



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 633

October 2025

60p



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

John Wesley's Rule

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

~John Wesley
(1703-1791)

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Fr Mark Stafford writes

Balancing the books

Sometime ago I had a conversation with a person walking around Church about how the Church is financed. The person thought that we as the established Church, had some funding from the local authority or government or something, they were amazed to find out that all the funding comes from within, that we are totally self-supporting through giving, legacies, fund raising or rent.

I know that 'giving' can be a tricky subject, but that does not mean we don't need to talk about it from time to time, so here we go!

Giving to the Church is a meaningful way to support its mission and ministry within the community. Through financial contributions, you help sustain the church's activities, maintain its buildings, and fund various projects that benefit the congregation and beyond.

Gift Aid is a UK government scheme that allows charities, including churches, to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated by taxpayers. This means your donation can go even further at no additional cost to you. By simply completing a Gift Aid declaration, you enable the church to maximise the impact of your generosity.

The Church of England Parish Giving Scheme is a convenient and efficient way to give regularly to your local church. This scheme allows you to set up a direct debit, ensuring your contributions are consistent and secure. It also handles Gift Aid on behalf of the church, making the process seamless and beneficial for both the donor and the church. Through this scheme, you can play a vital role in supporting the ongoing work and future growth of your parish.

The great thing about regular planned giving is that the Church is aware of our expected income and can financially plan, so if you already give to the Church by other means, maybe you might consider switching to Parish Giving Scheme?

If you would like to take this opportunity to give to the work of St Mary's then please contact the Parish Giving Scheme either by phone 0333 002 1260 or online at info@parishgiving.org.uk. They will be able to arrange your gift, and gift aid (if you are a tax payer). If anyone has any questions about the different methods of donating, please contact Sarah Holmes at plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com.

Leaving a Legacy Gift

Leaving a gift in your Will is a wonderful opportunity to make a final offering to God. This gesture can create a lasting impact on the future of St. Mary's, supporting its ministry and mission within our local community.

Every gift, no matter the size, can make a significant difference. Legacy gifts are a vital part of Christian giving, allowing you to express gratitude for the blessings received throughout your life by supporting your church.

These gifts can fund mission and ministry projects, help maintain church buildings, and ensure that dedicated individuals remain at the heart of our community for years to come. At St. Mary's, we welcome all legacy gifts and promise to use them to make a meaningful difference. If you wish to discuss

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

LICENSED LAY MINISTER

Sara Holland;

Email llm@stmarysewell.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991;

Email churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com

Mrs Vicky Gocher 07732 459281;

Email churchwarden@stmarysewell.com

Bereavement Café

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

Email: pastoral@stmarysewell.com

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 Officer

Day-to-day financial queries

Donna 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)

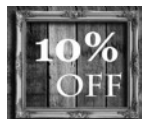
Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

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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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.

leaving a legacy in confidence, please contact Donna at financeteam@stmarysewell.com.

It is helpful if legacy gifts are left for general purposes rather than specific appeals or projects that may have concluded by the time of your passing. The PCC can work with the executors of your Will to determine how your gifts can be best utilised. This collaborative process can be a rewarding experience, allowing both parties to explore areas of the church's work that were important to you, such as music, buildings and facilities, or children's programmes.

How to Leave a Legacy Gift

Will writing can often seem time-consuming and expensive, however creating and updating your Will is the only way to ensure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends, and charities you love.

We strongly advise seeking professional advice and consulting a solicitor when making or revising your Will. Additionally, consider writing a Letter of Wishes to accompany your Will. This can help ensure that the funds you leave are used for the projects closest to your heart.

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Board Games afternoon – Come along to Ewell Hall on 4 October at 2pm 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!

We have three great musical events in October. On Tuesday 7 October at 1.05pm, Jonathan will continue the **lunchtime Bach recitals** followed by tea and cake! On 11 October at 7:30pm we will be hosting an evening of Chamber Music from the **Maeldune Consort** – voices and period instruments. On 18 October we welcome **Ray Lowe**, back to St Mary's. Ray will perform a jam-packed program of swing standards; tickets are available from Red Carpet entertainment.

