



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 616

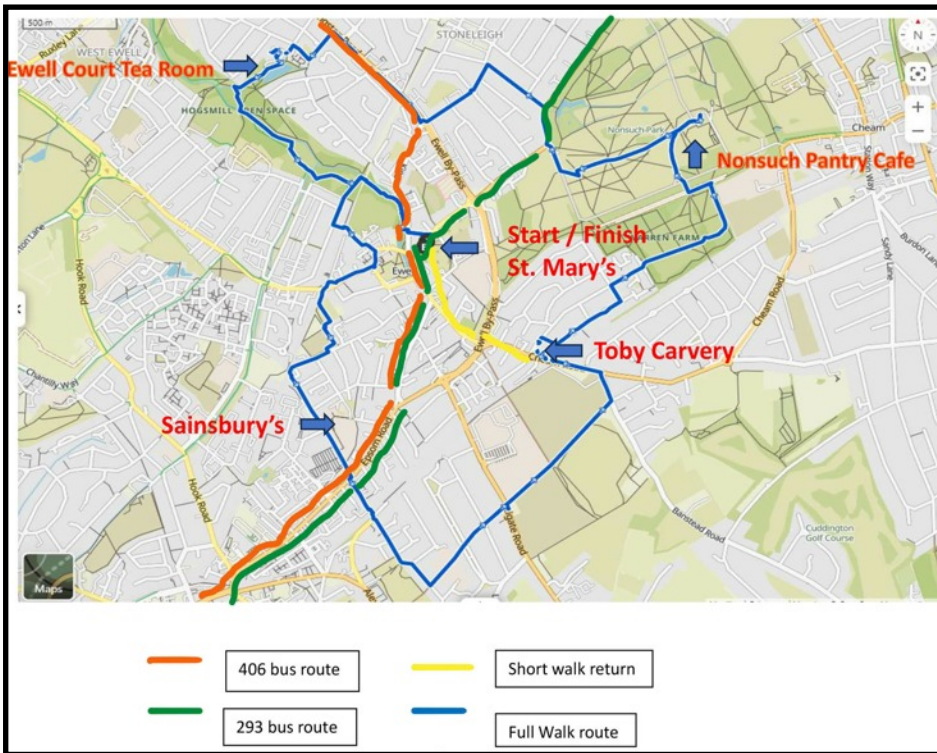
May 2024

60p



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

BEATING THE BOUNDS 5 MAY 2024



Join us on Sunday 5 May as we 'Beat the Bounds'. We will be leaving from the church after the 9.30 service to walk and 'beat' our parish boundary. The full walk is about 8.5 miles but there is a shorter version of 4.5 miles. See Fr.Mark's letter on page 3. You can download the above map and full walk instructions from our website at :

<https://www.stmarysewell.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Beating-the-Bounds-walk-instructions-map-TP-20240305.pdf>

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Fr Mark Stafford writes

I am part of the generation who were in school as computers began to become a reality. We did an 'O' level in computer science which mostly consisted of colouring in boxes on punch cards with a graphite pencil or stamping holes in ticker tape, dialling up a main frame computer at a local bank, dropping the receiver into a modem and hoping that you would get a signal while running the tape through a reader to run your brilliant binary program. At university in my final year, I bought a computer, an Amstrad 1512, no more handwritten essays for me!

How things have moved on. Today the world would be a much slower place without the internet, Apple, Google and co. We are now an online generation, we shop, date, communicate and commiserate online.

There are a lot of negative things said about the internet and to some degree it is the new wild west, the deep web in an unpoliceable underworld inhabited by the anonymous. That said, the web is a fantastic place too, through it we can virtually meet, communicate with others around the world, trade and be entertained and educated.

During lockdown the web played a massive part in enabling us to carry on with life. We worked from home, had online services, sent out online collective worship to our schools and to children home schooling, facetimes and Zoomed family and friends and of course wasted hours on eBay looking at bits for MGs and books we had always meant to read.

Lockdown was for many, including me, a catalyst to learning new skills and ways to communicate. These skills are of benefit to us post lock down, as our Church quiz is testament to.

During lockdown we were forced to reduce physical meetings, not permitted to attend the office, or even Church at times, and therefore had to reduce travel, resulting in more time at home, better air quality and a chance for the planet to catch its breath.

