



# EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 611

December 2023

60p



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

## Christmas Services

**Sunday 3 December**

**17:30 Advent Carols**

**Sunday 17 December**

**17:30 Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Come and join us as we start our  
Christmas celebrations**

**Sunday 24 Dec • Christmas Eve**

**8:00 Said service of Holy Communion**

**9:30 Holy Communion with Hymns**

**14:00 The Story of Christmas for all ages**

**Feel free to come dressed as  
angels or shepherds if you wish**

**16:00 Arrival at Bethlehem**

**Family service for all ages**

**23.15 Choral Midnight Mass**

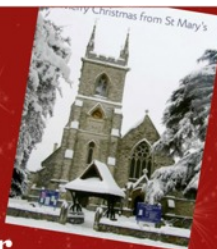
**Come and join us as we celebrate  
the service of Christmas**

**Monday 25 Dec • Christmas Day**

**8:00 Said service of Holy Communion**

**1662 Prayer Book Communion**

**10:00 Sung Christmas Communion**



## CONTENTS

Fr Mark Stafford writes.....	2 & 3
St Mary's Toddler Group.....	3
AV/Sound desk.....	3
From the Parish Registers.....	4
December Concerts.....	4
St Mary's on-line quizzes.....	4
Prayers for December.....	5



The Organist entertains review ..	5
Messy Church goes wild.....	6
Shoebbox Appeal.....	6
Beating the bounds.....	6
Foodbank.....	6
St Mary's ECO Group.....	7
Festive Flamenco.....	7
Ewell Yule.....	7



Remembrance Sunday 2023.....	8
Ewell Village Advent calendar.....	8
Preparing for Christmas.....	8
Citizen's Advice Epsom & Ewell..	9
EPN subscriptions 2024.....	9
Board Games afternoon.....	9
Happy Christmas everyone.....	10
Calendar for December.....	12
Observation.....	12

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## Fr Mark Stafford writes

Oren Harari is credited to have said "the electric light did not evolve from the continuous improvement of candles". The quote reminds us that whilst certain functions and needs exist and will always exist, such as the need for light; the delivery of these might need to change and new ways of fulfilling these needs be found.

Christmas is all about God doing this, since the beginning of time God has enjoyed being in relationship with his creation, but humanity fell away from this relationship and rather than being in the presence of God, we strove to go it alone. God tried through laws, prophets, fire, cloud and burning bushes to get our attention again, but we ignored this, so he decided to send his Son into the world to be a perfect example of humanity, securing for us a way to be in relationship with God our Father, blessed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was given to us as a model of how to live our lives.

Christmas for some is a time where they gather together family and friends, to crack open the odd bottle of fizz and to enjoy being in each other's company, for others it's a time of parties and revelling, others enjoy the build-up, hitting the shops and hammering the credit cards. For Christians, it can be a bit of all of the above, but mostly it is a time when we stop and reflect on the great mystery of faith, when we consider the awesomeness of God taking human form and entering into his creation.

Christmas is also a time of spiritual challenge! The historical person of Jesus is not too controversial, and there are lots of historical records of Jesus' life outside of the Bible and Christian writings. Most people who have studied the period of Jesus' life agree that the Jesus on whom the New Testament is based, is an historical figure. The Roman historian Josephus mentions the radical rabbi from Nazareth a few times (have a look on Google). However, what is more controversial is the Christian claim that Jesus is the son of God, born of the Blessed Virgin and that in some way his life, death and resurrection changed the way that people could come into a relationship with God.

I would suggest that this massive claim is one that it is impossible to "sit on the fence about". As C S Lewis wrote in "Mere Christianity" (jump onto eBay now and buy it for your Christmas Day read), "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse".

