



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 630

July 2025

60p



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


St Mary's Ewell
www.stmarysewell.com
 presents

Ewell Village Fair

Saturday 12th July

St Mary's Church and grounds
London Road, KT17 2AY

10am - 4pm

Admission free


 Reg charity number 1128409


 SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

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Fr Mark Stafford writes

Ewell Village and our Fair

We are really looking forward to hosting this year's Ewell Village Fair. At its core, Ewell Village Fair is more than just a day of entertainment. It is a platform for giving back and supporting the community. Many of the stalls are run by local charities and church groups, raising funds for causes that directly benefit the residents of Ewell and beyond.

The church plays a pivotal role in the fair's success, from organising activities, planning, setting up and packing away, arranging and booking events, stalls and acts, as well as offering a quiet space for reflection. St Mary's is at the heart of the fair, thank you to the EVF team for all your hard work.

Ewell Village Fair is more than just an event; it is a celebration of community spirit and togetherness. What makes the Ewell Village Fair truly special is the spirit of collaboration that brings it to life. Volunteers from all walks of life come together, dedicating their time and energy to ensure the day's success. It's not uncommon to see all kinds of people from the village and Church set up stalls, local businesses sponsoring activities and stalls, and residents of all ages pitching in to keep the event running smoothly.

When Lucy and I first saw the advert looking for a new vicar of Ewell Village, we took the village bit with a pinch of salt. However, how wrong we were. Ewell is definitely a village, and the fair and other community activities all strengthen that village feel and atmosphere.

The fair is also a chance for newcomers to our village to be made to feel welcome and introduced to the many activities that support the life of our village. For many, the fair is their first glimpse into the warm and inclusive nature of the Ewell community. It is an open invitation to join in, to belong, and to experience the joy of shared celebration. The fair offers a variety of activities and attractions that cater to all age groups, from children's games to live music, dancing, food stalls and the beer tent. There is something for everyone, making it a day that the entire family can enjoy.

As each year's fair wraps up, there is already a sense of anticipation for the next. The event is a living tradition, ever evolving to reflect the changing dynamics of the community while staying true to its roots. It's a reminder that in Ewell Village, the values of friendship, generosity, and unity are timeless. The fair is not just about the festivities; it is about the connections that are made and the memories that are created. It is a day when the village comes together to celebrate its heritage and look forward to the future.

Ewell Village Fair is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose. It is a day of joy, reflection and gratitude - a day to celebrate not just the traditions of the past but the vibrant spirit of the present. The fair also serves as a platform for local talent to showcase their skills, whether it be through performances, crafts, or culinary delights. It is a day when the village's creativity and diversity are on full display.

As we look forward to another year of festivities, Ewell Village Fair, Jazz on the Lawn, A Day for All and Ewell Yule to name a few, let us remember that the essence of all

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

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991;

Email churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com

Mrs Vicky Gocher 07732 459281;

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Bereavement Café

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

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Lay Pastoral Visitor

Mrs Marian Morrison 020 8391 2325;

Email: pastoralvisitor@stmarysewell.com

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Helen Crossley;

Email: safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com

Diocesan Safeguarding

Safeguarding team 01483 790379;

Email: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

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 is generally open daily for private prayer between 9am and 5pm

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.

The parish office is staffed periodically during the week. Emails and phone messages will be answered when the office is open.

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the Ewell Village activities lies not in the attractions or the performances, but in the people who make it possible. For the heart of Ewell Village is, and always will be, its community. The fair is a testament to the power of community spirit and the positive impact it can have on everyone involved. It is a day that brings joy to all and strengthens the bonds that make Ewell Village a special place to live.

If you are reading this after Ewell Village Fair, we still have lots of other community events you can come along to:

23 August - **Jazz on the lawn** - our annual jazz concert and BBQ at the Vicarage
14 Church Street

27 September - **A Day for All** - Our free Church activities day, a great celebration of Village life and community

5 December - **Ewell Yule** - We close the High Street and welcome entertainers, stalls, side shows and street food sellers to our own Christmas Market.