The month of May has been designated as "No Mow May".

According to "Plant Life", the organisers of No Mow May, we have lost nearly 97% of flower-rich meadows since the 1930's and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators, like bees and butterflies. As I am sure you have all heard our life is dependent on bees and other pollinators. When God created, He created not just us, but a whole eco system that when in balance works in perfect harmony to sustain all life, however when that balance is disrupted the whole system starts to creak and groan. As we are told in Romans, the whole of creation groans for the salvation of God!! Ecology is without doubt a theological issue and one, a little like the proverbial nettle, we need to grasp!

So, as a Church, as individual Christians, how can we help? Again, Plant Life have shared that a healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. Best of all, to reap these benefits all you have to do is not mow your lawn in May and beyond!

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com
Registered Charity Number 1128409

CLERGY

Vicar: Fr Mark Stafford 020 8393 1297
Email: vicar@stmarysewell.com
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Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE; 020 8337 6347; Email: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com
Day off: Wednesday

READER

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Day-to day financial queries
Donna and David Boosey 07791 993261;
Email: financeteam@stmarysewell.com

Stewardship Recorder

Mrs Sarah Holmes;
Email: plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com

Private Prayer

The Church can be opened for private prayer on request - please contact Fr. Mark on 020 8393 1297

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)
Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.
The Parish Office is on the south side of the church.
Office hours are normally 9.30-12.00 Mon, Wed and Fri and 9:30-11.00 on Tues, but please check before visiting as appointments are usually needed.

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So not only can we help the planet, by not mowing in May, we also get a month off from pushing the mower up and down, which for us at the Vicarage means we gain an extra 2 hours a week, to do something else, it's a win-win situation!

If you are worried about the comments made by the neighbours, archdeacon or other family members why not make a sign to go in the garden explaining that you are participating in No Mow May? You never know this might encourage others to do the same.

The thing we need to remember with the current environmental situation is that we all need to be doing something if the balance in God's creation is to be restored. There is no plan Bee! And once the pollinators have exited stage left, they will not be returning for an encore!

If you would like to know more about No Mow May please look at
<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

Or if you would like to know more about our Church's Eco Group, please have a chat with Fr Mark.

WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

Bereavement café Thursday 2 May and Thursday 16 May 2:45pm – 3:45pm in Ewell Hall (opposite the Church). Bereavement Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. Bereavement Café is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement, and find mutual support and encouragement, when you need it most.

Spring Market We will be holding our annual Spring Market on Saturday 4 May. This popular event is well known for its wide variety of bedding plants and homemade cakes. There will also be bric-a-brac and books for your perusal. Tea and coffee will be available. The sale will be held between 10.00am and 12.00 noon in Ewell Hall, London Road, Ewell, opposite the Church. Admission is free, and all are welcome!

Messy Church goes Wild! Come and join us on Saturday 4 May at 2:30 in the parish room for our family friendly Eco Church. Action songs, Bible stories, craft activities, snacks and much much more!

Beating the bounds 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.

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 4.5 miles. You can see the full and the shorter routes on the map on the front page.

If you are interested please add your name on the sheet at the back of Church or talk to Fr Mark or Tim Price.

Parish retreat Saturday 11 May: Taking time out is good for your well-being! Treat yourself to a day reading, reflecting, being creative, chatting or simply being, indoors or outdoors (weather permitting). Venue: The Abbey House, Chertsey KT16 8RJ. Time: 10am to 4pm or come when you can. Bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits available through the day. There is no cost, but donations are welcome (around £5-£10.) Information is on the church website at <https://www.stmarysewell.com/st-marys-parish-retreat-11-may-2024/> and on EPN page 9. Please sign the list at the back of church if you'd like to come and indicate if you would like a lift, or contact Sue Ayling

Church APCM - 12 May after 9:30 Service

Lunchtime Bach Tuesday recital 14 May – Come and join us for our Lunchtime Bach Tuesday recital from 1.05pm – 1.35pm featuring the major Preludes and Fugues. Tea, coffee and refreshments to follow.

Boys' night out Fancy a noggin and a natter? Meet at the Wheatsheaf on Wednesday 15 May at 7:30pm.

