



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 612

January 2024

60p



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

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON

Saturday 13 January
2-5pm in Ewell Hall



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Ages
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served. No need to book- just turn up!*



St Mary's Ewell
www.stmarysewell.com

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**Happy New
Year 2024**

COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: epn@stmarysewell.com. Handwritten or typed copy will only be accepted by prior agreement (call 020 8393 4804). Please do not embed photos in WORD files, but send the images separately. Copy date for the February 2024 edition is noon on Monday 15 January.

Fr Mark Stafford writes

January can be a month when we think about our futures, when we resolve to do things differently.

We sometimes take stock and look at how we live our lives, what we value and what gives value to us. The first verse of Psalm 24 tells us plain and simply that all things are the property of God. Whilst we may from time to time think that we are masters of our own destiny, the truth is that we are creations, great creations maybe, but yet still creations and part of the created order "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it".

Our relationship with creation is something that has always interested me. Throughout my life I have belonged to many environmental pressure groups, each targeting what we considered at the time to be an unacceptable level of human impact on the planet.

The problem as I saw it then, was that each pressure group was concerned with a limited number of issues, we tried to stop fox hunting, whaling, nuclear arms, but there was a lack of joined-up thinking, so these campaigns often faded away. In addition to this, lots of these groups, at least in the 70's, were seen as being a little off-centre and not credible to the masses.

We were seen as lefty, veggie, hippy do-gooders, an image that often overshadowed the message that we were trying to proclaim, however now that message has become more mainstream and more and more people understand that if we don't start to see the planet as the source of life rather than a commodity to exploit through life, we will have an enormous problem.

It is brilliant that the Church has woken up to the fact that environmentalism is a spiritual issue, as it is about the way in which we either appreciate or abuse God's gift to us.

A little while ago I was speaking to someone about Christian life, and they shared with me that life in Christ is often about "God drawing all the threads that make our lives together into something that makes sense".

As a Church we should be drawing together the strands of ecology and ecclesiology, locally, globally, and internationally. The Church universal has huge potential to bring out change and needs to be putting its full weight behind environmental issues, the Bible is full of passages that emphasise the need for a relationship between humanity and creation and ultimately with God, so we should be leading the way on environmental change.

Our Church Eco group is looking at ways in which the Church can be more ecologically sound, and we would like to encourage each and every one of our congregation to consider ways in which they too can

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Registered Charity Number 1128409

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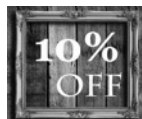
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The Parish Office is on the south side of the church.

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try and live in a sustainable way, reducing our single-use plastic consumption as much as possible, being aware of our food miles, trying to buy locally and organic.

If you are interested in this, you may want to look at doing a personal lifestyle Eco audit and seeing what things you might be able to change to help planet earth. Here is a link that will help with this: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/L4-Auditing-your-lifestyle.pdf>. Our ECO article on page 7 gives more information

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 JANUARY

After the Christmas rush, things are a little slower in January as we all catch our breath and plan for the New Year.

Messy Church goes wild will be held on Saturday 6 January at 2:30pm. We meet in the parish room for a drink and song and then weather permitting we head out for an eco-adventure. Come and join us for post-Christmas outdoor Church for all the family.

Lucy and I would love to invite you all to the Vicarage for **Epiphany drinks on Saturday 6 January** from 7:00pm onwards. It would be great if you could join us for a drink and nibbles. St Mary's Vicarage. 14 Church Street. All are very welcome.

Our **Bach organ recitals** featuring his major preludes and fugues continue at 13:05 on Tuesday 9 January followed by refreshments in the parish room.

We will be holding a **board games afternoon in Ewell Hall** on Saturday 13 January, starting at 2:00pm. Join us for games of luck and skill, familiar games, some new and unusual games, suitable for young and old. Free tea & cake will be served. No need to book— just turn up! Last time it was great fun and really well attended, so please come along, and join in the fun! If you can't make this, by popular demand we are holding a second Board Games afternoon on Saturday 10 February.

Our on-line quiz using Zoom is in Wednesday 17 January at 8pm. 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.

Other than this it's all quiet.....

Do check the Calendar on the back page for the full list of services and events happening in January.

Every blessing

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



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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.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Let light perpetual shine upon them

29 November Susannah McNamara, aged 49

Ashes Interments

21 November William Robert (Bill) Elson,
aged 85

24 November Patrick Joseph Waters, aged 75

25 November Christopher Harry Charles
Cole, aged 72

25 November David Charles Jones, aged 85

Local Video Transfer Service

Get your old video camera recordings transferred into computer files, so that you can view them again again, keep them in a safe format for the future and even copy and send them easily to family members

Contact me, **Laurence**, for advice and options

Telephone: 07763 776 031

e-mail: laurence.green9@gmail.com

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 on 17 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.