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 2.45 - 3.45pm at Ewell Hall (7 London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY).

8 October - **St. Mary's Crafters** - join Sara Holland, for crafting, chatter and cake. Sara will be demonstrating paper crafting techniques 7.30 - 9pm at Ewell Hall. See page 6 for details.

This month's **Online Quiz** will be on Wednesday 15 October. You will need to register in advance using a link that will be given in the Weekly Notes or you can email zoom@stmarysewell.com. We started our online quizzes at the beginning of COVID and they remain as popular as ever. This will be our 60th! Why not join us for this fun and friendly event?

We will be running a **warm hub/ lunch club** - 6 November to February. The lunch club will operate from noon-2:00pm on Thursdays in Ewell Hall and is open to all. We will offer a free simple lunch and chance to get together, chat and play games! We could do with a few more volunteers to staff the club, all training provided. We also need some people to attend as "befrienders" no training needed, just come play games, chat and have lunch! The lunch Club is open to everyone to attend. Please speak to Fr Mark.

Ewell Tower Preservation Trust AGM 30 October 7pm

As you will all be aware we are blessed in Ewell to have two Church towers. The one still attached to the Church is in fine order, however the same cannot be said for the older standalone tower.

In the 1970's a trust was formed to care for, preserve and revitalise the old tower, however over time the tower has started to show its age.

The AGM for the Tower Trust will be held on 30 October at 7:00pm in the parish room at the back of St Mary's Church. This is a public meeting, and everyone is welcome to attend. It would be great to see some enthusiastic local people come and support the Trust!!

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark



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OCTOBER CONCERTS

7 October 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Jonathan Holmes - Director of Music

Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

11 October 7.30 pm

Golden Age - Maeldune Consort

Voices and period instruments. Music from the Golden Age of English Music 1550-1650

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)

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 15 October

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.



Your food donations are vital - please help if you can.

Urgently needed: noodles, tinned tomatoes, tinned meat, beans, cooking sauces, dried pasta in sauce, tinned fruit, sweetcorn, instant mash, pasta/beans with meat, packet soup, tea (bags), pasta sauce, ketchup/mayonnaise/brown sauce, squash, jam / honey / chocolate spread/ peanut butter / marmalade, custard, rice pudding, biscuits, cereal bars, powdered milk, uht milk, chocolate, sponge pudding, chocolate biscuit bars, savoury biscuits, sugar (500gr), non dairy milk. male / female deodorant, shaving foam, shampoo, hair conditioner, tampons, 0-2 and 6+ kids' toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet rolls, washing up liquid and nappies size 4 only.

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

*** Please note that we are unable to take refrigerated or frozen items. Make sure all donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol ***

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 where you can also sign up to their newsletter.

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THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER - THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY
EWELL HALL. LONDON ROAD. EWELL KT17 2AY



A Prayer for October



This year, the climate all around the world seems to have been in turmoil yet again. There have been times of drought, times of heat wave and wild-fires, and severe flooding. All affecting people's lives and the quality and abundance of the harvest.

Lord God,

You created the world which is truly amazing in its diversity, and which can supply all our needs. You charged us with caring for it and nurturing it. All life is inter-connected. Help us to be aware of the damage that we do, through ignorance and selfishness and help us to take responsibility and not simply expect that someone else will solve the many problems that now beset the world.

Lord, we give thanks for the harvests that have been gathered, the storehouses that have been filled, and the mouths that have been fed. But, as we give our thanks, help us not to forget all those who struggle and so frequently go without. Help those of us who have plenty to share with those who are not so fortunate.

Help us to bless each other that the beauty of this world and the love that created it might be expressed through our lives and be a blessing to others now and always.

