



# EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 614

March 2024

60p



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

## Holy Week & Easter

### 24 March – Palm Sunday

08:00 Holy Communion 09:30 Blessing of Palms

### 25 March – Holy Week

20:00 Holy Communion

### 26 March – Holy Week

10:00 and 20:00 Holy Communion

### 27 March – Holy Week

20:00 Holy Communion

### 28 March – Maundy Thursday

20:00 Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper,  
*Stripping the altar and Gethsemane watch*

### 29 March – Good Friday

08:00 Mass of the Pre-sanctified  
11:00 Children and Families Stations of the Cross  
12:00-15:00 Three hours at the foot of the Cross  
14:00 Service of Veneration of the Cross

### 30 March – Holy Saturday

20:30 Easter Vigil and Service of Light

### 31 March – Easter Day

08:00 and 09:30 Holy Communion  
11:15 Family Easter Worship (including JAM)  
*followed by an Easter Egg hunt*  
12:00 Bring-your-own Parish Picnic at the Vicarage



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## Fr Mark Stafford writes

When my children were little, March was the time when we would spend ages discussing which Easter Egg they might want. We had to consider: which one might have the most chocolate; which one had the best bars or buttons inside; which one had the best free gifts and also which of these was within the acceptable price band! As it happens, we had a big family and all the aunties, uncles, great aunties, great uncles, and grandparents also wanted to buy them eggs too, so on Easter Sunday the Rectory looked like a Cadbury's warehouse!

Easter Eggs are a commonly recognised symbol of new life, and new hope.

I am sure that many of you in the past will have decorated a hardboiled egg for Easter, but did you know that in some parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire these are called "Pace eggs"? Pace comes from the word Paschal which is from Latin Paschalis, which is an adjective relating to the keeping of Easter or Passover (it's also a boy's name meaning Easter child).

Traditionally to colour the eggs they were wrapped in onion skins and boiled, which gave the shells a golden, mottled effect. Later the eggs were painted in bright colours.

Usually, Pace eggs were eaten on Easter Sunday or used in egg rolling competitions.

Maybe if you have children or grandchildren at home through the Easter holiday, you could inspire them to try and decorate a Pace egg?

The point of the egg is that it is a symbol of new life and new hope and I feel that this is a great message for us.

New life is about a fresh start, a new way of seeing the world and a new way of being. Easter is about God doing a new thing, creating a new way of being in relationship with humanity.

At Easter time Christians remember that Jesus gave His all for us, we remember that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, and in doing so he beat down all we fear, he overcame sin and death, and liberated us from the fear of death and opened a fresh dialogue between us and God. Jesus through his example of a life given in service and sacrifice, showed us how God had wanted us to live. Loving one another perfectly and being prepared to make sacrifices for the good of others.

For Christians Easter is all about a new start, a fresh relationship with God and one another, it's about starting a new life in which we strive to love as God has loved us. It's about moving away from the old things, maybe things we have done that we have regretted, maybe bad or harmful habits and moving on to a new life in which we try and model Jesus in our lives and revitalise our relationships with God and one another.

That might sound a bit pious, but actually this is at the heart of Christian life, life in Jesus is not all about Church, it's not all about singing, flower arranging, or wearing a "dog collar"!

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus gave us two new commandments and these are:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

## 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)**

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**Day off: Wednesday**

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*Stewardship Recorder*

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#### Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)

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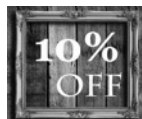
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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  
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Ewell Hall

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



I often wonder what the world would look like if the whole of humanity adopted these two commandments, or even just the second one!

Easter is a chance for us to look at our lives and think about how we can be remodelled to love God and each other with all our being, to give our all for the good of others.

I believe that this challenge to change is one that's open to all people, those who are Christian, curious about faith, of a different faith and of no faith, I believe we should all be asking where is the harm in loving one another and seeking to serve rather than seeking to be served?

When we accept this challenge, we enter into a new way of seeking the world, we enter into a fresh journey of life and who knows where that might take us.

Easter is challenging, it is more than eggs, and bunnies, it is about starting afresh with God and each other, it is about becoming new creations who love as God has loved us!

