



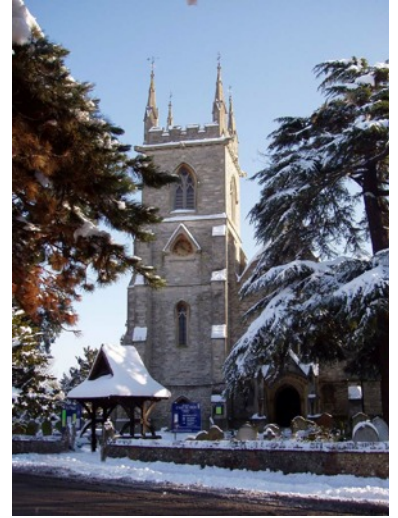
EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 624

January 2025

60p



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

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON

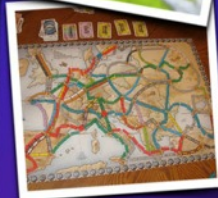
Saturday 25 January 2-5pm in Ewell Hall



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!



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Happy New Year 2025

COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: epn@stmarysewell.com. Handwritten or typed copy will only be accepted by prior agreement (call 020 8393 4804). Please do not embed photos in WORD files, but send the images separately. Copy date for the February 2025 edition is noon on Monday 13 January but if possible please send copy before this date.

Fr Mark Stafford writes

I can be a creature of habit, I can enjoy the predictability of routine, however I also rejoice in the experience of the new adventures!

Like most of us, I tend to get up at the same time, say morning prayer at the same time and have a general framework to the day and the week, and this predictable order in my life creates a stable space, and by controlling and ordering the things I know will happen, I create space for the things that I don't know will happen. But I also love change, the excitement of not knowing exactly how things will turn out, taking a punt on an idea and seeing where this will lead.

I know that for some stepping out of the usual can be stressful and difficult, it can shake the equilibrium, challenge the status quo, however, January is often the time to review, reflect and CHANGE.

January is the time for new resolution, to move from the stagnant comfort of the old and establish a new order to life, a new life that may be incorporating and adapting many of the benchmarks of the previous way of doing things by giving them new expressions, fresh hope and a renewed vitality.

In many ways change is an unavoidable part of life, we have all have to adapt our daily lives as life moves and develops. That favourite coat won't last for ever and at some point, needs to be changed, late nights at work or in clubs or at the theatre are replaced by late nights with a sick child, weekends away to exotic locations change to weekends visiting elderly parents or grandparent duties! Life demands change, and adjustment.

Life has to evolve and change, change is a significant part of our growth and development, as life moves on, we are challenged to reflect on the past, but also embrace a new future.

Change can be forced upon us, the inevitable toil of time brings certain changes, the impact of world events and political decisions create unavoidable change in our lives, the unstoppable wave of technological advancement, brings change to us, as do endless other external factors. However other change is self-imposed, and we resolve to change something in our lives for the better. For many, January is the time for this reflection, re-evaluation and reconstruction of life. I wonder how many resolved to drink less, exercise more, visit family more often, as we enter a new year?

So often by February these resolutions have no longevity, they are packed away with the Christmas decorations, not to be thought about again, until the tree is unpacked next year!

I would like to encourage you to think a little about how you could make little changes in your lives that will benefit you, but also benefit others.

This may be resolving to buy more fair-traded goods, resolving to swap your light bulbs for LED bulbs, maybe we could consider being a little more diligent with the recycling - or better still reduce our consumption, we could choose to walk or catch the bus rather than drive, support a charity- not just by giving, but by getting involved!

Let's make 2025 a year where we resolve to be kinder to the planet, and support those in need, and in doing so create a positive change.

If you need a little help getting started why not have a look at doing a personal lifestyle Eco audit and seeing what

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

Day off: Friday

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE; 020 8337 6347; Email: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com

Day off: Wednesday

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Email churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com

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Diocesan Safeguarding

Safeguarding team 01483 790379;

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Finance Officers

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

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<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/L4-Auditing-your-lifestyle.pdf>

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Epiphany party at the Vicarage – Lucy and I would love to see you at the Vicarage, 14 Church Street for a post-Christmas/ Epiphany drinks party. Come and join us on Saturday 4 January 7.00- 9.00pm for drinks and nibbles.

