



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 577

February 2021

60p



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

Sources of Encouragement Lent Group

ONLINE ON ZOOM

Tuesday evenings at 8pm

3 Feb - 23 March

All are welcome

"Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy laden."

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The Vicar writes

On Sunday 4 January I made the following announcement in church, which is reproduced in full here in EPN:

Dear friends,

It is being announced this weekend that I will be leaving St Mary's this April. My last Sunday as Vicar of St Mary's Ewell will be Easter Day 2021. Elaine, William, and I will be moving to Sussex and I will begin doctoral study and research in the field of ecclesiastical law.

I am excited by the prospect of what I will be doing, but I will also be very sad to be leaving this fantastic parish. This is the place we moved to when we were just married, where my son has been born, and where I have lived and worshipped for over 11 happy years- longer than I have lived anywhere. I have stayed so long because I cannot imagine there can be many better parishes in the Church of England. Here I have found friends and colleagues who I am sure could not be bettered by any other church in their dedication. You are and will always remain an inspiration to me.

The Archdeacon of Dorking, Martin Breadmore, will begin working with you in the weeks ahead so the process of finding the next Vicar of Ewell can begin as soon as possible. I appreciate this may not seem like the best time for a change. However, my next step is one I have been considering for some time and feel it is what I am called to do, and there are various logistical reasons that mean I have to announce my move now. The past year has brought so many challenges, and I have been glad to face them with you. By April, we hope that life will be returning to normal, and I hope I will be leaving St Mary's in a good position for the next chapter of its life.

Please keep us all in your prayers, as you will be in mine.

Russell

I will still be writing in EPN for a few more issues. This magazine is one of the many things I shall miss about life in Ewell. Parish churches in the Church of England, at their best, don't have any hard borders. There are people who belong and who are connected in all sorts of different ways. I know many people who read EPN are not regulars at St Mary's, and I have always been conscious of the privilege of addressing this wider community when I write in these pages. The parish churches of the Church of England belong to the whole community. This is a link which has been put to the test to some degree in recent months. The occasions when the community come to church or our activities in greatest number - the Fair, the Day for All, Remembrance, Christmas, and so on - have been greatly curtailed or have had to move online. We have reached out in new ways online, and I hope that St Mary's will long continue to reach out widely into the community both in

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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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physical and in virtual ways. When someone tells me that St Mary's is their church, because they were married in St Mary's years ago, or that a relative is buried in our churchyard, or that they make a point of coming every Christmas, that link is something to be cherished.

IN CHURCH IN FEBRUARY

Sadly, services are online only for the time being. Having reviewed risk assessments, given the very high prevalence of the new strain of the virus in the local area, we feel public services cannot take place at the moment. This will be reviewed by St Mary's PCC at the end of January. Please do join in online if you can:

9:30am Parish Eucharist (online only until further notice)

The order of service can be downloaded at <https://www.stmarysewell.com/eucharist>

The service will be live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live>

11am St Mary's kids (online only until further notice)

Our weekly service for children and families.

The service will be posted to <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos>

Our parish quizzes continue to be very popular indeed, also held on Zoom. The next quizzes will be at 8pm on 18 February and 10 March. Sign up details can be found on the website in the Weekly Notes nearer the time. In the same place you will also find details of the Sunday coffee which meets by Zoom some Sundays after the 9:30am service.

If you aren't online, we do send out a mailing every few weeks from the ministry team with prayers and information. Get in touch via the parish office if you'd like to be included.

ASH WEDNESDAY

There will be an additional livestream service for Ash Wednesday, at 6pm on Wednesday 17 February at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live>

RECITALS

We have also had to suspend live recitals. However, even when the church can't open, planned recitals are being recorded and posted to our Facebook page.

Tuesday 9 February Bach recital at 1.05pm (and available afterwards): Toccata Adagio and Fugue in C BWV 564, Herzlich tut mich verlangen BWV 727, Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier BWV 730, Trio super: Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend BWV 655, Komm, Heiliger Geist BWV 651.

