



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 581

June 2021

60p



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

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Maggie, one of our Assistant Priests, writes

By the time you read this article, two significant events will have taken place in St Mary's. Pentecost marked the re-opening of the church each Sunday morning for our Parish Eucharist, and we will have had our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 30 May, especially significant this year as we continue to live through the vacancy.

As I write this, a week before Pentecost, I can't tell you how much I am looking forward to next week! Like so many of you, I have not been anywhere near the church building for many months and I can hardly believe how life is about to change and what a difference it makes to have had the second Covid jab. How wonderful to be able to worship in St Mary's, and Oh, the joy of being able to hug the grandchildren again!

Many churches, like ours, began live-streaming services during the first lockdown, and this has thrown up all sorts of issues, not just in the way we experience church worship, and the importance - or not - of being physically together, but the deeper questions of faith and relationships - and where do we find God?

A particular phenomenon has been the vast numbers of people who have been accessing services online. It seems this has been experienced by all denominations, not just in the Church of England. Here in Ewell, it is evident that hundreds of people have looked at our services at St Mary's online. What we don't know is how long they remain online? Do they have a quick look, decide it's not for them, and leave - or is there more to it? What are the spiritual hungers driving people and how is the church to respond to such needs?

These questions are being addressed by our Archbishop, Justin Welby, who is planning to visit every Diocese in the country over the course of the next year, addressing the following questions that it seems many are asking in the post-pandemic context:

- Suffering - has Covid killed God?
- Death - is it the end?
- Hope - just wishful thinking?
- Prayer - a waste of time?
- Purpose - why are we here?
- Vision - what has Jesus to say about building a better society?

The Archbishop begins his Mission in Guildford from 24-27 September, and in preparation for his visit, the Diocese organised a Webinar (more like an online seminar and a Zoom meeting) with the Archbishop, together with Bishop Andrew and other senior staff at the Diocese. The purpose was to share a little of how life has been in our parishes, and to hear from the Archbishop on how we move forward. I joined this Webinar as I was interested to hear what the Archbishop had to say, and I thought it was good that St Mary's should be represented.

Three parishes had been nominated to share their experiences - all different - and one in particular struck a chord with me as it really summed up what outreach is all about. 'We've struggled for years to take the Church outside of the

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

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CLERGY

Incumbency - vacant

For pastoral matters please call 020 8393 1297 and one of our assistant priests will be pleased to help you. Sue and Maggie can also be contacted as detailed below.

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE Dip Civil Law BA(Hons)Rel&Th; 020 8337 6347;

Email: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com;

Day off: Wednesday

Assistant Priest: Canon Margaret Marsh MA Christian Spirituality; Dip Theology & Ministry; 020 8224 0607;

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THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

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The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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

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building" said the Vicar, "and suddenly we have had to become a Church without walls".

I was also very touched to hear from a prison chaplain, whose prison had had an outbreak of Covid, which meant that prisoners were locked up for 23 hours a day for a year. It's impossible to imagine how anyone could cope with such a regime. I wonder if we pray often enough for prisoners, and indeed prison staff. And of course, it reminded me of the situation which many in our care homes have faced.

The Archbishop acknowledged the anxiety and stress that we have all been through, and spoke of the importance of our wellbeing - urging us not to respond with activism but to walk closely with God in Jesus Christ. He said that the work of rebuilding is the work of God, and we join him in this work.

We were encouraged to provide safe spaces for lament, where fears and anxieties and the distress of everything we have lost during lockdown could be addressed. He also stressed the importance of supporting and strengthening each other, to meet together as soon as we can - and to find and create a safe space to be open to each other, where we can be honest and truthful. What about differences of opinion? We need to learn how we can disagree well, whilst being kind.

We were also encouraged each to pray for five people, that they might come to know Jesus - and to continue the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative beyond the period from Ascension to Pentecost.

I came away from the Webinar feeling that our Archbishop supports all that the parishes are doing, and being encouraged to continue to trust in God, as we join him in the work of rebuilding, which will of course take time. A final quote from the day: 'God is giving us the biggest opportunity and challenge - the Holy Spirit is speaking to the Church saying 'What are you going to do differently?'

Food for thought indeed!

