda Staff



Lloyd and Promilla send
 warm greetings to everyone
 for Christmas and the New
 year



A happy & peaceful Christmas
 and all the best for the New Year
 Jenny, David and Mary



A MAST YEAR IN EWELL?

'Crescunt illae; crescunt amores'

'As these (beech trees) grow, so does our love'. From this saying, the ancient Romans clearly enjoyed inscribing their initials into the beech tree's smooth, grey bark much as the English have always done. Moreover, it seems people across all cultures have been doing the same thing since time immemorial.

However, this aspect of the beech, fascinating though it is, is not my subject this month. Out and about in the borough, I daresay you have all been admiring the masses of holly and other berries, not to mention the autumn colours, which seem to be more spectacular than ever this year. If that is what you thought, you are not wrong. According to the experts, for a variety of reasons largely based on the weather, the year 2020 is going to be a 'mast year'. What does that mean, and what impact does it have, if any, on birds or other animals?



Mast is the collective term for beech nuts and is also used to refer to acorns, the 'mast' of oak trees of course. Beech mast is produced every year to some extent. If we think back to our schooldays, when we were studying O-level English History, one subject that came up was 'pannage' - the custom of putting pigs out to graze in the woods and get fattened up by consuming the mast. Pannage is still carried out in the New Forest to this day. A 'mast year' such as 2020 only occurs once every 12-15 years and seems to be a phenomenon pertaining to all Europe, not only Britain. In these years, an exceptionally vast quantity of mast is produced, so much so that even with the large number of squirrels and other animals exploiting this bounty, plenty is left over. The sound of blackbirds scuffling through dead leaves is a familiar one in autumn, though they are looking for grubs rather than the nuts because their beaks are not adapted to removing the nuts from their husks. The jay has a crop that can carry as many as eight nuts at a time that it can bury for use when the weather turns cold. That familiar garden bird the chaffinch has a beak that is strong enough to exploit the beech mast. In addition to our native birds, many thousands of chaffinches come to these shores every autumn from Scandinavia, Poland and the Baltic states. Another bird even more partial to beech is the brambling, a cousin of the chaffinch. This attractive species does not breed in this country but most winters some fly here from Scandinavia for the mast.

By virtue of all this extra food, these birds can breed in far greater numbers than usual, leading possibly to a population explosion. The consequent shortage of food may result in even more birds migrating to this country.

The beech can grow to become a magnificent tree and to see them en masse is a spectacular sight. A good place to see them, and with luck see some birds foraging in the mast, is the slopes of the North Downs, for example near Mickleham. Nearer home there are a number of individual beeches scattered chiefly around Epsom Common.

TT

ORGAN RECITAL Jonathan Holmes 10 October

During the course of tonight's concert, it occurred to me how much these recitals depend on the work of organ builders. Organ builders have existed for as long as there have been church organs. We all know that our organ here at St. Mary's was built by 'Father' Willis in 1889. In fact, the 19th century was a boom time in the field of organ building, and that came about as a direct result of the Industrial Revolution and advances in the field of engineering.

For the concert tonight we heard Jonathan Holmes, Director of Music at St. Mary's, in a varied programme of music, some written specifically for the organ, others not. Some of the pieces would not have been composed at all had it not been for the work of organ builders.

Both the first two items were composed for orchestra and later arranged for organ. The Coronation March **Crown Imperial** by *William Walton* was first performed at the coronation of King George VI in 1937 and has been popular ever since. Walton seems to be deliberately harking back to the earlier style of Edward Elgar in his *Pomp and Circumstance* Marches.

Elgar himself in more introspective mood followed, in '**Nimrod**' from The 'Enigma' Variations. In case anyone is wondering, the name Nimrod is a play on words. The legendary figure Nimrod is said to be "a mighty hunter before the Lord" in the Book of Genesis. The English word 'hunter' translates as 'Jaeger' in German, and A. E. Jaeger was one of the friends alluded to in *Elgar's* 'Enigma' Variations.

The Palais du Trocadéro in Paris no longer exists having been demolished in 1937 and, with it, presumably, the organ built by the famous French organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. For the inaugural concert, October 1878, several leading organists in Paris were invited to perform on this organ. One of them was the Belgian *César Franck*. For the occasion he composed **Trois Pieces** (three pieces) the first of which is **Fantaisie in A**. Note the French word 'fantaisie' is identical with our word fantasia or fantasy which, in a musical sense, denotes a piece not composed in any strict form.

To end the first half, a splendid work by *Franz Liszt*: the **Fantasia and Fugue on the name BACH**. Anyone not realising that Liszt played the organ as well as being the most celebrated concert pianist of the 19th century should visit (that is, once travel restrictions have been eased) Budapest where a statue of him stands in the square more or less opposite the Opera House. Liszt is at the organ, playing with the fire and panache he brought into his piano-playing. The Fantasia and Fugue is really Liszt's personal homage to Bach whose music he admired. The significance of the title is that the name Bach can be represented musically: B flat, A, C, B natural. In German (and Hungarian) our B flat is designated B, and our B natural is H.

After the interval just one work, the highly serious **Sonata on Psalm 94**. This superb piece was one of the few works that *Julius Reubke* had time to compose before his untimely death. Julius was the son of Adolf Reubke, a leading German organ builder, and a student of Liszt himself who lived nearby at Weimar, both men clearly knew the new organ being built at Merseburg Cathedral where the Sonata was first performed.

After all that doom and gloom, a light-hearted encore - in a major key - to send us home cheerfully. It was the **Toccatina for flutes** by *Pietro Yon*.

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Boxes of biscuits, tubs of chocolates, yule logs/chocolate swiss rolls, savoury snacks - twiglets, cheeselets, crisps etc, mixed fruit and nuts, small boxes of shortbread, sweets/biscuits for older or single clients, Christmas puddings - non alcoholic, mince pies - non-alcoholic, custard, gravy granules, hot chocolate, schloer/non-alcoholic fizz, Christmas napkins, disposable tablecloths, new tea towels, wrapping paper, gift tags and Sellotape.

The main collection points are Waitrose (Epsom), Waitrose (Banstead), Tesco (Leatherhead), Sainsbury's (Kiln Lane) and Asda (Burgh Heath). If you are not going into any of these supermarkets at present then donations can be taken direct to the Foodbank depot in Ruxley Lane. It is situated in the Generation Resource Centre, behind West Ewell Primary School. Mon - Fri, 9am to 2pm (not bank holidays.) Most volunteers at the centre have a collection box on their doorstep for people to put their donations in.

I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking all who volunteer their time serving those who are struggling to feed themselves and the families. And of course, to everyone who helps support them by their donation (e.g. <https://epsomandewellfoodbank.enthuse.com/Donate#!/>)

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The Editorial and Production Team hope that you have enjoyed reading EPN this year and finding out more about all that goes on at St Mary's. We try to keep you abreast of our services and the many activities to which you are most cordially invited.

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ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES

We hold on-line quizzes on Wednesday evenings using Zoom. These are fun for all the family, so why not join us? The next quiz will be on December 9. You will need to register using links provided in the Weekly Notes and the Vicar's weekly email to our mailing list. For more details please email zoom@stmarysewell.com.