The first of our Saturday series of recitals for 2021 will be 2.30pm on 27 February (and available afterwards): Tannhäuser "Prelude" Wagner arr. E.H.Lemare; "Perpetuum Mobile for Pedals Alone" Wilhelm Middelschulte; Passacaglia Wilhelm Middelschulte; 2 concert studies *Continued on page 4*

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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The Vicar writes continued from page 3

Pietro Yon; Symphonie Passione Marcel Dupre; 2 Chorale Preludes Garth Edmundson; 2 Sorties Louis Lefébure-Wély.

LENT GROUP: SIGNS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

"Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy laden." This year's Lent group will be online and will offer something that seems much needed at the present time: encouragement. We will meet by Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 8pm 23 Feb - 23 March. Each week, a different member of our ministry team will introduce a short poem, painting, or piece of music which has been a source of encouragement to them, followed by discussion. We will then read and discuss (in small breakout groups) a passage of Scripture picking up the same

theme, then end with a prayer. The sessions will last one hour maximum and all are welcome. You can register for the course using this link

<https://forms.gle/rWtueHePqtm4M2xU9>

or the QR code below. These will also be in the Weekly Notes and on our website nearer the time. A single registration will cover the whole course or any part of it.

Your friend and Parish Priest

Russell Dewhurst



QR code for Lent Group registration

HYMNS - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

One thing I'm really looking forward to at a future date is singing hymns in church – though when that will be is very uncertain. In the past I've always found it uplifting to sing together with other people and – for me – that special feeling is increased when we are singing together in church. It is something which simultaneously brings a sense of both physical and spiritual well-being. The words of the hymns add a further dimension - whether chosen to reflect the season or the sermon they may speak to us with comfort, hope, challenge or encouragement and enable us to offer our praise or to bring our prayers to God. So that's hymns in the past and the future.

But what about the present when we can't sing hymns in church (even if the church is open for public worship) and the opportunities to do so at home may be limited – depending on who else is around at the time! What about the difficult times we are facing

with all the challenges they bring with anxiety and loneliness, sickness and death, loss of the comfort brought through receiving a hug and financial worries? What about uncertainty about our faith and the existence of God and not being able to receive Holy Communion? For me that's when the words of hymns come into their own: 'New every morning is the love', 'Great is thy faithfulness', 'O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come', 'The Lord's my Shepherd' and 'All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew. Me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true.'. You'll have your own favourites. One of mine is a hymn that I learnt at St Mary's over six years ago. I'd like to share the words with you as they bring me encouragement and hope as we continue our journey through these surreal times - and I pray they do to you as well.

In heav'nly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear;
And safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me, no want shall turn me back;
My Shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim;
He knows the way He taketh, and I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me, where darkest clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free;
My Saviour has my treasure, and He will walk with me.

Anna Waring 1850

If you have access to the Internet you'll be able to obtain the words of your favourite hymn fairly easily. If not, give me a ring and I'll send the words to you.

Sue Ayling 020 8337 6347

SOME WINTERTIME THOUGHTS ABOUT GARDEN BIRDS

I suppose the great thing about birds is that they are everywhere: I daresay there is not a single corner of the whole British Isles that is bird-free, even in cities. Not only are they ubiquitous, they are hard to miss, unlike, say, mammals, many of which are small or nocturnal. Of course there are some birds we will never see, at least in Ewell. They may not even be particularly rare, but the habitat is wrong. I should point out that the word 'habitat' is one that gets bandied about a lot among naturalists. All it really means is the place where wildlife, including plants, live.

Birds being, arguably, easiest to see, many of us begin to be aware of them at home. Home is really a very good place to start. Perhaps we might notice a bird or two while standing at the sink washing dishes; or perhaps, if we have a garden – it does not matter if it is just a 'pocket-handkerchief' or even a grassy area around blocks of flats – a bird of some sort is usually visible. By watching birds from indoors, we realise that we can see far more than we would outside. There are two reasons for that: either it is because they cannot see us, or, if they can, they do not feel threatened. In a way, our kitchen acts like an observation hide at a nature reserve. A further point to note is that because we all more or less unconsciously follow a daily routine, the birds get habituated to that too.