So, as you unwrap your gifts this year maybe you would like to start to unwrap the mysteries of Jesus too

## St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

Website: [www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)  
Registered Charity Number 1128409

### CLERGY

**Vicar: Fr Mark Stafford 020 8393 1297**

**Email: [vicar@stmarysewell.com](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com)**

**Day off: Friday**

**Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE;**

**020 8337 6347; Email:**

**[assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com](mailto:assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com)**

**Day off: Wednesday**

### READER

Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

### CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991;

Email [churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com](mailto:churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com)

Mr Nicholas Allsopp 07899 818400;

Email [churchwarden@stmarysewell.com](mailto:churchwarden@stmarysewell.com)

### Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

Email: [pastoral@stmarysewell.com](mailto:pastoral@stmarysewell.com)

### Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Helen Crossley;

Email: [safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com](mailto:safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com)

### Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Jackie Broadfoot 07918 559387;

Email: [jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk)

### Finance Officers

*Day-to day financial queries*

Donna and David Boosey 07791 993261;

Email: [financeteam@stmarysewell.com](mailto:financeteam@stmarysewell.com)

*Stewardship Recorder*

Mrs Sarah Holmes;

Email: [plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com](mailto:plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com)

### THE PARISH OFFICE

#### Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)

Office email: [parishoffice@stmarysewell.com](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysewell.com)

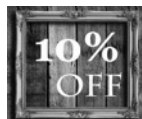
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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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## 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



and have a think about his claims and decide if this Jesus is either the son of God or...

During 2024 we will be offering short courses, special events and services that might help inform your thinking about who Jesus might be. Why not join our church mailing list, look at our website or visit us online at *A Church near you*, and come and explore who Jesus was, is and will be?

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

What's on in December? As you would expect it is busy, busy, busy!

**Advent Course** – You have read the article, and now is the first opportunity to come and join us as we think about Jesus. Come and join us each Tuesday in Advent at 19:30 in the Parish Room at the rear of Church (5 12 and 19 December) as we listen to and think about some popular Christmas carols.

**Celebrity Concert – Friday 1 December** at 13:05. The concert will be followed by tea at 14:30. Free Admission and all welcome. For details see page 4.

**“Deck the Halls” Winter Dinner – Saturday 2 December** Sorry all tickets sold

**Advent Carol Service – Sunday 3 December** at 17:30.

**Bach Recital – Tuesday 5 December** at 13:05. Director of Music Jonathan Holmes continues the all Bach lunchtime series with some Advent and Christmas chorales, and variations. Tea, coffee, and refreshments to follow.

**Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 17 December** at 17:30. A wonderfully emotive, traditional choral service of readings and carols, that will set you up for a very special Christmas.

### **Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve**

08:00 Said service of Holy Communion

09:30 Holy Communion with Hymns

14:00 **The story of Christmas for all ages** – A Christmas service for all the family. Feel free to come dressed as angels or shepherds if you wish.

16:00 **Arrival at Bethlehem** – A Family Service for all ages, just before the children get ready for bed and Santa appears, why not come and celebrate Christmas with all the family at St Mary's?

23:15 **Choral Midnight Mass** – Come and join us as we celebrate the First Mass of Christmas. Come and sing carols, hear the Christmas story and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### **Monday 25 December Christmas Day**

08:00 Said service of Holy Communion, according to the 1662 Prayer Book.

10:00 **Sung Christmas Communion**. Just before Christmas dinner, come and join us for our Christmas Day communion service.

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

Happy Christ's Mass

Fr Mark



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## AV/SOUND DESK AT ST MARY'S

We continue to seek 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.



## ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES



We hold monthly on-line quizzes using Zoom

These are very popular and fun for all the family. Why not join us?

Our next quiz will be in January. 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](mailto:zoom@stmarysewell.com).

## DECEMBER CONCERTS

**1 December 1.05 pm**

### Celebrity Concert

Richard Mander, Organist at St Mildred's Addiscombe, plays, Langlais La Nativite; Herman Jordaan, Winner of the International Organ Festival at St Alban's, plays Alec Rowley's Heroic Suite (which he has recently released on his latest CD). Our third player will be Andrew Scott, Managing Director of Harrison and Harrison. Andrew is responsible for many of the leading organ projects both here and abroad, including the major restorations and new organs at the RFH, King's College Cambridge, Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster, The Guards' Chapel and Norwich Cathedral! In his spare time, he is Director of Music at St Michael's Croydon, with its wonderful 'Father' Willis organ. Andrew will play some of Guilman's Noels.

The concert will be followed by tea at 2.30pm. Free Admission and all welcome.