A Celebration of French Organ music May 18 at 7.30pm – A Celebration of French Organ music, featuring the rare Widor Symphonie VII and Dupré Symphonie II with Jonathan Holmes (organ)

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

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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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERALS

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

11 April Brenda Margaret Philbrick, aged 88

Ashes interment

5 April Valerie Anne Orr, aged 69

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, originally planned for May, will now be in June. It will be our 50th quiz. Details will be available nearer the time

APRIL BRAIN TEASER SOLUTION

If the letters A, B and C each represent a different digit, what is the smallest possible value of the 3 digit number ABC divided by the sum of the three digits

$$ABC/(A+B+C) \text{ ?}$$

Solution A=0, B=1, C=9

$$ABC/(A+B+C) = 019/(0+1+9) = 1.9$$

MAY CONCERTS

14 May 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Jonathan Holmes continues his Bach lunchtime series

18 May April 7.30 pm

A Celebration of French Organ music

Featuring the rare Widor Symphonie VII and Dupré Symphonie II with Jonathan Holmes (organ).

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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- Craft, activity and art classes
- Exercise and meditation classes
- Children's parties and activities
- Business meetings and events
- Musical events and dances
- Lunches, teas and dinners, etc

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Ewell Hall is Managed for the Community under the Trusteeship of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Ewell, Registered Charity No 1128409

A Prayer for Pentecost



Come, Holy Spirit, come and make your dwelling within each one of us. Fill us with love for the whole of your creation. As we see the beauty of trees and plants all around us springing back to life, more than ever, awake in us a thirst and energy to work tirelessly to maintain the world as you would wish it to be. Help us to find ways to use earth's resources wisely and to find a path to good, sustainable living in peace and harmony with all that populates this world, both humankind and all living things around us.

Come, Holy Spirit, be our guide through life in good times and the not so good times. Today, we pray that through the darkness felt by so many war-torn countries today, your Holy Spirit may give courage and comfort to those who are displaced by war, forced to travel as refugees to a foreign country. Come, Holy Spirit, make us alive to the needs of all those who are so desperately in need, and give us the strength to be instruments of your healing and caring.

Lord, through your Holy Spirit, help me to truly think about the words that I pray. Help me to mean the words that I pray. Help me to live the words that I pray.

AMEN

EASYFUNDRAISING FOR ST. MARY'S

Do you make on-line purchases from on-line retailers and if so do you know about Easyfundraising?

More than 8000 on-line retailers (including Argos, John Lewis, Booking.com, British Airways, Tui, Expedia, Sainsburys and Tesco) offer charitable donations through **Easyfundraising**, for purchases made via their website. Presently St Mary's has 37 people signed up to Easyfundraising and we have received £1168 in charitable donations from their purchases.

We can raise much more if more people register and shop via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Please select **St Mary the Virgin Parish Church - Ewell** as your nominated charity and remember to make purchases via the EasyFundraising website. Thank you!

A MUSICAL TOUR OF RENAISSANCE EUROPE

Maeldune Consort: Susana de Oliveira – soprano, percussion; Kate Jackson – viol, recorder; Helen Williams – viol, alto; Sue Benson – viol, alto and Christopher Benson - viol, bass

On March 23 we welcomed Susana and her colleagues of Maeldune Consort. Susana is a member of our Choir. She and Christopher introduced the Consort, describing the music, the composers (when known) and their musical instruments. The church's acoustic proves to be ideal for their music-making.

Firstly, what is Renaissance music? Renaissance came about in Europe in the 15th century as a reaction to the dominating role of the Church. It cultivated Humanism, looking back to Greek civilisation for its models, including music. Perhaps inevitably, it led to the Reformation in the Church which was to play a major part in music. A number of factors characterise Renaissance music: dance rhythms predominate, as we heard tonight; another is polyphony. That is, the interweaving of melodic lines. The leading exponent of polyphony, before J.S. Bach, is undoubtedly **Josquin des Prez** whom we shall meet later.

One has to admire the resilience of these humble musicians. At that time, the only way for a musician to obtain work, apart from in the Church, was to seek royal patronage. Consequently, whenever a noble wished to travel, his musicians went with him. One such musician is **Juan Vasquez** who went from Badajoz to Madrid and eventually Seville. **Juan de Encina** went further, to the Vatican at Rome. A Portuguese contemporary, blind from birth, was **Antonio de Cabezon**. He ended up in England in the service of King Philip of Spain (consort of Queen Mary).