Although bird-watchers – even the most experienced ones – would never describe themselves as scientists (we are really ornithologists), the challenge of identifying birds is actually a scientific one. If we start finding out their Latin names – useful when we want to watch birds while travelling abroad where the English names are unknown – that becomes even more scientific. The danger I perceive in becoming too keen on identification is that we lose the fun aspect of our hobby: I believe it is just as much fun simply to watch what they do without worrying too much what species they are. Wintertime can be an ideal time because the trees are bare thus making birds easier to see.

Our enjoyment is enhanced and the birds' lives improved if you have a bird-table, or bird-feeder. Feeding birds is big business nowadays, especially during lockdown when more of us are spending more time at home. Either online or at garden centres and suchlike places you can choose from a wide variety of bird feeders to suit all pockets; however, many people like to knock up their own bird tables. Place it somewhere within sight of your window, and beware of cats too so keep the feeder well away from thick shrubbery where a cat may lurk. Water too is important. Any container will do as long as it is shallow: an upturned dustbin lid is quite sufficient.

Life for birds can be desperate at times of frost or hard weather. In next month's edition we can consider what birds may come to the feeder you have gone to such trouble to install.

TT

Prayers for February



'Candlemas', which is celebrated on February 2, marks the end of the Christmas season and is the time for turning our thoughts towards Lent and the road to Calvary and Easter.

At Candlemas, we remember the story of the baby Jesus being presented in the Temple for the first time and Simeon's words (the words of the 'Nunc Dimittis') describing Jesus as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of Your people Israel.'

So we pray :

Loving God, throughout all human history You have shone Your light into the dark places of the world.

At this time, when the Corona virus pandemic continues to impact on all our lives, we earnestly pray for all those who find themselves in a time of darkness; the darkness of grief for lost loved ones; the darkness of loneliness and isolation, of anxiety and fear for the future ; whose lives are blighted by trouble of any kind. Lord Jesus, may they and may we be even more conscious that You walk beside us throughout our lives, both in the dark times and in joyful times.

In this time of darkness, we give thanks for Your light of truth and love and pray that You will make Your home among us. We pray that Your guiding light may continue to shine through us in the world; in our country; in the communities where we live.

More than ever, we pray for a new awakening of Your Spirit in the lives of all Your people. We pray that You will instil in us an unquenchable thirst for You and a deeper awareness of the power of the Cross.

May our eyes be clear to see Your Work; our ears open to hear Your Word; our hearts and minds filled with Your Love that Your Kingdom may come and lives be changed.

In Your Holy Name, we pray.

AMEN

FROM OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

Hi everyone,

'Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly.' Colossians 3:14

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, we try and find ways to show people that we love them. But how do we show God that we love him?

One way that we can show God that we love him is by showing love to ourselves and those around us. That is why the focus for this month is on 'Random acts of kindness.' We are going to focus on doing small acts of kindness for ourselves and those around us and making the world a little brighter. Each of us has the potential to do great things. We often look at the world and the negative elements that it contains, and we think that we are too small to do anything to make a change, but that isn't true. All it takes is small acts of love and kindness that will help change the world, like little ripples in a pond, every small deed a building block to a greater tomorrow.

Mahatma Gandhi said it best when he said, "BE the change you want to SEE in the world."

Let us use these powerful words to guide us towards making positive changes. When we focus on Random acts of kindness, it doesn't mean that it has to be given outwards only. We cannot pour from an empty cup, and therefore it is imperative that we first focus on giving ourselves some kindness and love. This is often one of the most challenging, but it is definitely the most rewarding. Some positive ways that you can show yourself love and kindness is to rest, spend time doing what you love, focus on yourself and put yourself first, pamper and spoil yourself, read, be silent with God, breathe, find a new hobby to enjoy, go on an adventure. You deserve as much love as you give to others and being able to love yourself first means that you will be full of joy, kindness, compassion and love whilst doing this.