**5 December 1.05 pm**

**Free Tuesday lunchtime**

### Bach organ recital

Jonathan Holmes

Jonathan continues the all Bach lunchtime series with some Advent and Christmas Chorales, and Variations

**9 December 7.30 pm**

### Jonathan and Sarah Holmes invite you to Christmas Cracker

This concert features well known carols for the audience, Christmas music and solos and duets for organ and piano. Get into the spirit of Christmas by putting on your Christmas jumper and having a great sing-song. £10 suggested donation, with seasonal refreshments

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### HOLY MATRIMONY

'That theirs may be the love that knows no ending, Whom thou for evermore dost join in one' (AMR 463)

28 October David Russell Henry &  
Emma Victoria Jarman

### FUNERALS

And now, Lord, what is my hope?  
Truly my hope is even in thee  
(Psalm 39, used in the BCP Burial rite)

31 October Glenda Crosthwaite, aged 86

2 November Brian Richard Carter, aged 78

### Ashes Interments

23 October Kathleen Elizabeth Basham,  
aged 84

5 November Ruth Susan Carnes, aged 58

15 November Charles Lawrence Cliff,  
aged 94

Joan Eileen Cliff, aged 85

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# Prayers for December



**‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’ - Isaiah 9 v.2**

As we begin to make our Advent journey once again, let us begin by thinking about those who are living in darkness. They may be on the other side of the world from us, or right next door. There are many reasons for walking in darkness – separation from loved ones, fear, loneliness, oppression, depression, poverty, or violence are just a few. This Advent, we particularly think of all those around the world caught up in the terrors of war. For them, we need to believe that God sees those in darkness and will be a light for them.

## Prayer

Lord, we name before you those we know who are going through times of darkness. We think of them and ask, gracious God, that you may bring them light, hope, love, and direction in their lives. We pray too, that you will speak to our hearts that we may be bearers of that light, hope, and love to those we meet each day. This we ask in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.’ - Luke 2:14**

Let us take time to stop in the busyness of our hectic lives this Advent to be still and find peace. Be assured that God loves each one of us and is with us. Take a moment to think about all that the message of Christmas means. Christ has come, salvation has come, God is with us.

## Prayer

Lord, thank you for loving each one of us with a love that is unconditional. Knowing that you love us, help us to share that love with others – with our family, friends, and neighbours, that that part of the world where we have influence may become a better place and we may become the people you created us to be. This year may the true meaning of Christmas remain with us, not just for a few festive days, but throughout the entire year.

**AMEN**

# THE ORGANIST ENTERTAINS

**Saturday 14 October**

**Simon Gregory on the Willis organ**

Simon is well-known to all of us at St. Mary's. Despite strong counter-attractions on 14 October, a respectable audience relished his playing in a programme of serious organ music old and new and – in entirely different vein – accompanying a Charlie Chaplin silent film.

Chaplin, however, did not appear until the second half. To begin with, an example of **Bach** flexing his organ muscles, as it were. The magnificent *Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582* dates from about 1710 when Bach was in his twenties. Around that time, Bach had returned from his expedition to hear the famous organist Dietrich Buxtehude play the organ at Lubeck. Who knows whether the experience of hearing the great man at home, as it were, had a part to play in young Bach's developing organ style?

**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** died in 1912 aged only thirty-seven. In his short life, he produced over eighty numbered compositions in many genres, including the mighty cantata *Song of Hiawatha* and lots of lighter pieces two of which we heard next. They were *Idyll* (1901) and *Impromptu no. 1* (part of a set of three impromptus dating from 1911). These were arranged for organ by Taylor's contemporary, Arthur Eaglefield Hull.

Another composer to die young was **Leon Boellmann**. His Germanic name gives one a clue as to his place of birth, a small town in Alsace. His working life was spent in Paris, where he was appointed organist at the church of St. Vincent de Paul in the 10th arrondissement. It is likely that the magnificent organ there stimulated what is probably the most famous of his works, the *Suite Gothique* the final Toccata from which brought the first half to an exhilarating conclusion.

The name **Tomaso Albinoni** is remembered today chiefly for one work, the *Adagio in G minor for strings and figured bass* which can be heard every day in all sorts of guises. The actual composer is, however, known to be **Remo Giazotto** an Italian musicologist and expert on eighteenth-century Italian music who died as recently as 1998.