Maggie

THE CHURCHWARDENS WRITE

As Maggie has written (page 2), by the time you read this we will have welcomed the return of the congregation and choir into church – albeit both in restricted numbers – starting with the celebration of Pentecost on 23 May and holding the APCM following the 9.30am Parish Eucharist service on 30 May. More about the APCM in the July edition of the EPN.

Thanks to all those who completed and returned the Questionnaire, 'THE CHOICE OF A NEW INCUMBENT – YOUR CHANCE TO STATE YOUR VIEWS', sent on 1 May. We are pleased with the response and are now in the process of collating the data which in effect will show the gifts that we will seek in a new leader. This will be presented to the PCC and thereafter will help in the preparation of the Parish Profile and Statement of Needs.

During the vacancy period, we continue to have close liaison with Rosemary Donovan, the Area Dean and joint Sequestrator, and with our two valued Clergy, Sue and Maggie, and welcome the support we have from the PCC and members of St Mary's. Please pray with us for continued co-operation and understanding from all to keep us strong and united in the love and future of our Church.

Valerie Wood and Nicholas Allsopp

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!

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**DAY FOR ALL
ADVANCED NOTICE**

This year, *Day For All* will be held on Saturday 2 October. It is proposed to have a competition for the most amusing misshapen vegetable grown by children or adults. This advanced notice is to give you ample time to sow some seeds or plants in the ground or a pot in order for them to grow.

Dorothy Baxter

IN CHURCH IN JUNE

We will be continuing with the weekly Sunday 9:30am Parish Eucharist service, both in church and live-streamed at www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live. Those watching the livestreamed service can join our online virtual coffee using Zoom, which will be available afterwards at about 10.30am on 13 and 27 June. You will need to register in advance for this.

You also need to register in advance with Kathie at childrenshour@stmarysewell.com for Children's Hour, which is held at the usual time of 10:15am. St Mary's Kidz is still being presented by Sandi at www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/videos at 11:00am. See Sandi's article on page 6 for details of exciting things St Mary's Kidz will be doing during June.

On 13 June Choral Mattins will be celebrated online at 11:15am and to coincide with Father's Day on 20 June we have Choral Evensong online at 5:30pm.

The evening concert on Saturday 12 June will be "Multi-pianos" with Sarah and Jonathan Holmes, Simon Gregory and Matthew Burgess. This will be followed on Tuesday 22 June from 1:05 to 1:35pm when Jonathan will continue his lunch time Bach recitals.

On Wednesday 23 June we have our popular Quiz on Zoom at 8:00pm. Remember to register in advance.

Please check the Website and the Weekly Notes and News for further updates on services and events during June and the registration links for our virtual coffee and quizzes.

REPORT FROM THE PCC

The PCC met via Zoom on 11 May 2021.

The main purpose of the meeting was to approve their annual report and accounts for 2020, in preparation for publication prior to the APCM on 30 May.

There was exciting news about the progress made on improvements to Ewell Hall. Earlier on the same day, our mayor, Humphrey Reynolds, had given a speech at the relaunch of the hall. Photographs were taken to accompany reports in local publications and social media which will help to further publicise the venue.

The churchwardens were preparing to collate the responses to the questionnaire which had been sent out to members of the electoral roll, about the qualities they wish to see in the new incumbent. This will help them to compile the Statement of Need – part of the package sent out to applicants for the post.

The churchwardens shared the plans for church services coming up from Pentecost onwards, when the church will be open to a pre-booked congregation once more. Details will be published on the website and in the Weekly Notes.

It was reported that plans for a Summer Picnic in July are moving ahead.

Something else to look forward to in the summer – the Eco Group was granted permission to plant wildflower seeds in an area under trees in churchyard 4 which is not mown.

Liz Divall

PLEASE MAKE MY ZOOM WORK!

Carlo Acutis was born in London on 3 May 1991 of Italian Catholic parents although the family soon moved to Milan where he spent most of his life. He was considered a computer genius. From an early age he had a deep devotion to the Eucharist and is best known for developing a website documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world. He died, aged 15, from leukaemia on 12 October 2006 in Monza, Italy and is buried in the Church of St Mary Maggiore in Assisi. What is so special about him? We shall see.