JANUARY CONCERT

9 January 1.05 pm

Free Tuesday lunchtime

Bach organ recital

Jonathan Holmes

Jonathan continues the all Bach lunchtime series

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ORGAN SCHOLAR



We asked our new Organ Scholar to introduce himself.

My name is William Brooke, I am the newly appointed Organ and Bass Choral scholar at St Mary's. I am in my first year studying Music at the University of Surrey. I grew up at St Michael and All Angels Bedford Park in Chiswick; it was there that I began my musical journey, in the choristers and beginning organ lessons on the brand-new Swiss organ under Jonathan Dods the Director of Music. Over the course of the last year, I became a regular deputy at St Michael's when Jonathan was away, this developed my service playing skills significantly, and allowed for my successful application to St Mary's as Organ Scholar. My work at St Mary's involves playing hymns, mass settings and accompanying choir anthems, as well as sharing various playing and accompanying responsibilities with Jonathan Holmes, who is guiding me and helping me refine my choral playing skills. My first term at St Mary's has been very enjoyable and I look forward to the remainder of the year.

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TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Chamber Choir Tuesday 31 October



A journey from Greenwich to Ewell might present something of a logistical challenge. Why Greenwich? The answer is simply that the Royal Naval College there is the home of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. We at St. Mary's were pleased to welcome the Chamber Choir for a splendid concert followed by tea and cakes. The young Choir performed a medley of solos and ensembles, all under the direction of student conductors Alexander Hardy and Nathan Stubbings. Their piano accompanist was Imma Setiadi.

All of us relished the students' beautiful ensemble singing, and the way they made the most of St. Mary's acoustic.

The concert began with a bang. The Choir achieved a wonderful, full-blooded sound in *Voice on the Wind* by contemporary Canadian composer **Sarah Quartel**. A change of mood followed with a multi-part song by **Johannes Brahms**. He is, of course, well known for his Lieder; rather different, *Fünf Gesänge* or 'five songs' dates from 1886-88. Now the first of two solo singers stepped forward, Abigail Barker (soprano) who sang the lovely *Silent Noon* written in 1904 by **Ralph Vaughan Williams** to a text by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Younger than Vaughan Williams and his career interrupted by the Second World War, **Gerald Finzi** is another fine song composer as we heard in *My Spirit Sang All Day*.

Two Renaissance composers next. In my opinion it is always good to hear music by lesser-known women composers, one of whom is **Isabella Leonarda**. She was an Italian nun of the seventeenth century and the Choir sang her *Ave Regina Caelorum* (Hail, Queen of Heaven). Her older contemporary is the German **Heinrich Schutz** (1585-1672). He is known to have visited Italy to study with Giovanni Gabrieli in Venice; he is unlikely ever to have met Sister Isabella though that remains an intriguing contingency. Schutz wrote much sacred music including *Selig sind die Toten* (Blessed are the Dead) for full choir. As a Lutheran, Schutz wrote for the most part in German rather than Latin.

Now to France, and two composers who probably never met. These are **Gabriel Fauré** (1845-1924) and **Francis Poulenc** (1899-1963). Both men are renowned for their songs. At the age of nineteen, Fauré composed his well-known *Cantique de Jean Racine* in which from the outset the Choir achieved a stunningly beautiful pianissimo. A 'cantique' is another term for a chant and the text is Racine's own French version of a Latin prayer.

Francis Poulenc is, like Fauré, one of France's great 'melodie' composers. Note that a 'melodie' is the French term for our 'art-song'. Anna Gerrard (soprano) is the second of Trinity Laban's two solo singers, and she did Poulenc's well-known *C* - so-called because of the rather clever text. Space, alas, does not permit an explanation of exactly why the words are so ingenious.

Coming to the final two composers, I am sure the Choir must have felt honoured for a composer to write specifically for them. Such is the case with **Jonah Raes** who was born in 1990 and is a graduate of Trinity Laban Conservatoire; the Choir performed his song *The Whale-Watcher*. American composer **Jonathan Larson** died tragically young in 1996 and it was one of his pieces, *Seasons Of Love*, that brought this memorable concert to a conclusion.

TT

Prayer for January



O Lord,

Thank you for this New Year; for all the potential it holds. We ask that you guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. Help us to be like those wise men who sought an earthly king but who were instead led to a humble stable and found you, the One born to bring freedom, forgiveness, and a hope of heaven. Like them, during the coming days, may we also be led to that Light, to you who opens eyes to understanding God's Word and Truth.