What's on in July

Tell me about Jesus?

Have you ever been asked to talk about faith and not felt confident you have the answers?

Would you like to know more about faith?

Do you have unanswered questions?

We will be running a lunch time faith exploration course in July. **Each Thursday in July we will meet at noon in the Parish Room** for a discussion group looking at faith issues. All are welcome, but it would be good to have a rough idea of numbers as we are hoping to provide a simple lunch too. Please speak to Fr Mark or email vicar@stmarysewell.com.

Lunchtime Bach Tuesday recital 1 July Come and join us at 1.05 pm for our lunchtime Bach recital followed by refreshments in the Parish Room.

Messy Church goes Wild! Saturday 5 July at 2.30pm Come and join us in the Parish Room for our family friendly Eco Church. Action songs, Bible stories, craft activities, snacks and much much more!

'8 Hands on 2 pianos' Saturday 5 July at 7.30pm The return of this extremely popular concert with Sarah Holmes, Matthew Burgess, Simon Gregory and Jonathan Holmes. Come along and join us for this fantastic piano extravaganza.

Ewell Village Fair The big July event is of course Ewell Village Fair. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the Fair. Lucy and I will be walking around and helping on various stalls and games throughout the afternoon so please say hello. The Fair is on Saturday 12 July in the grounds of St Mary's Church, London Road, Ewell. We will be entertained by St. Mary's Morris Men, organ music, dancers and singers, not to forget Punch and Judy.

We will have a bar, side shows, stalls as well as hot food, tea, cakes and sandwiches.

Come and join us a fun filled day for all the family!

Bereavement Café Thursday 3 July and Thursday 17 July 2.45pm – 3.45pm at 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.

Church online quiz Come and virtually join us in the evening on **Wednesday 30 July** for our wonderful Church quiz on Zoom. You will need to register beforehand using the link given in the Weekly Notes or you can simply email zoom@stmarysewell.com.

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark

GIVING TO ST. MARY'S

If you would like to support us by regular giving, the easiest way is through the Parish Giving Scheme, a simple and secure method for parishes to receive donations by direct debit. You can register for and administer your giving online here:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ewell-st-mary-the-virgin-epsom/>

or you can phone:
0333 0021260.

The scheme handles gift aid automatically and at no cost to St Mary's.



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JULY CONCERTS

1 July 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital
Jonathan Holmes - Director of Music
 Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

5 July 7.30 pm

Eight Hands on Two Pianos

The return of our popular concert with
 Matthew Burgess, Simon Gregory, Sarah Holmes and
 Jonathan Holmes

All concerts have refreshments. Tuesday concerts are free with donations for the organ fund being welcome. The Saturday Concerts have a suggested donation of £10, free to students and children (Gift Aid welcome)

THE SHED THAT FED 2 MILLION CHILDREN

A Visit from Mary's Meals



It was a great pleasure to visit St Mary's to speak about Mary's Meals, a wonderful charity which was started by a Scottish fish farmer called Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, who asked himself a simple question in the 1990s: "What can I do to help?" The problem at the time was the Bosnian War and the answer to his question was, after filling his shed with clothes, sleeping bags and food donated by friends and family, to take a week off work and deliver it to Bosnia himself. He never went back to work as a fish farmer, but instead drove aid to Bosnia 23 times in bigger and bigger lorries.

Having subsequently done wonderful work in Romania and Liberia, Magnus was invited to Malawi in 2002, where he met a 14-year-old boy called Edward. When he asked him what his ambitions were for the future, Edward told him: "I would like to have enough food to eat and I would like to go to school one day." In response, Magnus founded Mary's Meals – named after Mary, the mother of Jesus – and started feeding 200 children in Malawi. Today, Mary's Meals is feeding over 2.6 million children every school day in 16 of the poorest countries round the world. Our global headquarters is still the rickety, tin shed in Magnus's garden.