That brings us to the second half of tonight's programme and the keenly-awaited Silent Film *'The Immigrant'* produced by and starring **Charles Chaplin**. In his spoken introduction, Simon outlined the history and brief plot of this film (1917). I thought the standard of acting throughout is superb, not just the stars - Chaplin himself, Edna Purviance (the second immigrant) Eric Campbell (the head waiter) and Henry Bergman (the artist) - but the smaller characters too. Equally superb was Simon's improvised accompaniment on the Father Willis.

Three organ miniatures ended the concert. Long known as Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary, the title is in fact *The Prince of Denmark's March* by **Jeremiah Clarke**. Jumping a couple of hundred years, we come to **Sergey Rachmaninov** whose *Vocalise* is well-known to sopranos all over the world. Here it was played in an arrangement for organ by Patricia Bird. She divides the vocalise 'tune' between hands and pedals. A more modern composer ended Simon's recital. **Patrick Gowers** is a film and television composer who also writes taxing works for the organ, including *Occasional Trumpet Voluntary* which brought the evening to an exciting conclusion.

TT





In September, we built a bug hotel in the new graveyard, across the road from church. In October, we planted bulbs and scattered wild-flower seeds in the grass near the front entrance to the church. What will we be getting up to next??

**Don't forget to join us, rain, or shine, for our exciting new outdoor venture for all ages this autumn**

**Saturday, December 2 2.30 to 4.00 pm**

We will gather in the Parish Room as usual before discovering the great outdoors and our Advent adventure! Outdoors unless the weather is really, really, inclement! Having completed our outdoor activity, we will return to the Parish Room for our indoor activity, making a Christingle and enjoying a welcome drink and refreshments together.

**Come and join us. We would love to see you there!**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US AS WE BEAT THE BOUNDS ON 5 MAY 2024?

Beating the bounds is a great historical event. It is a centuries-old tradition, aimed at reminding everyone of boundaries that were important in their lives. During Rogationtide — the fifth week after Easter, villagers, with the rector and other local dignitaries, would walk the parish bounds. The children would carry willow wands to beat the boundary markers with, and in some ceremonies, children had their heads bumped on boundary stones to imprint them firmly in the memory.

We are very blessed in our parish as within its boundaries we have woodlands, open countryside, parks, housing estates, industrial areas and a good selection of coffee shops, restaurants, and pubs!

It would be great if on Sunday 5 May 2024, after the 9:30 service we could walk and “beat” our parish boundaries. The full boundary walk is about 8.5 miles, but there is also a possible shorter route of 4.5 miles.

May 2024 seems a long way off, but it would be good for us to know if there is a desire for bounds beating?

It would be a great opportunity for us to socialise, see bits of the parish we don't often see, thank God for all he has blessed us with, prayer walk the parish and witness to others!

If you would be interested, could you indicate your interest on the sheet at the back of Church. If you don't attend Church, but would like to come, please talk to Fr Mark.



A very **big thank you** to all those who took part in our Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal this year. At the beginning of November, we were able to send off 73 shoe box gifts to commence their onward journey to families and elderly folk in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Bulgaria, living in extremely difficult circumstances, who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present.

Thank you all for your generosity.

## EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK

So far this year we have fed more than 7,300 people across our food bank centres.

We really do need your support at the moment.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public - that's why your donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food.

Can you help us?

**Urgently needed:** washing up liquid, male deodorant, hair conditioner, squash, chocolate spread, baby wash / shampoo, Christmas snacks (sweet and savoury), tinned ham, Christmas biscuits and sweet tubs and packet stuffing.

**Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked:** Weetabix and cat food.

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](http://www.epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk).

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

## ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP



In line with the Environmental Policy at St. Mary's we aim to reduce our carbon footprint as much as we practically can. We try to safeguard and nurture God's creation and increase our community and global engagement, always endeavouring to balance our activities with the needs of our church members and the wider community.

We are registered with A Rocha as an "ECO Church". The "ECO Church" scheme gives clear advice under the headings Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle (see [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)) which we use to further our environmental objectives. Registered churches can be recognised with bronze, silver or gold awards depending on their ECO-related actions and activities.

