



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 602

March 2023

60p



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

Thank you Mark and Lucy



22 February was the first anniversary of the collation of Father Mark Stafford as Vicar of Ewell. St. Mary's thanks Mark and his wife Lucy for their hard work, love and dedication and the many wonderful things they have achieved in their first year in Ewell.

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Fr Mark Stafford writes

Spring is in the air, the days are getting longer, and the natural world is bursting into life. A few days ago, I went to visit some old pals in Kingston and as Lucy and I walked along the river we were amazed by the number of ducks of all shapes and sizes happily parading ducklings up and down for the people to see.

Whilst we have been hunkered down by the fireside, nature has been quite literally "cracking" on and new life seem to be everywhere.

Today the River Thames is one of, if not, the cleanest rivers in the world that flows through a major city. This is a major feat considering that fifty years ago the river was so polluted that it was declared biologically dead.

I am amazed at the way in which people can undo the mistakes of the past, and in time, nature seems to forgive us, and the world recovers, and new life is seen.

Life has this amazing talent to adapt, renew, and change to meet the challenges of the environment. As Dr Ian Malcolm in the 1993 science fiction adventure film, Jurassic Park, said when against all odds the dinosaurs began to breed "if there is one thing the history of evolution has taught us it's that life will not be contained".

Life overcomes and moves on renewed, as the bible says in Psalm 104:30 "You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth".

One thing that we can be sure of is that despite our wishes and desires, time marches on, seasons come and go, and life changes and we have to adapt to these changes. We have to make choices that reflect how we will cope with change.

Lucy and I are looking forward to a wedding in the family, and as part of us preparing for this, I have tried on my suit. I think that last time I wore it was when I got married, unfortunately the trousers are now a little tighter around the waist than they have been, so I am faced with a choice. Go shopping and buy new trousers (I hate shopping, especially for clothes) or, lose some weight (I love eating).

I have to decide; do I change the trousers or change me! Both will be unpleasant, but I have to make a change!

As we leave the cold of winter and welcome the warmth of Spring, maybe we need to reflect on our situations. Do we need to make any changes in our lives, do we need to adapt and adjust to new situations and what are the costs and benefits of these adaptations?

As a Church we are reflecting on our Mission action plan, to see what we do well, what we can do better and try and refocus on what God may be calling us to be....

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Wednesday evenings through Lent - We will be holding a Lent study group in the Parish room. Each session will be stand-alone, so don't worry if you can't come to all the sessions. We will be using the book "Failure" by Bishop Emma Ineson as our course material. If you would like us to order you a copy, please speak to Sue Ayling; copies are £8.99 each.

7 March - Come and join us for our Lunchtime Bach Tuesday recital from 1.05pm - 1.35pm featuring the major preludes

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

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Registered Charity Number 1128409

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Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)

Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

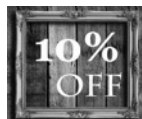
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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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and fugues. Tea, coffee and refreshments are available afterwards.

11 March at 7.30pm - Jonathan Holmes plays Widor. The final symphony, where Widor was inspired by age-old Easter plainchant in 'Symphonie Romane' plus Dupré's American-inspired Symphonie 2, originally improvised on the organ in Macey's Department Store in Philadelphia.

Mothering Sunday - 19 March 8.00am and 9.30am and a short Family Service including JAM at 11.15am. Please come and join us as we celebrate motherhood and Mother Church.

Bereavement café - Thursday 16 March 2.45pm - 3.45pm in Ewell Hall (opposite the Church). Bereavement Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. Bereavement Café is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement and find mutual support and encouragement when you need it most.

Our next on-line quiz using Zoom is on 14 March. If you have not joined one of our on-line quizzes, then do consider it this month. Our quizzes really are great fun. You will need to register using a link that will be given in the Weekly Notes nearer the time, or you can email zoom@stmarysewell.com.