Our solution to world hunger is a simple, but highly effective one. By offering a free meal to children in their place of education, we meet their immediate need for food and encourage them into the classroom where they can receive the education that can lift them out of poverty. School + Food = Hope.

To find out more about our work, I can highly recommend the 30-minute films on our website:

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/our-story/books-and-films> , Magnus's book, *The Shed That Fed 2 Million Children*, is also a wonderful read (though be warned: it could change your life!) If you would like to get involved locally with the charity or would like to do some fundraising (amazingly it costs just £19.15 to feed a child for a whole school year!), please have a look at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer> or contact me at roy.peachey@marysmeals.org. Above all else, please keep us and the children we feed in your prayers. Thank you!

Roy Peachey

ST. MARY'S ON-LINE QUIZZES



We hold 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 30 July 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.

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A Prayer for July



Lord God,

Thank you for summer. Thank you for its light and warmth. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for the gifts of nature and for the annual cycles and seasons. Today, help us to remember that You are the Creator of all things and help us to do our part in protecting and nurturing that Creation. Lord, we put ourselves into Your hands and pray that You will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer. Help us to make our homes places of relaxation, joy, love, peace, and safety. May we also be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others to enjoy the blessings of summertime too. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Messy Church goes Wild



Come and join us as we explore
the wonders of nature locally!
Saturday, July 5 2.30 - 4.00pm
Rain or shine
Meet in the Parish Room
ALL WELCOME

Christmas is coming...



It is only July you cry!

We can't start thinking about Christmas yet; the summer holidays have not yet been and gone! However, no sooner have we returned from our summer holidays and families got their children ready for a

new term at school, a new academic year, than the shops are beginning to set out their Christmas stock. It begins earlier and earlier each year but, no, here at St. Mary's, we have not succumbed to the rampant commercialism that we see all around us. **However**, we are once again preparing to think ahead in readiness for Christmas.

This year, St Mary's will be once again supporting the **LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL** which is UK based and has been sending shoe box gifts to Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, and Bulgaria since 1992. It isn't just about gifts to children either, but whole families and isolated elderly people.

FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL

A shoebox for a family means that everyone receives a gift. A scarf for the mum, a small DIY tool for the dad, toys, and games for the children as well as stationery and coloured pens. Also, toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo, and soap to keep everyone clean and free from the germs that make them ill. And of course, sweets and chocolates for everyone – a family favourite.

ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Due to the number of elderly people now living alone and isolated because their families are leaving to work away, Link to Hope launched its **Elderly Shoebox Appeal** several years ago. The boxes are similar but with the children's games and education materials replaced with a wind-up torch, sensory items, candle and holder etc.

Link to Hope sends the boxes collected to **Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Ukraine**. From all that we see, or read in the news, it very much continues to be a critical time to be sending them this year!

Link to Hope is a Christian Charity which remains small enough that they continue to have a personal relationship with all their key contacts in Eastern Europe who distribute your shoebox gifts, and they also do spot checks to ensure that the correct people receive them.

Want to know more, then go the Link to Hope website at www.linktohope.co.uk or pick up a leaflet from the back of church. We know it can be expensive, but it need not be. **Why not join in and make up a box with family members or a group of friends or neighbours.**

Collection time for the Appeal will be during October so get started right away!

More details about when to drop off your filled boxes will be given in the next issue of the EPN, in the pew notices and on the website in due course.

Thank you.
Linda Staff



Our local foodbank relies on your goodwill and support. Over 90% distributed comes from our donations. In 2024 our foodbank donated nearly 8,000 meals. Your food donations are vital - please help if you can.

Urgently needed: long life milk, non dairy milk, long life juice, squash, microwave rice, sweetcorn, pasta sauce, cooking sauces, instant coffee, powdered milk, ketchup & mayonnaise, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, tinned spaghetti, long life sponge puddings, custard, jam/honey/marmalade/peanut butter, savoury biscuits, sugar (500g), biscuits, cereal bars, chocolate spread, deodorant (male/female), tampons, shampoo & conditioner, kids toothpaste - age 0-2 & 6+ and adult toothbrushes

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked: tinned tomatoes, tinned soup, cat food, pasta and pulses.

