



# EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 613

February 2024

60p



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

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LONDON ROAD, EWELL

## LENT GATHERINGS

# Watch + Pray

### EXPLORING PRAYER

Lent gatherings "watch and pray" – Every Wednesday evening in Lent we will gather to explore ways in which we can pray. As usual we will meet at 7:30pm for refreshments and then 8:00pm to start the gatherings. Meeting in the parish room, at the rear of Church, entrance off Church Street.

Each session will be self-contained, it would be great if you could attend all the gatherings, but if this would not be possible you can dip in and out.

**Wednesday February 21st, 28th,  
March 6th, 13th, 20th**

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**COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: [epn@stmarysewell.com](mailto: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 March 2024 edition is noon on Monday 12 February.**

## Fr Mark Stafford writes

Roses and red  
Violets are blue  
And this is the month, when people spend a  
fortune on cards that say  
I Love you!

The problem with love is that it leaves you vulnerable. I struggle to remember how often I have had to comfort a teenage child suffering with a broken heart, or more deeply, the hurt felt by a bereaved partner.

The cost of love is a lot more than £20 for a card and some flowers, the cost of love is vulnerability. Love is shown in the way in which we care of those around us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be people who care, not just for those who care for us, but for all in society and that can be a big ask!

Occasionally I come across little stories and jokes on the internet that strike a chord with me. Yesterday I came across this.

A man saw a snake being burned to death and decided to take it out of the fire. When he did, the snake bit him, causing excruciating pain. The man dropped the snake, and the reptile fell right back into the fire.

So, the man looked around and found a metal pole and used it to take the snake out of the fire, saving its life.

Someone who was watching approached the man and said: "That snake bit you. Why are you still trying to save it?"

The man replied: "The nature of the snake is to bite, but that's not going to change my nature, which is to care."

Do not change your nature simply because someone hurts you. Do not lose your good heart but learn to take precautions.

Often in life we try and do the best by someone else, and it backfires on us, and we end up feeling hurt or "taken for a mug". Maybe the problem lies not with the person who failed to respond to your kindness, but with you? We need to question what our motivation for our kind acts was. Was it because you saw a need in others you could meet, was it to be seen to be doing good, to prove that we are good people, or may be to quell some feeling of guilt, could it be through the guidance from the Holy Spirit or maybe out of pure altruism?

For many of us, I would suggest that the acts of goodwill are a combination of most, if not all of these factors.

So how can we preserve our goodwill and giving hearts when others react poorly to our acts of kindness?

St. Ignatius of Loyola said in his great prayer that we should "give and not count the cost... labour and not to seek reward". If we remove the self-interest from acts of kindness, we are no longer hurt, by not being thanked or acknowledged for the kindness we have shown, which results in a win win situation, as we get to enjoy our gift to others, without fear of being hurt and they get to benefit from our generosity.

Teach us, good Lord,  
to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,

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

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

### CLERGY

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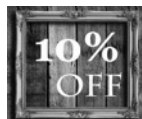
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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

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



to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to ask for any reward,  
save that of knowing that we do your will.  
Amen. (*St Ignatius of Loyola*)

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

**Messy Church goes wild 2.30pm February 3.** Come and join for a fun filled Eco Church meeting. Action songs, craft activities and a Bible story.

**February 6 - Bach Tuesdays from 1.05pm - 1.35pm** featuring the major Preludes and Fugues- why not come and join us for your lunch break and listen to the wonderful Willis Church organ and enjoy a cuppa and slice of cake?

**Our on-line quiz using Zoom is on Wednesday February 7.** 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](mailto:zoom@stmarysewell.com).

**Saturday February 10 - Board Games Afternoon 2.00 to 5.00pm.** Come and join us for an afternoon playing board games at Ewell Village Hall. Come along and join in the fun. No need to book - just turn up. Free drinks and cake!

**9:30 Holy Communion February 11 - We will be focusing on Marriage** at this service and inviting couples we have married in the past to come and join us as we thank God for the gifts of love and marriage. Followed by refreshments.