In these continuing difficult and dangerous times, where there continues to be war, flood, famine, and all manner of disasters both natural or arising from our own greed and selfishness, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray that you will make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able and let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you may be honoured by our lives and others be drawn to you.

AMEN



Follow that Star !

Don't forget to join us, rain, or shine, for our exciting new outdoor/indoor adventure for all ages on Saturday, 6 January 2.30 - 4.00pm.

What is Messy Church Goes Wild?

'Messy Church Goes Wild' is a movement within Messy Church, an outreach programme of the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) which aims to encourage churches to meet God outdoors, love the natural world, experience a sense of awe, and wonder there and to be more eco-aware in all we do, both inside and out, for the good of the planet. The 'Messy Church' and 'Messy Church goes Wild' values are about being Christ-centred, are for all ages, and based on creativity, celebration, and hospitality.

Here at St Mary's, we started 'Messy Church goes Wild' back in October when we were blessed with a lovely sunny afternoon to kick off our new monthly outdoor/indoor adventure. Our outdoor activity on that occasion was building a bug hotel at the far edge of the new graveyard, but the weather was so good that we remained outside for our Bible story too. November saw us planting bulbs and sowing wildflower seeds in the grass at the front of church. Look out for a few daffodils and crocuses springing up in March or April! At the beginning of December, the weather turned icy and cold. We did not venture outside but instead enjoyed making Christingles indoors and thinking about our journey through Advent as we prepare ourselves for Christmas.

The weather will not put us off! 'Messy Church goes Wild' is intended to be a flexible and more relaxed way to learn more about God, His wonderful creation and about Jesus and what he means to us. If the weather isn't nice enough to venture outside, then we can stay in the warmth of the Parish Room.

In January, we celebrate Epiphany when we remember the wise men's journey to find Jesus. We will be following our own star trail, outside if the weather is Ok or inside, around the church building. So why not come and find out more? Bring your children or your grandchildren or your friends and neighbours and their children? **We would love to see you.**

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's not working at all now."

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT FUEL COSTS? CITIZENS ADVICE CAN HELP

Are you struggling to pay your energy bills? Do you need advice on ways to reduce energy use at home? Are you getting the right grants and benefits? Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE) can help.

CAEE is offering free appointments for anyone who needs advice about their energy use this winter.

Advice includes:

- Reducing energy use in your home
- Help applying for grants and benefits
- Contacting your energy provider
- Switching providers
- Warm home discounts
- Crisis support

Lisa Davis, CAEE CEO, said: "It is that time of year again when people are worrying about their use of energy. This on-going cost of living crisis is still affecting us, but for some, it can be truly devastating. Don't sit in a cold house not knowing which way to turn - come and talk to us and we can support you with a way forward."

To book a free, confidential appointment call CAEE on Freephone 0808 278 7963, drop in 10am-1pm Mondays and Tuesdays or 10am-3pm on Thursdays at Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell, The Old Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, KT18 5AG or visit www.caee.org.uk.

EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK

Our local foodbank hopes to support around 550 households who find this time of year particularly difficult. Can you help with a donation? You can give via their website or directly into their bank account CAF Bank - Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, sort code 405240, account number 00034980.

Urgently needed: instant coffee, custard, instant mash, toilet rolls, mayonnaise, longline sponge puddings, ladies deodorant, shaving foam and dog food.

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.

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

ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP



St. Mary's would like to thank the Revd. Sue Ayling who finished her spell as chairman of the ECO group at the end of December. Sue started the group in July 2019 along with five others after an inspiring Lent course which followed the theme of care for God's creation. The group is pleased to welcome Fr Mark as its new chairman. Sue remains as a member of the group.

At the end of the Lent course in 2019 Ben Niblett from Tearfund came to share some ideas about how we might make a difference for the better as individuals and as a church. He encouraged us not to feel guilty about what we can't do but to focus on what we can do - out of love for God and for our neighbour and for the earth. He shared with us his top four tips which would be steps in the right direction and we thought it would be good to share these again.

- Switch electricity to renewable sources in our homes and churches;
- Drive less. If you are able to use public transport, walk, cycle or share a car. Some people are switching to an electric car but this isn't for everyone;
- Fly less. Not taking one flight makes a difference. Can you take a train or ZOOM/WhatsApp/Skype/Facetime?
- Eat less meat. (Cows and sheep breathe out methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.)