Passiontide is on 26 March.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

2 April - Palm Sunday - Holy Communion at 8.00am and 9.30am

Holy Week 3, 4, 5 April - Holy Communion at 8.00pm (&10.00am on Tuesday)

6 April - Maundy Thursday - 8.00pm Stripping of the Altar & Gethsemane watch

7 April - Good Friday

8.00am Mass of the Pre-sanctified.

11.00am Children and Families Stations of the Cross in and around the Church.

Noon-3.00pm Three hours at the foot of Cross - last hour Service of Veneration of the Cross.

8 April Holy Saturday - 8.30pm - Easter Vigil and service of light.

9 April Easter Sunday

Holy Communion at 8.00am and 9.30am

11.15 Family Easter worship (including JAM), followed by Easter Egg hunt.

12.00 Parish picnic at Vicarage

Apart from the items mentioned above, do check the Calendar on the back page for the full list of services and events happening in Marxh.

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Fr Mark

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St Mary's Toddler Group

Thursday mornings in
term time 10-11.30 in
Ewell Hall

For information please
phone 020 8393 4804
or see St Mary's website



BOYS' NIGHT OUT Over the past year, we have had three boys' nights out and two ladies' nights. The last boy's night out was spent at a local curry house, service was exceptional, food was wonderful and the company brilliant. We took up two large tables and almost filled half of the restaurant. Once ordered, food arrived very quickly, and all meals looked delicious.

It was great for so many Church men to get together and spend some time just chatting and eating. We had a great mix of people, all ages, some who have been coming to our Church for a long time, some quite new and some who have only recently joined our ranks. We also had people from lots of the different Church groups, which was great, as it gave us time to get to know one another away from our ministry roles.

I for one am really looking forward to the next "boy's night". What shall we do next, we have been to the pub, been for a meal... what else could we do?

Fr Mark



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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 services.

This is a vital part of our outreach so if you think you may be able to help, please contact the churchwardens, our clergy or John Larkin.

WHAT TO DO ON A COLD GREY SATURDAY AFTERNOON?



Twenty plus adults and children gathered in the Ewell Hall on 21 January to play a variety of board games and share tea and homemade cakes. The games ranged from old perennials like shove ha'penny, hoopla and Scrabble, to the more light hearted like Ticket to Ride and Mid-life Crisis.

A table full of games meant that everyone could find something to suit them and the homemade cakes were a great success.

Thanks go to the Social Committee who arranged the event and prepared the tea and cakes and to all who played the games. Everyone agreed that it was great fun and asked 'When can we do this again?'.

JMD

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

In sure and certain hope (BCP Burial rite)

17 January Leslie Alfred Verrall, aged 96

24 January Malcolm Ranson Lawther, aged 81

30 January Alice Drake Hoblyn, aged 100

MARCH CONCERTS

March 7 at 1.05 pm

Free Tuesday lunchtime Bach organ recital

Jonathan Holmes

March 11 7.30 pm

Jonathan Holmes plays Widor

The final symphony, where Widor was inspired by age-old Easter plainchant in '*Symphonie Romane*' plus Dupré's American-inspired *Symphonie* 2, originally improvised on the organ in Macey's Department Store in Philadelphia.

Admission to the Saturday Concerts is £10 suggested donation for over 18s. The Tuesday concerts are free and are followed by afternoon tea. Every penny raised goes towards restoration of the Willis organ.

FEBRUARY BRAINTEASER SOLUTION



A lady named her children: Dominique, Regis, Michelle, Fawn, Sophie, and Lara.

What will she name her next child? Jessica, Katie, Abby, or Tilly?

The answer is **Tilly**

(Look at the first two letters of each name:
Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La and **Ti**)

ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES



We hold monthly on-line quizzes using Zoom

These have proved very popular and are fun for all the family, so why not join us?

Our next quiz will be on Tuesday 14 March

As always, you will need to register beforehand. You can use links provided in the Weekly Notes or you can also register by emailing

zoom@stmarysewell.com.