Awards are given once the required level has been reached under each of the above five headings. Earlier this year we achieved the bronze level and we are pleased to announce that St. Mary's has now gained the silver award. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

DRD

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During our Harvest Festival Season in October we were thinking about the many parts that make up our food production. This made me think that I should take it further and give more thought to the way in which the food I eat is affecting our planet.

Always in a rush, I tend to buy the same food from the same source without thought of the ethics behind it. We are all very aware at the moment of the increasing household bills and that, understandably, must take priority. But could I/we do more?

I have, for some time, been interested in following the LOAF principles:

- Locally grown - so fewer food miles;
- Organic - fewer chemicals which helps to conserve biodiversity;
- Animal friendly - if you choose to eat meat, buy meat with a higher welfare standard and
- Fair-trade - better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

It was whilst I was looking up information on the Fairtrade website [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org) that I stumbled over something I had not realised - it is possible to buy Fairtrade flowers. I love fresh flowers at home and I just buy them when I see them, maybe as a gift.

According to the Fairtrade website, Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka Ecuador and Uganda. Fairtrade flowers can be traced back to the original farm. Fairtrade-certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a Fairtrade premium of 10% for every stem sold, which allows workers to invest in Healthcare, education and other social benefits.

So where can you buy Fairtrade flowers? The Fairtrade website gives a list - Aldi, Lidl, Asda, and Co-op as well as Arena flowers and Zing flowers online.

Will you swap one item in your shopping basket for local, organic or Fairtrade food? (or flowers!)

*Helen Crossley*



We have booked two fantastic flamenco guitarists for a concert at St. Mary's on Saturday 16 December at 7:30 PM. They are called Duo (feel free to Google them) and they have been travelling internationally entertaining all. We will be providing the bar to raise funds for the Church. This is a chance for a great night out before Christmas. Bring your friends/family along and enjoy these super-talented lads. Tickets are available via Eventbrite at <https://duoguitarmusic.com/live>.





## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2023



On Remembrance Sunday we were pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom & Ewell, Rob Geleit and Miss Thomasina Tanner, our M.P, Chris Grayling, members from the Royal British Legion, Rotary, officers of the Council, uniformed personnel, cadets, scouts, guides and brownies, and many more. The rain held off for the parade to the War Memorial where prayers took place. Standards were lowered at the sound of the Last Post, raised after 2 minutes silence at Reveille, followed by wreath laying.

Most then joined the Service of Remembrance, filling the Church. The choir lead the singing and the Standards taken to the altar. The Mayor read the Gospel, Matthew 5:1-10; then the poem, 'We Who Remain' by Anthony Devanny, was brilliantly recited by RSM Leo Cowley, from Glyn Freeman's CCF. Fr Mark gave a Talk, mainly addressed to three groups - firstly to Veterans and those currently serving, thanking them for all they have done to defend our rights and freedoms; secondly to People of power - use your power wisely as you have the ability to create or destroy lasting peace: 'When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace'. Thirdly to young people - we must work together inter-generationally to create a better world; honour one another, seek the common good; use your voice. Fr Mark quoted what one of our congregation, Lloyd, had said to him some time ago: 'There will only be peace in the world when the world is godly governed'. He finished with a prayer of peace. Then followed the very moving Hymn, 'Abide with me'. The Prayers were beautifully read by Harmony and Grace of the 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Guides.

The Rev. Sue Ayling lead the Act of Commitment and The Lord's Prayer. Banners were collected and the choir sang the Anthem, 'So they gave their bodies'. The National Anthem followed the Blessing. Finally, Barb said The Kohima Epitaph.

Many thanks to everyone - too many to name - who took part, helped organise and attended today.

The complete service, both at the War Memorial and inside the Church, was live-streamed and well worth viewing on St Mary's Facebook page.

Valerie Wood

## EWELL VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR IS BACK

The Ewell Village Advent Calendar is back for the tenth year! From 1 December, different letters – 'the clues' – will be displayed in the window or inside 22 local shops and on the outside notice boards of St Mary's Church and Christ Church, Ewell. Each shop and church will have a poster outside created around 24 numbers designed by 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies.