PERSONAL LIFESTYLE ECO AUDITS

In his letter this month on EPN pages 2 and 3 Fr Mark suggests that people might like to make a personal lifestyle Eco audit and gives a link for doing this. If you click on the link it will take you to a website operated by *Climate Stewards* where you can calculate your carbon footprint under the headings home, private transport, public transport, air transport, food and other expenditure. For example we have a small hybrid car and I learnt that for an annual mileage of 3000 miles the carbon footprint is 621 kgCO₂. If I spend £100 on a meal for two the carbon footprint is 29 kgCO₂.

Climate Stewards is part of the A Rocha family of organisations, caring for God's creation around the world. They work with many hundreds of individuals, charities and churches to provide advice and support in their carbon reduction journey. Once you have used their site to calculate your carbon footprint they offer advice on how to reduce

this footprint. You can also make a donation to offset your carbon emissions. The money you pay is used to fund Climate Stewards' partners in Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda. They work with local partners on community-based projects that either reduce carbon emissions or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - creating carbon offsets.

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 Fr. Mark on 020 8393 1297 or vicar@stmarysewell.com.

David Dance

PCC MEETING 7 NOVEMBER

Congratulations and thanks were recorded to the Rev Sue Ayling and the Eco Group for all their hard work helping St Mary's to achieve the A Rocha "ECO Church" Silver Award.

Fr Mark reported that a 'skills audit' form for volunteering has been drawn up and is available for the congregation to complete.

Messy Church Goes Wild has taken place twice now, with good numbers so far. Special thanks were recorded to Linda and Kathie who will be looking at ways in which it could be tied together with JAM, perhaps singing a final hymn/song in common.

An approach has been made for a group of probationers to carry out work in the churchyard. They will have their own supervisors, their own tools and will be covered by their own insurance.

It was decided that the Stations of the Cross, currently sited under the balcony, will be brought down and used during Lent.

David Senior, from the diocese, has been invited to attend the next PCC meeting to talk to members about ways in which income generation can be improved.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 January.

Liz Divall, PCC Secretary

EPN copy dates for 2024

We welcome articles from members of the congregation, especially reports on parish activities. These should be sent to epn@stmarysewell.com before noon on the following Mondays:

15 Jan	12 Feb	18 Mar
15 Apr	13 May	17 June
15 July	19 Aug	16 Sept
14 Oct	18 Nov	09 Dec

Handwritten or typed copy will only be accepted by prior agreement (call 020 8393 4804). Please do not embed photos in WORD files, but send the images separately.

FATHER CHRISTMAS HE GOT STUCK COMING DOWN THE CHIMNEY....

Well, I am pleased to report this didn't happen for the Toddler's Christmas Party - maybe he had not had all those mince pies yet.

For the party this year Linda, Fr Mark and Erica organised some party games and story telling accompanied by music. A lovely change from our regular Thursdays as the toddlers usually have to put up with Jenny's singing.



A party tea was followed by a much-appreciated visit from Father Christmas with two sacks full of presents for everyone. Thank you to all who took part and helped at our Party.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on 11 January 2024.

Toddlers are still looking for volunteers to assist with the running of this ever-popular group. If you feel able to help, Jenny would love to hear from you. Tel. 020 8393 4804.

Jenny Dance

WREATHS AT THE READY



Twelve ladies took part in a Christmas wreath making workshop on 9 December professionally run by Lucy Morrell assisted by Godfrey. Lucy is responsible, as part of the flower arranging team, for the amazing floral displays we see each week in church.

After a brief demonstration by Lucy, we were sent off to make our own wreath. Surrounded by greenery and humming along to calming Christmas carols, well provisioned with hot drinks and mince pies we all produced pleasing efforts. Each quite different and reflecting the maker's personality and artistic capacity.

Thank you, Lucy, for all the organisation and inspiration. Book the hall for next Christmas!

Jenny Dance

DECK THE HALLS DINNER

On a bitterly cold evening at the beginning of December we joined together inside the hall to enjoy the warmest of atmospheres, delicious food and wonderful entertainment provided by members of the social committee and some of the congregation. The hall was decorated beautifully and the tables laid ready for a feast.



Following a drink of something festive we had an opportunity to chat to friends and make new ones before we sat down to read the detailed menus of the tasty treats that were in store for us. Following an introduction from our MC Valerie, and a Grace from Father Mark, the well-chosen wines from New Zealand and France were poured and we dived into our Christmas Roulade starter (of spinach and cream cheese) made by Rosemarie and Gilda.

Whilst the kitchen team were preparing the main course we were entertained by Gilda with her charming and very amusing rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Upon receiving gifts from her fiancée Edward every day for twelve days in a row, Emily wrote to her amour with increasing frustration and eventually anger, resulting in a stern letter from her solicitor G. Creep (Godfrey). The relationship was terminated with an injunction and the return of all the gifts and livestock! We heartily joined in with singing at the end of each verse accompanied by our maestro Jonathan on the piano.