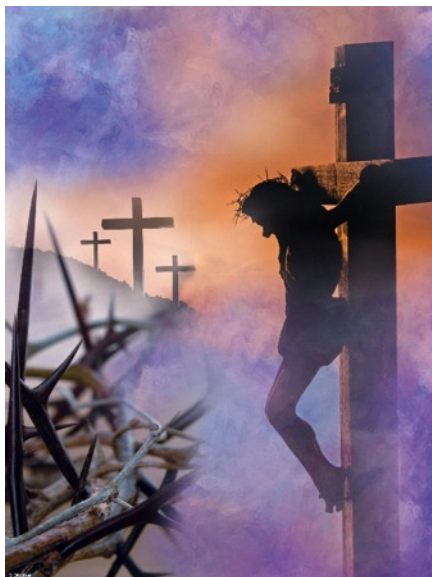
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Prayers for March



Dear Lord Jesus,

Hear our prayer as we make our journey with You through the dark days of Lent towards Calvary. Help us to be honest with ourselves, as we look into our heart and soul, noticing the times that we have turned away from You.

Thank you, Lord, for 'desert' experiences, when being confronted with ourselves makes us realise our need of You.

Lord, we ask that You guide us through the difficult days of Lent, the difficult days in our own lives, encouraging us along the way. Guide us as we humbly seek to repent and return to Your love.

Transform us this Lent, Lord. Give us the strength to commit ourselves to growing closer to You each day. Help us to remember the ultimate sacrifice that You made for each one of us and help us to look beyond the darkness of Calvary towards the amazing promise of Easter and the new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in You. **AMEN.**

EWELL VILLAGE FAIR Saturday 15 July 2023

As I write this article, planning is well underway for this year's Fair. Entertainment and events are coming together, and in next month's article I will be able to confirm what exciting events we have managed to book for young and old! -watch this space!

As you can imagine this type of event needs help in organising- from displaying banners, helping with the side shows, refreshments, setting up and taking down and the grand draw.

If you're interested in helping, please contact me or let Fr Mark know. Many thanks - not long now!

Harvey Morris

07775 865303

fair@stmarysewell.com

Chair of the Fair Committee

TWO BACH RECITALS

10 January & 7 February

Jonathan Holmes

Jonathan's ongoing exploration of the entire organ repertoire of Johann Sebastian continues in the New Year. Note that both the above dates fall within the season of the Church's year called Epiphany.

During the course of these recitals, we have learned that composing Chorale Preludes was perhaps the 'bread-and-butter' of Bach's employment as a church organist. He always took great pains to ensure that the music he wrote matched the texts he was setting. January's recital opened with **Puer natus in Bethlehem, BWV 603** (a Babe is born in Bethlehem) followed by **Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schaar, BWV 607** (from Heaven came a crowd of angels to the shepherds). Familiar to many is the melody to **In dulci jubilo BWV 608**, Bach arranges the music in a suitable way for Epiphany. Next came three New Year Chorale Preludes from the Little Organ Book: **Helft mir Gotts Gute preisen, BWV 613** (O join with me in praising God's goodness); **Das alte Jahr vergangen ist, BWV 614** (the old year has passed away); **In dir ist Freude, BWV 615** (In Thee is gladness amid all sadness).

That was the 'devout' Bach. We also heard Bach the 'showman'. Highly aware of his gifts as an organist, he needed to obtain work and, to this end, the young Bach composed music that displayed his superlative technique to best advantage. What better 'display' piece could there be than the **Prelude and Fugue in D major, BWV 532!** For one thing, rather than using the usual German term 'Vorspiel' (something played before) Bach uses the Latin term 'praeludium', which suggests an improvisatory feel – as here. In the Fugue that follows, the little dance-like semiquaver figure – or 'subject' – never stops for a moment. It is tossed from one manual to the other then to the pedals and back again. A further treat lay in store for those who came to Sung Eucharist on Sunday morning 15 January. They heard a repeat performance of both Prelude and Fugue. Excellent.