Bach Lunchtime Recital – We continue our highly successful programme of lunchtime Bach recitals on 7 January at 1.05pm, followed by refreshments.

Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday 12 January at 5.30pm – please come and join us in Church for a choral celebration of Epiphany with carols, readings and choral anthems followed by refreshments.

Church online quiz – Why not join us online on the evening of Wednesday 22 January at 8.00pm for our Church quiz? You will need to register in advance and you can do this using a link which will be in the Weekly Notes nearer the time or you can simply email zoom@stmarysewell.com. We would love you to join us.

Board Games afternoon – Come along to Ewell Hall on 25 January at 2.00pm for a cuppa and a slice of cake and spend the afternoon playing board games. Come as a family or come alone, all will receive a warm welcome!

Warm Hub/ Conversation Café – St Mary's Church is working in partnership with Surrey County Council and The Good Company to run a Warm Hub and Conversation Café till March, Tuesday evenings between 5.45 and 7:00pm at Ewell Hall. We provide hot food and refreshments and offer warm packs, heating vouchers and energy advice. In addition, this warm hub provides a conversation space for our refugee community to give opportunity for them to improve their conversational English. We are looking for more volunteers to help at these cafés. If you would be able to help, please speak to Fr Mark to learn more.

Do check the calendar on the back page for the full list of our services and events.

Every blessing
Fr Mark

CHRISTMAS DOOR WREATH WORKSHOP

Christmas cheer at St Marys got well underway on 7 December with two Christmas Door Wreath Workshops held in Ewell Hall along with coffee, mince pies, delicious brownies from Mavis and festive music.

Lucy demonstrated how to make a fresh foliage door wreath with plant material collected from the people's own gardens, on walks, or what she provided. They then added their own personal touches with festive accessories and were surprised and delighted how different each finished one looked. The variety of foliage used was fabulous and



sharing of foliage and ideas was also much encouraged. An added bow or even some pretty strings of lights completed the finished look.

For a group mainly comprised of beginners, the standard of wreaths produced was outstanding and lots of fun and laughter was had along the way. Many commented on how relaxing it was to do something creative like this away from the stress of preparing for Christmas. New faces were made welcome and the sessions were completed with a generous appreciation of everyone's achievements.

Lucy plans to hold another workshop next year so if you've never done one before why not have a go? Men would also be very welcome!

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AV/SOUND DESK AT ST MARY'S

We continue to seek volunteers to learn how to operate our AV/sound desk and to join the team helping with livestreaming/videos at our services.

This is a vital part of our outreach so if you think you may be able to help, please contact the churchwardens, our clergy or John Larkin.

ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES



We hold monthly on-line quizzes using Zoom

These are very popular and are fun for all the family, so why not join us?

Our next quiz is on Wednesday 22 January at 8pm

As always, you will need to register beforehand. You can use links provided in the Weekly Notes or you can register by emailing

zoom@stmarysewell.com.

Messy Church Goes Wild Follow the Star



Discover the story of the wise men's journey to find Jesus. Come and join us while we explore God's creation both indoors and outside, rain or shine, for all ages on

Saturday, January 4 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALL WELCOME

ENJOY SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



All over the world Julian groups meet regularly - usually once a month - to spend time together in silent prayer. They are named after Mother Julian of Norwich and follow her precept that the highest form of prayer consists in simply waiting on God. You can discover more about her at this website <https://www.orderofjulian.org/About-Julian>.

St Mary's monthly Julian Group meets on the third Monday of each month from 8.00 - 8.40pm via Zoom. You would be welcome to experience how we enjoy some peace and quiet by being still and quiet in God's presence. The few words that are spoken by the leader might be some words of Julian of Norwich or another spiritual writer or a Bible passage.

You'll find the dates of the Julian Group meetings in the Calendar (on the back page of EPN), but the dates for the next three months are 20 January, 17 February and 17 March. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Sue Ayling (020 8337 6347 or assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com).