Some composers travelled in the reverse direction. **Jacques Arcadelt** who came from Namur in what is now Belgium but worked at the Vatican, subsequently moving back to France.

Flemish composers also travelled widely. **Nicholas Gombert** worked for the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. **Loyset Compere** whose music is lighter and more melodic than his contemporaries, worked in Milan before moving back to Flanders.

What is now Germany, at that time consisted of semi-autonomous principalities some of which had a Protestant ruler, others a Catholic one. **Ludwig Senfl** came from Switzerland and produced many sacred and secular songs. **Georg Rhaw** (or Rhau) was an ardent supporter of the Reformation. **Jacob Obrecht** worked in Italy as well as Flanders.

Mention of Flanders suggests a man who was probably the leading composer of the time - **Josquin des Prez** who lived from about 1450 to 1521. His services were in demand by the powerful Sforza family in Milan. Josquin even worked at the court of the forward-thinking King Matyas Corvinus of Hungary.

English composers, owing primarily to religious constraints, did not travel widely. One who did travel was the lutenist **John Dowland** whose career was severely affected by his decision to convert to Roman Catholicism. The names of **William Byrd** and **Thomas Tallis** are familiar to us from their sacred music. That may lead to a slightly misleading impression. Both are capable of songs of a distinctly secular nature as well as instrumental pieces. **William Cornysh** and **Michael East** also combined sacred and secular music. **Dowland**, too, wrote for instruments as well as songs; it was his "Now, O now, I needs must part" which made a suitably poignant farewell.

THE WHEATSHEAF EWELL VILLAGE

BOYS NIGHT OUT

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

COME AND JOIN US FOR A PINT OR TWO
AND A CHANCE TO CATCH UP

**Wednesday 15th
May from 7:30pm**



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, May 4

2.30pm - 4.00pm

We start in the Parish Room before heading outside if the weather is kind to us. This month's story is -

'The great catch of fish!'

ALL WELCOME!

MAMMA MIA 2



Once again St Mary's, Ewell was full of people dancing and singing at the top of their voices. The showing of Mamma Mia 2 may not have been quite as busy as our showing of the original, but our visitors made every effort to dress up, sing and there was a great deal of dancing in the aisles. Many who had missed the last Mamma Mia event were surprised to find the vicar resplendent in multi-colour suit and long wig - who says vicars are boring?! A fair amount of prosecco was consumed and many asked when our next film event was planned. We have plans afoot for Moulin Rouge, The Greatest Showman and Bohemian Rhapsody so watch this space!

LS

EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK

Our local foodbank relies on your goodwill and support. Your food donations are vital - please help if you can.

Urgently needed: UHT milk, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned fruit, tinned meals (pie, curry etc.), tinned soup, sponge/rice puddings, coffee, long-life juice, pasta sauces, tinned vegetables, jam, toilet roll, shampoo, shaving gel, cleaning products and laundry detergent pods

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked: tea bags and pet 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.

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

ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP



This month's ECO tips are taken from '52 ECO Top Tips Years 1 and 2' which can be downloaded from the website of the Leeds Diocese at

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/resource/eco-tips-for-your-weekly-parish-newsletter/>.

May – In the utility room

When using a washing machine ensure there is a full load and turn down the temperature. Heating the water to higher temperatures uses more energy.

Electric tumble dryers use energy. If it's a nice day dry your clothes outside. In the winter most drying is done by the wind, so check the forecast for wind days and nights as you can hang washing overnight (as there is no dew in the winter).

Irons use a lot of electricity to get hot – only iron clothes that really need it.

Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as clothes for cleaning jobs rather than buying new cleaning clothes.

May - Holiday highlights

Have a "staycation" or use public transport to travel abroad. A return flight to Greece emits 1 tonne CO₂e – your whole 2019 reduction target!

Think twice before you book a cruise: the environmental impact is greater than a flight with CO₂e emissions of 640g per person per mile.

If you are staying away choose your hotel carefully. Depending on the level of luxury, meat served, food wasted, energy wasted with excess heating etc your night could cost you 3 to 60kg CO₂e per person per night.