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.

You can sign up to the Foodbank newsletter on their website at www.epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERALS

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

23 May Talbot Lloyd George Mullen, aged 94

30 May The Reverend Christopher Lee, aged 74

WITH OUR WORLD LEADERS IN MIND

Self-praise is no recommendation - Anon

Only those who do not desire power are fit to hold it - Plato
Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength - Anon.

Power intoxicates men - James F Byrnes

It's dangerous to try and be number one, because it's next to nothing - Anon

THE LEGENDS OF SWING



What a lovely man, Ray Lowe is and what a pair of lungs he was born with! Ray Lowe in 'Legends of Swing' on a balmy evening at the end of May had us all swaying in our seats and many standing and dancing. He sang lots of the old Sinatra and Dean Martin favourites and many of the audience commented at the end of the evening that they sang along with every word to every song. We had a good turnout at St Mary's and the Church was resplendent in candlelight.

Whilst the audience were clearly having a great evening out, our bar was doing exceptionally well too! Ably assisted by Vicky and Jonathan (along with some interference by Father Mark), they were rushed off their feet and I had to dash to the supermarket before Ray had sung a note, to get more stock.

Another great evening at St Mary's which is introducing our beautiful Church to many locals who had previously not been enticed to enter.

If you didn't make it this time around, please do come along when Ray next appears at St Mary's on October 18. An event not to be missed.

Lucy S

JUNE PCC REPORT

Fr Mark reported that the main focus for the Mission Action Plan is on discipleship and how to strengthen the faith of those at the core of the church. He pointed out that the Lent lectures looking at the structure of the bible had been very successful in 'shoring up the foundations' of those who attended. In July, this will be followed by 'Exploring Faith' and later in the year we will be looking at core beliefs beginning with baptism and later the Nicene Creed.

Barbara Warwick has now retired from her post as Hall Manager. Nick McInnes has been appointed as the new manager and has been shadowing Barb in preparation to take over the role. The PCC recorded their thanks to Barb for her tireless work as manager and for the success she has made of the care of the Hall and lettings etc.

It was reported by the Eco Group that, since winning the gold award, Fr Mark and Helen Crossley have been invited to join the Deanery Greenery Group and that Helen has been invited to talk to others in the Diocese about working towards the A Rocha awards.

In a new initiative, PCC members have been assigned roles which will see them each joining a committee or other area of responsibility. The intention is that this will make for speedier two-way communication and a better understanding of all that goes on to keep St Mary's going day to day.

The next meeting will be held on 10 July.

Liz Divall
PCC Secretary



Saturday 12 July 2025 10 - 4 pm
St Mary's Church & Grounds
Free admission



Once again St. Mary's is in the final stages of organising the annual Ewell Village Fair – a highlight of the year.

The ever-popular Ewell St. Mary's Morris Men, along with several other Morris teams, will be parading through the High Street pausing at the Village jail in Church Street to quaff a 'yard o ale'. They will then proceed to the Church where 'Grinning through the Horse Collar' will cause much merriment.

The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell will be available to officially open the Fair and our local MP, Helen Macguire will also be in attendance.

There will be lots of entertainment for young and old – Punch and Judy, The Epsom Singers, St. Mary's Organ Students, Epsom and Ewell Phab, Fitznells Drumz, Face Painting and many other interesting local organisations.

There will be plenty of food and drink from a BBQ and a beer tent outside, to sandwiches, teas and coffees in the indoor café. *The beer tent will be able to take card payments but please remember to bring cash for other purchases.*

The wonderful cake stall will have an abundance of goodies and there will also be a Cake Competition (see separate box). Further details for this can be found on our website and forms can also be collected from the Church on Sundays.