AMEN

BACH RECITAL

Tuesday 2 September

Jonathan Holmes – Organ

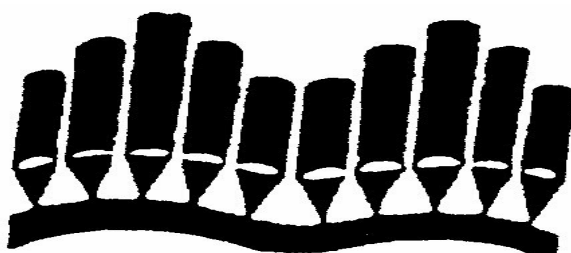
Jonathan's opening recital of the 2025/26 season, presented three contrasting works of J.S. Bach. His opening piece was the *Trio Sonata in D minor, BWV527*. Over the course of these Bach recitals, we have heard several Trio Sonatas and this is no. 3 of the set. Contrary to what one might think, these were not written for three performers – that particular usage came about later, with Mozart – but were designed with one person in mind, usually at a keyboard and playing three, separate 'lines' of music. To a musician of the calibre of Bach, the organ is the ideal instrument for a trio sonata, in that both hands and feet are fully occupied. This is an example of what musicians call 'counterpoint' of which Bach is the acknowledged master.

The work consists of three movements. The first is an Andante – 'at walking pace' – rather than the more usual Allegro. No doubt this is to facilitate execution of the extremely florid melodic line in both manuals. The next movement is headed Adagio e Dolce (slow and soft and gentle). Thirdly, a sprightly Vivace to round off the sonata.

Before launching into the final work, Jonathan played one of Bach's shorter compositions. It was the *Chorale Prelude, BWV 654*, set to the text "*Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele*" or, in English, "Adorn yourself, O dear soul". Again, both hands are occupied in playing an extremely ornate musical line, no doubt, representing 'adorning'; it is highly likely that this idea of adorning or decorating refers to a bridal couple, itself analogous with Christ the groom — and his bride the Church. Both text and tune are reasonably familiar to English churchgoers, thanks to the pioneering work of the nineteenth century scholar Catherine Winkworth. She made English singing versions of many German hymns, including this one: "Deck thyself, O soul, with gladness."

Finally, Jonathan played the *Dorian Toccata and Fugue, BWV 538*. Note that the title 'Dorian' is not by Bach; the name has arisen from the use of the Dorian mode neither major nor minor. At first the listener thinks it is in D minor, but without any key signature: it doesn't sound quite right. This is because in the Dorian mode, the sixth note of the scale is left unsharp-ened. If you play the scale D to D on a piano or other keyboard, entirely on the white notes, you get the Dorian mode. It is a familiar device in English folk music. A well-known example is the song "Scarborough Fair" where the Dorian mode gives the music a wistful, haunting quality.

TT



It's your last chance to join in!

The Countdown...Now only days to go!



Make up a box yourself or make it a community project with family, friends, and neighbours. **These gifts are still desperately needed!**

Pick up a leaflet from the back of church or find out all you need to know by going to the charity's website

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2025>

St Mary's will be a drop off point for all your filled boxes. Drop them off to us on

Saturday, October 11 10.00am-12.00pm

Wednesday, October 22 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Saturday, October 25 10.00am – 12.00pm

Wednesday, October 29 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Or bring them along and join us for one of our church services on Sunday, October 12, 19 or 26.

Any problems? Please contact the Parish Office tel: 020 8393 2643

PLEASE NOTE: Shoe box gifts will be collected from church during the week commencing November 3, so don't be late! Many thanks.

Linda Staff

Golden Age

Music from the courts, great houses and churches of the
'Golden Age' of English Music, 1550-1650

Maeldune Consort

Voices and period instruments



St Mary the Virgin, Ewell

London Road, Ewell KT17 2AY

Saturday 11 October

7.30 p.m.