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

**Sunday 3 March at 2:30pm** we will open the Church to show the film "Toy Story", tickets are £5 per family and are available in Church and on Eventbrite

**Tuesday 5 March 1.05pm** - Organ and Piano Recital. Jonathan Holmes, plus a sixth form pianist from Ewell Castle School will be playing. Join us for afternoon tea. Admission Free.

**Thursday 7 March** Our **Bereavement Café** will be open in Ewell Hall on Thursday 7 March and 21 March from 2:45pm to 3:45pm. This is free and all who feel it might help them are welcome to come and join us.

**Sunday 10 March - Mothering Sunday celebration 9:30 am** - Please come and join us as we celebrate motherhood and Mother Church.

**Saturday 16 March 7.30pm** - we are delighted to welcome the superb local Ripieno Choir to St Mary's. The concert's theme is eternal light, with music of vivid brightness. Come, listen, and be enlightened! Tickets £16 in advance, £18 on the day (including at the door), £5 for under 18s. Group discounts are available – please contact the box office for more information. Box office Telephone 020 8399 2714 or buy online at [www.ripienochoir.org.uk](http://www.ripienochoir.org.uk)

**Thursday 21 March 8.00pm - On-line Church quiz.** Come and join us, they're 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 23 March 7.30pm** - A Musical Tour of Renaissance Europe with the Maeldune Consort of voices and viols. Led by our very own choir soprano Susan de Oliveira. Suggested admission donation £10 at the door. Free to students and children.

**Wednesday evenings in Lent** - Throughout Lent we will be gathering every Wednesday evening 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.

**Lent Book** - How to Pray: A Practical Handbook - John Pritchard. As usual if you would like a copy please sign the list at the back of church and we'll order you a copy. The price will be in the region of £9 to £10. We do have a few 2<sup>nd</sup> hand copies which are much cheaper, 1st come 1st served!

### Holy Week and Easter

#### 24 March - Palm Sunday

Holy Communion at 8:00am and 9:30am

#### Holy Week 25, 26, 27 March

Holy Communion at 8:00pm (& 10:00am on Tuesday)

#### 28 March - Maundy Thursday

8:00pm Stripping of the Altar and Gethsemane watch

#### 29 March - Good Friday

8:00am Mass of the Pre-sanctified.

11:00am Children and Families Stations of the Cross in and around the Church.

Noon – 3:00pm Three hours at the foot of Cross

2:00pm Service of Veneration of the Cross

*Continued on page 4*



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*Fr Mark writes, continued from page 3*

**30 March Holy Saturday – 8:30pm**

Easter Vigil and service of light

**31 March Easter Sunday**

Holy Communion at 8:00am and 9:30am

11:15 Family Easter worship (including JAM), followed by Easter Egg hunt

12:00 Parish picnic at Vicarage- please come and join us for a bring-your-own picnic

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERALS

**In sure and certain hope (BCP Burial rite)**

*Ashes Interments*

10 February Deirdre Jillian 'Jill' Hitchen,  
aged 85  
John Mackie Hitchen, aged 94

## 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 21 March. As always, you will need to register beforehand. You can use links provided in the Weekly Notes or you can also register by emailing [zoom@stmarysewell.com](mailto:zoom@stmarysewell.com)

## MARCH CONCERTS

**5 March 1.05 pm**

**Tuesday lunchtime organ and piano recital**

Jonathan Holmes and a sixth form pianist  
from Ewell Castle School

**23 March 7.30 pm**

**“Viols and Voice” Concert with Susan de Oliveira and friends**

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

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*the*  
**RIPIENO**  
*choir*

## Everlasting Light

Reflection on things eternal

**Ripieno Choir**  
Conducted by Patrick Allies

Saturday 16 March at 7.30pm  
St Mary's Ewell, London Road, KT17 2AY

**Tickets**  
£16 in advance / £18 on the day  
£5 for under 18s

**Box office Telephone 020 8399 2714**  
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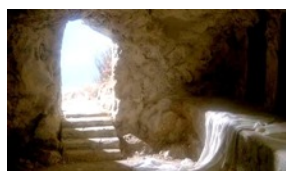
# Prayers for March



Lord God, as we continue our journey through Lent this year, help us to take time to truly reflect on Jesus' life and the many examples of His faithfulness to You and his rejection of worldly values.