**St Mary's Gin- The Spirit of Ewell** - Our specially commissioned and distilled gin is an ideal Valentine's Day gift. It is on sale at All Things Nice, 90 High St, Ewell, Epsom KT17 1RE. A great gift that helps support our Church, All Things Nice and a local small distillery. £35 a bottle.

**Ash Wednesday February 14 12:00 noon and 8:00pm.** We will be opening the Lenten fast on Ash Wednesday. Please try and attend one of these services.

**Lent gatherings "watch and pray" - Every Wednesday evening in Lent** we will gather to explore ways in which we can pray. As usual we will meet at 7.30pm for refreshments and then 8.00pm to start the gatherings. Each session will be self-contained. It would be great if you could attend all the gatherings, but if this would not be possible you can dip in and out.

**Young Performers' Concert, Organists, and Instrumentalists. February 17 at 2:30pm.** Come and enjoy listening to our Church's younger musicians.

**February 24 Antiques Road show in Ewell Hall 10.00am - 3.00pm.** Come and join us for Ewell's very own "Antiques Road show". We will be joined by Simon Windibank, from Windibank's Auction House, who will be able to assess your valuables and let you know what they could be worth at Auction!

Can we ask that items to be valued are limited to 2 per Family. Ticket price £5 each

Come and join us for what promises to be an informative and maybe profitable event!

**Sunday March 3 2.30pm Community cinema Toy Story.** Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at Community Cinema, where we'll be screening the classic movie Toy Story! Ticket price is £5, each ticket is for a whole family.

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

Every blessing

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.



## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord**

15 December James Couchman, aged 81

20 December Wanda Maude Way, aged 93

### *Ashes Interment*

15 December Rasanayagam Arudpiragasam  
Samuel, aged 87

## 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 7 February. 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)

## EPN Subscriptions in 2024 REMINDER

Thank you to all who have paid their annual subscription to the Ewell Parish News for 2024.

For those who have previously subscribed for the delivery by hand, the annual subscription remains at £6.

Please make cheques payable to 'PCC St Mary's the Virgin, Ewell'. We hope you will continue to subscribe and enjoying reading the EPN.

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.

## FEBRUARY CONCERTS

**6 February 1.05 pm**

**Tuesday lunchtime Bach organ recital**

Jonathan Holmes

Jonathan continues the all Bach lunchtime series

**17 February 2.30 pm**

**Young Performers' Concert, Organists and Instrumentalists**

Concerts are followed by refreshments.

The Saturday Concerts have a suggested donation of £10 (free to students and children).

Tuesday concerts are free with donations for the organ fund being welcome

## 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

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## Don't forget those nestboxes!

On 14 February the annual National Nestbox Week begins. Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at:

<https://www.nestboxweek.com>.

# Prayer for February



'Candlemas', which is celebrated on February 2, marks the end of the Christmas season and is the time for turning our thoughts towards Lent and the road to Calvary and Easter. It is very much a crossroad in the church's year and can be a spiritual crossroad for us too.

**Lord,**

As we look back and reflect on the past year, with its all too often bad news, worries and uncertainties, help us to remember the story of Christmas and the Good News of Your birth. Good News shared with ordinary, everyday people, and even those living on the fringes of society, that You came to show us all the way back to a closer relationship with God. Looking forward, help us to take time out of our busy lives to reflect on Your life, the road which took You to Your brutal death at Calvary but also the ultimate wonder of Easter and all that means for our own lives today.

**AMEN**

## THREE BACH RECITALS

**26 September, 10 October and 7 November**

**Jonathan Holmes on the Willis organ**

The quality as well as the sheer quantity of Bach's music for the organ never ceases to impress. We have also begun to learn, as a result of these regular monthly organ recitals, something of the state of music in Germany in Bach's time.