Slow down and relax on: Drive at 60mph on the motorway and 50mph on main roads and save 10% on fuel and CO₂e emissions.

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.



GARDEN PARTY SAVE THE DATE

The next garden party organised by our Social Committee will be held in the Vicarage Garden on **Saturday 22 June** from 2.30 to 4.30 pm.

Do join us to enjoy a delicious cream tea.

Tickets cost £5 and will be on sale in church from the middle of May.

E V F EWELL VILLAGE FAIR Saturday 13 July 2024

We have had our 2nd planning meeting, and the organisation is going well. The Army are having a D-Day Landings display with a Land Rover on show. The Army Band will be stopping on their way to Bourne Hall to play a few songs for us. The usual BBQ will be fully stocked as will the Bar! Punch and Judy have been booked and will give three performances during the day. The Morris Men have confirmed their attendance in the morning and the afternoon.

We are hoping to have school choirs perform for us, as well as St Mary's Choir and hopefully our Organ Scholar and some local young musicians.

The Bishop of Guildford, The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell plus our MP will also be in attendance.

Lots of help is still required for this event - thanks to those who have already volunteered. If you are interested in helping, please contact me on fair@stmarysewell.com or let Fr Mark know.

Please save the date and hopefully the sun will shine for us this year.

Many thanks

*Harvey Morris
Chair of the Fair Committee*

EXPLORING PRAYER

As Christians we are accustomed to prayer but could we be more adventurous and imaginative in how we pray? During Lent a group of us met weekly to explore ways in which we can pray. The first week we looked at what prayer is and considered different types of prayer such as adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication. Also, the Bible can be a wonderful companion to prayer, one of the most popular methods being lectio divina (holy reading) which involves reading a passage, reflecting upon it and then responding with prayer to those words or phrases that especially made an impression.

The second week was devoted to Ignatian Spirituality which involves praying using our imagination and all our senses of sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste, immersing ourselves in the Gospel stories. It is a living, personal encounter with Jesus and a profound way of praying, responding with our emotions. Ignation meditation is named after St Ignatius of Loyola, famous for his Spiritual Exercises and founder of the Jesuits.

Week three considered praying in the community. We never really pray alone because at any given moment there are millions of people praying around the world. We bring to mind religious communities praying for the world and on behalf of the world. Their common prayer is called the Divine Office, or Liturgy of the Hours, and the Anglican services of Morning and Evening Prayer are a residual form of the seven daily services of monastic communities. The prayer comes mainly from Sacred Scripture. The Bible is God's word to us and if read in prayer we will find what it actually has to say to us.

Week four showed us how to pray using our emotions by praying the Franciscan way. As Christians we have all been touched by the Holy Spirit and so should be passionate about our faith, as was St Francis of Assisi, who opened his eyes wide to gaze upon God and on his world. Pray outdoors engaging with the natural world and look on in wonder! St Francis taught us how to be emotionally aware but how afraid are we in showing our emotions in Church?

The last meeting took us into praying the Celtic way in our everyday lives whereby God's presence is woven into the very fabric of our lives and there is no division between secular and sacred. God is in every activity we undertake, however mundane. We thought about how we could consciously say a prayer acknowledging God's presence before embarking upon such tasks. We looked at the Celtic knot (The Infinite Knot) which has no beginning and no end and reflects the Celt's belief in the God of eternity.

It is easy for us to take prayer for granted, it is so familiar to us, but these sessions were valuable in expanding our horizons and inspiring us to consider additional methods to broaden our prayer lives. Many thanks to Mark and Sue for imparting their wisdom and knowledge to us in what was an excellent series of Lent gatherings.

Recommended book to complement the sessions was "How to Pray" by John Pritchard.

AGT

SPRING MARKET

Our ever-popular Spring Market will be held on Saturday 4 May between 10.00am and 12 noon in Ewell Hall.

Admission is free and all are welcome. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available for your mid-morning break and there will be an extensive selection of plants, cakes, books, toys, games and bric-a-brac on sale.

Donations of home-made cakes are always welcome. Donations for any of the other stalls will also be welcome. Non-perishable contributions for the stalls can be left in church from Sunday 21 April. Any other items for sale can be brought to Ewell Hall on Friday 3 May between 2pm and 5pm or from 8.30am on the day. Alternatively a list of stallholders is shown below to enable specific arrangements to be made.