Once you have spent time filling up your own cup, you can then go out and make someone else smile. There are a number of ways you can do this. Google has various ideas on how to show kindness to others, but find something that feels good to you. Most importantly, do it because it feels right, do it because you want to make a change, do it to make someone's life a little brighter, don't do it to show off to others that you have done it. An act of kindness done for attention and not for intent, is never as powerful, nor rewarding. Have fun with it. There are so many small things we can do, that end up becoming the big things.

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." Pablo Picasso

Have a great February,

Sandi

Children and Families worker

Email:families@stmarysewell.com

FOOD BANK WISH LIST

Through the generosity of so many people during December, many people were able to enjoy treats which made their Christmas more enjoyable than it would have been otherwise. Now that we are in the grips of a third lockdown, the gaps on the shelves of the Foodbank, are not for treats but for everyday things, the list of which includes the following items: **instant mash, long life sponge puddings, rice puddings, tinned veg, shampoo/conditioner, long life fruit juice, pasta sauce, powdered milk, washing powder, coffee, UHT milk (green and blue only), tampons, kids toothbrushes and female deodorant.**

Not wanted: baked beans, pasta, pulses, tinned soup, tinned tomatoes, tea bags, cereal, porridge, jam/honey/marmalade/spread.

As ever, thank you for your generosity.

DB

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM SAMARITAN'S PURSE about a shoe box gift



We wanted to say a huge thank you for packing a shoebox gift this year and standing by children in need in what has been such a tough time for many families all around the world. We've been blown away by your creativity and determination to pack shoeboxes regardless of the challenges you also faced. Thank you for showing children around the world that love isn't in lockdown.

We wish you every blessing this Christmas time and for the year ahead, and whatever your Christmas looks like, know that your gift will bring a great big smile and a whole lot of joy to the precious child who receives it. Your generous gift will remind them they are special and thought of and enable them to hear about God's amazing love for them too.

Linda Staff

JOHN RICHARD HAYNES: A LIFE WELL LIVED

Text of a tribute given by Owen Hanson, John Richard's cousin, at the funeral service on 25 November

John Richard Haynes - John Richard in this Church, an example of his gentle impishness - was born in Hastings on 21 June 1917. His father was a senior Customs official and moved often due to his work, and John's early schooling was in Folkestone and later St Helens, before his happy and successful time at Liverpool College. One consequence of his time in Liverpool was his lifelong support for both Liverpool and Everton football teams! Following this, John went up to St Peter's College in Oxford in 1936 - at that time St Peter's Hall - to read Modern Greats. After graduating in 1939 John was found unfit for Military Service, so in 1940 he took up a temporary Wartime teaching post at Christ's Hospital near Horsham, where he taught History in the Junior School, and was also a Junior Housemaster. Even when over a hundred years old, if asked what was interesting about, say, The Field of the Cloth of Gold, or what was Simon de Montfort's importance in British History, a full, scholarly and clear answer was given at once.

I first met John in 1942, when our aunt Lucy, four doors up the road, died. She left her house to John's mother, and John was her Executor. I was amazed when this very confident young man appeared on our doorstep, addressing my grandmother, to whom everyone was very respectful, as "Cousin Constance". Many of you in this Church are cousins of John's, mostly because their father or mother was born a Waller, but John and I never identified the one Waller we all have in common, probably as a great-great-great Grandparent. We became close because John and his parents and sister moved into the house four doors up the road, where they lived for over thirty years. John himself had gone from Christ's Hospital to The Royal Masonic Boys School in 1944, where he was a Housemaster and Head of History. In 1956 John moved back home to help his elder and very loving sister, Kathleen, look after their parents, and he became History Master at Chipstead Valley Primary School in Coulsdon, while also acting as a Senior Examiner for the Royal Society of Arts. We have Michael Harding with us today; he was a pupil of John's at Christ's Hospital from 1943, and by chance later a fellow teacher at Chipstead Valley, and I am grateful to him for the memories of those times that he has shared.