Some of our local outlets will be in attendance selling their produce and there will be the usual variety of stalls for everyone to browse: Bric-a-brac, Jewellery, Bottle Tombola, Toys, Plants and Cakes

There will be a fantastic Raffle with many great prizes to be won. The draw to take place at 3.30pm.

Donations for any of the above stalls will be most welcome and can be brought to St. Mary's during the week commencing 7 July.

Unfortunately, we are unable to have a book stall so, please, no donations of books, CDs or DVDs.

As with any event of this size plenty of help is always welcome, so please contact the Chair of the Fair Committee – Harvey Morris on 07775 865303, email fair@stmarys.com or speak to Fr. Mark.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day – please bring the sun and warmth and enjoy all we have to offer.

CALLING ALL BAKERS. Once again there will be a cake stall at the Village Fair This is always a very popular stall and we need plenty of cakes to sell. Donations of home-made sponge cakes, fruit cakes, fairy cakes, muffins, scones, flapjacks & shortbread would be most welcome – whatever you have time to make. Cakes can preferably be delivered to the stall from 8.30am on the day of the fair, or on the afternoon before, to the Parish Room. Please label your items if they contain nuts or if previously frozen. If you can make gluten free or vegan cakes that would also be very welcome and please label accordingly.

CAKE COMPETITION. Can you bake and decorate a delicious Walnut and Coffee Cake? Entry Forms are available in church or can be downloaded from the church website. Please submit them by Sunday 6 July – they can either be dropped off at church or emailed to flowers@stmarysewell.com Judging is at 12 noon on the day of the Fair. Any queries see Lucy Morrell (choir member) or email flowers@stmarysewell.com.

A DAY FOR ALL 2025 — FAVOURITES OLD AND NEW!

The A Day for All planning team are delighted to confirm that the popular photo competition will be back at this year's event on 27 September. If you've never been to A Day for All, the entries submitted are shown as a slide show on the big church screen and everyone coming along on the day has the opportunity to vote for their three favourite photos. The winner is the photo with the most votes. There are two categories 'Under 16 years' and '16 years and above'. (These are new categories.)

The first, second and third winners in both categories are announced on the day. The theme of the day is 'Wonders of Creation', which gives scope for photos on almost any topic - on the creativity of God or the creativity of humans!

Also back on 27 September is a new favourite - the opportunity to visit the church bell tower. Last year, for the first time at A Day for All, bell ringers in the tower showed visitors how the bells are rung. The Tower Captain

gave a talk; there was a demonstration and then people were encouraged to have a go. This year, you will be able to sign up in advance and book a slot, or just come along on the day. (There will be limited spaces though.)

There will be more information nearer the time about the photo competition and the visits to the bell tower and more about A Day for All in August's edition of EPN. Any questions to Sue Ayling (see page 2 for contact details).



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP

PLASTIC-FREE JULY

Plastic Free July® is the award-winning behaviour change campaign created and managed by the Plastic Free Foundation. Since its launch in 2011, millions of people worldwide have participated in this unique social movement which empowers community, corporate and government action to reduce plastic waste.

With a remarkable 174 million participants globally in 2024, Plastic Free July now stands as the largest waste avoidance campaign on the planet, solidifying July as the global month of action against plastic pollution.

As well as individual participants, thousands of businesses and organizations joined in, engaging employees and networks, announcing changes to products and packaging, and transforming procurement and supply chains to reduce plastic waste.

Here are some of their suggestions for a Plastic-free July

Avoid as much plastic packaging as you can

Takeaway coffee cups: bring your own reusable cup or sit and enjoy a real cup

Takeaway utensils and containers: support vendors offering compostable alternatives (bamboo or card), BYO reusables or sit and enjoy 'dine-in'

Bottled water: fill a reusable bottle from the tap

Bottled soft drinks: reduce the amount (helps your health) or make your own with a soda maker/carbonator or choose glass bottles (and recycle)

Bin liners: reuse plastic shopping bags. Have a sealed container for 'wet' scraps and compost or freeze until bin day. Line the kitchen bin with paper