There will be a **raffle** – for which any donations will be gratefully received.

We look forward to welcoming you, along with your family and friends, to enjoy this social occasion.

All proceeds from this event are put towards the running expenses of the Ewell Village Fair which is to be held on 13 July.

Plants	Gillian Reynolds	020 8393 3752
Cakes	Sybil Hale	0208 393 3507
Bric-a-brac	Gillian Merrick	07817 566562
Books	Geoff Fisher	01372 720241
Refreshments	Rosemarie Henson	0208 224 2713
Raffle	Gill Bird	01372 277436

JULIAN OF NORWICH

Julian of Norwich was born in 1342 and wrote at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

We know little about Julian's early life, but when she was 30, she fell ill and was near death when suddenly her pain left her, and she received 16 visitations. Julian wrote these down, in what became known as the 'short text'. 20 years later she extended this to become her 'long text'.

She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her little 'cell'.

Julian taught that all things depend upon the love of God for their being. Her spirituality was focussed on the cross, and she wanted to share the sufferings of Christ. She believed that humanity is separated from God by sin, but redeemed through Christ, who reunites us with God. Julian also emphasised Christ as mother, but within a clear Trinitarian understanding of the godhead.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that it is still read by many thousands of Christians today. One of the notable features is that her theology determined her experience, rather than the other way round.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN OUR PARISH RETREAT ON 11 MAY



Come and enjoy a day away from your usual routine - just half an hour's drive away, with favourable traffic. Our venue is a large Georgian house, with a comfortable sitting room, a dining room, a TV room, a garden room and a quiet room. The house has a large walled garden with plenty of seats and is a member of the Quiet Garden Movement.

You may wish to come along to enjoy the company of other members of St Mary's or to take time out on your own. The day is for you to do as you choose - to read and reflect, to chat, to be creative or to enjoy some peace and quiet in the garden, very conscious of the beauty of God's creation. There will be books to borrow, (though you may wish to bring a book of your choice), a craft activity, a puzzle and a discussion group. You may wish to bring a Bible and a notebook. You can be inside or outside depending on the weather and on your inclination.

The (optional) programme for the day will be –

- 10am to 10.30am Arrivals and coffee or tea, biscuits.
- 10.30am to 10.40am A short said service of Opening Worship
- 10.40am to noon Your choice
- Noon A said Holy Communion service
- 1pm to 2pm Lunch **Bring your own lunch**
- 2pm to 3.30pm Your choice
- 3.30pm to 3.40pm A short said service of Going Out Worship
- 3.40pm to 4pm Tea and cake and departures home.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available through the day. There is no charge for the day but donations are welcome. (The suggested donation is between £5-£10 to help with the running costs of the house.)

The address is The Abbey, Colonel's Lane, Chertsey KT16 8RJ. There is plenty of parking. Lifts are available. Please sign the list at the back of church if you hope to come or email assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com. Please indicate if you would like a lift.

Any questions to Sue Ayling (020 8337 6347 or assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com).

Hoping you can come for all or part of the day

OPEN DOORS



At the 9:30 Eucharist on Passion Sunday we were pleased to welcome Rosalyn Holiday who give a thought provoking presentation in the sermon slot. Rosalyn spoke about the work of Open Doors and writes below about the formation and work of this amazing Christian charity.

In July 1955, a 20-something Dutchman called Andrew went to the

Communist youth congress in Poland. Behind the Iron Curtain, Andrew was shocked to see a generation of young people captivated by Communism and knowing nothing about Christ. He encountered the persecuted church first hand and discovered churches desperately in need of Bibles, support, and prayer. Above all, he found a group of Christians who felt isolated and alone and who thought the rest of the world had forgotten them.

At the end of the trip, watching many thousands of delegates to the Youth Congress marching in a parade, Brother Andrew prayed about what God wanted him to do. He opened his Bible and found the passage which he came to see as a mission: "Wake Up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die." Revelation 3:2

Over time others joined Brother Andrew, a network grew smuggling Bibles to believers in Communist countries. And today, Brother Andrew's small Dutch mission has become an international ministry working in more than 60 nations to strengthen the Persecuted Church – Open Doors.