In 1966 John became Area Principal of Adult Education in North-East Surrey, based first in Selsdon, and afterward in Epsom and Ewell. While there he became interested in bringing together people, his love of History and beautiful houses and gardens, and when he retired in 1978 and he and his sister moved to The Dingle in Dorking, where he spent the rest of his life, John formed a Study and Learning group of - mainly - retired people that he named SALA, and for which over a period of 25 years he organised more than a thousand trips to Great Houses, expecting members to listen to scholarly expositions of the significance and history of house and occupants over the centuries. Woe betide the member of SALA who did not listen attentively, or spent too long over coffee at a stop on the journey! John never lost his schoolmasterly authority, and loved to use it.

John Richard, as he was known at St Mary's, was introduced to the Church in the Eighties by a long-term member of the Congregation, Blanche Rednall. The two of them attended for many years, and after Blanche's death John, who was getting less confident as a driver, and in any case always liked company, asked me to bring him. My daughter Sarah and son Paul both attended Junior Church, and this fitted in with John coming on to lunch with us on Sundays, as he had done since his sister died in 1993. To Sarah and Paul, he was 'grandad', and as my wife's mother also came, they had one complete set of grandparents. Muriel was 100 last week, following in John's footsteps! John liked the 'racy sound' of being an unmarried grandad, and mentioned it often!

St Mary's was always hugely important to John, but because he was interesting company - and desperately wanted company himself - many others looked after the rest of his week. Another John visited on a Monday, bringing beautiful photos of butterflies and other natural phenomena. Katie - here today, I believe - visited on a Tuesday, I took him for a drive in the North Downs that he loved, and a meal in one of our many favourite pubs on a Wednesday, Glynis and Morris took him out to visit a Garden Centre and indulge his love of plants and refreshments on a Thursday, and Richard often took him out for tea in the countryside on a Saturday. For many years Carol and Ian looked after his house and garden with him, becoming true friends as well.

Some of these outings continued after Home Instead's excellent carers gradually looked after John longer and longer daily, and even at the start of the 24-hour care John received from several wonderful carers in his last eighteen months. My last drive with him was early this year, and others continued to visit until lockdown. Most of those people are here today, and John was truly blessed with the support he received from carers, friends and relatives - his cousins!

We are saying goodbye today to a man who loved life in his plants, potting them and displaying them enthusiastically until this year, loved people - and how he could talk to them, and how well! At the 90th Birthday of my much-loved aunt Elizabeth, the mother of my cousin Ann and grandmother of Juliette, John gave a speech without notes. A young Scottish relative who also spoke commented: "You can give a speech without notes that is better than mine with them". John replied at once: "Who said I could read?", bringing the house down! Life meant cruises and visits to foreign lands until he was over 100, holding parties that were latterly expertly run and catered for by Juliette, and enjoying company as often as possible. Dinners at St Peter's in Oxford, and my own College in Cambridge, Masonic Ceremonies at his Lodge in Watford for over sixty years, glorying in the richness of Church Occasions when there were three priests at the Altar and colour added to the ceremony, all these made up the ornate tapestry of his life. Shortly before his death he said to me: "I have loved it all so much". We shall badly miss him, but this was a life fully, richly and truly lived, and rightly to be celebrated.

The photo shows (left to right) Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, John Richard, our Vicar Russell and Owen Hanson.





THE ECO-GROUP'S TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Are you recycling bottles from your bathroom?

It may be the smallest room in the house but did you know the bathroom can make a big difference when it comes to recycling?

There are plenty of plastic bottles from your bathroom that you may not have even realised you can recycle, including:

- Shampoo, conditioner and shower gel bottles
- Hand wash, mouthwash and moisturiser bottles
- Toilet cleaner, bathroom spray and bleach bottles

Plastic bottles are often recycled from the kitchen but we don't always think about those from the bathroom. There are some simple things you can do to make it easier to remember. Why not put an extra recycling bin upstairs? Or if you live in a flat or don't have much space, you could hang a bag over the back of a door. Just make sure you empty it into your recycling bin later.