Although he himself did not travel outside Germany, Bach was nevertheless kept informed of what was going on elsewhere in the musical world, by his employer, Prince Johann Ernst. The young prince travelled extensively and always brought home new music for Bach to play. In this way, Bach learned of his contemporary **Antonio Vivaldi** even though the great Italian was restricted to his work in Venice. On 26 September, we heard a transcription – to use the technical term – by Bach of Vivaldi's three-part Concerto in A minor for two violins, strings and basso continuo, part of a set called *l'estro armónico* ('harmonic whimsies'). Bach calls his transcription **Concerto in A minor BWV 593** and in it he adapts music for strings practically note-for-note for the organ.

We have heard many of the Chorale Preludes which Bach composed for Lutheran Sunday services. These come from two sources. The majority are taken from the Little Organ Book; others belong to a set engraved and published by Johann Georg Schuebler during Bach's lifetime. On 26 September we heard two from Little Organ Book: **Alle Menschen muessen sterben BWV 643** and **O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde BWV 622**. On 7 November we heard some 'Schuebler' chorales: firstly, the famous **Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645**; then **wo soll ich fliehen hin, BWV 646**; **wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, BWV 647**; **Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, BWV 648** and **Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter, BWV 650**.

On 10 October we heard a Chorale Prelude based on the opening words of the Lutheran Creed: 'We believe in one God' - **Wir glauben all' an einen Gott a 2 clavier e pedale doppio BWV 740**. The lengthy title indicates two keyboards and double pedal part.

The title **Fughetta super: Dies sind die heil'gen zehn Gebot, BWV 679** refers to the "Ten holy Commandments" and a fughetta is, as its name implies, simply a little fugue.

The Willis organ comes into its own in some of the 'giants' of the toccata and fugue repertory. On 26 September, Jonathan played the **Tocatta and Fugue in F major, BWV 540**. The term toccata denotes music designed to demonstrate the performer's technical prowess including – as in the above – dexterity on the pedals. The **Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565** is very famous in many guises apart from organ. There is a widespread opinion today that this piece was written by Bach as a 'test piece' designed to assess the capabilities of newly-built organs. He often did work of this kind especially in his early days. Another splendid piece is the **Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C major, BWV 564** which has an extended solo part for the pedals.

Bach's preludes can often be as technically demanding as his toccatas. One such is the **Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 541** (26 September) which Bach probably wrote as an audition piece for his son Wilhelm Friedemann to play when he applied for his first professional organist's job. The plan seems to have worked, for the young man was successful in his application.



**St Mary's Ewell**  
www.stmarysewell.com

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AS WE  
CELEBRATE

# Valentine's Day

**FEBRUARY 11TH AT 9:30AM**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL  
SERVICE FOLLOWED BY  
REFRESHMENTS**

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN,  
LONDON ROAD,  
EWELL**



**Come and join us while we explore  
God's creation with activities,  
songs, and Bible stories. Both  
indoors and outside, rain or shine,  
for all ages on**

**Saturday, February 3**

**2.30pm - 4.00pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

## EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK

Our local foodbank reserves are very depleted after a busy Christmas period. Can you support? Anything gratefully received, be it one item or many.

**Urgently needed:** jars of cooking sauce, jars of pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tinned spaghetti, tinned meat, tinned fish, tea bags, custard, ketchup, honey, long life sponge puddings, powdered milk, sugar (500g bags), loo rolls, deodorant and nappies 6+.

**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 Binstead, 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 Ewell**

[www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)

## Ewell's Antiques Roadshow



**24.2.24 from 10:00am - 3:00pm**

**Ewell Hall**

**Come and join us for Ewell's very own  
"Antiques Road show".**

**We will be joined by Simon Windibank  
and his team from PF Windibank  
Auctioneers & Valuers.**

**Can we ask that items to be valued are  
limited to 2 per Family.**

**Ticket price £5 each**

**St Mary's Church,  
Ewell community cinema  
London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY**

**Sunday 3rd March 2024  
@ 2:30 pm**

**St Mary's Church, London Road, Ewell**

**Ticket £5 per family from Church, or on eventbrite.  
(Family 2 adults up to 4 children)**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/791023411317?aff=oddttdtcreator>