The internet is undoubtedly one of the most amazing phenomena to have been developed during our lifetimes and for many has become even more important since the Covid19 pandemic began. As most of us are only too aware it can at times be challenging and frustrating. At such times maybe we feel the need for prayer. We are familiar with many patron saints such as St Anthony for lost articles, St Christopher for travellers and St Dunstan for musicians. But what about the internet? Well, there is an unofficial patron saint of the internet nominated by the late Pope John Paul II, St Isidore of Seville. He was born around 536 AD - yes, you read that correctly - and his opus was Etymologies in which he tried to record everything that was known at that time and considered as the encyclopaedia of all human knowledge, much like the internet is

considered nowadays. Somehow though he does not seem to be the most appropriate choice. After all St Isidore was born almost 1500 years ago!

Enter Carlo Acutis who is already being called "the patron saint of the internet" although he is not quite there yet. In October 2020 he was beatified by Pope Francis, taking the title "Blessed", at a ceremony in Assisi. He is the youngest person in modern times to be beatified and is just one step away from being declared a saint by the Catholic Church. He would be an ideal choice and would especially appeal to young people who would be able to readily identify with him. He would truly be a modern saint for modern times!

Tony Tucker

AV/SOUND DESK AT ST MARY'S

We are urgently seeking volunteers to learn how to operate our AV/Sound desk and to join the team helping with livestreaming/videos at our various services – mainly Sundays but could be at weddings, funerals and other services. This is now a vital part of our outreach so if you think you may be able to help, please contact the churchwardens.

BIRD WATCHING AS A HOBBY- part 1

Did you know how recently bird-watching began as a hobby? I certainly did not. Like many people, I just assumed we had always watched birds. It is, of course, true that a few individuals, such as poets, have long sought inspiration from birds. For the most part, it was sportsmen, i.e. hunters, and wildfowlers, professional bird-catchers, who ever spent time watching them as potential targets. How, and why, was it that we began watching birds purely for pleasure?

A hundred years ago, bird watching as we know it today, did not exist. The situation at the outset of the twentieth century, was that the world of ornithology was split into two; moreover, it really was a case of “ne’er the twain shall meet”. These two groups had absolutely nothing to do with each other. On the one hand, there were the field ornithologists, as they were called, who were considered eccentric (to put it mildly) by their professional counterparts. For the professionals, ornithology comprised taxonomy, i.e. the study of birds’ Latin names, and classification, and was carried out by scientifically-trained men in museums. They despised and denigrated the amateurs’ enthusiasm for studying birds in the wild. To illustrate this attitude, here is a typical, sarcastic comment made at the time: “Popular ornithology is the more entertaining, with its savour of the wildwood, green fields, the riverside and seashore, bird songs and the many fascinating things connected with out-of-doors Nature. But systematic ornithology, being a component part of biology – the science of life – is the more instructive and therefore the more important” (Ridgway, 1901).

So who were the people, who at the time acted so boldly as to fly in the face of such antagonism? Two names stand out: **Edmund Selous** (1857-1934) and the slightly younger **Eliot Howard**. We can consider Howard and his legacy in a future article. For now, let us think about Selous and ask ourselves why he is so important. Well, for one thing, Edmund as a man was totally different from his brother Frederick. Frederick Selous (the name, by the way, is of Huguenot origin, sometimes spelt Sious) became famous for his big-game hunting exploits in Africa. Edmund, on the other hand, hated killing anything. He preferred to hunt not with a gun but with a pair of binoculars, as he explains in his book *Bird Watching* of 1901. In this one respect, he was a pioneer. I should point out that Selous’s approach to bird watching was not the same as what we would think it to be today. For him, studying birds in their natural environment was motivated by science, and in this way, he and his followers tended to encroach on the academic territory held as the preserve of the museum men.

Selous published in 1899, in the periodical *The Zoologist*, a scientific paper that typifies his ground-breaking attitude to bird watching. His subject for observation was a pair of nightjars, a nocturnal songbird that visits heathlands (there are, sadly, none in Ewell) and which he studied over a long period from an observation hide. Behaviour of this kind would not be thought unusual nowadays. After all, this is the approach taken by Sir David Attenborough and his television team. For Victorian England, however, it was extraordinary. A few people did appreciate his work, one of whom was the editor of *The Zoologist*.