JANUARY CONCERT

7 January 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Jonathan Holmes continues his Bach lunchtime series
Tuesday concerts are free with donations for the organ fund being welcome



Ewell Hall EVENTS + ACTIVITIES

A WELCOMING VENUE IN THE HEART OF EWELL*

- Family parties and celebrations
- Club, society and group meetings
- 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

* Ewell Hall, 7 London Road, Ewell KT17 2AY
(Previously known as St Mary's Church Hall)

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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

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A Prayer for January



The New Year brings a chance to reflect, reset, and refresh. Let it be a time to turn to prayer for guidance, strength, and blessing. New Year prayers are more than words; they set intentions for a hopeful future, providing clarity and encouragement. Whether you are praying for family, friends, health, success, or peace, such prayers can offer warmth and inspiration for the year ahead. Let prayer guide you into 2025, connecting you to God's love and the potential for new beginnings. Use your prayers to seek strength, joy, and purpose in all that lies ahead.

While for some, this New Year may bring a new beginning, for others, it may bring an ending. Whatever our circumstances, help us to be like those wise men who sought an earthly king but who were instead led to a humble stable and found you, the One born to bring freedom, forgiveness, and a hope of heaven. Like them, during the coming days, may we also be led to that Light, to you who opens eyes to understanding God's Word and Truth.

Thank you, Lord, for this New Year; for all the potential it holds. We know that you are always there beside us, in the good times and in the bad. We pray that whatever befalls us in the coming days, you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. **AMEN**

EWELL COMMUNITY CINEMA

Saturday evening, 24 November, was cold, very wet and blustery but still we managed to get an audience to see the film, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The rock band Queen are just brilliant (in my humble opinion) and Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury and his supporting actors did Queen proud. Although this is not a new film and many of us had seen it before, it did not fail to deliver. The songs were as great as ever and were performed with the same aplomb as the amazing Freddie. Whether the film was an accurate reconstruction of Freddie's life or whether it was recreated to appeal to the cinema audience, it certainly portrayed what a fabulously talented, but at times lonely man he was. Whilst he struggled with his sexuality, and at times relied on untrustworthy friends it was his love for his lifelong friend Mary that shone through.

On another matter, St Mary's gin seemed to be the drink of the evening and many 'doubles' were consumed. From my perspective, the film kept me gripped throughout and hearing all the great songs left me feeling uplifted.

Lucy Stafford

MORE BACH ORGAN RECITALS

27 August 24 September 15 October
Jonathan Holmes

The title *l'estro armónico* means 'harmonic whimsies' and this is the name of a set of orchestral works composed by Bach's Italian contemporary Vivaldi. When Bach came to transcribe these works for organ, he just called them by their German titles, e.g. **Concerto in D minor, BWV 590**. This was the masterpiece that opened Jonathan's recital on 27 August. Vivaldi's original title was 'Concerto in C major for two violins and orchestra'; we quickly became aware of Bach's skill in adapting this music for the organ.

Felix Mendelssohn is a name we shall meet more often. He was to play a major role in advancing Bach's reputation as a composer during the nineteenth century. The **chorale prelude Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele BWV 654** is one such piece.

The title means "Adorn yourself, O dear soul" and the idea of adornment is well illustrated in this music. The **Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542**, came about as a result of a visit young Bach paid to Hamburg. The resident organist there was famous, Johann Adam Reincken. Bach had hopes of succeeding him as organist at Hamburg. Reincken was present at Bach's recital and the great man went on to praise Bach's skill at improvisation.

A new musical term we encountered on 24 September is the **partita**. It is a term used in dance music and I expect violinists will be familiar with the word, from Bach's solo violin partitas which are famously difficult. Jonathan played a partita for keyboard, based on the chorale **O Gott, du frommer Gott, BWV 767** (O God, thou just God). It is music full of youthful enthusiasm. Some spiritual uplift came in the form of the cheerful **chorale prelude Nun Danket alle Gott, BWV 657** (Now Thank We All Our God). Dating from Bach's early years at Arnstadt, the **Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 550**, has an exuberant pedal part. The **Fantasia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 537**, put the writer in mind of the Passacaglia and Fugue in the same key. Perhaps C minor is a key that had significance for Bach.