This was followed by Rosemarie's Coq-au-Noel or Chickpea & Butternut Squash casserole, with new potatoes, chantenay carrots and fine beans. All absolutely delicious.



Then it was time for the panto – Jack the Lad & the Beanstalk – once again created for the St Marys audience by Jenny, who whipped us into a frenzy by making us moo every time something to do with a cow was mentioned. The cast played their parts with such dedication. Steve as Jack, however hard he tried could not get us to buy his cow, Tim as Jack's woeful mother in a most becoming apron and mob cap, Angela was the giant(!) and the sight of David in a bright green wig was a sight never to be forgotten. Much hilarity ensued with the growing beanstalk and the arrival of the Golden Chicken.

After the laughter had died down we were treated to lots of puddings – Mavis' delicious meringues and cranberry & mincemeat tarte or Christmas pudding, all with lashings of custard or cream. Once again seconds were hoovered up! A super selection of cheese & biscuits provided by Gill concluded the meal.

Finally whilst we enjoyed coffee and mints we had a good old sing-song of Christmas favourites led by Jonathan. The whole evening put us in a truly festive mood.

On behalf of everyone who attended, a huge thank you is extended to the catering team and helpers, including not yet mentioned Gillian, Marion, Denise & Liz who worked tirelessly the whole evening. Many left commenting on the best food ever at a winter social! Well done team, we look forward to the next one.

LM

EPIPHANY 6th JANUARY

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6 January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the Magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

Where did the Wise Men come from? Magi from the East - it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

It is true that in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the Magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

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.

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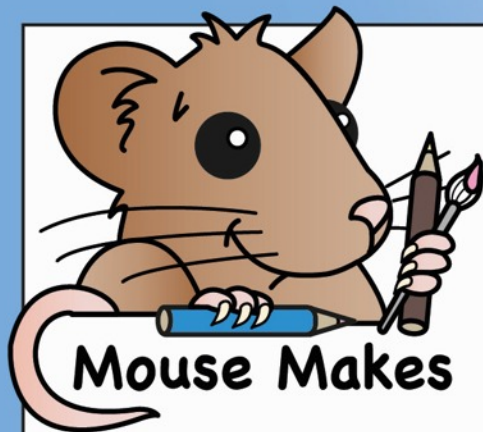
Venue: Ewell Hall (7 London Rd, Ewell, KT17 2AY)

Contact: Jo Taylor 020 8394 0050

St. Mary's Parish Office 020 8393 2643

Looking ahead

January is named after the Roman god Janus. He had two faces, so he could study the past and see into the future.



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

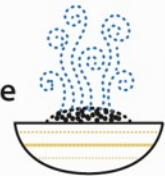


Where was Jesus born?

Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



_____ and _____

Luke 2:11



Who was the king?

Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?
the _____

Luke 2:1

What had the wise men seen?

a _____

Luke 2:2

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
In a _____

Luke 2:12



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

C H I L D S T A R J D K
J E S U S W A E B O B I
E S R E J O I C E Y O N
W H A C H R I S T H R G
S E E E O S J C H U N O
Y P L A U H R U L E R L
G H I S S I T H E R O D
I E M T E P I P H A N Y
F R A N K I N C E N S E
T D R S W I S E M E N E
S M Y R R H D R E A M I

JESUS
WISEMEN
WORSHIP
SHEPHERD
KING • JEWS
CHRIST • CHILD
BORN • RULER
ISRAEL • REJOICE
JOY • HOUSE • MARY
GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?



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Calendar for January



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

- T 02 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
F 05 Twelfth Night (Christmas decorations down)
1030 Ewell Community Hub (Hall)
S 06 **THE EPIPHANY**
1430-1600 Messy Church Goes Wild
S 07 **EPIPHANY 1 - THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**
0800 Said Holy Communion - 1662 (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
T 09 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
1305 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital
1930 PCC Meeting
Th 11 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
F 12 1030 Ewell Community Hub (Hall)
S 13 1400-1700 Board Games (Hall)
S 14 **EPIPHANY 2**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
1115 Choral Mattins
T 16 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
W 17 2000 Quiz on Zoom
Th 18 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)
F 19 1030 Ewell Community Hub (Hall)
S 21 **EPIPHANY 3**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
1730 Choral Evensong
T 23 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
Th 25 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
S 28 **EPIPHANY 4**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
T 30 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

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Observation

Opportunity knocks but once, but
temptation leans on the doorbell

Anon