



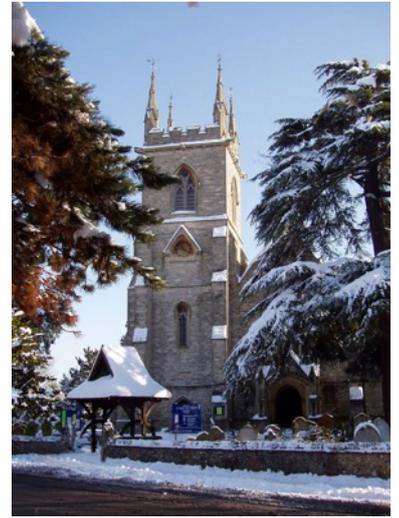
EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 589

February 2022

60p



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

OUR NEW VICAR ARRIVES

Tuesday 22 February 2022

What is a Collation?

Apart from meaning a set of written information sorted into a standard order, within the Church of England, it is when the Bishop (as Patron of the parish) institutes a priest as Vicar and commits the individual to the spiritual care of the people there.

However, the actual title of the service is "Celebration of a New Ministry", which is more easily understood! So what happens?

Before the start of the service, Mark will be escorted to the front row by the Area Dean, who welcomes everyone and announces the first hymn.

The procession then enters and Bishop Andrew will greet the people, introduce the liturgy and read the Collect. A reading from the Bible follows and the Bishop will preach the Sermon.

The Area Dean will present Mark to the Bishop and the Churchwardens will formally accept Mark's appointment. The Bishop then asks Mark to renew his Ordination vows and the congregation to resolve to continue as Christ's faithful servants. The actual collation then follows with Mark's Declaration of Assent, swearing the Oath of Allegiance to the Queen and the Oath of Canonical Obedience. Once this is completed the two of them sign the Declaration and Oaths with the Bishop handing the Deed to Mark. The Bishop then invokes God's blessing on Mark by anointing him with the oil of Chrism.

The next part of the service is when the Bishop gives the mandate to the Archdeacon asking him to proceed with the Induction. A little like Black Rod in Parliament, Mark will need to be admitted to the building and handed a set of keys. He will also need to toll the bell to signify to the parish his acceptance of office.



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Maggie, one of our Assistant Priests writes

February is a very significant month for us, for it marks an ending and a beginning; the ending of our time in vacancy following Russell's departure last year, and the beginning of the next phase in the life of St Mary's under the leadership of our new Vicar, Mark.

Mark and his wife, Lucy, will be moving into The Vicarage shortly, and Mark will be inducted and installed as our Vicar by Bishop Andrew in a special service on the 22nd. The very date itself makes the day memorable - 22.2.22! We are all very excited to be officially welcoming Mark and Lucy to the parish and how good it is to have something so positive to look forward to after such an uncertain and, in many ways, difficult year.

Not only has there been the restrictions and unpredictability of the Covid pandemic to cope with, but at a more personal and heart-felt level, there has been great sadness at the death of so many much loved members of our congregation.

Times like these cause us to reflect on all that has happened, and it seems to me that one thing in particular has stood out as being incredibly important - that is, how much we have needed each other. It goes without saying that everyone has pulled together during this time in so many ways.

We have been so fortunate in our Churchwardens, Valerie and Nicholas, who have carried the burden of leadership over these past ten months and have been the focal point holding us all together. Their task has been relentlessly demanding and varied, having the responsibility to ensure the general running of the church - from worship to finances, to every aspect of parish administration. They have been under the guidance of Rosemary, our Area Dean, and Martin, our Archdeacon, while all the while liaising with everyone concerned. I know that Sue and I have greatly valued their accessibility and support, as I am sure many others have too.

Of course the greatest task of all was the process of finding a new Vicar, and here Valerie and Nicholas did an amazing job, which they approached with great care - from finalising the Parish Profile, to advertising the post, short-listing the candidates, interviewing and finally appointing Mark.

Throughout that time everyone has been so supportive and caring of one another in all aspects of church life, but most especially in ensuring that those who have lost loved ones have been surrounded with warmth, love and prayer. We have realised that no one person can do everything, and it has certainly been good to see everyone working together for the common good.