Turning to 7 February, Jonathan played two works, both large ones. Earlier in the series, we heard some of Bach's transcriptions of Vivaldi's music. Now it was the Italian master's Concerto in A minor for two violins, strings and basso continuo, i.e. harpsichord and bass, taken from a set called 'L'estro armonico' or 'harmonic fancies'. Bach's transcription of this work is the **Organ Concerto in A minor, BWV 593 (after Vivaldi)**. Though the notes are exactly the same, in Bach's hands the music sounds utterly different. Yet he keeps the violins' figuration untouched. Finally, another example of Bach the showman. This was the **Tocatta and Fugue in F major, BWV 540** and in my opinion demonstrates the nature of a Tocatta, as an exercise in virtuosity. Hands and feet are taxed to the utmost in 'canonic counterpoint'. That means the combining of two themes or tunes over a 'pedal point' – usually the tonic of the chord, in this case, on the pedals. The overall effect is exciting especially when the whole thing lasts for many bars. There follows a display for pedals alone, where it is most impressive to see on the big screen Jonathan's feet crossing in the same way as the hands. The whole is then repeated; the skill of the composer is to manage this without stopping. All depends on a device called 'Interrupted Cadence' whereby the music seems to approach a final cadence then veers off in an altogether different direction.

CAN YOU FIND THEM.....?

There are 30 books of the Bible hidden in this piece. Can you find them? We have increased the line spacing making it easier to mark them as you find them. Answer next month

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman on an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it-so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his boat. Another friend studied it whilst playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued that she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the book in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spacers in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember that is no need to a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in the piece waiting to be found.

CAN YOU HELP?

Age Concern Epsom and Ewell are looking for volunteer drivers to take older people from the Borough of Epsom and Ewell to medical appointments, or to visit family or friends in hospital or residential homes. We are experiencing a high demand for this service and really need more drivers to help us fulfil all the requests that we receive.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to support your local community, it can also improve your own happiness and well-being. If you are looking for a volunteer role which enables you to meet interesting people, help the older members of our community, and if you like driving then this could have the role for you!

This can be a regular weekly commitment or on an ad-hoc basis. A mileage allowance of 50p per mile is paid and we will need to undertake a DBS clearance for you.

If this role is of interest or if you would like more information, please contact Jane Hodgson, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01372 728458 or by email:

jane.hodgson@ageconcernepsom.org.uk



This Lent we are invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life and grow closer to God through this.

We have individual study books available that you can use at home.

We also have a Lent group meeting at 7:30pm for 8:00pm on Wednesday evenings in the parish room throughout Lent.

Each evening will be a stand alone topic, so don't worry if you can't come to them all

(Wed 1st March - 29th March)

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REPORT FROM THE PCC

At its meeting on 17 January the PCC approved a leaflet for the congregation, outlining the process for formulating St. Mary's Mission Action Plan and the questionnaire to aid this process. At the time of writing, these have been distributed and responses are awaited.

It was reported that John Baker had stepped down from his role as Treasurer at the end of 2022. Thanks were recorded for all his work and advice over the last four years. The Finance Team reported that a deficit of £80,000 remains at the end of year accounts and that the Parish Share will be £90,000 for this year.

Hall Manager, Barb Warwick, updated the PCC on the progress of bookings for Ewell Hall. Consideration will be given to the hire rates later this year.

The PCC approved the reinstatement of kneeling at the altar to receive communion with immediate effect, and the reintroduction of taking collections during services from Candlemas onwards.

A new Environmental Policy, drafted by the Eco Group, was approved and will be uploaded to the website.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 February.

Liz Divall, PCC Secretary



Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support, and your food donations are vital. We have run out of lots of things – please help if you can.

Urgently needed: Cooking sauces, rice pudding, tinned fruit, instant mash, tinned vegetables, long-life fruit juice, long-life puddings, squash, Weetabix, honey / marmalade / peanut butter, ketchup / mayonnaise / brown sauce, shaving foam / gel, female deodorant, toilet roll, washing up liquid, washing powder / tabs / pods,

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked: Pasta, dog / cat food, tinned soup.

We would also appreciate any bags for life/very strong bags!