Admission at the door by donation (£10 suggested)
in aid of the organ restoration fund
<https://www.stmarysewell.com/mus/the-father-willis-organ/>

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

I know that the floral displays in St Mary's are loved and appreciated by a great number of you. In the past we have been able to keep a small amount of funds aside from wedding flowers in church to fund the displays through much of the year, but alas, there are fewer and fewer weddings in church – only one this year so far. And, as with all things, the price of flowers has gone up, especially now the summer is over. Therefore, if we wish to continue to have a new weekly display of flowers we will have to rely more and more on more donations from the congregation as our funds have greatly dwindled.

We are very grateful to all those who regularly give money towards our church flowers but if you have not previously done so, would you please consider whether you would like a pedestal one Sunday to be in memory of a loved one, or perhaps to celebrate a special occasion? Please contact Lucy Morrell (in the choir), or email flowers@stmarysewell.com to book a slot or learn more. Thank you.

I would like to thank every member of our hard working team for all their efforts over the last year. We are always looking for new members, so if you have some limited experience in arranging flowers and would like to consider joining us occasionally, please do get in touch and perhaps join us one Friday morning to see what we do.

LM

PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales. In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

St Mary's Crafters

Ewell Hall 2nd Wednesday of Each Month

On 10 September, we hosted our very first Craft Club session, and what a wonderful evening it turned out to be! With 13 enthusiastic participants, the Craft Club's inaugural event was a beautiful blend of creativity, relaxation, and fellowship.



The projects of the evening were focused on creating personalized "Thank You" cards—an ideal way to tap into both artistic expression and gratitude. Participants had two creative techniques firstly the calming strokes of watercolour paints, creating soft, delicate designs of a floral display card. Then we used patterned paper to show that you can create something beautiful with very little equipment resulting in unique and textured card designs.

The beauty of the evening wasn't just in the finished cards, that they took home but in the atmosphere of focus and connection. In an age where our days are often filled with digital distractions, it was a refreshing change to set aside our screens and simply immerse ourselves in a tactile, hands-on craft. The act of creating, free from interruptions, allowed everyone to leave the stresses of daily life behind and just enjoy the process.



Whether you're an experienced crafter or someone who simply wanted to try something new, the evening proved to be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to tap into their creativity, share a few laughs, and celebrate the joy of making something with our hands. The room was full of conversation, creativity, and the shared satisfaction of working together to create beautiful cards.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined in and made the evening so memorable. The Craft Club is already looking forward to future gatherings and projects, and we hope even more of you will join us in the months to come!

Someone came with their sewing project as a great excuse to give their project some attention and enjoyed being part of a creative session in their own way – we all are looking forward to seeing it completed

Next month Wednesday 8 October, 7.30pm to 9pm, our theme will be 'Thinking of You', feel free to bring a friend along and in true St Mary's style there will be cake! For more information, please contact me, Sara Holland, at: llm@stmarysewell.com.

BACSECT NEWSLETTER No 13 JULY 2025

Hi to all our BACSECT supporters.

First of all, the good news. The school is in its summer term and is looking forward to its end-of-year ceremonies and celebrating all the good work the pupils have done over the last twelve months. The end-of-year celebrations are a great festival where parents and local dignitaries are invited to watch pupils performing and dancing. There is then the presentation of prizes to the best pupils and the best teacher, all in the courtyard of the school with refreshments being served. On a couple of occasions over the last few years the local Gambian Television have been present and it then appears on Gambian news! That is great for all the staff and children and is a good way of promoting the school.

The not so good news for the pupils is that it is exam time!! The top class year 6, do National Assessment tests set by The West African Examination Council. These cover Mathematics, Science, English, and Social Studies. The children will take the results with them when they go to senior school so they are very important for them as a record of their progress. The rest of the classes in the school do internal tests.

This is also the time when the school has to purchase new text books, writing books, dictionaries and calculators for the coming year. Whilst we purchased stationary and some text books during our visit in March the big buy comes later this month. We are awaiting the invoices with our usual trepidation!