Plastic food wrap for leftovers and sandwiches: use a reusable lunch box to store food, Store food in containers or use beeswax wraps

Pre-packed fruit and veg: choose loose products (skip the little plastic bag or put in a reusable bag)

Lightweight plastic bags: remember your reusable shopping bags or use a cardboard box

Pre-packed meat or fish: shop at the deli counter or butcher or fishmonger for paper wrapped cuts or BYO reusable container

Takeaway drink straws: refuse plastic straws (or opt for a paper straw if they have them). BYO reusable straw

Littering: cigarette butts, balloons: dispose of cigarette butts in the bin (they are plastic and wash into the ocean environment). Avoid releasing balloons (what goes up, must come down)

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.

DRD

Creation Celebration!

Sunday 10th August
9:30am
in and around
St Mary's Church
London Rd, Ewell
Come and join us for an
outdoor service as we celebrate
our Gold Eco award, followed
by a bring and share lunch
All are welcome!

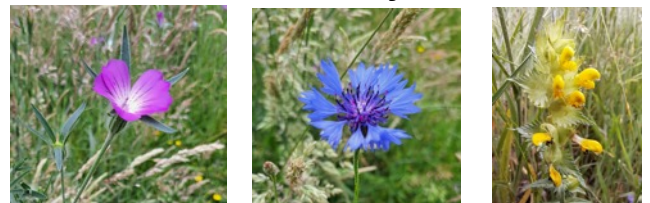
ST MARY'S CHURCH, EWELL

JAZZ ON THE LAWN

"Niki M & Friends"

Saturday 23rd August 2025
12:00 Noon - 3:00pm
Live music
The Vicarage, 14 Church street,
Ewell, KT17 2AQ
£10 Adults, £5 Children to include a burger.
Licenced bar. Bring your own picnic.
Tickets for sale in Church & on Eventbrite.

Some of our Churchyard flowers



VED 80th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey on 8 May 2025

'This lady's father was a Spitfire pilot'. That is how I was introduced to His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, before he lent forward to shake my hand at the VE Day 80th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey on 8 May. I've been asked what was said in the conversation that followed. I can't remember. Watching the service, a couple of days later on i-Player, I said quite a lot!



But let's begin at the beginning – how did I come to be at such a special service in the first place? On 27 March I received a text from a friend who is an Honorary Steward at Westminster Abbey asking whether I might be free and keen to attend the service in Westminster Abbey on 8 May to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. I replied the same day, answering 'Yes' to both questions!

On the day, I was in the queue at 9.45 am. Because the King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family were in attendance, security was very tight - my handbag etc went through a scanner, and so did I, as in an airport. My ticket was for the nave and I obtained a seat in the second row. Prior to the service I heard an RAF Officer telling the veteran in front of me that he would be introducing the Prince and Princess of Wales to her later.

At noon, the service began with a national two-minute silence, following which both the King and the Prince of Wales laid wreaths at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. Then the Choir of Westminster Abbey sang "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old" from Laurence Binyon's 1914 poem 'For the Fallen'. The first prayer was the Collect used at Westminster Abbey on VE Day 1945. As we sang the hymn 'O God, our help in ages past', the Procession, along with the King and Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales moved to their seats. Everything that followed – the readings, hymns, songs, music, sermon and distribution of white roses by young people to the veterans – was wonderful, being inspiring, dignified, appropriate and accessible.

Once the service had ended, members of the Royal Family were introduced to the veterans, spending time with each one, and giving them their total attention. For a while, the RAF Officer who was making the introductions to Prince William on my side of the nave (the King and Queen were on the other side), stood opposite me so I volunteered to him that my father was a Spitfire pilot. As Prince William left the veteran to my left, the RAF Officer pointed to me and said 'This lady's father

was a Spitfire pilot'. The heir to the throne immediately reached out his hand and we had a conversation. As I've said, I can't recall the content, but here is what I might have said –

- My father, whose name was Phillip Wootton Johnson, signed to join the RAF on his 18th birthday.
- After completing his training at various RAF stations in the UK he departed Liverpool on a naval flotilla destined for Cape Town, under constant threat of attack from enemy ships.