Next month, we can think more about Selous and his work before turning our attention to Howard, a very different character.

Prayers for June



As this Springtime and Summer continues to unfold,

Creator God fill each one of us with love for the whole of your creation. Awake in us a thirst and energy to work tirelessly to maintain the world as you would wish it to be. AMEN

Jesus, Redeemer of the World, help us to consider the lost lilies, the disappearing sparrows; teach us not to squander earth’s precious resources; help us to value habitats: seas, deserts, forests and seek to preserve this world in all its diversity. AMEN

Spirit of the Living God in the beginning you moved over the face of the waters. You brought life into being - the teeming and diverse life that finds its way through earth and sea and air, that makes its home around us, everywhere. You know how living things flourish and grow, how they co-exist, how they feed and breed and change. Help us to understand those delicate relationships, value them, and keep them from destruction. Help us to find ways to use earth’s resources wisely and to find a path to good, sustainable living in peace and harmony with the creatures around us. AMEN

Lord Jesus, who raised the dead to life help us to find ways to renew what we have broken, damaged and destroyed; where we have taken too much water, polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea, cut down the forests and soured fertile soils. Help and inspire us and all those who work to find solutions to the damage and decay that our thoughtlessness has brought about that once again we may live in harmony with all of creation, just as you intended. AMEN

FROM OUR CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

Hi everyone,

On June 5 we celebrate a very special and important day, known as WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. But why is the environment so special to us? Why are we celebrating this day?

In the beginning, when God made everything, he started with the environment. In Genesis where the story of Creation is found, it tells us that on the first day God created light, the following day he created the sky, then came the land, seas, plants and trees. After that he created the Sun, Moon and stars and on the fifth day, he created the animals and creatures of the sea. On the very last day of creating things, God created land animals and finally, he made Humans.

We can see from these events that the environment was really important to God and that that is why he made it first. He wanted us to live in a beautiful world surrounded by trees, mountains, fields, oceans, rivers, lakes, plants, flowers and all other beautiful creatures we find around us. Each of them was super important to God and He handpicked them Himself to place onto Earth. We therefore need to remember how important these different creations are and work each day towards loving, appreciating, caring for and making a difference in making sure we protect and preserve God's marvellous Earth.

For Pentecost, on the 23 May, we created a trail for you and your family to do. We are going to be continuing with this challenge through the month of June to show our support and love for the wonders of our world. This trail can be done in the church yard, in your own garden or out on your next walk. There is a number of really great activities for you and your family to do along your trail, such as wild weaving, tree hugging, wild flower sprinkling, cloud watching and many more. You can choose a few or all of the activities and can invite your friends and family to get involved in them too. This is a wonderful way to appreciate, enjoy and reflect on nature and will encourage you to enjoy every little bit of the environment around you.

Check out our St Mary's Kidz Pentecost service to find out more or visit our St Mary's Kidz Facebook page. You can also order yourself a craft goodie bag to help you complete the activities along the trail.

"If we want children to flourish, to become completely empowered, then let us allow them to love the Earth, before we ask them to save it" David Sobel

All the best,

Sandi

Children and Families worker
families@stmarysewell.com

FOOD BANK WISH LIST

By the time this edition of the Ewell Parish News comes out, services will be held again in St Mary's with a congregation and so donations for the Food bank can once again be left in the box at the back of the church to be collected and taken to the Generation Resource Centre, in Ruxley Lane. If you would prefer to take your donation directly to the Centre, the normal drop off times are: Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm. (Please wear a face mask.) It can be found behind West Ewell Primary School. They are closed on Bank Holidays.

Most wanted items: rice pudding, tomato ketchup, long life sponge puddings, powdered milk, bars of soap, UHT milk (full fat and semi skimmed only please), long life fruit juice, tinned vegetables, rice (small packets please), sugar (500g packs please), pasta sauce, coffee, instant mash, female deodorants, tampons, hair conditioner, children's toothbrushes, washing powder, treats for children (chocolate, sweets, crisps etc)

Please make sure all donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol.