Thank you, Lord, for those 'desert' experiences, when being confronted with ourselves makes us realise our need of You. Lord, we ask that You guide us through the difficult days of Lent, the difficult days in our own lives, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards and remember Calvary's darkest day, that You will not forsake us but remind us, not only of His sacrifice for us but of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in Him, your precious son, Jesus. **AMEN.**

And as we celebrate the wonder of Easter later this month,



**Lord Jesus**, You have risen to new life! Alleluia!

Lord, open our lives to your resurrection power! Raise up all that is dead and empty within us

that we may live each day as You would have us live it. Lord, in You we have found a Saviour no grave can withstand. Help us to find that miracle of new life that we too may live more fully in the knowledge of Your saving grace. **AMEN.**

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

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 with which to beat the boundary markers 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 are 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.

# CHRISTMAS CRACKER

**Saturday 9 December**

**Sarah and Jonathan Holmes**

Did you feel last Christmas that the Yuletide spirit was passing you by? If that was the case, I can recommend no more effective antidote than a dose of Christmas Cracker at St. Mary's Church! It is a few years since Jonathan and Sarah set up Cracker, and it has proved a great success. For those readers who have not so far participated, all you need do is to dig out some seasonal garment, such as a festive jumper, and come along to church. Here you can expect a medley of Christmas songs and solos and duets for organ and piano. You don't have to worry about the words. All song texts are displayed on our big screen. What's more, you are not just invited but encouraged to participate in seasonal refreshments.

By far the best-known Christmas song of all, is one the composer originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh"; only a few years later, in 1857, did he rechristen it **Jingle Bells**. The severe winters they experience in North America is a constant theme in many a Christmas Cracker favourite: **Santa Claus is Coming to Town**; and **Sleigh Ride**, written by that master of American light music, *Leroy Anderson*. The story behind **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer** also illustrates the point. *Robert L. May* was in his office in Chicago one day, gazing at dense fog rolling in off Lake Michigan, and he thought: what could we do to help Santa Claus from getting lost? In due course, May's brother-in-law, *Johnny Marks*, composed the tune.

*Marks* appears a second time in **Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree** which catapulted *Brenda Lee* at the age of 13 to instant fame. A different team wrote **Frosty the Snowman**, a song that tells the story of a group of children whose snowman can do wonderful things with the help of his magical hat.

Some songs are of English origin. **We Wish You a Merry Christmas** dates from the seventeenth century. More recent is **The Twelve Days of Christmas**. The poem dates from the mid-18th century though the music is later: *Frederic Austin* was a colleague of Charles Villiers Stanford in Cambridge and wrote the tune. Either Austin or his publisher - it is unclear who - felt it necessary to make a few changes. No-one knew what "colley birds" were and, initially, they changed it to "canary birds". Later still, the name became "calling birds" and that name has persisted to the present day. By the way, 'colley' probably derives from 'coal-black', such as the blackbird.

**Let it snow** began life as a film and is not about Christmas at all. Neither is **Troika** which is an orchestral piece by the Russian composer *Sergey Prokofiev*. Doubtless it is the sound of the bells on the troika – a three-horse-drawn sledge - that led to associations with Christmas.

Lastly, two organ composers. One name that must be unfamiliar to all is that of *Elizabeth Mounsey*. Living during the nineteenth century, she may well be the first English female organ composer. Jonathan played one of her pieces, the appropriately named **Variations on a Christmas Carol** which turned out to be none other than **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**.

Finally, the power of the Willis organ, which had till now been kept on a tight leash, was released in the **Fantasia on Christmas Carols** by the young composer *Jonathan Scott*. An exhilarating conclusion to a most enjoyable evening.





We started our new venture, Messy Church goes Wild, back in the Autumn. Since then, we have built a bug Hotel at the end of the 'new' graveyard, across the road from church; planted Spring bulbs outside the main entrance to church; made Christingles; followed a 'Star Trail' around the churchyard; done a scavenger hunt and made paper lanterns. What will we get up to next?

So, never mind the weather! 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, March 2**  
**2.30pm – 4.00pm**  
**ALL WELCOME**

## EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK

Can you help us please? Anything gratefully received, be it one item or many.

**Urgently needed:** tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, teabags, UHT milk (ff and ss only please), powdered milk, custard, sugar (500g) bags, long-life sponge puddings, peanut butter/chocolate spread, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, washing powder and shaving gel/foam.