On 15 October, we met some early and mature Bach. The stupendous opening piece, **Fantasia on Komm, heiliger Geist BWV 651** is a **chorale prelude** dating from his later years at Leipzig; the theme is that of the Holy Ghost and the German title means "Come, holy Ghost". Bach's music vividly depicts the coming of the Spirit on the disciples at Pentecost as described in Acts of the Apostles. Two more **chorale preludes** share the same text: **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 and 660**, "Come now, Saviour of the Heathen". They date from 1703 when Bach was appointed organist at the New Church at Arnstadt. The **Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 531**, displays Bach's mastery with a flamboyant pedal solo. Listening to the **Prelude and Fugue in G minor, BWV 535**, one has a distinct impression of a piece written in two halves. The Prelude sounds like a youthful work, whereas the Fugue sounds much more mature, perhaps composed years later.

TT

EPSOM & EWELL FOODBANK

Our local foodbank relies on your goodwill and support. Over 90% of the food distributed comes from donations. Your food donations are vital - please help if you can.

Urgently needed: Cooking sauces, rice pudding, packet soup, noodles, beans/pasta, ketchup/brown sauce/mayonnaise, powdered milk, long life sponge puddings, chocolate biscuits, crisps, sugar, squash, long life juice, shaving foam, tampons, loo roll and deodorant.

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked: 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 ***

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

It was:

150 years ago, on 14 Jan 1875 that Albert Schweitzer, German theologian, philosopher, physician, musicologist, writer and humanitarian, was born. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

90 years ago, on 8 Jan 1935 that Elvis Presley ('The King') was born. An American rock and roll singer, guitarist and actor, he died in 1977.

75 years ago, on 23 Jan 1950 that Israel declared Jerusalem was its capital city. Palestine also claims it as its capital.

60 years ago, on 24 Jan 1965 that Winston Churchill died. He was Prime Minister 1940-45 and again in 1955, and one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century. He won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature "for his mastery of historical and biographical description as well as for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values."

40 years ago, on 1 Jan 1985 that the first mobile phone call in the UK was made by comedian Ernie Wise. He rang Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katherine's Docks in London.

25 years ago, on 1 Jan 2000 that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K 'Millennium Bug'.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

**At the font we were marked with the
Cross on our brow, of our grace
and our calling the sign (AMR 541)**

24 November Reuben Tom Kempton
Evie Melanie Joanna Rymill

FUNERAL

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

4 November Sheila Campbell, aged 88
27 November Dennis Robert Joseph Wales,
aged 97

EPN Subscriptions in 2025

Thank you for your support of EPN during 2024.

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

For 2025 EPN copies downloaded from our website are again free, but we ask you to pay 60p per printed copy for issues collected at church.

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

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

HOW THE NEW YEAR AND RESOLUTIONS BEGAN

1 January was not always the start of a New Year. The Babylonians began their New Year on 23 March. For them, it was a logical choice, as with the arrival of Spring, crops were being planted, and a new cycle of life was beginning.

For centuries the Romans agreed with them, but they chose 1 March for New Year. It was the Romans who brought in the idea of making resolutions at New Year, mostly along the lines of acting more noble, and doing good to others.

Then in 46 BC Julius Caesar changed the Roman Empire's calendar. His new Julian calendar realigned the year to the sun, and began on 1 January. Caesar wanted to honour Janus, the two-faced god who looks backwards into the old year and forward into the new.



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP

Pen Recycling



Billions of pens are purchased and disposed of each year. Each year BIC alone sells over 8.76 billion items.

If you don't recycle pens they end up in landfill. It can take up to 10,000 years for plastic items to fully decompose depending on the type of plastic used. That's a long time to wait for the earth to clean up after us!

What can we do to help?

We often mention **TerraCycle** in our ECO tips and **TerraCycle** have combined forces with **BIC® Community Champions** to provide pen recycling. The *Writing Instruments Recycling Programme* accepts any writing instrument with the exception of wooden pencils, glue sticks, erasers, rulers and chalk. **Recyclable products include biros, ink pens, felt tips, highlighters, markers, correction fluid pots, correction tape, mechanical pencils and eraser pens.** At St Mary's we now have a box at the back of the church for you to deposit these items and we will take them to the appropriate TerraCycle collection point. **Rather than throwing out your old pens and other writing products, bring them to St. Mary's It couldn't be easier.**

What Happens to Your Old Pens?