- In South Africa he began his pilot training in earnest. After completing the flying course the Chief Instructor decided my father was suited to train as a fighter pilot. My father's comment was that 'You had to be happy being on your own.'
- After basic pilot training in Cape Town, he was transferred to Egypt, where he had his first taste of flying Spitfires. He then joined 185 Squadron in Malta.
- In 1944, 185 Squadron moved to Italy, and operated as a fighter-bomber unit supporting the Allied advance up the length of Italy, which was critical work in preventing the German army getting back to Germany.
- In early 1945, my father was posted back to the UK and transferred to 174 Squadron whose task was to suppress German resistance to the Allied crossing of the Rhine. He had to re-train to learn to fly the Hawker Typhoon. He was demobbed in 1946 and has said how difficult he found it to adjust to life without the camaraderie of his fellow pilots.
- Not only did the RAF provide my father with camaraderie (and adventure), it was where he met his future wife, Doreen, my Mum, who was serving in the WAAF. They were married on Battle of Britain Day 1946 and enjoyed 66 years of happy marriage until my mum died in October 2012.
- In 2017 my father moved to The Royal Star and Garter Home in Surbiton where he was the focus of the Royal Star and Garter Annual Appeal on the Centenary of the RAF. He died in February 2021 aged 97 years.
- My father was always very modest about his actions in the RAF, especially as a Spitfire pilot saying 'It was just part of the career. It's what we had to do so we just did it.'

He was awarded the 1939-45 Battle of Britain Medal, the Italy Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal and the War Medal. I was proud to wear his medals on 8 May 2025, as I am every Remembrance Sunday. One consequence of my attendance at the VE80 Thanksgiving Service has been the great pleasure it has given to so many of my friends. At least twice a week I am still meeting someone who says with a big smile on their face 'We saw you on TV!'

Sue Ayling

Talbot Lloyd George Mullen 1931 - 2025

Lloyd was born on 6 March 1931 in Tipperary. His life was filled with many challenges yet he rose to every one of them with so much faith in God and the deepest understanding of responsibility. The death of his father when he was 8 years old plunged him in to an unwelcome adulthood as the man of the family. He was sent to boarding school where he excelled academically and was elected to be captain of the Rugby, Cricket and Hockey 1st XI teams.

His first job was at Mourne Grange Preparatory School in Northern Ireland when, while teaching, he also studied hard for an external degree, which would secure his career. It was while here, he began his daily lifelong practice of rising early to pray, read the bible and await God's guidance. He went on to another prep school in Devon before travelling to Lahore to teach at Aitchison College. At Aitchison he was a house and games master and taught many of the boys to play cricket, including Imran Khan.

Arriving at the college, Lloyd found that the Principal relied on the British Council to provide access for his students to an international range of scholarships and artistry. Lloyd also saw Moral Re-Armament, later to be known as Initiative of Change, as a way in which people of goodwill, but of different beliefs, could work together, avoiding the conflict he had seen in the Partition of India and Pakistan. It had already played a part in reconciliation after the hideous events of World War Two.

It was while he was in Lahore that he first set eyes on Promilla, a gifted Pakistani Christian. However, they would not meet properly until three years later. They were married on 27 June 1967 - a memorable event which was conducted in temperatures of 114 degrees F. During the ceremony the Bishop began to feel faint and staggered backwards into the low altar where he passed out. Another clergyman



concluded the service and Lloyd and Promilla were actually married when Lloyd succumbed to the heat, swiftly followed by Promilla.