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

You can donate food 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 make a monetary donation via the Foodbank website [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 \*

**MAMMA MIA!**  
**2**  
**HERE WE GO AGAIN!**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**  
**LONDON ROAD EWELL**

**Saturday 6th April 2024**  
 Doors open at 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
 Adult ticket price £10, with a glass of fizz,  
 Children £5, licenced bar  
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**Disney · PIXAR**  
**TOY STORY**

**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)  
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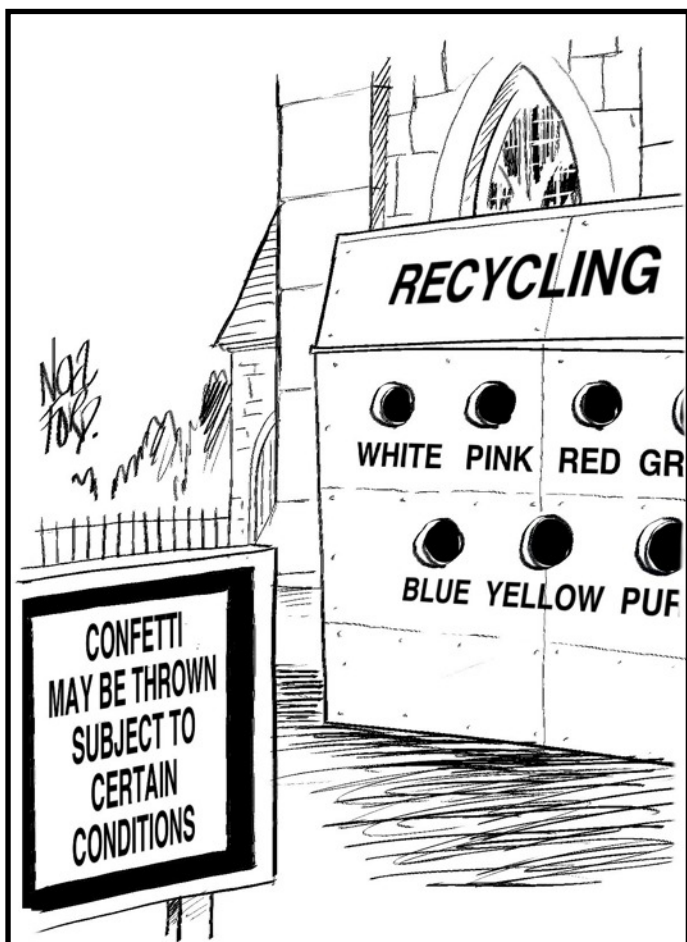
## ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP



This month's ECO tip is taken from A Rocha's Easy Ecotips calendar for 2024 which you can download at <https://arocha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ARUK-Eco-Tips-Calendar-2024.pdf>

**Celebrate Spring** Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with the Lent resources at [arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-over-lent/](https://arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-over-lent/)

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).



## SPRING DINNER

### Please Save the date

The next church dinner organised by our Social Committee will be held in Ewell Hall on Saturday 20 April at 6.30 for 7.00 pm.

Come and join us for a delicious three course dinner with entertainment between courses.

Tickets cost £15 and will be on sale in Church after Sunday morning services from mid March onwards.

Our church dinners are always very popular. We regret that we cannot reserve tickets in advance so please buy your tickets early as they sell out very quickly.

## SPRING MARKET

Planning for the Spring Market is underway and it will be on held Saturday 4 May in Ewell Hall from 10am to 12noon. Put the date in your diary!

The ever-popular plant stall will need a good supply of donations to ensure we have a good assortment on offer so get growing please! Tomato plants are particularly popular but Geraniums, Petunias, Busy Lizzie and any other summer flowering plants will be most welcome.

There will be the usual bric-a-brac and book stalls so we will be pleased to accept any donations. The cake stall always attracts a lot of attention so donations on the day will be welcome. More about that nearer the time.

There will be a raffle and we will be grateful for any donations.

Offers of help will be much appreciated – Contact Gill Bird on 01372 277436 or speak to her in church.

## CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Our annual service to mark the celebration of marriage takes place on a Sunday near St Valentine's Day and those who have been married at St Mary's are invited to attend the service. This year the service was held on 11 February and we welcomed 140 adults and children to our church.

The readings were 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 and Mark 9.2-9 and the opening hymn was Love divine all loves excelling.