Every child wishing to take part will be given a special booklet to complete by writing in each clue. St Mary's Church will have number 24. Answers to the puzzle can be delivered to 'All Things Nice' until noon on 22 December and to St Mary's Church until just before the start of the 2.00pm Christmas Eve Crib Service.

An ideal time for children to find the clues will be on 9 December from 5pm to 8pm at 'Ewell Yule'. This is the annual community event when shops in the village are open late for shopping, with children's rides, festive food and drink, Morris Men, carols and music. Car parking is free from 4pm.

You can find full details about the Advent Calendar and about Ewell Yule on St Mary's Church website [www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com) and on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell>.

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

As we prepare for Easter by reading a Lent book it's good to prepare for Christmas by reading an Advent book. There are lots to choose from but this year we are recommending The Archbishop of York's Advent Book for 2023 'Stick with Love'. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell writes "In the stories of saints found in the pages of this book, we encounter men and women whose lives echo the love of God and the beautiful vision, found in Revelation, of the gathering of all tribes, peoples and nations before Him. As you read 'Stick with Love', may you discover stories of inspiration and challenge. Stories that both cause you to give thanks and challenge you to go deeper in your journey of discipleship this Advent." Dr Paula Gooder, an author herself and a Reader in the Church of England, writes "A wonderful series of short reflections... easy to read but packed with depth and insight."

The price will be around £9. The plan is for the book to be available in church no later than Sunday 3 December – the day Advent begins. Please pay for your book then. As usual, there will also be a basket of books from which you can choose one to borrow. Any questions to Sue Ayling. (020 8337 6347 or [assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com](mailto:assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com)).

In addition you can learn about the Church of England **Follow the Star** theme for Advent and Christmas 2023, including a free app to download, at [cofe.io/Christmas](http://cofe.io/Christmas).



## CITIZENS ADVICE EPSOM & EWELL

supporting those in need in our community



At the 9:30 Eucharist on 8 October we were pleased to welcome two members of Citizen's Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE), who gave an inspiring presentation in the sermon slot. Yvette Ball, the chair of the CAEE Trustees writes below about their visit and the activities of CAEE.

It was an honour and pleasure for myself and trustee, Andrew Heffernan, to be invited to talk at St Mary's a few weeks ago about our work for the people of Epsom and Ewell. It was a beautiful service and despite our unfamiliarity with your specific format, we enjoyed its spiritual depth.

It symbolised in a way our work at Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE). People come to us, often troubled and stressed, but we hope they leave in a better place mentally and materially.

Our key function is to give free, confidential, impartial and non-judgemental advice for all who live, work or study within Epsom and Ewell. There are many ways for people to get in touch: through our drop-in and outreach services, on-line, by phone and via appointment. Our work also provides (anonymised) data to the central Citizens Advice for ongoing campaigns and we gather local information for campaigns to improve policies and practices that affect day-to-day lives of our own community.

CAEE is a local charity, established in 1939 and is part of the national Citizens Advice family. However, we operate as an independent charity and raise our own funds to run an efficient and effective organisation with 15 paid staff and 50+ volunteers who are vital for our success.

We are fortunate to partner with many organisations and our primary funder is Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. We provide significant public value - £24 return in value for every £1 invested in us with each client costing an average of £110 across a year.

So how can you get involved? You can donate, support our fundraising events or even hold your own, encourage employers to sponsor us, consider leaving a legacy, spread the word about us and of course, become a volunteer.

Our volunteers are the backbone of the organisation. Whether you are available a few hours a month or a day a week, we have a wide range of roles and plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Any support is very gratefully received!

For all enquiries, please visit [www.caee.org.uk](http://www.caee.org.uk).

## EPN Subscriptions in 2024

Thank you for your support of EPN during 2023.

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

For 2024 EPN copies downloaded from our website are again free, but we ask you to pay 60p per printed copy for issues collected at church.

For those who have their EPN copies delivered by hand, the annual subscription remains at £6. Your distributor will be knocking on your door to ask if you would like to subscribe again. Please make cheques payable to "**PCC St Mary the Virgin, Ewell**".