The people running the centre send their grateful thanks to all of their wonderful supporters and want you to know that every donation makes a difference!

DB

A NOTE FROM WEST CHILTINGTON



Elaine, William, and I have now fully moved into our cottage in West Chiltington in Sussex. William has started at his new school and Elaine has been 'zooming' into court remotely. As you can see in the photograph, now that spring is here I have been able to start my studies outside in the garden. Regular readers will not be surprised to learn that I have been looking out for birds in the garden too, with the best so far being a Bullfinch on the feeder. I miss St Mary's and Ewell, but I have started attending another St Mary's, in West Chiltington, where I hope soon to get involved in parish life and have been warmly welcomed by the Rector.

Russell Dewhurst

BACSECT NEWSLETTER No 5 May 2021

If it's not one crisis it's another! After getting back to full opening just before Christmas we had to say goodbye to one of our teachers at Easter who has decided to move on to other things. It is a problem because he was in charge of the teaching of computer work in the ICT suite. We have not as yet found a replacement and we are struggling with laptops that are failing and no one to supervise them. We have had some checked and it appears to be an issue with the batteries so it is now a question of whether to replace the laptops, (20 of them) with new ones or replace all the batteries. Not having been able to get out to The Gambia for over a year has not helped and we may have to leave any decisions until November when we hope to be able to travel again.

As was advised by the Ministry of Education Inspectors we continue to pay for a security guard at the school gates checking all who enter the school, see picture!



The Gambia continues to have Covid cases but not at a great level at the moment. We just pray that they do not get the Indian variant especially as there is normally quite a bit of travel between the two countries.

Last month we shipped out more facemasks and a consignment of 30 folding exam desks which we hope will help with spacing the classes out a bit and allow for expansion into another class.

Prices for all essentials are rocketing and many families now face difficult choices over what to buy for their families. The school has a much higher rate of children who are unable to pay any fees so we must now consider funding teachers' pay for July and August as well as the normal purchase of the next school years textbooks and stationery, pens and pencils, white board markers and all the children's workbooks. With twelve classes of 20 + pupils that is a big hit on the Charities yearly budget!

The most important thing we continue to ask for from all our supporters is their prayers for the Head Teacher and all the teachers and children as they work their way through these tough times. We especially ask for prayers that the country may be blessed with more vaccine so that it can be offered to all and not just to the few.

On behalf of the children we thank everyone for all the support, both big and small, that help us to keep things going.

God Bless

Revd John Baxter
Chair of Trustees

REVIEW OF BACH ORGAN RECITALS

Two for the price of one this month, with a couple more Bach organ recitals in the series. For the benefit of any new readers, Jonathan Holmes, Director of Music at St. Mary's Church, has embarked on a lifelong ambition, viz. to perform all the organ music Bach wrote. The series is well under way now.

Tuesday 9 March, 2021 fell this year in Easter week, a fact which Jonathan took advantage of in selecting pieces from Bach's 'Orgelbüchlein' or Little Organ Book. A little preliminary background material may help put things into perspective. In 1704 the young Bach went to Weimar to work at the court of Duke Georg Ernst for about six months. A few years later, Bach, now with his young wife, Maria Barbara, returned to the ducal court and spent several years there. It was at Weimar that two of his musically gifted sons, Wilhelm Friedrich and Carl Philipp Emmanuel, were born. The Duke was keen on keyboard music and much of Bach's music for organ or harpsichord – cembalo in German – was written here.

Bach's exceptional talents as an organist could be heard right away in the **Prelude and Fugue in F minor, BWV 534** and also in the **Prelude and Fugue in F major, BWV 556**. From the Little Organ Book, mentioned above, we heard **Jesu Christus, unser Heiland BWV 626** which translates as 'Jesu Christ our Saviour who conquered death'; then **Christ ist erstanden, BWV 627** (Christ is Risen); **Erstanden ist der heil'ge Christ, BWV 628**. (the holy Christ is risen). The **Prelude and Fugue in A minor, BWV 551** culminates in a sequence of superlative flourishes, for both hands and feet. That was not quite the end of the recital, for Jonathan entertained us with the light-hearted **Fugue in G major, BWV 577** commonly – and appropriately - known as the 'Gigue'. A Gigue is a kind of dance - and this music merrily dances along. .