You can donate at St Mary's Church Ewell, Sainsbury's Kiln Lane, Waitrose Epsom and Banstead, Asda Burgh Heath and Tesco, Leatherhead, or directly to Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Good Company Hub, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG. Open Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm excluding Bank Holidays.

You can sign up to the Foodbank newsletter on their website at www.epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk

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

SPRING MARKET

The ever popular Spring market is back on the agenda after our forced incarceration! It is to be held on Saturday 20 May in Ewell Hall from 10am to 12noon.

The plant stall is in need of a good supply of donations as Evelyn is no longer able to provide the amazing assortment we have enjoyed in the past. Therefore, anyone with green fingers, please get planting. Tomato plants are particularly popular but Geraniums, Petunias, Busy Lizzie and any other summer flowering plants will be most welcome.

There will be the usual bric-a-brac and book stalls so start clearing your cupboards. Cakes of course but more of that nearer the time.

Any offers of help will be much appreciated – Contact Gill Bird – 01372 277436

EVENSONG AT EPSOM COLLEGE



On 29 January 2023, St Mary's Parish choir joined the choirs of St Martin of Tours and Christ Church, Epsom in the Epsom Deanery Choirs Celebration of Candlemas and Service of Evensong at the Chapel of St Luke, Epsom College.

We arrived at 2.30pm for a practice under the steady hands of Jonathan Holmes and Richard Dacey. Both made the rehearsal heaps of fun and led all three choirs well.

At about 4pm, we broke for refreshments, where we were treated to a cuppa and some rather posh biscuits in the main building of Epsom College.

Just before 5pm the choirs lined up ready to process to the Chapel. It was a bit breezy outside as we walked across, but we made it safely in!

The service opened with the choir singing the introit, "When to the Temple Mary Went" by Johannes Eccard. This was followed by a welcome from The Revd Canon Andrew Haviland, Senior Chaplain of Epsom College. The congregation then joined us in the hymn, "Thou, whose almighty word".

The choir then sung:

Versicles and Responses – John Sanders

Psalm 122

Canticles - Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis – Charles Villiers Stanford in B flat

The Evening Hymn – Balfour Gardiner

During the singing of hymn "Immortal, invisible, God only wise" our candles that we had been given before the service started were lit, and remained so until the final hymn "Shine Jesus Shine!"

Everyone was then welcomed back to the main College building for a glass of wine and a chat. A super time was had by all, and we look forward to joining forces again in the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2022

It has been another year of difficult conditions for the church and our congregation. Inflation and war have replaced the news feeds and personal and community pain where Covid only recently departed. It is however a period where we have seen the church re-open its doors and begin to welcome back our friends and neighbours, re-introduce our cherished traditions, and start to see light after the years of Covid restrictions and loss. We have welcomed a new vicar and his family to the church and community of Ewell and with it a new energy which we look forward to seeing shape the future of St. Mary's in the years to come.

Introduction

The draft financials for 2022 continue St. Mary's trend of overspend. This year's loss comes to £75k compared to 2021's loss of £90k. Our cash at bank stands at £400k at year end, which means that without extraordinary donations or significant legacies the church has 4-5 years before it will run out of cash. It is important to state that this is not a new trend, the church was fortunate to receive significant legacies and extraordinary donations in 2018, 2017 and 2016, totalling over £750k. Without these incredibly generous donations and legacies the church would have run out of cash several years ago. In fact, for the available data to hand while writing this article, excluding legacies and extraordinary income the church has made significant losses since at least 2016 with most years seeing similar losses to the loss made in 2022.

Draft analysis

Preliminary analysis of the figures throws up some interesting trends, it is important to caveat that these are draft figures and will be scrutinised before we finalise them, it may be some items will be reallocated, but the overall trends seem clear.