Later they travelled to Manchester where Lloyd studied linguistics going on to work for the British Council. This led to travel across the globe to India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, London and Uganda. Lloyd regarded the British Council as making friends for Britain by creating opportunities through education and the English language. With his retentive memory and boundless curiosity, he garnered a vast knowledge of the history and culture of the people he worked amongst. Lloyd's positive, embracing approach to life was outlined by his colleague, Bob Steedman:

"I met Lloyd in March 1988 when he was a Director of the British Council in Uganda. My visits, which were then called 'inspections', were often seen in a negative light. Lloyd took the opposite view. He told his colleagues that our visit should be seen as a learning opportunity for all of them, including him, and that they should be positive in their approach to questions and requests for information. This visit was one of the most enjoyable and productive of the many 'inspections' which I carried out in various countries."

Lloyd touched many lives with his wisdom and decency as well as his sense of humour. He also possessed a rare kind of peace - one that can only come from someone with a pure appreciation of faith, love, gratitude and humility. He travelled the world, met many people but remained true to his belief, seeing opportunities for compassion and forgiveness at every turn.

In retirement Lloyd wrote his 'Memoir': *A Long Way From Tipperary* - which is a wonderful read.

He is very much missed.

St Mary's Floor Tile Appeal

During August repair work on the floor of the Nave will be undertaken and afterwards the floor will be retiled.

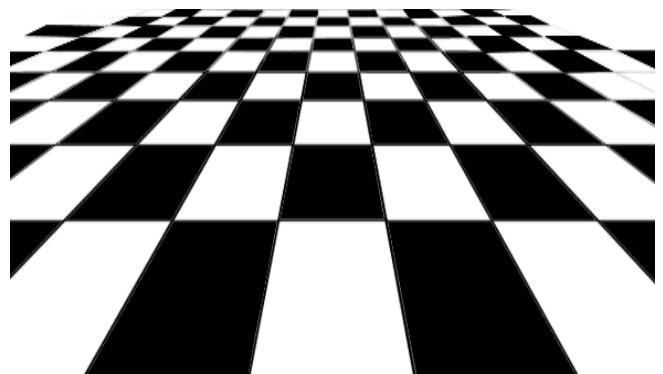
We are seeking sponsorship of individual tiles.

The names of the sponsors will be recorded in a 'Time Capsule' which will be placed under the floor.

If you would like to sponsor a floor tile, please use the form which is available in church, giving your name as you would like it to be listed in the time capsule.

Hand the form and your gift of £10.00 minimum in a sealed envelope to one of the Churchwardens. If you can Gift Aid this amount, please do so, using a Gift Aid envelope.

Thank you



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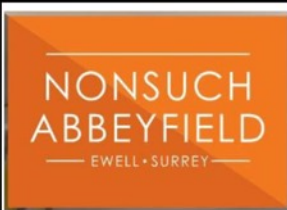


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www.acts435.org.uk/our-mission/how-we-work/

Calendar for July

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



- T 01 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
1305 Bach Organ Recital by Jonathan Holmes
- Th 03 1100-1230 Coffee for all at Priory Court
1200 'Exploring Faith' mtg & lunch - Parish Room
1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 05 1000 Sara Holland's Admission & Licensing as LLM (G'ford Cathedral)
1430-1600 Messy Church Goes Wild
1930 Concert 8 hands on 2 pianos
- S 06 **TRINITY 3**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist 1662 (Lady Chapel)
0930 Jesus and Me (JAM) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
- M 07 Day Home Communion by Clergy
- T 08 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
1930 Ewell Village Fair Meeting
- Th 10 1200 'Exploring Faith' mtg & lunch - Parish Room
1930 PCC Meeting
- S 12 1000-1600 Ewell Village Fair
- S 13 **TRINITY 4**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
1115 Choral Mattins
- M 14 1930 ECO Group Meeting
- T 15 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
- Th 17 1200 'Exploring Faith' mtg & lunch - Parish Room
1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 20 **TRINITY 5**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
1730 Choral Evensong
- M 21 2000 Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 22 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
- Th 24 1200 'Exploring Faith' mtg & lunch - Parish Room
- S 27 **TRINITY 6**
0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
1115 Holy Baptism
- T 29 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
- W 30 2000 Quiz on Zoom
- Th 31 1200 'Exploring Faith' mtg & lunch - Parish Room

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