There are two important changes to our charity to report. The first is that the Trustees have decided to open a second bank account with Metro Bank and have registered it with the Charities Commission. We have struggled in our dealings with CAF Bank and we are having difficulties using it.

For the foreseeable future we will keep the two accounts running but are asking for any new donations to be paid to the Metro account (please contact us for details). If you are one of those lovely supporters who donate by standing order via CAF Bank that is still fine but if you have an opportunity to transfer it to the Metro account sometime in the future that would be very helpful. Please do just let us know so we can check. Sadly CAF Bank does not subscribe to the Bank Account Switch service so we are unable to do it automatically.

One of the blessings of this new account is that there is a Metro Bank office near to the Trustees where we can actually go in and talk to someone! If you have concerns or questions about the two bank accounts, please do get in touch with us.

The second bit of news is that we have decided to add another Trustee in view of some ongoing health problems that I had over the last few months. Just a bit of future proofing! The new Trustee is our daughter, Mrs Helen Anderton. She has visited the school, knows Richard the Headmaster and is qualified as a teacher. It is good to have some ongoing continuity.

Our Headmaster, Richard, and all the staff send their thanks for both your financial support and, equally important, for your prayers. It is worth just reflecting that, whilst as a charity we do not keep any "statistics" of success, we have helped educate well over a 1000 children since the school started. That calls for a big "Thank you" to all our supporters.

Revd John

Chair of Trustees

Email: revdjohn60@gmail.com

BOARD GAMES

AFTERNOON

Saturday 4 October
2-5pm in Ewell Hall



All
Ages
Welcome




St Mary's Church
plays board games!

Come and join us 2-5pm in Ewell Hall.
Games of luck and skill, familiar games,
some new and unusual games, suitable
for young and old. Free tea & cake will be
served. No need to book- just turn up!



St Mary's Ewell

www.stmarysewell.com

RED CARPET
Entertainments
Presents

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

THE LEGENDS OF Swing

RAY LOWE'S
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Frank Sinatra & Friends




Venue: St Mary's Parish Church of Ewell, London Rd, KT17 2AY
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Ticket Price: £12.50
Doors 7.30pm Show starts at 8.30pm

CHOIR VISIT TO PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL



Saturday, 30 August – Following a challenging journey through heavy traffic in Portsmouth city centre—largely due to a football match—I arrived to find the seafront both wet and windswept. Despite the weather, spirits remained high among our group of 15 singers, joined by Jonathan, and Simon, our organist for the weekend.

Our rehearsal commenced at 3pm in the song rooms located behind the cathedral. With ample time before Evensong, which begins at 5.45pm in Portsmouth, we were able to thoroughly rehearse the Psalm, Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, and our anthem, *Expectans Expectavi* by Charles Wood.

The service was a resounding success, further elevated by the cathedral's exceptional acoustics. It was especially meaningful to have our vicar and his wife, Lucy, present in the congregation, offering their warm support.

Following the service, the rain continued unabated as we made our way to our respective hotels. While some members of the group chose to dine together at the Giggling Squid, others—including myself—opted for a quieter evening, taking the opportunity to rest and unwind in the comfort of our hotel rooms.

Sunday 31 August – Fortunately, the weather took a dramatic turn overnight, and by early Sunday morning, the sun was shining brightly. With our rehearsal scheduled for 9.45am, I had time to enjoy a refreshing walk along the seafront and meet Tim for breakfast at a charming café located within the quay.

The Eucharist service was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. We performed the Hassler Mass setting, a piece we are well-acquainted with at St Mary's. Canon Jo Spreadbury kindly remarked that the cathedral had not previously hosted this setting and described it as beautiful. Following the service, we joined the congregation for a cup of tea and some pleasant conversation.

The afternoon offered a welcome break, allowing us to enjoy a leisurely lunch and witness the departure of the Clipper 2025–26 Round the World Yacht Race from Gunwharf Quays. It was a remarkable opportunity to see the world's largest matched fleet of ten 70-foot ocean racing yachts as they embarked on their epic 40,000-nautical-mile journey across six continents.