Afterwards those invited enjoyed tea or coffee, sausage rolls and cake with members of the regular congregation.

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## I CHOOSE FREEDOM



At the 9:30 Eucharist on 28 January we were pleased to welcome the Chair of the Trustees of *I Choose Freedom*, Sally Stimpson, who gave an interesting and informative talk on the work of this Surrey-based charity who provide refuge accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse. Sophie Colletti, their Fundraising and Support manager writes below about the work of this important charity.

We have three communal refuges that provide support for 30 women and up to 60 children. We also have eight self-contained refuge accommodation properties. These are for anyone who has a barrier to accessing single sex shared accommodation. This can include male victims, victims from the LGBTQ+ community and older victims who may not feel comfortable in shared accommodation with children. Six of these properties are for single people and two properties support victims with their children.

The aim of the organisation is to provide advocacy and support to victims of domestic abuse to ensure they can move on to safe secure accommodation and live a life free from abuse.

On arrival at refuge everyone receives a Welcome Pack. This pack is all brand new and when they leave refuge it is theirs to take with them to help set up in their new home. The pack contains a food parcel, toiletries, bedding, kitchen equipment and toys for the children.

They live with us for around six months. Each resident has a key worker who draws up a support plan with them, identifying and meeting their individual needs. This can include liaising with police, children services, courts, accessing health, housing, and counselling support.

The children are also supported by a children's advocate. The children have come from a home life full of fear and unpredictability. Therefore, we endeavour to create routine, structure, warmth, and safety as soon as possible. Supporting them to begin to feel safe in their surroundings and find reassurance in knowing what to expect that day and week. Welcoming play sessions and fun activities are put on. We celebrate birthdays and religious celebrations. Trips out to various places in the holidays. Play or art therapy is provided by qualified therapists, in a safe place dedicated for therapy within each refuge.

What's different about us is that we are not telling people what to do, we are enabling and empowering victims to rebuild their own lives using their own strengths and skills.

If you would like to support *I Choose Freedom* please contact us at [info@ichoosefreedom.co.uk](mailto:info@ichoosefreedom.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.ichoosefreedom.co.uk](http://www.ichoosefreedom.co.uk).

## EASTER FLOWERS & LILIES



As I write this the sun is shining brightly, the sky is the brightest of blues. Whilst the morning frosts are still here, the snowdrops and daffodils are poking through and the birds are already looking for places to build their nests. As we can look forward to spring, and flowers, buds on the shrubs and trees, these all remind us of the gift of the circle of life. Fresh flowers in church are a popular way of celebrating this season of regeneration.

Easter is early this year and it would be wonderful to be able to celebrate it with a full display of flowers in church once again.

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

Cash is preferred, either give to Lucy, Sybil or the church wardens, in an envelope on a Sunday, or you can make a donation by online transfer to the St Marys Flower Arrangers account (please request details from the above email address). **The closing date for lilies is Friday 15 March** and don't forget to say how many lilies you would like and to whom they are in memory of. **A notice is put up on Easter Saturday by the font with your loved ones' names.**

Thank you to the many of you who have given generously towards the flowers in the last year at St Marys. It is so very much appreciated, especially as the cost of flowers has risen considerably in recent times.

LM

## SMILE LINES

My wife calls me the computer. I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

Lenora, 95-years-old and in excellent health, confided that she was terribly worried: "Every one of my friends has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!"



## THE ASIAN HORNET IS INVADING ENGLAND!

The Asian Hornet is a danger to the biodiversity of our flora and fauna because its diet is heavily dependent on eating pollinators such as bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and other insects. Asian Hornets from a single nest can consume up to 100,000 pollinators each year. The loss of pollinators is known to have affected the biodiversity in some regions of France. In the UK, a reduction in the number of pollinators will affect the pollination of fruit and some vegetable plants. With fewer flying insects there will be less food for the bird population. A single Asian Hornet can eat between 20 and 50 honey bees every day which can lead to the destruction of a colony of bees in a hive.

For the invasion to be repulsed it is very much up to everyone to look out for the Asian Hornet and if seen inform the Non-Native Species Directorate at DEFRA whose role is to coordinate the locating and the destruction of hornets' nests.