Pen recycling works like many other recycling schemes. Once the pens are collected, TerraCycle clean everything, separate the materials and melt them down into plastic. These plastics then re-enter the supply chain to be made into other products, preventing millions of tons of waste from entering landfill.

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.

SOPHIE'S LEGACY

On Sunday November 17 at the 9:30 service, Charlotte Fairall spoke to us about Sophie's Legacy, the charity that she founded in memory of her daughter. Charlotte writes below about the charity.

Sophie's Legacy is a charity dedicated to easing the challenges faced by families with children in hospital. Founded in memory of Sophie, a remarkable young girl whose kindness and resilience inspired many, the charity works tirelessly to provide vital support to children and their families during some of life's most difficult moments. Our mission is rooted in compassion, aiming to ensure no family feels alone or unsupported while their child receives medical care.

One of the core principles of Sophie's Legacy is inclusivity. We extend our support to all children and their families in hospital, not just those affected by cancer. Whether a child is undergoing surgery, receiving treatment for a chronic illness, or facing other medical challenges, we are there to help. This broader focus ensures that families from all walks of life can benefit from the initiatives and resources we provide, spreading kindness and care where it's needed most.

Pizza Nights: A Lifeline for Families in Need Hospital stays can be emotionally and physically draining for parents. This is especially true during weekends when hospital facilities such as The Royal Marsden may be limited, leaving families with few options for meals. At Sophie's Legacy, we recognised this gap and created an initiative to address it: Pizza Nights.

Through Pizza Nights, we ensure that parents staying with their children in the hospital are fed and cared for. We provide fresh hot meals delivered directly to the hospital wards, giving parents one less thing to worry about as they focus on supporting their child. A simple pizza can be a small source of comfort in a challenging time, offering not only nourishment but also a reminder that they are not alone.

This initiative covers all families with children in hospital, not just those on cancer wards, reflecting our commitment to supporting every family in need. By purchasing a pizza night, you can make a real difference for parents who are spending long hours at their child's bedside.

How You Can Help Sophie's Legacy relies on the generosity of supporters to sustain initiatives like Pizza Nights. You can play a part in this meaningful work by visiting our website at www.sophieslegacy.co.uk/shop. There, you can purchase a pizza night for parents, ensuring they have access to food when they need it most.

Your contribution goes beyond a meal. It's a gesture of kindness that can lift the spirits of families going through one of the toughest experiences of their lives.

More Ways to Make an Impact In addition to Pizza Nights, Sophie's Legacy offers other ways to get involved, including donating, volunteering, and raising awareness about the challenges faced by families with children in hospital. Every contribution, whether time, money, or advocacy, helps us build a stronger support network for these families.

Join Sophie's Legacy Sophie's Legacy is about more than providing meals or resources-it's about creating a community of support and compassion for families in need. By joining our mission, you honour Sophie's memory and help us to achieve the wishes she so desperately wanted.

Visit www.sophieslegacy.co.uk to learn more about our work and how you can make a difference. Together, we can ensure that no family faces their child's hospital journey alone.

THANK YOU JENNY



There comes a time, when looking back over our long busy lives, we seek a chance to do some of the things we have shelved for when we have time and freedom to give to those things still on our 'bucket list'. And so it is with Jenny Dance who, after over 50 years of involvement with St Mary's Toddlers as a young mother, helper and finally in the last 12 years as co-ordinator, is retiring.

She joined Toddlers in 1972 with her year-old son. It was already a flourishing group, running in the church hall by "Aunty Jess" Whitely, started originally by a previous vicar's wife, Mrs Sadler, who invited the young mothers in the congregation to the Vicarage to play with her children. Over the years thanks to the efforts of group leaders such as Lesley P, Jayne S, Kay C, Sarah S, Dorothy B, Gilda E, Jenny and the mothers who helped set and tidy up, it became very popular for toddlers and pre-school children, since there was no state provision for under fives. Three sessions were offered (Monday, Thursday and Friday) run by volunteers from the church and a co-ordinator. Today's toddlers have access to a wonderful collection of toys, "ride-ons", climbing apparatus, craft tables, jigsaws, simple board games, and a little library. They have a drink and biscuit together before sitting in a circle with their carers/ mothers/ dads/ grandparents to sing songs and nursery rhymes until home time.