**Ewell's community  
cinema**



## ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP



Did you know that 90% of our clothes end up in landfill much sooner than they should? This is sometimes because we don't care for them well enough, or they no longer fit. More usually it is because of our laundry habits. We wash our clothes far too frequently, use too

much detergent and too high temperatures. According to Levi-Strauss & co, jeans are usually washed after 2 wears. The jeans manufacturer recommends washing clothes after 10 wears, they estimate that this will reduce your energy use, climate impact and electricity by 80%. Like me, you might find washing after 10 wears unpalatable. But every time we wash our clothes, small microfibrils come off them, washing machines are unable to capture them without fitting a special filter, so they end up polluting our rivers and seas. I have started to look critically at my clothes before absent-mindedly tossing them on to the washing pile, and asking myself if I can wear them again. Another way to cut microfibrils and electricity is to always wash with fuller loads. Researchers at Northumbria University found that the higher clothes to water ratio, the less microplastics are produced. The recommended capacity of most machines is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  full drum.

Another area we can improve is our choice of washing medium. I ditched fabric softener a couple of years ago and haven't noticed the difference. Every other week I use a DIY eco friendly washing method. This is because I can't quite lose the feeling that soap is best. My DIY method is a cup of white vinegar in the soap dispenser, topped up with baking soda. The vinegar cleans, whitens and softens clothes. I have also started to go nuts .....about nuts! I mean soap nuts. These are dried shells of berries from trees native in the Himalayas. They are anti bacterial, anti fungal and completely biodegradable, a bag of them will cost you less than £10. You just toss the bag in with your wash and dry it ready for the next one. A bag of soap nuts should last for 100 washes, so it is a cheaper alternative to chemical soap as well as kinder to our rivers. The downside with soap nuts is their carbon footprint, but that's a debate for another day. In addition to this there is a range of environmentally kinder products in supermarkets that do not use harmful chemicals and are not tested on animals. Market leaders are Smol and Ecover, but there are others. A friend swears by Smol and will not use any other product. They also deliver through the post at agreed times.

Finally we should be washing our clothes at lower temperatures. This not only uses less electricity, but also helps our clothes to last longer. According to scientists at

Harvard University, "washing clothes in cold water can remove many stains, some (such as blood and sweat) even better than warm water".

So green energy tips for washdays are: wash in cooler temperatures, use kinder detergents, use fuller loads and be kinder to your clothes by washing them less often.

*Denise Donovan*

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 our chairman, Fr. Mark on 020 8393 1297 or [vicar@stmarysewell.com](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com).

### PCC MEETING 9 JANUARY

Most of the meeting was taken up by a talk from Revd David Senior, Assistant Priest at St Paul's, Howell Hill and Diocesan Advisor on Stewardship and Church Finance. The PCC had invited him to advise them on how to go about planning and implementing a stewardship campaign as a way to generate income to support our future ministry.

In his regular update of the Mission Action Plan, Fr Mark reported that Ewell Yule had been very successful. For his Ewell Village Fair update he said that Ewell Village Traders Association, the Army and Air Cadets would like to be more involved in 2024 and would like to combine with the Church to create a Ewell Village Day with additional attractions and military parades as well as the events at St Mary's Church. Fr Mark also reported that Messy Church continues to grow in numbers - the most recent had 18 adults and 16 children attending, a Lent group looking at 'prayer' has already been planned and that he is working with NESOT to set up a weekly spiritual group.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 February.

*Liz Divall, PCC Secretary*

### From the EPN Production Team

*Some of you may have noticed a few typos, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors in EPN. To improve this we are using a new set of rules for editing.*

- Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
- Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
- And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
- It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
- Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat.)
- Always use a spelchequer
- Be more or less specific.
- Parenthetical remarks are (usually) unnecessary.
- Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
- Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary.
- Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
- Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

## NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

The new ringers mentioned last time have both unfortunately moved away, but 2023 was a very busy year for teaching new people. Some have given up, some are progressing nicely: Sally, Katie and Phil. Anne, a lapsed ringer formerly at Cheam, has returned to ringing, which has been a big help. At the end of November we had our first ringers' dinner since COVID, at the Amalfi restaurant – very good food, good service.