Today, Open Doors has several main strands to its work: preparing a World Watch List; advocacy amongst governments and agencies around the world; supporting the persecuted church practically; praying for the persecuted church that it will be strengthened, grow and survive; encouraging the Western church to support our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Almost unbelievably, the church in these persecuted countries, areas and regions is growing. In the midst of the darkness, fear, death and destruction, God is building His church, and the number of Christians is increasing. Equally unbelievably, these persecuted Christians do not ask us to pray for their persecution to stop. They ask us to pray that they can withstand, grow deeper in the Lord, and help to grow His church.

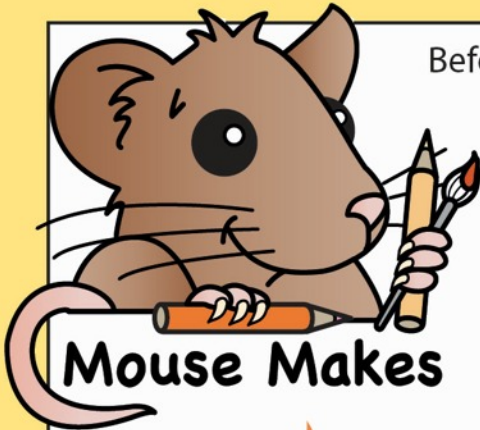
They are so blessed by knowing that they are not forgotten and that we are praying for them and supporting them financially. They want you to know that they really appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Last year, Open Doors distributed bibles and Christian literature to 1,695,244 people. We gave biblical training to 3,269,362 people, and 597,733 people received socio-economic support.

We invite you to also be part of this exciting work. You can do this by praying - we have a number of resources online or you can request a paper copy of our prayer diary and monthly magazine (www.opendoors.org/resources/prayer/); giving financially – you can also find details of how to give either regularly or a one-off gift on our website; spreading the word by talking to others about the work of Open Doors.

This is our website - www.opendoors.org

Thank you.
Rosalyn Holiday



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."



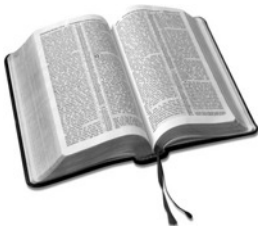
READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*

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.

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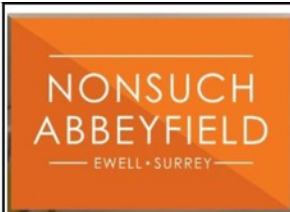


The Greenwood Family are directly involved in the running of the Company, ensuring that your wishes are carried out with the utmost dignity and precise attention to detail.

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'...giving to anyone who has need.'

St Mary's is part of the ACTS435 network of Churches. ACTS435 is a Christian online giving charity that anonymously connects those who want to give with those who are in need of their help, through a network of local churches and charities. Please visit the web site below to help explain how ACTS435 works or speak to Fr Mark.

www.acts435.org.uk/our-mission/how-we-work/

Calendar for May



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

- Th 02 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
- 1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 04 1000-1200 Spring Market (Hall)
- 1430 Messy Church Goes Wild
- S 05 EASTER 6 (Rogation Sunday)**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion - 1662 (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- 1100 Beating the Bounds
- T 07 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 1930 Ewell Village Fair Meeting (Parish Room)
- Th 09 ASCENSION DAY**
- 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
- 2000 Holy Communion for Ascensiontide
- S 11 1000-1600 Parish Retreat, The Abbey, Chertsey
- S 12 EASTER 7**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- 1100 APCM and PCC Meeting
- T 14 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 1305 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital
- W 15 1930 Boys' Night Out - Wheatsheaf, Ewell
- 2000 Julian Group on Zoom
- Th 16 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
- 1445 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 18 1930 Jonathan Holmes - Celebration of French Organ Music
- S 19 PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- 1730 Choral Evensong
- T 21 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- Th 23 1000 St Mary's Toddler Group (Hall)
- S 26 TRINITY SUNDAY**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- 1115 Holy Baptism
- T 28 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

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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?

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Observations

Humility is the hallmark of wisdom. - *J Collier*

To be aware that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge. - *Anon*

The man who makes no mistakes does not normally make anything. - *Edward John Phelps*