In 2012, when Sarah moved away from Ewell Jenny, already leader of Thursday Toddlers, took her place as co-ordinator. As such she's responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of the children, the condition, cleanliness and suitability of the equipment. In addition she arranges the Christmas party for the children and their carers with a visit from Father Christmas.

Jenny has made an enormous contribution to the happiness and joy of the toddlers who came to St Mary's. Many of them now parents themselves have brought their children to Thursday Toddlers. She has a happy gift of engaging children - of creating a rapport with them. And they respond confidently and trustingly to her. It is a great gift. They associate her with fun. And they are not wrong. An example recently observed in church: Jenny was sitting in the south aisle. The parents and children coming from JAM in the hall were walking down the knave towards the altar. A little boy about 3 years old caught sight of Jenny and ran through the intervening pews with a broad smile and outstretched arms to her.

Jenny you are one of the good spirits of St Mary's Toddlers. Thank you for all you have done for St Mary's children past and present.

SS and GE

SANTA STRIKES AGAIN!

Santa paid an early visit to the Toddler's Christmas party on 5 December, just to check we were all behaving ourselves. There were presents for everyone. Thank you to everyone who made the party such fun.

Now Jenny has stepped down, she wants to thank all those who have helped over the years, The Children's Support Group led by Linda, Ray and Rosemary Eyres who helped in so many ways, Gilda and the other toddler group leaders who have stood in when required, not forgetting Brenda Philbrick and Janet who had their arms twisted by Jenny to help in the messy side of Toddlers. Janet you can have a longer lie in on Thursday mornings now.

Thanks also to David for mucking in (and out) when needed. As well as all the mothers, fathers, relatives and carers and children who have endured Jenny's silly jokes, awful singing and sticking activities over the years. She will miss you all.

Jenny Dance

The photo at the top of the opposite column shows Jenny and Father Christmas at the Christmas Party

WARM HUB & CONVERSATION CAFE



If you like to have a cuppa and biscuit with a chat on the side, then the Warm Hub every Tuesday is the place to be! We're gathering a reputation for serious Jenga and Frustration game playing alongside more general chats about anything such as the price of bananas and of petrol, and everything including local housing development proposals and courses available at local colleges.

Bread and soup are well received, as are the electric blankets, warm packs and vouchers to help with heating costs.

More visitors and volunteers are always welcome; see you in Ewell Hall on Tuesdays 5.45-7pm.

VJG



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. The café is open on the **first and third Thursdays** of the month from 2:45pm to 3:45pm in Ewell Hall (7 London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY).

HIGHLAND FLING DINNER

An account of the Winter Dinner organised by our Social Committee

By 6.45pm on the 30 November Ewell Hall was already packed with people, many wearing tartan kilts, shawls, berets, bows and one a very authentic glengarry hat - some drinking fizz or juice, others already seated at tables decorated with tartan napkins, a menu with Scottish mottos, and a dancer doing the highland fling on a bottle filled with tiny lights and finished off with white heather and a tartan ribbon.

At 7pm a Grace was said, followed by the Loyal Toast, and our Highland Fling dinner was underway.

Our first course was smoked salmon with a lemon and salad garnish. That enjoyed, we faced our first challenge of the evening: Jenny asked us place a large sheet of paper on top of our heads and then to draw a Scottish scene including a croft, a smoking chimney, a waterfall and a stag on a hill! There was a prize. Our efforts would be judged by Susanne, a talented artist, so we all tried our best amidst laughter which grew even louder when some anonymous scenes were displayed for comment. The prize for the best drawing (see below) was awarded to our churchwarden, Vicky.



By this time everyone was ready for the main course - a delicious game pie with mixed vegetables. The vegetarians among us enjoyed an equally delicious leek, asparagus and chesnut pie. Then came the desserts - a choice of cranachan, red fruit salad or cheese and biscuits - a hard choice to make, but luckily there were second helpings!