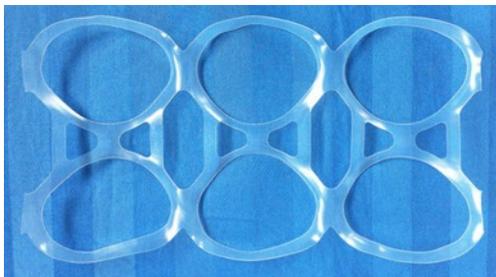
To find out more about recycling bottles from the bathroom as well as from every room in the home, visit the Surrey Environment Partnership website at:

www.surreyep.org.uk/reduce-reuse-recycle/single-use-plastics/

Medicine blister packs can also be recycled. Superdrug in Worcester Park now takes them.

Old tooth brushes and empty toothpaste tubes and make-up are all accepted by a company called Terracycle that recycles lots of rubbish. The nearest drop off point is in Tolworth (in the road with Knollmead Primary School, KT5 9QP). You are also welcome to drop off these items in the special recycling bin belonging to Caroline Keenan at 21 Highfield Drive, Ewell (thank you Caroline. You can contact Caroline at c_keenan2004@yahoo.co.uk. See also EPN November 2020).

Plastic holders for beer cans



Before putting the plastic holders for beer or other cans (there might be a better name for them!) into recycling or even in the rubbish, make a cut in each of the circles of plastic. Then if it should end up in landfill or the sea no wildlife will get their heads or beaks stuck.

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.

2020 REVIEW AND 2021 FORWARD LOOK

Happy new year everyone. We hope that you are safe and well in these continually challenging times.

As you may recall Angela Kelly-Burns and Noel Burns stepped down as Treasurers at the end of 2019, after undertaking the role for many years, with David Boosey, Donna Boosey and I joining the Church finance team.

Whilst we had expected to simply carry on their good work and ease ourselves in, familiarising ourselves with the new roles, 2020 had other ideas for us and it has proved quite an introduction to overseeing the Church finances!

During 2020 we spent a number of unforeseen hours analysing, estimating and planning for the effects of COVID-19 on the Church and its financial position. This has included several meetings with the Finance Committee and the PCC throughout the year.

The Church, like many charities, organisations and businesses across the country have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and its ongoing repercussions.

For much of 2020 the Church was either closed or operated with restricted services, which has reduced collections, donations and fees from special services. Church hall lettings were also significantly down in 2020, as the hall was closed for much of the year. People will also be aware that the Village Fair, a significant source of annual income for the Church, could not happen this year.

As we have said before these measures have had a significant effect on our income. We are working on the 2020 accounts and will report the final position to you once they are available for distribution.

Thankfully, due to the generous legacies left to the Church in recent years, and our recent investments in our excellent AV equipment many of our services have continued to be made available online and we have been able to continue with a wide range of our ministry work, keeping in touch with people through this time of challenge and isolation.

We are thankful to everyone who has contributed to collections or donations either in Church or online. We have again been fortunate to have received funds from legacies, which will help us continue supporting the Church and the congregation.

Whilst we do not yet know what 2021 will mean for the Church and its finances we will continue to diligently work with the PCC and other Church Committees, including the new Vicar once appointed, to ensure the Church delivers on its Church Development Plan without compromising the financial position.

Stay safe and well

John Baker and the Finance Team

MORE BACH ORGAN RECITALS AT ST. MARY'S

For the benefit of any new readers, it might be worthwhile explaining that Jonathan Holmes, Director of Music at St. Mary's, has held a long-cherished ambition to play all the organ music composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. Bach is, after all, universally held to be the supreme master of organ music and the overall total must run into the hundreds. Jonathan's idea is to present them a few at a time in a series of lunchtime recitals. Having begun the series in February, all went well until the onset of the coronavirus put paid to all activities at church and Jonathan's project was severely disrupted.

However, on *Tuesday 8 December* the recitals got under way again. It being the season of Advent, Jonathan's programme included Bach's organ works composed specifically for this time of year. It might be helpful to the reader to understand something of Bach's life and career, since both are bound up with his organ music. His career can be divided into three portions. His first job was at the German town of Arnstadt. One of the items on today's programme was composed there when Bach was 18 and it clearly demonstrates his genius as a young man. He next moved to a bigger and more important town, Weimar, where he worked as organist for the Duke. But for most of his life, Bach worked at St. Thomas's Church in Leipzig, and it was in this city that he died in the year 1750.