I was given a book for Christmas entitled Big Panda and Tiny Dragon, by James Norbury. It is full of short conversations between Panda and Dragon, and one is:

'Which is more important', asked Big Panda,
'the journey or the destination?'
'The company,' said Tiny Dragon.

We often speak of life being a journey, which includes our faith, and how good it is that we do not travel alone, but in company with each other and our Lord. We are companions along the way. It has always fascinated me to know that the word companion is derived from the Latin - com - meaning 'together with', and panis meaning 'bread' - so companions are

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH

020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com

Registered Charity Number 1128409

CLERGY

Vicar: The Reverend Mark Stafford (w.e.f. 22 February)

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;

Email: canonmaggie@stmarysewell.com;

Day off: Monday

READER

Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991

Mr Nicholas Allsopp 07899 818400

Pastoral Assistants

Mrs Barbara Gibson-Sykes Email: pastoral2@stmarysewell.com

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

Email: pastoral@stmarysewell.com

Mr Andrew Sykes Email: pastoral1@stmarysewell.com

Children and Families Worker

Position vacant

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Helen Crossley

Email: safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Jackie Broadfoot 07918 559387;

Email: jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk

Social Media Officer

Position vacant

Finance Officers

Treasurer

John Baker Email: treasurer@stmarysewell.com

Day-to day financial queries

Donna and David Boosey 07791 993261;

Email: financeteam@stmarysewell.com

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)

Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

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.

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

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those who 'break bread together', something we do in our Eucharist.

Another way in which we travel together is through the Lent Groups that are run each year. It was a pity that all our planned course in 2020, Faith and Film, was curtailed due to the first lockdown, so you will be pleased to know that the course that Mark would like us to engage with this year is also based on a film - The Lion King. You will see the poster in this edition of EPN. We are going to meet at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April. Do make a note in your diary.

If you haven't seen the film, don't worry. The first session this Lent will be to watch the film together. It tells the story of the young lion cub, Simba, and takes us through all his growing pains until he eventually becoming the Lion King. One of the memorable songs from the film is The Circle of Life, which is so apt for us this year, as we begin a new phase in the life of St Mary's. For we are moving from what has been, to what will be - the future that God is calling us towards, with all its potential and unexpected paths.

So, a change of Vicar heralds new opportunities for all of us. We look forward to sharing the journey with Mark and Lucy as, together, we grow in faith and love.

And a final thought to encourage us on our way, from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 43. verses 1-4. Biblical commentators say that if we insert our own names whenever we hear or read 'Jacob' or 'Israel', the text becomes very personal.

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel.

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

When you pass through the waters I will be with you
and through the rivers they shall not overwhelm you.

When you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God.

You are precious in my sight and honoured, and I love you.

Do not fear, for I am with you.

Maggie

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phone 020 8393 4804
or see St Mary's website



OUR NEW VICAR ARRIVES *continued from page 1*

The Installation then follows with the Archdeacon placing Mark in the accustomed seat with the words: "Mark, I place you in the stall of the priest of this benefice. May the Lord guard and keep you, and bless your ministry here." The first act of Mark as the newly installed priest is to lead everyone in prayer.

The dedication of both the priest and people in ministry follows with sections on calls to discipleship, mission and Christian worship. The new priest is formally welcomed and the service is brought to a close.

This is a very special occasion for the parish as a whole and invitations are being sent to the guests as well as the families of both Mark and his wife, Lucy. Our regular worshippers are a vital part of the service and the seating will be devised such that much of the prime seating will be reserved by pre-booking. Due to the continuing COVID-19 virus and its variants we are having to restrict numbers in church. However, we are pleased to advise that the service will be live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell/live>.

An exciting new chapter in the life of the parish is about to start!!

Churchwardens



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AV/SOUND DESK AT ST MARY'S

We are still 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 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.

REVD MARK STAFFORD WRITES

FINANCE UPDATE

Lucy and I are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the removal vans on 3 and 4 February and starting our new lives, with you in Ewell.