With spring emerging and temperatures rising, the Asian Hornet Queens, which have survived hibernation this winter will begin to emerge and start forming new colonies. The nests are mostly built in trees, but also in hedges and even outbuildings. Initially a queen will build a small primary nest, very

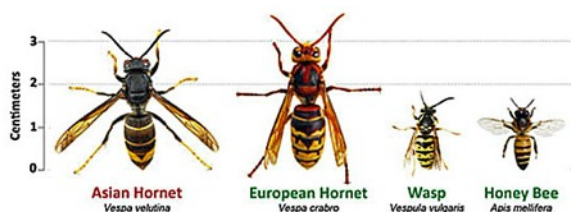


similar in appearance to a wasp's nest with an entrance at its underside. Later in the year the queen and her workers will build a much larger secondary nest, as seen in the picture, with multiple entrances around its sides. These

nests are grey/brown in colour. Winter and spring are the ideal time of year to spot the nests used the previous year as the trees will be bare of leaves. The secondary nests can be as large as a football. Nests should not be approached but reported to the authorities. Asian Hornets are known to attack those who approach or interfere with their nests.

The first nest to be found and destroyed in the UK was in Tetbury in 2016. Since then only a few nests have been found and destroyed; however, in 2023 73 nests were destroyed in 47 locations, mostly in the south and southeast. The nearest nest to St Marys being in Oxted where two nests were destroyed in September 2023. The first Asian Hornet in Europe was found in 2004 in France, it was thought to have been imported in a consignment of pottery from China. Since then, it has established in Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and in 2016 Jersey. In Jersey 335 nests were destroyed during 2023. In France there are now believed to be 500,000 nests. The Asian Hornets are prolific breeders and have no predators in the UK and Europe.

Most Asian Hornet nests have been found around the Kent coastline and its environs. Some may fly across the channel whereas others may hitch-hike a lift on ferries and merchant vessels.



The Asian Hornet can be distinguished from the European Hornet by its yellow legs which can be seen in the photo.

Please be vigilant, if you think you have seen an Asian hornet, please notify the Great British Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) immediately. In the first instance sightings

should be reported through the free **Asian Hornet Watch App**, available for Android and iPhone.

Other methods of reporting the hornet include using the NNSS online Notification form [https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian\\_hornet](https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian_hornet) or you can send any suspect sightings to the Non Native Species email address [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk).

Be prepared and please load the **Asian Hornet Watch App** on your smart phones and remember 'See it', 'Snap it', 'App it'.

*Derek Dowle*

## VISIT TO ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Do you ever find yourself too busy to visit those great places you have always wanted to see, either for the first time ever or after many years, but somehow never seem to get round to going? If you do, you will understand why the recent offer by James Little to the congregation at St Mary's was so welcome.

Apart from being a member of the congregation James is also a volunteer guide at St Paul's Cathedral. Volunteers have an allocation of up to 20 free tickets a year for friends and James offered his places for 2024 to St Mary's parishioners. On 16 January about 20 of us travelled up to London to meet James and his wife Cathy in the crypt of St Paul's for our visit. There is so much to see that you could spend a year visiting and still not know everything - it was a wonder to us all as to how James could know so much.

The visit started with a tour of the crypt itself. The first Cathedral was built in 604 AD. It was amazing to learn and difficult to believe that the medieval cathedral (the fourth St Paul's), destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, was even bigger than the huge building that we see today. We learnt how Christopher Wren, the architect of the building, when in his seventies was hauled up in a basket to inspect the final works on the dome several hundred feet above ground! We were reminded of the curious fact that St Paul's has never been called 'London Cathedral.' The tombs and memorials in the crypt, with James making sure we did not miss anything, were a history lesson in themselves - Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, Sir Christopher Wren. In the spot known as 'Painters' Corner' the tombs of many great artists - including the pre-Raphaelite Holman-Hunt who painted 'The Light of the World,' a copy of which we have in our own church. Millais, who painted Ophelia whilst staying with Holman-Hunt in Ewell, is also buried there.

You will have seen St Paul's on television many times but it is fabulous to see it for real. It is every bit as impressive as you would expect.