The dishes cleared away by the team of efficient servers, we looked forward to further entertainment. This time a quiz, competition between tables mainly based on Scotland, some of its well known citizens, cities and sayings. Those who join St. Mary's monthly online quizzes fell upon it with gusto. The rest of us did our best to compete. The well-deserved prize went to a table with the impressive score of 25/32. Their prize was a wee dram to be shared between them. Then we heard the sound of Jonathan at the piano, and joined in with Loch Lomond and a medley of well-known Scottish songs finishing appropriately with Auld Lang Syne and tea, coffee and mints and time to reflect on the gift of friendship and goodwill.

GE

THANK YOU ROSEMARIE



By this edition of the EPN most members of St Mary's congregation will know that, after so many years of leading the Social Committee, Rosemarie is taking a much-deserved retirement from her role as Chair. The Highland Fling dinner was her swan song and the last of our dinners for the foreseeable future. The members of the committee, the helpers and diners joined in thanking her (and indeed her husband Mike who has supported her throughout) for the fun and friendship she has engendered by the tactful, diplomatic and efficient way she has planned, organised, shopped, cooked and served alongside her helpers, which has given so much pleasure to all the diners over so many years. The Committee gave her flowers, a card and a memory book of photos to say: Thank you Rosemarie, thank you so much for being you.

GE

Rosemarie Henson writes:

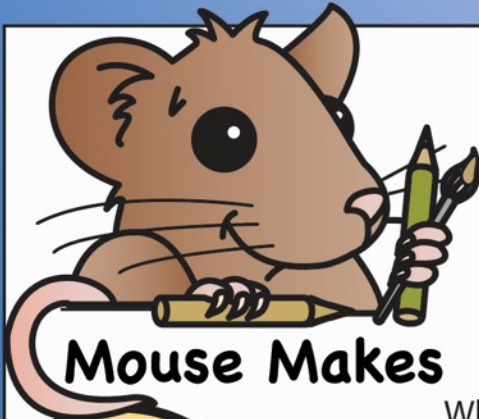
Dear Friends at St. Mary's, just to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and photo album which I received at my last dinner as Chair of the Social Committee and to thank the social team for making all the past dinners possible. With Happy Memories.

EPN copy dates for 2025

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

13 Jan	10 Feb	17 Mar
14 Apr	19 May	16 June
14 July	18 Aug	15 Sept
13 Oct	17 Nov	08 Dec

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



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.




J E W S
M A R Y
W S O N
O T N A

How many other words can you make from:
EPIPHANY

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

EPIPHANY is the Greek word for **MANIFEST** which means 'to show'. God shows us who He is through His son Jesus Christ

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus, but God told Joseph to flee to Egypt to be safe.
Where did Jesus finally grow up?


READ
the story of the wise men in *Matthew 2:1-23*

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

E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



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

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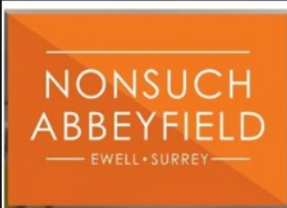


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'...giving to anyone who has need.'

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

Calendar for January



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

- Th 02 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 04 1430-1600 Messy Church Goes Wild
- S 05 **CHRISTMAS 2**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist 1662 (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
- T 07 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
1305 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital
1745-1900 Warm Hub/Conversation Cafe (Hall)
1930 P.C.C. Meeting
- S 12 **EPIPHANY 1 - The Baptism of Christ**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
1730 Epiphany Carol Service
- T 14 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
1745-1900 Warm Hub/Conversation Cafe (Hall)
- Th 16 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 19 **EPIPHANY 2**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
1730 Choral Evensong
- M 20 2000 Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 21 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
1745-1900 Warm Hub/Conversation Cafe (Hall)
- W 22 2000 Quiz on Zoom
- S 25 1400-1700 Board Games (Hall)
- S 26 **EPIPHANY 3**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
1115 Choral Mattins
- T 28 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
1745-1900 Warm Hub/Conversation Cafe (Hall)

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