Lucy and I have 5 children between us and now have 4 grandchildren, which are a constant source of joy and amusement.

Since leaving school I have had a variety of occupations and experiences, I am a time-served vehicle engineer, I worked as a social worker for 10 years, but my greatest joy is being a parish Priest.

My journey of faith has also been varied. As a child I attended the local Methodist Chapel, however when I started Senior School, I joined the local Anglican Church choir of which I have many fond memories. When my voice broke, I become a server and Crucifer.

When at University, I attended St Thomas's Church, Huddersfield, a liberal Anglo-Catholic Church.

Whilst at St Thomas's my faith deepened and my sense of calling started to develop. I found the richness of the liturgy captivating revealing the interweaving patterns of the imminent and transcendent nature of God. I have never lost that closeness to God seen through the Sacraments of the Church and the richness of Church music.

As my faith deepened so did my confidence in who I was in the light of Christ. I wanted to experience and explore other traditions in the Church and learn from these too. Prior to attending a selection conference, I worked as a parish assistant at an evangelical Church near Birmingham, so widening my experiences of Church and tradition.

After ordination, I have served in urban parishes, rural parishes, a hospice, and hospital and assisted on an RAF base.

I have had a wide range of experiences both within the Church and the wider world and have found each has opened a new window onto God.

I would describe my faith journey as eclectic but Central Catholic, but with a wealth of liturgical experience to draw upon. I am first and foremost a Disciple of Jesus, who will use all the tools available to me to make Jesus known and encourage others in their journey into faith.

Lucy is currently working at Great Ormond Street Hospital, she is a paediatric play specialist, when she is not at work, or helping me in the parish she runs Children's music and movement classes.

I love all things automotive! In my spare time I really enjoy repairing things and have enjoyed sharing my skills with others. I have an interest in vintage car racing and classic cars and love to jump into my Austin 7 and head out on an adventure.

Lucy and I really enjoy going to concerts and to the theatre. I like to read and extend my knowledge about travel, the environment, and peoples experiences.

We are really looking forward to making Ewell our home and to become part of your community.

Happy New Year to everyone, we hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. It feels like several months since our last report, so we are pleased to provide an update and let you know about our plans and priorities for 2022.

Priorities from 2021 Early in 2021 we wrote to you all and explained that during the remainder of that year we would be "...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."

2021 Accounts process We are currently finalising the accounting records for the financial year ended 31 December 2021, including presenting our records to the independent examiner. Once completed we will consolidate the financial statements with the various estate reports and present the draft accounts to the PCC in a couple of months before presenting the final accounts at the APCM shortly thereafter.

Income Income remained resilient during 2021, with strong donations and giving. The church again lost key income from the Village Fair not taking place again. Whilst we applied for some COVID related support grants during the year, these applications were unsuccessful.

We are pleased to report that bookings at Ewell Hall have been excellent during 2021. This has provided increased income which enabled the hall to break even despite significant set up costs. We thank the Hall team for all their hard work and are encouraged that the Hall will act as a major community asset during 2022 whilst helping reduce our running deficit.

Expenses Alongside our regular running costs (salaries, utilities, parish share etc) we encountered a number of unexpected repair and maintenance related costs during 2021 required to maintain the church and the church estate.

Bank accounts and investments During the year we opened a new community bank account with Metro Bank, this will principally be used for income and expenditure relating to Ewell Hall. We continue to monitor our bank accounts and investments, ensuring our funds are secure and returns maximised.

Parish Share We have been informed that the Parish Share is set to increase in 2022, at a rate in excess of what we were expecting or consider appropriate. The Diocese are providing a financial briefing to all treasurers on 18 January to explain the increases. We will be attending and will then consider submitting a letter setting out our views on the increase.

New Vicar and 2022 priorities We are excited to welcome the new Vicar, and his ideas, to the church and work with him to ensure the church delivers on its Church Development Plan without compromising the financial position.

Ewell Hall has been a real positive during 2021, we are excited to see it helping to close the gap between church expenses and income generation in 2022.