Turning quickly to **Tuesday 13 April**, many readers of EPN will recall the name Catherine Winkworth from previous reports of mine. Writing in the mid-19th century, many of her English translations of German hymns are still sung today. One such is "From Heaven above to earth I come" which in German reads **Von Himmel hoch, da kommst' ich her BWV 606**, taken again from Bach's Little Organ Book, this time from those chorale preludes Bach wrote for Christmas. Two more, which Winkworth did not translate, are **Gelobet seist dir Jesu Christ, BWV 604** (Praised be thou, O Jesu Christ) and **Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich BWV 605** (The day that is so full of joy). **In dulci jubilo BWV 729** a short piece which in fact opened the recital, is not taken from the Little Organ Book but is a stand-alone piece. Long attributed to Bach, the latest scholarship agrees that the **Prelude and Fugue in G minor BWV 558** was probably written by one of his pupils. A fine piece which was definitely written by Bach himself, during his Leipzig years, and which rounded off today's recital, would have been heard by millions recently, as it was one of the pieces chosen by the Duke of Edinburgh for his funeral the other week. This was the **Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 546**.



A WELCOMING VENUE IN THE HEART OF EWELL*

- Family parties and celebrations
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In early 2020 a working party was formed, chaired by Tim Price, to consider the strategy and objectives for the hall and how the hall could be improved as a Church and community asset. As the pandemic suspended most uses of the hall for much of the year, the opportunity was tak-

en to implement a number of enhancements, together with a relaunch of the hall. The relaunch will improve the hall facilities, ensure its use is maximised for Church and community use, and as a source of increased income generation for the Church.

Over the past year a variety of enhancements have been made to the facilities including a rebranding to 'Ewell Hall', installation of Wifi and baby changing facilities and new tables. We have also appointed a Deputy Hall Manager, to assist with management of the hall and growth in external bookings. More is planned with improvements to the kitchen, a buggy park and bicycle racks to ensure the hall continues to meet the needs of users.

Much work has been undertaken since the working party was formed and on Tuesday 11 May the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom and Ewell visited the hall to see the progress that has been made (see photo on the front page).

The Mayor commented "Ewell needs a hall that is available to everyone. The revamp has been very effective and given an extensive overhaul of the facilities. It is great for group meetings, lectures and talks. This is nothing but good for the village of Ewell".

Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen, we are so excited for Ewell Hall to be used as a community asset again. We look forward to welcoming you soon. For more information please visit: <https://ewellhall.uk/> and follow us on Facebook [@ewellhallowell](https://www.facebook.com/ewellhallowell).



Make your own soap!

During the first lockdown people were panic buying essentials, and everything else they could get their hands on. I found it impossible to buy soap and was running very low. I always avoid anything containing palm oil but, such was my desperation, I would have bought anything I could at that time.

So I decided to make my own. I mean how difficult could it be?

I soon found that starting from scratch was not easy. Soap is made from a chemical reaction from acid in something called lye water. It is extremely hazardous and requires adequate ventilation and protective clothing.

But here is an easier way, let an expert do the hazardous bit. Soap bases are easy to buy. Please take care to source a palm oil free version. They are a colourless, condensed, hard version of soap.

You then need to choose your fragrances and buy the essential oils, have a heat safe container (I use an old saucepan), a wire whisk to stir your fragrance in and moulds. If you want to add extras such as exfoliants or colours you will also need a mixer.

Simply melt the base over a low heat. I use my cooker for more control, but it can be microwaved. Be careful not to stir while it is melting otherwise you will have air bubbles in your soap. I move the solid blocks carefully around the saucepan until it has melted. Remove from the heat once melted to avoid evaporation of your essential oils. Add your fragrance and blend in using the whisk, try to avoid whisking air in. If it starts to go solid before you have finished, you can reheat it slowly until you have added everything you want. Pour the mixture into the moulds and fill right to the top. Allow to cool at room temperature, pop it from the mould and it is ready to use.