The big ringing events of the last two years were the death of the Queen and the Coronation of the new King. The nation's bellringers were given a few hours advance warning that an announcement was to be made and to start fitting muffles onto the bells and getting bands of ringers together – we weren't told what for but could easily guess. Preparations for the Queen's death had been made well in advance and ringing for the announcement and the funeral went like clockwork. There was no longer a flagpole to fly a flag at 'half mast'. As mentioned before, we still have the flag, though it's rather past its best.

On the other hand, ringing for the new King was generally regarded by bellringers across the country as being a bit of a shambles. Three different 'official' times were given for when to ring for the proclamation (we couldn't make any of them) and no official time for the Coronation. In the end, the central organisation for bellringers just said to ring whenever was convenient. We did as many churches did, which was to ring until 10 minutes before the Coronation then all dash home and turn on the telly.

Our most recent problem was that the number 2 bell (the 2nd lightest and 2nd highest note) had become increasingly difficult to ring. We had tried various things such as changing the rope. In the end, we had to call in the professionals, Nicholson Engineering of Bridport. It turned out that the wheel that the rope winds round had been coming loose from the 'headstock' (chunky metal axle that the bell hangs from). All fixed for a very modest sum.



A recent find, in a drawer in the church, was a picture of the bellframe – the metal girder work that holds up all the bells – before it was installed in the tower. Presumably the bellhangers (the now defunct Whitechapel Bell Foundry) had been checking that all the bits fitted together before sending the frame off to Ewell.

If any of you would like to learn to ring, or are merely curious as to what goes on up in the tower, do let me know if you want to take a look.

Jeff Cousins (Tower Captain)

## WHAT WE DID ON A COLD GREY SATURDAY AFTERNOON



Thirty plus adults and children gathered in the Ewell Hall on 13 January to play a variety of board games and share tea and homemade cakes. The games ranged from old perennials like shove ha'penny and hoopla to board games such as Scrabble, Cluedo, Ticket to Ride and Carcassonne.

The table full of games meant that everyone could find something to suit them. The free homemade cakes were a great success and were supplied in such quantity that they almost lasted the whole afternoon.

Thanks go to the Social Committee who arranged this much-enjoyed 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?' The answer is next month as we have another Board Games Afternoon in February. Do join us then (see the poster below)!

JMD

## BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON

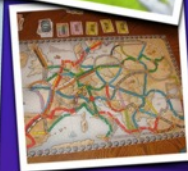
Saturday 10 February  
2-5pm in Ewell Hall



All  
Ages  
Welcome

St Mary's Church  
plays board games!

Come and join us 2-5pm in Ewell Hall.  
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!



St Mary's Ewell  
www.stmarysewell.com



## BACSECT NEWSLETTER No 10 DECEMBER 2023

Hi, this is the latest update on the school following a visit in November by Trustees. At Home we are going into our winter season but it was unusually hot in The Gambia, well over 30 degrees most of the time!

Educationally, the school is performing very well and received a very good report from the School Inspector whilst we were there. The school is inspected quite frequently and will get an unannounced visit at least once a term, so standards have to be maintained.

The number of children in attendance are rising and currently there are about 250. Those parents who can afford to pay a modest fee but at least 30% cannot pay anything so they are funded by the charity.

The experiment with senior school pupils has, at least for now, finished and there is no likelihood of it resuming in the foreseeable future. The costs involved and the management of the work and teachers at a senior level is not sustainable at present.

Our visit brought to light some serious defects in the new classrooms built on in the last two years. The builders had not rendered the outside walls properly and, as a consequence much water came in the rooms during the rainy season. Because of the position of the 3rd floor extension the exterior could not be seen from the school complex so the builder had not bothered and left the school with a real problem.

Access to the outer walls is very difficult as there is no space to build scaffolding and the school was struggling to find a builder who could, a) do the work, b) wanted to do the work, and c) could be trusted to do it correctly for a fair price!