Continued attention needs to remain on identifying ideas and strategies to reduce annual trading deficits in the coming years, and managing the church funds appropriately during these COVID times.

Stay safe and well,

John and the finance team

treasurer@stmarysewell.com and
financeteam@stmarysewell.com

Mark

GOING QUACKERS or WHY DO DUCKS QUACK?

Any time we visit Bourne Hall or Ewell Court lakes, or anywhere else for that matter, we are bound to hear ducks quacking. Something we take for granted, isn't it? I have never stopped to wonder why they do it.

Anthropomorphising is the technical word for assigning human emotions, such as loneliness or happiness, to birds and animals. There are a few stories circulating, about why ducks quack, such as that they all do it, or that only the males quack, or, indeed, that they quack when they feel hungry. I will attempt to demolish these theories.

Of all the ducks in the world, and there are many, the chief culprit as far as quacking is concerned, is the ubiquitous Mallard which, with its manifold hybrids (often described as 'farmyard ducks'), can be found on any water virtually anywhere. One or two other kinds of Anas (dabbling ducks) also quack, notably the Gadwall which is a winter visitor to this country. Note that diving ducks do not quack. Gadwalls, and a couple of others such as Teal, fly here to escape freezing conditions in Scandinavia and Russia where they breed. You can see these ducks at the London Wetland Centre at Barnes. January and February are good months in which to see them, because by now the male ducks - known as drakes - are beginning to seek mates. They gather in flocks of thirty or forty birds - all of the one kind - and display with much ado. They are likely to call, too, and then you will hear a subtle difference between a Gadwall's quack and a Mallard's, i.e. it sounds quicker and less raucous.

Though it is true that the drakes can be vocal enough at times, they tend to rely on their handsome plumage to attract and retain a mate, rather than their vocal prowess. Drake Mallards utter a squeaky whistle and a quiet rasping sound, nothing like a quack. Many other drakes whistle, too but it is the plain brown female Mallard that is so vociferous. She has a huge repertory. Most familiar is the loud, far-carrying quack consisting of between 2 and 20 notes, with emphasis on the first or second notes and descending in pitch and amplitude. She will also make a series of single quack notes, and very often there will be a prolonged series of evenly-spaced quacks, not raucous in quality but monotonous, lasting sometimes for many minutes. The wide variety of quacks represent a variety of situations in which the duck finds herself, either with, or without, her mate.

Dabbling ducks are diurnal; hence most quacking is to be heard during daylight hours. Once the ducklings have hatched, the mother's job becomes more demanding, with inevitably a lot more quacking to ensure the whole brood stays together. Predators lurk under the surface and above, which are only too keen to grab a tiny chick. The sight of other Mallards flying overhead may provoke quacking, also when the bird's mate gets lost in the flock. These quacks are what the experts call contact notes.

Finally, here is something unusual to end this less-than-serious article. In a reputable paper (BBC News, June 2004) still accessible on-line, research has discovered that ducks quack in regional accents. For example, a Cockney duck may quack in a rougher, more abrupt way than one from Cornwall whose quack is softer and rounded in tone. One lives and learns.

TT

Prayers for February

'Candlemas', which this year 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.

O Lord, we find ourselves at a crossroad.



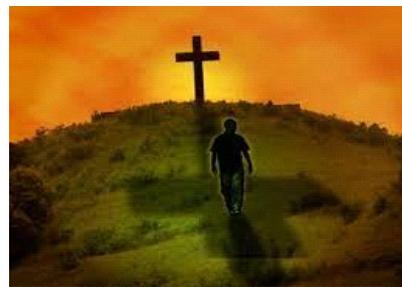
Looking back, we remember the story of Christmas and the Good News of your birth.

Good News shared with ordinary, everyday people, and even those living on the fringes of society, like those lowly shepherds.

Good News shared with the rich and intellectually discerning. The Good News was, and is, there for everyone should they choose to see.

O Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, help us to see beyond the tinsel and all the trimmings the true meaning of the Christmas story and to truly receive the Good News for ourselves; that you came to show us the way back to a closer relationship with God.