I have a range of moulds now in different sizes and some with messages on. This is especially useful if you want a small bar of soap for a cloakroom. By making your own soap I also avoid palm oil and other impurities. My soap lathers far better than any shop bought soap and smells much better. I have graduated to adding colours and petals for my bathroom soap. I also layer my soap now with different colours and ingredients and give to friends as gifts.

Denise Donovan

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

assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com or 020 8337 6347.

FINANCE UPDATE

In our last update we talked about initial headlines coming out of our review of 2020 and how we were moving forward with our objectives for 2021.

2020 Accounts

Our 2020 annual accounts are now complete, the independent examiner has completed his work and the accounts were presented to, and approved by, the PCC at their meeting on 11 May 2021.

Unsurprisingly, income generation was down in 2020 compared to 2019 as total income fell to £122,347 (-41%) in 2020, compared to £206,732 in 2019. Total expenditure fell to £181,199 (-37%) in 2020, compared to £287,890 in 2019, due to reduced general expenditure and expenditure on special projects (During 2019 almost £100,000 was spent on special projects).

During 2020 the Finance Committee met various times to review the financial position of the church to consider income and expenditure plans to ensure they remained appropriate in the context of a post COVID-19 world. This included reviewing the cost base and considering areas where expenditure could be reduced, without compromising the wider important objectives of the church and its commitments to the congregation and community.

Net movement in Funds

Total expenditure exceeded total income during 2020 by £58,543. This was £21,787 (-27%) lower than 2019, but underlines a key need to increase income and minimise expenditure (appropriately) in order to cover our regular costs and minimise the annual deficits to make the church more financially self-sustaining.

Priorities for 2021

We look forward to working with our finance colleagues, the PCC and the congregation to tackle the

challenges as the country comes out of lockdown, and with the Vicar vacancy, and what this means for our church.

Our hall working party have continued to meet regularly during 2021 and have a number of further initiatives and plans for enhancing which should increase usage and income from our fantastic asset. We are also hopeful that there can be some form of Summer event in 2021. The Village Fair is a key source of church income that was missing in 2020, in addition we understand and appreciate that many of the congregation and community are looking forward to events like the Village Fair being put on again.

Continued attention also needs to remain on reducing the gap between regular church running costs and the incoming resources, and reducing the annual trading deficits. It is hoped the relaunch of the hall will help close the gap through new income generation.

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, Churchwardens 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. More details will be provided at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 30 May.

Miriam Massey

After many years of great work supporting the Church finances, Miriam has stepped down from the Finance Committee and as Stewardship recorder and we thank Miriam for all her contributions. Sarah Holmes will be taking over the Stewardship responsibilities.

Stay safe and well

John and the finance team

EWELL SUMMER PICNIC

This summer, join us for a family friendly event in the grounds of Ewell Castle prep school.

St Mary's church presents Ewell Summer Picnic. Saturday 17 July 11-4pm.

For a small entrance fee have a change of scene and enjoy a family friendly environment.

There will be a bouncy castle, pony rides, crafts for the children to do, garden games and more.

Plus with a variety of food and drink on offer you can bring your own picnic blanket, sit back and enjoy the atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming you. More details to follow!

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)**

Ashes Interment

17 April	Wilfred John Tucker, aged 87
15 May	Robert James Broadfoot, aged 86
	Agnes Jordan Broadfoot, aged 86

Page 10 can be cut out if needed

Can you find all the words about growing seeds?

i	u	a	l	s	y	n	b	c	s	s	f	s	s	g
t	p	h	y	c	y	o	m	t	i	n	o	c	f	
e	r	p	a	w	r	a	n	e	s	t	i	b	u	
k	l	n	l	t	n	l	a	l	w	u	t	l	f	w
l	z	b	d	t	l	l	d	r	a	t	s	u	m	
a	u	t	a	e	p	s	d	r	i	b	r	d	k	h
t	i	s	r	r	w	k	y	a	d	e	y	o	x	
s	o	t	p	s	a	x	o	g	p	e	r	m	g	n
v	t	x	i	r	f	p	k	r	s	o	t	a	n	l
o	y	m	p	z	o	g	a	o	u	k	s	e	e	v
t	t	b	w	o	r	u	l	w	a	b	e	m	p	i
h	r	t	d	v	u	u	t	s	l	r	g	q	b	r
b	m	g	e	s	d	o	p	i	c	l	g	p	o	x
x	t	z	i	e	l	i	r	t	n	q	i	l	r	c
g	r	o	u	n	d	r	d	h	p	g	b	v	i	c