1. Overall income has risen to £130k compared to £125k in the prior year. We had £1k of legacy income in 2022, compared to £23k in 2021, so this reflects a significant increase in income excluding legacy income.
2. The increase in income was in part due to additional hall income but general giving itself was up 15% compared to 2022, and there was significant activity from the social committee and other sources of income in the year. A big thank you must be given to all those that have donated to the church and donated time to undertake activities to increase the income and the profile of the church in the community.
3. The Ewell Hall is contributing £10k of additional net income (after expenses) to the church and is and continues to be of significant benefit. The net outlays made in the prior year have been paid for by the additional net income made in 2022, which is a fantastic return on investment.
4. Overall, our costs have fallen from £215k to £205k. This is due to the pausing of the family and workers project and the publicity project. Once we strip those costs out, we are left with expenditure of £205k compared to £185k in the prior year. Representing a 10% increase in costs, which is in line with inflation.
5. Our single biggest cost remains the Diocesan parish share at almost £88k this year (2021: £83k). While we

still have significant cash in the bank, the Diocese continues to view the church as healthy despite our losses and will continue to increase our parish share significantly year on year. There is also nothing we can do about this cost, as it is out of our control.

6. We saw a huge increase in the utility costs (electricity /gas) to over £15k (2021: £8.5k), which will come as little surprise given the extraordinary increases seen in energy prices, especially those outside of the residential price caps, such as churches and businesses. It is in our interests to see how we can become more efficient in terms of the energy we use, and I am aware that the PCC is looking at ways we can better heat and light the church and hall.
7. 2022 has seen significant increases in churchyard costs with work needed on trees and gravestones. Fortunately, no major internal maintenance works were required during the year. We remain at the whim of good fortune in these areas.
8. Other costs have generally risen by somewhere between 5% and 10% which is as expected during a period of significant inflation, with the UK's month on month inflation running at over 10% for much of 2022.

Additional points of note

- I don't have access to congregation numbers at the point of writing, but it would be interesting to see if congregation numbers are growing and whether this is due to individuals returning from Covid and/or people who are new to the church. I have been encouraged when at church that I have seen several new faces and that recent attendances at JAM have been impressive.
- Our costs are inflexible and can be difficult to predict year on year. Outside of designated projects the church has run a simple budgetary policy of only incurring costs where necessary or will lead to additional sources of net income. Our total costs, including Diocesan share, stand at £205k in 2022, this means that in a year St. Mary's Ewell requires £560 per day to keep running and needs to bring in nearly £4,000 per week of services. If we have 150 people regularly attending church each week that is roughly £25 each per week.

Summary

We continue the trend of making a loss, with very few options to reduce our costs, we should focus our attention on how we increase the numbers coming to our church. Our aim must be to break even through general giving and it would seem we would need weekly attendance at over 250 to achieve this at a palatable weekly donation per congregation member cost base. For the time being, as a church, we remain reliant on the generous legacies and extraordinary donations made by members of the church to keep it in financial health.

We look to 2023 with optimism and faith, we have the Ewell Village Fair returning which not only helps with income to the church but raises the profile of the church in the local community and helps the church spread our Christian message of faith, hope and love.

David and Donna Boosey

EASTER FLOWERS & LILIES



As I write this the sun is shining brightly, the sky is the brightest of blues, the morning frost has melted away, the snowdrops and crocuses are bursting out and the birds are already looking for places to build their nests. Spring will soon be here, and with that we can look forward to the spring flowers, with buds on the shrubs and trees, all reminding us of the gift of the circle of life. Fresh flowers in church are a popular way of celebrating this season of regeneration.

It would be wonderful to be able to celebrate Easter with a full display of flowers in church again this year.

If you would like to make a general donation towards the flowers, or, in particular, for a lily in memory of a loved one, please contact Lucy or Sybil, or email flowers@stmarysewell.com. We suggest a donation of £4 for each lily.

Cash is preferred, either give to Lucy or Sybil in an envelope on a Sunday, or you can make a donation by online transfer to the St Mary's Flower Arrangers account (please request details from the above email address). **The closing date for lilies is Monday 20 March** and don't forget to say how many lilies you would like and of whom they are to be in memory. *A notice is put up on Easter Saturday by the font with your loved ones' names.*

Thank you to the many of you who have given generously towards the flowers in the last year at St Mary's. It is so very much appreciated.