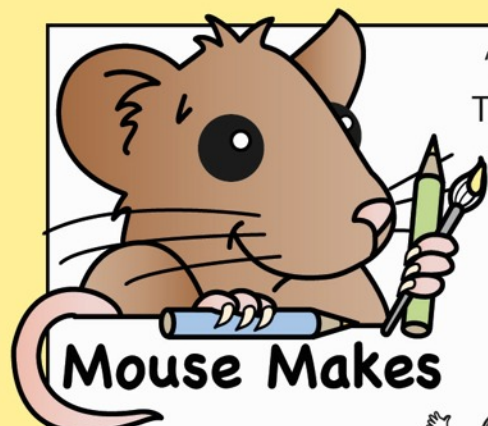
The American Chapel at the far east end of the building is very moving. The names of over 28,000 American servicemen who died in the Second World War operating out of Britain are inscribed in a Roll of Honour. We learnt that even today American visitors come to see the names of their relations in the book.

Behind the scenes - not generally open to the public - we saw the Dean's or 'Harry Potter Staircase' - but did not climb the 528 steps to the Golden Gallery! Tom Cruise has also used this staircase in two Mission Impossible films.

James had arranged reserved seats for us in the choir stalls so we could attend choral evensong. We felt rather special and St Mary's even got a name check in the welcoming remarks of the priest taking the service.

All in all a fascinating visit - and all our thanks to James.

*HR*



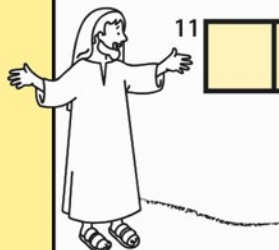
*Matthew 21:1-11*

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



*Matthew 26:17-29*

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



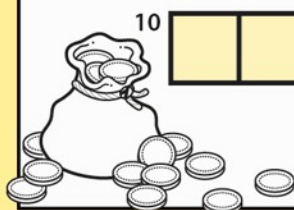
*Matthew 26:36-75*

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



*Matthew 26:14-16*

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live  
even though they die."

*John 1:25*

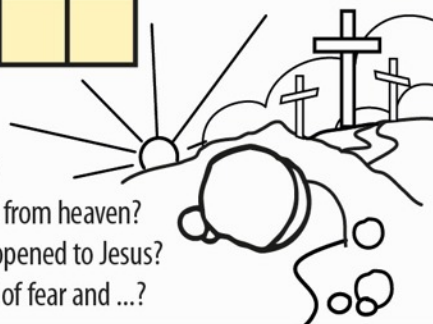


READ the Bible  
passages to find  
the answers to the  
crossword clues



*Matthew 27:27-61*

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?



*Matthew 28:1-10*

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



## BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP



Do you know about the Bible Reading Fellowship?

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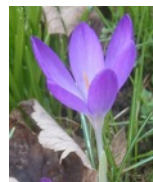
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# Calendar for March



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

- S 02 1430-1600 Messy Church Goes Wild
- S 03 **LENT 3**  
0800 Said Holy Communion - 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1430 **Toy Story** (Ewell's Community Cinema - in Church)
- T 05 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1305 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital
- W 06 1930 for 2000 Lent Gathering (Parish Room)
- Th 07 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)  
1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 10 **LENT 4 - MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1115 Choral Mattins
- T 12 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1930 PCC Meeting (Parish Room)
- W 13 1930 for 2000 Lent Gathering (Parish Room)
- Th 14 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
- S 16 1930 Ripieno Choir (in Church)
- S 17 **LENT 5**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1730 Choral Evensong
- T 19 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 20 1930 for 2000 Lent Gathering (Parish Room)
- Th 21 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)  
1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)  
2000 Quiz on Zoom
- S 23 1930 Viols & Voice Concert with Susan de Oliveira
- S 24 **PALM SUNDAY (with Passion Reading)**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 25 2000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- T 26 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
2000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 27 2000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- Th 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
2000 Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper
- F 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**  
0800 Mass of the Pre-Sanctified  
1100 Children & Families Stations of the Cross  
1200-1500 Three hours at the foot of the Cross  
1400 Service of Veneration of the Cross
- S 30 **HOLY SATURDAY**  
2030 Easter Vigil & Service of Light
- S 31 **EASTER DAY**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1115 Family Easter Worship incl. JAM  
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt  
1200 Bring-your-own Parish Picnic at the Vicarage

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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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**OBSERVATIONS FOR LENT**

The shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. - Anon

People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are. - Anon

Fight truth decay - study the Bible daily. - Anon