BIGGEST BIRDS CORN DAY EAR FIELD GROUND
 GROWS MUSTARD NEST NIGHT PARABLE PLANTS
 SCATTERS SEED SMALLEST SOIL SPROUTING STALK
 TENDER TREE



Father God in paradise
 Look upon our sowing:
 Bless the little gardens
 And the green things growing.
 Amen

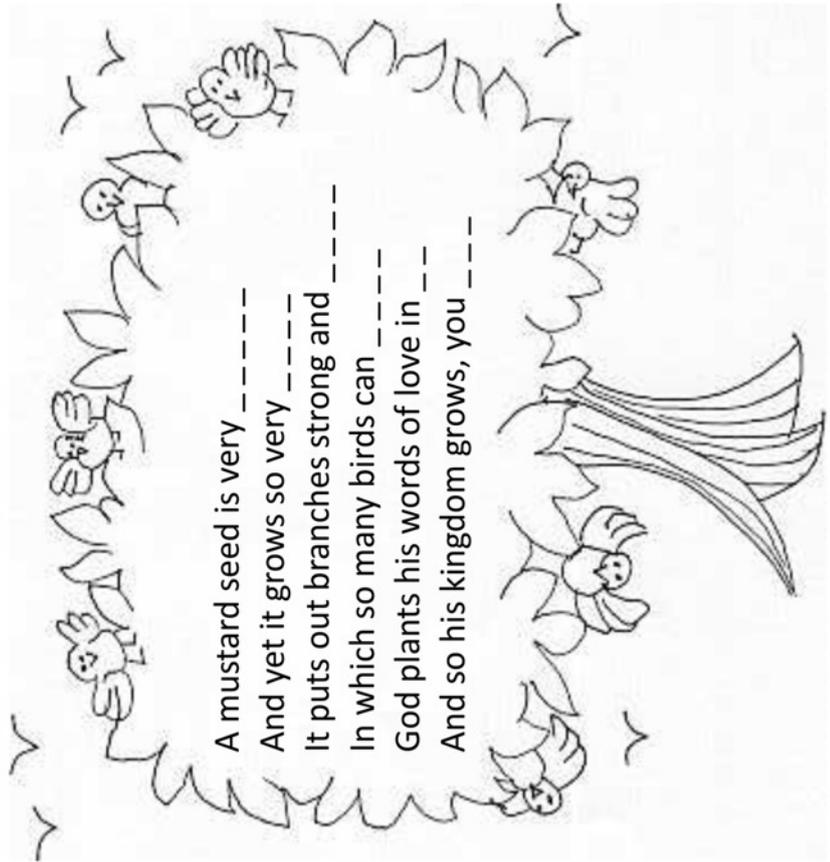
Young Church Mag

13 June 2021 the Third Sunday after Pentecost. Mark 4: 26-34

Jesus told a parable
 about a tiny mustard
 seed

Can you fit these words into the
 boxes to complete this poem?

tall me wide see
small hide



A mustard seed is very _____
 And yet it grows so very _____
 It puts out branches strong and _____
 In which so many birds can _____
 God plants his words of love in _____
 And so his kingdom grows, you _____

Can you see the birds hiding in the tree?



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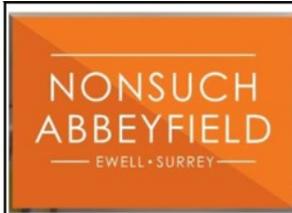


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We can raise much more if more people register and shop via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. **Please select *St Mary The Virgin Parish Church - Ewell as your nominated charity*** and remember to make purchases via the EasyFundraising website. Thank you!



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ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES

We hold on-line quizzes using Zoom, usually on Wednesday evenings. These have proved very popular and are fun for all the family, so why not join us? Our next quiz will be on Wednesday 23 June.

You need to register for each quiz using links provided in the Weekly Notes, the St Mary's weekly email to our main mailing list, on our website and on Facebook.

For more details please email
zoom@stmarysewell.com