LM



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP

ECO Tip for March

Not only has the cost of food increased rapidly in the past few weeks and months, but also that of gas or electricity to do the cooking.

Providing you have room in a freezer try to cook more than that needed for your immediate use. Suggestions for using the hob could be mince for shepherd's pie, curry, chicken pieces (try with a jar of Chicken-to-night), fish pie or soup. Use the oven for casseroles and puddings, such as fruit crumble or Eve's pudding, with more than one shelf taken up. As the oven temperature reduces biscuits can also be made.

Remember a pressure cooker will cook stews or soup more rapidly – if you have one to do it.

Contributed by AJ, a Ewell Parish News reader

If you have an ECO tip or would like to join our ECO Group we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Sue Ayling at: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com or 020 8337 6347.

ONE YEAR ON

4 February 2022 was the date that we became Ewell Village residents and shortly after on 22.2.22 Mark became the vicar at St Mary's.

Reflecting back on the last year, at times it feels that we have been here forever but in some ways, we still feel like newcomers. Following the pandemic, things have opened up but when we arrived, we were all still wearing masks in Church and felt a bit nervous about being in enclosed spaces without them. Now, in Church, few wear masks and you even have the option of taking 'proper' communion and Covid appears to have been somewhere in the past (although we know only too well from our own experience, that it is definitely still around).

From my perspective, the last year has been one of community, warmth, acceptance, and inclusion. Even though my faith is different, I have been accepted into this community and feel very much part of you.

Mark and I have hosted some great events last year; the Easter vicarage picnic, the Platinum Jubilee Street party, our Ice Cream Sundays, the Jazz BBQ, our sing along in Church as well as creating our own Spirit of Ewell and a belated mince pie and mulled wine evening at the vicarage. We have arranged ladies' nights out and men's nights out and tried out the idea of Fireside Fridays and we have enjoyed dinners in the Church Hall and have loved the online quizzes (even though it has become clear that many of you are a great deal cleverer than we are!).

What an exciting and busy 2022 we have enjoyed and I know that we have lots of exciting things planned for 2023.

So, I just wanted to say from the vicar's wife and the vicar himself – thank you for our warm welcome and for making our first year here so enjoyable.

Lucy Stafford

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Our annual service to mark the celebration of marriage takes place on a Sunday near St Valentine's Day and those who have been married at St Mary's are invited to attend the service. This year the service was held on 12 February and we welcomed 98 adults and children to our church.

The hymns and readings were those that are frequently chosen for weddings. Afterwards those invited enjoyed a glass of "fizz", tea or coffee with members of the regular congregation.



MALCOLM RANSON LAWThER

13 September 1941- 1 January 2023

Many of you will remember Malcolm Lawther who sadly passed away on 1 January. Malcolm had been an active member of St. Mary's church since the early 1970s.

Malcolm was born in 1941 in Newcastle. Being the son of a professional soldier, Malcolm moved house with every new military posting which eventually brought him south to Leatherhead. He then attended Glyn School, Ewell, where he relished sports - especially football and cricket. The death of his father left him with early financial responsibilities so he set aside thoughts of University and was quickly accepted as a trainee by Lloyds Bank. After progressing to Head of Securities in the Epsom branch, he subsequently went into High Street branch management at Walton-on-Thames, Wimbledon Common and finally Mitcham.

It was also through Lloyds Bank that Malcolm came to meet Jill at a dance in Torquay, Devon. They married in 1966 and made their first home in Hampton Wick. Shortly after they found their way to Ewell and to St Mary's. Malcolm was a family man: he and Jill had two children, Simon and Neil, both of whom attended Glyn school like their father. Both Simon and Neil have ended up living abroad and, despite the great distance, Malcolm and Jill regularly visited Simon in Sydney, Australia, along with his wife Julie and their children: Freddie, Finley and Tess. They also regularly visited Neil - more locally perhaps - in Bergen, Norway, with his wife Kristin and their children: Susanna and Christopher.