Through prayer God led us, via the management of the Hotel we were staying at, to a trustworthy builder who agreed to do the work at a price the Manager of the Hotel agreed was reasonable. Prayer is most often the best way forward. The work will be done in the Christmas holidays and, hopefully, finished by the time we visit in January. The three classrooms involved should then be available to use as expansion classes as the pupil intake increases.

We also want to use one for a revamped ICT suite with new laptop computers for the children to learn basic ICT skills, so essential in this modern world. Whilst in The Gambia in November we were offered the chance to buy some "cheap" refurbished laptops but the offer was withdrawn when we said we would come and test each one!! Things are never as straightforward as they seem in The Gambia

We will now explore the possibility and the cost of getting some in UK and using our Gambian shipping company to ship them out. We did just that a few years ago with 20 laptops but now most of them no longer work and it's not practical to get them repaired. The fact that they are used by very young children does not help looking after them nor does the exceedingly dusty environment!

If anyone knows of 20 + laptops in good working order going cheap do let us know!!

We are still in the process of completing our annual return for 2022/2023 as the Charity Commission has been changing its website and has only recently allowed access to the reporting pages after several months of them being closed. The return will be fine and will reflect a reasonably good situation financially.

We try to maintain a reserve whilst looking to spend the bulk of our income on the ongoing issues with the school. We really feel it important to spend most of what is donated so that it is all put to good use as soon as possible. Just a little reminder that no expenses are claimed by any trustee and all monies donated go to the school.

Richard, the School's Headmaster, the staff, and all the children join with the Trustees in wishing all of our supporters a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

God Bless

Revd John

Chair of Trustees

Email: [revdjohn60@gmail.com](mailto:revdjohn60@gmail.com)

### CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCES



Ewell Castle, Wallace Fields, and Ewell Grove all held their Christmas Concerts/ Services in church with around 1000 staff, children and family members attending

17 December

Nine Lessons & Carols 108

Christmas Eve

Story of Christmas 160

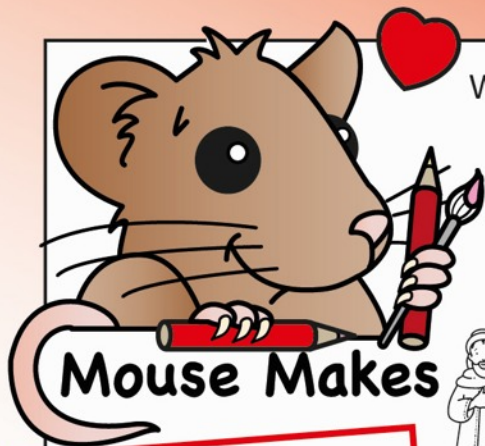
Arrival at Bethlehem 298

Midnight Mass 117

Christmas Day

Said service of Holy Communion 19

Christmas Communion 78



## Mouse Makes

### CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM      | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM   | MARY      |
| ISAAC     | HANNAH    |
| JACOB     | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ      | EVE       |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH      |
| ELKANAH   | REBEKAH   |
| AQUILA    | RACHEL    |
| JOSEPH    | SARAH     |

Which couple helped the  
Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a  
pillar of salt because  
she disobeyed the  
angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's  
daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz  
to become  
King David's  
great-grandmother  
and a distant  
relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 1:5



### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter  
in this bible verse  
to the letter **before**  
it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
UFO WFSTF  
OJOF