O Lord, we find ourselves at a crossroad.



As we hopefully emerge from two years of a global pandemic with all its varying restrictions imposed on our lives, here at church, we too are at a crossroad, but looking forward to welcoming Mark as our new vicar later this month.

With the arrival of our new vicar, it is wholly appropriate that, as we are looking forward, we turn our minds, Lord, to thinking about your ministry here on earth, a life of service to your heavenly Father and how you paid the ultimate price for our wrongdoing.

We pray for the world; we pray for our country; we pray for the communities where we live.

We pray for a new awakening of your Spirit in the lives of your people. We pray for a new awakening of your Spirit here at St Mary's.

We pray that we may have 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

RICHARD GEOFFREY JOE BIRD

1936 - 2021

Richard was born on the 14th of May 1936 to Pauline and Geoffrey Arthur Bird of Albert Road in Epsom. He was born at home and was the eldest of three, with a brother Anthony and sister Lindy. Richard attended the kindergarten at the lecture hall in Upper High Street Epsom, it's now the Odeon cinema!

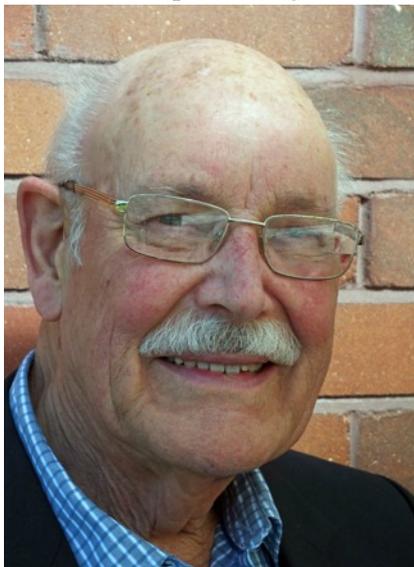
Richard went to Nork School, Marlborough Prep and Watkins Prep in Sutton before completing his education at Epsom college; he was a member of the College rifle shooting team and when he left he continued shooting at the College as a member of Epsom Rifle Club where he was Hon Secretary for three years. Epsom Rifle Club introduced him to the ranges at Bisley, he also shot for the Stock Exchange Rifle Club and had many pewter tankards marking his various successes in the sport. We have shooting to blame for his poor hearing!

Richard started his career in the City of London at stockbrokers Smithers and Co., after a couple of years he moved to the Government brokers Mullens and Co. These were the days of stiff collars, bowler hats and rolled umbrellas and Richard was soon immersed in the administration of day-to-day trading, using computers and ledgers. When Mullens introduced a computer it was located in the basement and was large enough to walk round! Richard became Head of the Cash Department, where he was responsible for balancing the books at the end of each day's trading and either lodging funds with, or borrowing from the Bank of England. His final position at Mullens was Head of Accounts. In the late nineteen eighties Big Bang was felt across the City as the effects of the 1986 deregulation of the financial markets bit harder. Mullens and Co was one of many stockbroking firms taken over by bigger players and following a couple of years as part of Warburgs, later UBS, Richard and many of his former Mullens colleagues were made redundant and he started what was in effect an early retirement.

In 1962 Richard was appointed a Director of the family business Searle and Co Ltd. On the death of his father in 1968 he became more involved as the then managers consulted him on many issues. Following the death of his mother in 1987 he became Chairman, a position he held until his death.

Richard and Gillian met through a mutual friend

while commuting to London. They married on 1st March 1958 and moved to Ewell. Two children followed, Nigel in 1961 and Derek in 1963. The family continued to grow over the years, Derek gave them two grandsons, Joe and Daniel, two step grandchildren Joseph and Bethan joined the family and a great grandson Noah was born in March last year— most of of whom were at his funeral service. Richard would have been thrilled by the birth of a great granddaughter Rose Hope born last week.



It was during these early years in Ewell that Gill and Richard became involved with St. Mary's. Richard was not a regular churchgoer but was always willingly involved with church activities – especially helping John Beams with collecting newspapers which were sold for recycling to provide much needed funds for the restoration of the church bells. Richard and Gill were both involved with the Ewell Village Fair and over the years have run the Barbeque, Teddy Bear Tombola and, last but not least, the Grand Draw which they took over in about 1981.