Throughout his life Malcolm was a man who believed in service to others, contributing to the community, to charity and to the church. During his more than four decades worshipping at St. Mary's, he had many different roles: he was the Church Hall Manager, he was a member of the Estates Committee as well as being a regular altar server at Holy Communion. After retiring from the bank, he became the churchwarden - a role which he relished. He was also very involved in the Spring Market and Ewell Village Fair where he ran the book stall for around thirty years!

Malcolm was known by many at St. Mary's and, in recent weeks, so many have shared their reflections on who he was and what they loved and valued in him. In his role as churchwarden a church member remembers how all duties were carried out with such efficiency and

calmness, always polite and cheerful... Another describes him as well-liked and much respected, always approachable - he listened carefully to issues brought to him... and another remembers how he embraced the role with his usual good humour, adding that he was a good friend to many. Others too remember how he was good to talk to,



whether it be about the smaller or the bigger things in life. He was kind, uncomplaining and saw the good in people and things. A friend and neighbour said of Malcolm: I loved Malcolm's combination of strength and vulnerability. I loved his reverence for God and his loyalty to Christian values. What wonderful words and tributes!

In addition to his church roles he was involved in CRUSE, the bereavement support organization, and Glyn Old Boys throughout his life. A keen gardener, he could lose himself in the garden with a varied production of fruits and vegetables and even had his own production of compost made with seaweed! He had a great interest in steam-railways, travel, walking and visit-

ing gardens, flower shows and National Trust properties. He followed the fortunes of Sutton United, Leatherhead and Wimbledon football clubs, especially Wimbledon. And he was often to be seen cycling around Ewell - whenever he could, he shunned the car, preferring his bicycle.

In his later years, Malcolm developed Parkinson's and became less mobile. Despite his poor health, he remained active and social, and he continued to enjoy his garden. Most importantly, he loved the company of his best friend and wife, Jill. Malcolm became very poorly in the autumn of 2022 before passing away on New Year's Day at Priory Court Care Home, Ewell.

The funeral held at St. Mary's on Tuesday 24 January was led by Assistant Parish Priest Sue Ayling, with contributions from friends, family, members of the congregation and the church choir. It was a true celebration and thanksgiving for Malcolm's rich life. Reflecting Malcolm's football interest and his sense of humour, the departure music was an arrangement of the BBC Match of The Day theme-tune played on the church organ - it captured something of how we remember him, giving us reason to smile as we followed Malcolm to where he was laid to rest in St. Mary's church graveyard.

Neil Lawther



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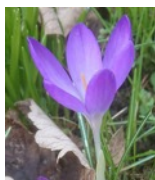
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Calendar for March



Morning Prayer will usually be celebrated at 0900 Monday to Saturday and shown online

LENT 1

W 01 2000 (1930 Coffee) Lent Study Group (Parish Room)

Th 02 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)

S 05 LENT 2

0800 Said Holy Communion BCP (Lady Chapel)

0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)

0930 Sung Holy Communion

T 07 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

1305 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital

W 08 2000 (1930 Coffee) Lent Study Group (Parish Room)

Th 09 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)

S 11 1930 Jonathan Holmes plays Vidor

S 12 LENT 3

0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)

0930 Sung Holy Communion

1115 Choral Mattins

T 14 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

2000 Quiz on Zoom

W 15 2000 (1930 Coffee) Lent Study Group (Parish Room)

Th 16 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)

1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)

S 19 LENT 4 - Mothering Sunday

0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

0930 Sung Holy Communion

1115 Children and Families service

1730 Choral Evensong

T 21 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

W 22 2000 (1930 Coffee) Lent Study Group (Parish Room)

Th 23 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)

S 26 LENT 5 - Passiontide

0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)

0930 Sung Holy Communion

1115 Holy Baptisms

T 28 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

1930 PCC Meeting (Parish Room)

W 29 2000 (1930 Coffee) Lent Study Group (Parish Room)

Th 30 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)

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Telephone: 07763 776 031
e-mail: laurence.green9@gmail.com



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