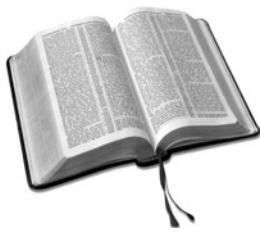
### DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon  
had **700** wives!  
They were princesses  
of royal birth and he loved  
them all, but his wives  
caused him to turn  
away from God  
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| E | E | Z | R | E | E | L | I | Z | A | B | E | T | H | R | ABRAHAM        |
| S | V | Q | S | L | R | Z | J | I | B | O | A | D | A | M | ADAM • AQUILA  |
| R | E | B | E | K | A | H | O | J | R | A | O | Q | N | O | BOAZ • ELKANAH |
| U | I | S | A | A | C | A | S | A | A | Z | P | R | N | S | ELIZABETH      |
| T | H | A | Q | N | H | Z | E | C | H | A | R | I | A | H | EVE • HANNAH   |
| H | R | U | T | A | E | V | P | O | A | I | E | B | H | I | ISAAC • JACOB  |
| S | A | R | A | H | L | T | H | B | M | A | R | Y | S | D | JOSEPH • MARY  |
| P | R | I | S | C | I | L | L | A | Q | U | I | L | A |   | PRISCILLA      |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | RACHEL         |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | REBEKAH • RUTH |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | SARAH          |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | ZECHARIAH      |



## BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP



Do you know about the Bible Reading Fellowship?

The reading notes *New Daylight* and *Guidelines* provide four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. They are ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

BRF bible reading notes are published three times a year in January, May and September. If you would like to learn more or to subscribe to the notes, please contact our BRF secretary, Valerie Wood phone 020 8393 5991 or email [churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com](mailto:churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com).

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# Calendar for February



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

|       |                             |   |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|
| Th 01 | 1000                        | St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)                                  |
| S 03  | 1430-1600                   | Messy Church Goes Wild  |
| S 04  | <b>2nd BEFORE LENT</b>      |   |
|       | 0800                        | Said Holy Communion - 1662 (Lady Chapel)                        |
|       | 0930                        | Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)                           |
|       | 0930                        | Sung Holy Communion   |
| T 06  | 1000                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
|       | 1305                        | Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital                                    |
| W 07  | 2000                        | Quiz on Zoom  |
| Th 08 | 1000                        | St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)                                  |
| S 10  | 1400-1700                   | Board Games (Hall)  |
| S 11  | <b>NEXT BEFORE LENT</b>     |   |
|       | 0800                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
|       | 0930                        | Sung Holy Communion/Valentines service followed by refreshments |
|       | 1130                        | Choral Mattins  |
| T 13  | <b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b>       |   |
|       | 1000                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
|       | 1930                        | PCC Meeting   |
| W 14  | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY - LENT</b> |   |
|       | 1200                        | Said Holy Communion   |
|       | 2000                        | Sung Holy Communion   |
| Th 15 | 1445                        | Bereavement Café (Hall)   |
| S 17  | 1430                        | Young Performers' Concert -Organists and Instrumentalists       |
| S 18  | <b>LENT 1</b>               |   |
|       | 0800                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
|       | 0930                        | Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)                           |
|       | 0930                        | Sung Holy Communion   |
|       | 1730                        | Choral Evensong   |
| T 20  | 1000                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
| W 21  | 1930 for 2000               | Lent Gathering (Parish Room)                                    |
| Th 22 | 1000                        | St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)                                  |
| S 24  | 1000-1500                   | "Antiques Road Show" (Hall)                                     |
| S 25  | <b>LENT 2</b>               |   |
|       | 0800                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
|       | 0930                        | Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)                           |
|       | 0930                        | Sung Holy Communion   |
| T 27  | 1000                        | Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)                               |
| W 28  | 1930 for 2000               | Lent Gathering (Parish Room)                                    |
| Th 29 | 1000                        | St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)                                  |

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Make this the year you act on your thoughts and explore opportunities that offer you a much better quality of life – which you can enjoy now.

As we get older, we realise just how precious time is. The things we find we value are less bricks and mortar, but more our freedom and the time we get to spend with our friends, family and grandchildren.

What if life could be more like this, more of the time? What if you didn't have to deal with the never-ending upkeep of a house and garden? If you could downsize responsibilities and upsize your quality of life? And what if there's an option that doesn't involve buying another property and all that it entails?

Maybe it's time to make time for what's important?  
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## QUOTATIONS

Nature forms us; sin deforms us; school informs us;  
Christ transforms us. - Anon

Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. - Anon

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - Anon