Richard and Gill were both involved with the Ewell Village Fair and over the years have run the Barbeque, Teddy Bear Tombola and, last but not least, the Grand Draw which they took over in about 1981.

Whilst Nigel was at Ewell Castle Gill and Richard were active with the parent teacher association running the school fair, firework display, dinner dances and various other fundraising activities. They were founder members of the PTA table tennis club and continued their involvement long after Nigel had left. Richard and one of his table tennis partners were great snooker fans and played weekly for many years.

In 1997 Gill and Richard downsized and moved to Crofton where Richard immediately became involved with the Management Team, he took over as Treasurer in 2002, a role that he continued until his death. For many years he 'potted', his term, in the Crofton grounds pruning, trimming and tidying. Other residents also benefitted from his time as he assisted them in various ways until his health prevented these activities. One wrote "Richard was such a fine man, so helpful and kind. He has been a very real help to Crofton for many years.....He was a real English gentleman"

Richard and Gill celebrated their diamond wedding in style with their family in 2018. The last few years have been quite challenging for him so may he now rest in peace.



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MAKE GREEN RESOLUTIONS!

You can make green resolutions any month of the year! It's better to begin resolutions late than not at all. Here are four easy ways to make changes to become more eco-friendly in 2022.

- 1. Try eco laundry strips.** You may not be convinced by the cleaning power of eco soap nuts or find washing powder too clumpy, so try eco laundry strips from truearth.uk. These are pre-measured strips of eco-friendly, liquid-free washing detergent that you simply put in with the wash. One of the Eco Group members is going to try them and will report back.
- 2. Swop 'Tenerife temperatures' for a jumper.** One in five UK households turn the central heating thermostat up to 22 degrees or higher in the colder months. The Climate Change Committee, a Government agency, recommends that thermostats are set at 19 degrees or lower to hit targets set by the Paris Climate treaty of 2015. If you need further incentive turning down the heating just by one degree can save £128 a year (according to uswitch.com).
- 3. Put reusable coffee cups back on the menu.** In 2019 the UK got through 25 billion single-use coffee cups, while COVID restrictions meant that many cafes stopped filling re-usable cups because of the risk of viral transmission. Most coffee shops now accept reusable coffee cups again and many give a discount if you use one. Buy one for yourself and/or give them as birthday gifts.
- 4. Make your own sandwiches.** The carbon footprint of a homemade sandwich is half that of a pre-packed one. To score extra eco points use a paper sandwich bag rather than clingfilm which is produced from petrochemicals.

The Eco Group would love to hear how you are getting on with your green resolutions and would also be interested to hear your own ideas.

Sue Ayling, Helen Crossley, David Dance, Denise Donovan, Angela Spragg and Bridget Stevens (get in touch with Sue at: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com or 020 8337 6347).

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERALS

Let light perpetual shine upon them

29 December	Rosemary Eyres, aged 88
30 December	Richard Geoffrey Joe Bird, aged 85
	<i>Ashes Interment</i>
6 January	Alfred Stacey, aged 84

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER Saturday 11 December

Are we at St. Mary's about to get imbued with the spirit of Christmas? Many of us at tonight's concert sported Christmas jumpers. Husband and wife team Jonathan and Sarah Holmes were at the Willis organ; a socially-distanced audience were led by the Parish Choir and St. Mary's Singers in a programme of Yuletide favourites. Our enjoyment was enhanced by the 'big screen' displaying song lyrics, and Sarah was kept busy replacing these images for every song. At half-time, everyone gathered at the back of the church for drinks, mince pies and general bonhomie.