The name *Orgelbüchlein* translates as 'Little Organ Book' and is a set of Chorale Preludes. We heard **Four Advent Chorales BWV 599-602**. Bach was a devout Lutheran and much of his music reflects his faith. Some of these Chorales are familiar to us, as hymns in English translation. For each chorale prelude Jonathan played both the congregational chorale and the prelude Bach devised to go with it. It was these same preludes, by the way, that led to young Bach losing his job at Arnstadt because the people complained about the complexity of the music: they could not hear the tune. In retrospect, of course, we can see how lucky they were to have Bach there at all. Today's programme included: **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland** (Come now, Saviour of the heathen); **Gottes Sohn ist kommen** (God's Son is coming); **Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn** (Lord Christ, the only Son of God); and **Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott** (Praise to the almighty God).

The **Fugue in G minor BWV 578** which dates from the Weimar years is popularly known as the 'Little Fugue'. A fugue, by the way, is a piece of music where there are two or three, occasionally just one, themes (i.e. tunes) which are repeated in all kinds of ways: a fugue really shows just how talented a composer is.

To conclude this recital, another work probably from the Weimar years, the **Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV 532**. To quote from Jonathan's programme note, it 'illustrates Bach's great interest in stylistic diversity'; it also displayed our organist's skill with feet and hands.

On *Tuesday 15 December*, Jonathan's idea was to present 'An Advent Organ Meditation'. The music demonstrated the sheer capacity of our 'Father' Willis organ. The opening brilliant showpiece was not composed by Bach although it alludes very strongly to Bach. This was the **Tocatta-Prelude**

on '**Vom Himmel Hoch**' by the American composer **Garth Edmundson**. The title translates as 'from highest Heaven' and, as a hymn, is well-known at St. Mary's. Even better known to us is that fine Advent hymn 'Sleepers Wake' It is also one of Bach's most enduring compositions, '**Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme**' BWV 645.

We owe **Felix Mendelssohn** a great deal. He worked hard to bring to life the reputation of Bach, which had lapsed since his death, and his love for Bach is clearly seen in the '**Overture to St. Paul**', Mendelssohn's oratorio. The excellent organ arrangement is by W.T. Best who performed this overture at the inaugural recital of the new Willis organ at the Royal Albert Hall in 1871. Our organ here at Ewell was built only some 18 years later, in 1889 and it is interesting to speculate how much Best would have enjoyed Jonathan's playing today.

A more modern composer who loved and was heavily influenced by Bach is **Max Reger**. The '**Choralphantasie und Fuge über den Chorale "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"**', **opus 52 no. 2** ended the recital. The title in English is 'Choral fantasy and fugue on the choral "Sleepers Wake"'. The sheer power of this music brought the recital to a thrilling conclusion.

The last recital before Christmas took place on *Tuesday 22 December* and, owing to the upsurge in virus outbreaks, was recorded by Jonathan without any live audience present. This was a Christmas Celebration. The opening work was by one of our up-and-coming organ composers, **Jonathan Scott**: his 'A Christmas Fantasy'. A more familiar name is that of **Marcel Dupré** and we heard his **Variations sur un Noel**, 'Noel' being, of course, the French word for Christmas. The French-Canadian organist, **Dénis Bédard** was represented by '**Variations on In Dulci Jubilo**', '**Noel Huron**' and '**Tocatta sur Il est né le divin enfant**'. Finally **Pierre Cochereau's** '**Sortie sur "Adeste Fidelis"** which is, of course, O Come, All Ye Faithful and that rounded off the recital in a most appropriate way.

TT

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION



Please submit entries to epn@stmarysewell.com by noon on by 15 February.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE: FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021

Sadly, the World Day of Prayer service will not be held in church this year due to the lockdown restrictions. The good news is that it will be broadcast on the St Mary's Ewell Facebook and YouTube sites and as a result will be able to be seen by a wider audience than those who would normally be able to attend the service. It will be available to view from 10 am on 5 March.