If you would like to become an EPN subscriber for delivery by hand, post or email, please complete and return our subscription form which you can find on the church website.

## BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON

Saturday 13 January  
2-5pm in Ewell Hall



All  
Ages  
Welcome



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Come and join us 2-5pm in Ewell Hall.  
Games of luck and skill, familiar games,  
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served. No need to book - just turn up!

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# HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

May the peace of the Christ-child  
enfold you this Christmas and every  
day through 2024

Sue Ayling

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

Rosemarie and Mike

Godfrey, and Lucy Morrell  
wish all at St Mary's a joyful  
Christmas and a healthy  
and happy 2024

Happy Christmas, Everyone and  
a Peaceful 2024. God Bless

Gill and Humphrey

Christmas greetings and all  
good wishes

Gilda and John Everson

Happy Christmas to you all  
and best wishes for a peace-  
ful New Year. Sue Moseley

Wishing you joy and peace at  
Christmas and in the year ahead

Wendy Varney

Warmest Christmas greetings to  
all my friends at St Mary's look-  
ing forward to a healthy 2024

Valerie Smither



A very Happy Christmas  
and a healthy New Year  
with love Angie xx

To everyone at St Mary's, wish-  
ing you all a very happy,  
blessed and peaceful  
Christmas and New Year

Nicholas and Janet

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

A happy & peaceful Christmas  
and all the best for the New Year

Jenny and David Dance

Wishing everyone a Happy and  
Healthy Christmas

Love from Miriam

Lucy and I would like to wish all  
our Church family every Blessing  
this Christmas. Thank you for all  
you did last year and let's hope and  
pray for a peaceful 2024, where all  
can share God's grace and mercy

Fr Mark

Warmest wishes to you all, at Christmas  
and throughout the coming year

Valerie Wood

Wishing everyone at St. Mary's  
a very happy and peaceful  
Christmas and every blessing  
for the New Year. Gill Bird

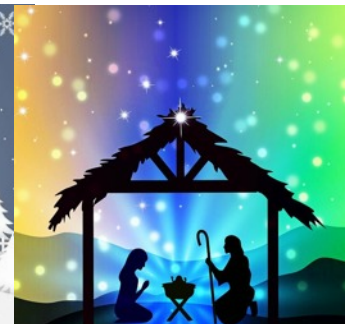
Wishing everyone at St  
Mary's a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

Gillian Merrick

Lloyd and Prom Mullen  
would like to send to all their  
friends at St. Mary's, their  
best wishes for Christmas  
and the New Year

All Blessings this Christmas time,  
and may we live with one ano-  
ther in Peace

Ray Kasey







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# Calendar for December



**Morning Prayer will usually be celebrated  
at 0900 Monday to Saturday and shown online  
(Saturdays will be specifically Prayers for Peace)**

- F 01 1305 Celebrity Organ Concert, followed by tea  
S 02 1430-1600 Messy Church Goes Wild  
1830 'Deck the Halls' Winter Dinner  
S 03 **ADVENT**  
0800 Said Holy Communion - 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion, followed by  
Decorating the Christmas tree in church  
1730 Advent Carols  
T 05 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1305 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital  
1930 for 2000 Advent Course (Parish Room)  
Th 07 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)  
F 08 1700-2030 Ewell Yule in Village (Church open)  
S 09 1930 Jonathan & Sarah present 'A Christmas  
Cracker'  
S 10 **ADVENT 2**  
0800 Said Holy Communion  
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1115 Choral Mattins  
T 12 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1930 for 2000 Advent Course (Parish Room)  
S 16 1930 "Duo" Festive Flamenco  
S 17 **ADVENT 3**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1730 Nine Lessons & Carols  
T 19 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1930 for 2000 Advent Course (Parish Room)  
Th 21 1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)  
S 24 **ADVENT 4 - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1400 "The Story of Christmas" (for all ages)  
1600 "Arrival at Bethlehem" (family service)  
2315 Midnight Mass  
M 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
0800 Said Holy Communion - 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
1000 Sung Christmas Communion  
T 26 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
S 31 **CHRISTMAS 1**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion

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## Observation

The meaning of life is to find your gift  
The purpose of life is to give it away

Pablo Picasso