We began in Russia with the famous **Troika** by Prokofiev. A troika is a traditional Russian sleigh drawn by three horses (not reindeer). America during the Forties was a hotbed of inspiration for light music. One composer was Leroy Anderson who wrote his **Sleigh Ride** originally for light orchestra. A more modern composer is the young Italian Grimoaldo Macchia, who wrote **Carillon on 'Stille Nacht'** for organ. Now the audience took over the reins in **Twelve Days of Christmas, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and Rockin' around the Christmas tree**. The challenge of playing duets in a limited space – such as the organ console – is to avoid the mischance of hands clashing. These duets were both written by Charles Callahan, **A Christmas Pastorale** dating from 1951, and **Christmas Fantasy**. Then back to the audience to bring us to the interval: **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, the Little Drummer Boy** and the vocal version of **Sleigh Ride**.

After the break, Jonathan continued with two recent organ works demanding plenty of panache. **Toccata on 'All you need is love'** is by Paul Ayres and is, of course, based on the song by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, **Sortie on 'Jingle Bells' – homage to Louis Lefebure-Wely** is another piece by Macchia. A 'sortie' is the French for a final organ voluntary. Jonathan was at pains to explain the point of the title. Lefebure-Wely was one of those outstanding Parisian organists who took full advantage of the latest developments in organ-building. Much of his own organ output pays tribute to Offenbach's light operas, all the rage at the time. The audience, now with the bit between its teeth, took over with more classics: **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, Jingle bells and Let it snow!** Martin How is a distinguished British composer and organist some of whose choral music we in the parish choir have performed. Tonight, he was represented by one work, **Christmas. The Prelude on 'Irby' and Improvisation on a Herefordshire carol** are both by Ian Tracey who is organist at Liverpool Cathedral. Note that Irby is the name of the tune to 'Once in Royal David's City'. **Frosty the Snowman, All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, White Christmas and Winter Wonderland** were the final audience numbers. It was left to the Willis organ to round things off in an uplifting way in **A Christmas Fantasy** by the brilliant young composer Jonathan Scott.

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These are the most **urgently needed** items at the moment:

tinned meat pies: brown sauce, powdered milk, long-life sponge puddings, cereal (no porridge or bran as we have lots), sugar (500g bags), tinned potatoes, instant mash, squash for diluting, washing powder, pods, tablets (bio and non-bio) and shaving foam.

Always needed:

tea bags, pasta sauce, long-life fruit juice, custard, rice pudding, spaghetti in sauce, dried pasta in sauce, chocolate spread, peanut butter, adult toothpaste and sanitary towels (daytime only, we have lots of night-time).

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked:

pulses, pasta, noodles, sweetcorn, rice, beans, tampons, washing up liquid, shower gel, coffee, porridge, baby wash and shampoo, hot chocolate and tinned tomatoes.

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask) at: Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG. Donation drop off times: Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm. We are closed on Bank Holidays.

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

WA

ST MARY'S RINGERS NEED YOU



If you have a reasonable sense of rhythm and are aged over 11 you could join St. Mary's Ringers. We ring the bells before the 9.30 service on Sunday and after weddings. We practice on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 - 9 pm.

We're a mutually supportive team (and eat a fair amount of chocolate judging by the picture!) Let Jeff know if you'd like to give it a try.

towercaptain@stmarysewell.com

FEBRUARY CONCERTS AT ST. MARY'S

Free Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

8 February Bach XIII 1.05 pm

Jonathan Holmes

19 February Opera Night! 2.30pm

Jonathan Holmes

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ALL WELCOME

THANK YOU SANDI!

It is with sadness, that I must report that Sandi Keen, our Children and Families' Worker has decided to leave St Mary's for pastures new. She has always had a passion for working with young children and will be leaving to take up a new post.

Sandi was appointed as Children and Families' Worker at the beginning of the pandemic lockdown, in April 2020. Since that time, she has done an amazing job, creating an on-line service for families, St Mary's Kidz, which was posted weekly during the worst of the pandemic and acted as a link with all our families when restrictions prevented face to face contact in church. She also sent out a regular bright, newsy email to families with a thought for the week, a prayer, and suggested activities to encourage them in their ongoing faith journeys.