If you are unable to view the service on a computer but would like to join in on the day we can try to provide you with the service booklet. If you would like one please give me a ring on 020 8224 5035 or ask someone to email me on your behalf at dorothybax@virginmedia.com.

Build on a Strong Foundation

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The service this year has been written by the women of the Republic of Vanuatu which is located in the South Pacific Ocean. It is a beautiful island with sandy beaches, lovely birds and many kinds of trees bearing fruits and nuts but it is vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis and active volcanoes. The service is based on the parable in Matthew 7:24-27 about the two houses, one built on sand, the other on firm foundations. In normal times a stone would be given to each person as they arrived at church. During the service, the stone would be exchanged with someone near them in the congregation. As this will not be possible now you might like to pick up a stone from your garden beforehand to use as an aid to your commitment to hold Vanuatu in your prayers throughout the coming year. The stone is also a reminder that if we build our lives on the rock which is Christ, we will have a strong foundation.

During the service, donations would normally be taken for the World Day of Prayer to help the many charities that are supported by their work, both here in the UK and abroad.

To find out how you can make a donation to World Day of Prayer via their website go to www.wwdp.org.uk.

You can also donate up to £40 by Text: TEXT **70085** using the phrase **2021WDP 5 to donate £5** To donate a different amount change the 5 to the amount you wish to give. Your text will cost the amount you donate plus one standard rate message.

If you have received a copy of the Order of Service it will have included a brown Gift Aid envelope which you can use to make your donation. If you are able to gift aid your donation, please clearly fill in your details. A plain envelope can also be used marking it clearly for World Day of Prayer. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please make sure that your details are also clearly written including the date, your name, signature, address with your postcode and the amount donated. The envelope can be given to Valerie Wood or Dorothy Baxter or it can be put through the Parish Office letterbox. Please note, the Office is not open to any callers due to covid-19.



QR code for St Mary's Ewell YouTube video.

The service from St Mary's will be available to view on Friday 5 March from 10 am via:

<http://bit.ly/StMarysFacebookVideo> or

<http://bit.ly/StMarysEwellYouTube> or

<https://linktr.ee/StMarysEwell>

To find out more about the World Day of Prayer and their organisation see the WDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk.

THANK YOU, LAUREN

On 20 December we celebrated Lauren Crick's 25 years of membership of the parish choir. We made a presentation of flowers and a cake (baked by Rachel Gunton) as well as a long service certificate to mark the occasion at the 9:30am Sung Eucharist. Lauren has been a devoted and loyal member of the choir for all those years: between them, six members of the Crick family have given 176 years of service to the parish choir... and counting!



QR code for St Mary's, Ewell Facebook video.



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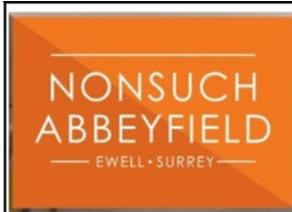


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ST MARYS ORGAN RECITALS IN FEBRUARY

Recitals may be online for some weeks because of restrictions, but we hope to return to recitals in church as soon as we can.

Tuesday 9 February 1.05pm-1.35pm:

Bach II Jonathan Holmes

Tocatta Adagio and Fugue in C BWV 564
Herzlich tut mich verlangen BWV 727
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier BWV 730
Trio super: Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend BWV 655
Komm, Heiliger Geist BWV 651



Saturday 27 February 2.30pm

Organ Jonathan Holmes

Tannhäuser "Prelude" Wagner arr. E.H.Lemare
"Perpetuum Mobile for Pedals Alone" Wilhelm Middelschulte
Passacaglia Wilhelm Middelschulte
2 concert studies Pietro Yon
Symphonie Passione Marcel Dupre
2 Chorale Preludes Garth Edmundson
2 Sorties Louis Lefébure-Wély



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ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES

We hold on-line quizzes every three weeks using Zoom, usually on Wednesday evenings. These have proved very popular and are fun for all the family, so why not join us? The next two quizzes will be on Thursday 18 February and Wednesday 10 March.

You will need to register using links provided in the Weekly Notes, the Vicar's weekly email to our main mailing list, on our website and on Facebook. For more details please email zoom@stmarysewell.com.