Almost two years on, and we are still having to cope with varying restrictions which have deterred people of all ages from returning to church. Families continue to be reluctant to return and there has been a very low turnout for both the newly created 'St Mary's Tots', and 'St Mary's for All'. Even at Christmas, when we have always had huge numbers of families attending our two afternoon Christmas Eve services, numbers were far lower than previously. Our work with schools has also suffered as restrictions have prevented outsiders from undertaking the work they would normally have done.

Despite all the setbacks, Sandi has done a brilliant job and we wish her well as she returns to teaching.

Good luck and very best wishes for the future.

LS

PARISH CHOIR SINGS AT PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL 8 January 2022

Having been disappointed that, due to their cathedral school term dates having changed, we could no longer sing at Wells over the weekend of 8/9 January, we arranged to sing Choral Evensong at Portsmouth Cathedral on the Saturday. It, like Wells, is a lovely place in which to sing as the acoustic is wonderful.



Due to COVID precautions, we all took a LFT on the Friday before choir practice and, on the Saturday, travelled in more cars than normal. Parking permits had been arranged with the cathedral, but no-one had any problems finding a space as, due to the weather, few tourists were about; this also having an effect on the numbers in the congregation for the service.

The Verger on duty welcomed us back and opened up the Song School for us to practice in until it was time to move across the road to the cathedral to continue the practice there. We had a lovely welcome from the Precentor, Jo Spreadbury, who was delighted to see us return.

We sang Psalm 36, the Sanders responses we had used last term, with the setting being Sumsion in A. Given that it was the Eve of the Feast of the Baptism of Christ we sang Grayston Ives' setting of 'Listen, sweet dove' as the anthem.

With Jonathan committed elsewhere, the choir was conducted by David Crick, and we were pleased to welcome Matthew Burgess as our organist for the day.

We had some lovely words of thanks afterwards both from the Precentor, and also from Dr David Price, their Director of Music, who was very insistent we returned for a full weekend next time!

Known future trips 'away' are:

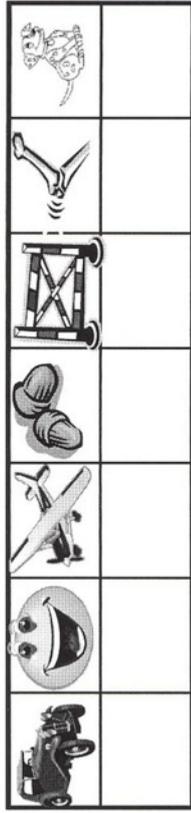
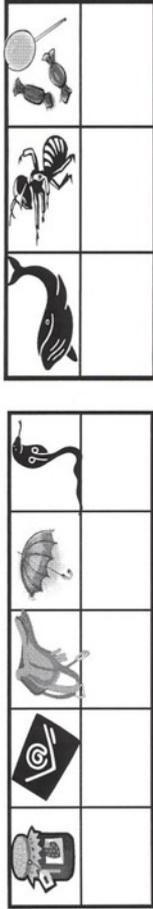
- 4/5 June 2022 – St Albans
- 29/30 October 2022 – Exeter
- 27/28 May 2023 - Worcester
- 1/2 June 2024 - Wells.

David Crick

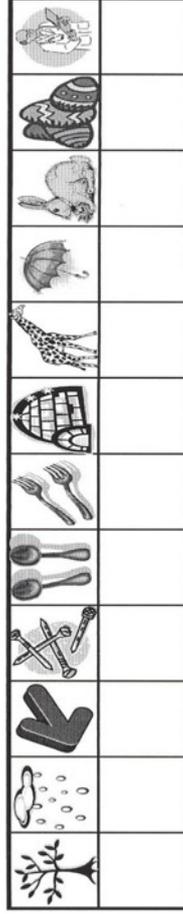
Page 10 can be cut out if needed

Something marvellous happened on the mountain! What did Peter, James and John see?

Write the first letter of each object



Another word for changed is ...



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27 February 2022, Transfiguration Sunday; Luke 9: 28-36

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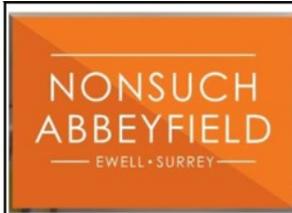


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