Our final service of the weekend was another Evensong, featuring one of our favourite settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Ayleward. We sang in traditional formation, divided into Decani and Cantoris on opposite sides of the chancel, which added a beautiful spatial dimension to the music.

We concluded the weekend with a stirring rendition of *Evening Hymn* by Balfour Gardiner—a fitting and uplifting end to a memorable musical experience.

Then came the long journey home...

Shelley Smith



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP

ECO tips from A Rocha

Taste the difference!

Local and seasonal food not only tastes great but is better for the planet too. Think about incorporating locally grown produce into your diet and shopping list throughout the seasons, as it is harvested at its peak ripeness ensuring superior flavour, compared to imported alternatives that have travelled thousands of miles. If saying grace before a meal is a regular practice in your household, include giving thanks for your local food producers this month

Measure your carbon footprint

Take an audit of your individual or household carbon footprint and repeat each year to see if you can reduce it! There are lots of ways to do this, from switching energy suppliers to changes in your diet. Some great tools to use are available, for example the carbon calculators provided by Climate Stewards at www.climatestewards.org/carbon-calculators. Creation Care www.creationcare.org.uk, offers a specific resource for households giving ideas and helping you track your progress. As you look at different areas of your life, offer each area or action to God as an offering.

Both websites are easy to use. Here are some examples of the carbon footprint I calculated using the Climate Stewards website.

100 miles in a small hybrid car	21 kgCO ₂
100 miles in large petrol car	56 kgCO ₂
100 miles by train	7 kgCO ₂
Flight Gatwick to Edinburgh	352 kgCO ₂
All meals for 1 week high meat eater	9 kgCO ₂
All meals 1 week vegetarian	4 kgCO ₂

If you have an ECO tip or would like to join our litter picking team or 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



SCOTTISH ISLANDS

When I'm not in my pew on Sunday, it is probably because I am in Ireland, my country of birth. I like going there for a number of reasons – the space and relaxed way of life – but the main one is the opportunity to indulge in my favourite pastime which is flying. I am lucky enough to own a small two-seater plane, and from my base there it is possible to fly to a few Scottish islands, some of which can be seen from the coast of Northern Ireland on a clear day.



The closest island is Islay, which is about 60 km away. It is one of the largest Scottish islands and has a population of more than 2000, many of whom work at the dozen or so distilleries based there. Behind Islay lies the island of Jura, a large island but with few inhabitants and, alas, no airfield. The small island of Gigha however, which lies between Jura and the Kintyre Peninsula, has an excellent grass airfield, and around 120 inhabitants. The island is owned by the people who live there, having purchased it, with Scottish Government help, a few years ago. Islay, Jura and Gigha are the only Scottish islands which can be seen from the Irish coast under good meteorological conditions.

To the north of Islay lies Colonsay, which has a population of around 100, and a small airport which handles a few scheduled flights each week from the mainland. Further north we find the Isle of Mull, one of the largest islands in the Inner Hebrides. It has a population of around 3000, many of whom live in the picturesque village of Tobermory with its multi-coloured houses around the harbour. The island has an excellent grass runway at Glenforsa and, unusually for Scottish island airfields, a hotel and very good cafe. To the north-west of Mull, and close to the island of Tiree, lies the small island of Coll. Its population of less than 200 swells during the summer months with the arrival of visitors. Like Colonsay, it has a small airport which brings in travellers from Oban and Glasgow. The only other Scottish island I've flown to (so far) is Bute, which lies just a few miles off the west coast of Scotland, and is easily reached by ferry. It has a population of around 6000, and is a popular destination for day-trippers from the mainland. Bute boasts a good grass airfield which is within easy walking distance of an hotel and a cafe.

I've also flown to Campbeltown, originally a Second World War airfield, on the Kintyre Peninsula and therefore part of mainland Scotland. The only other island in the region which I've visited by air is Rathlin which lies a few miles off the Irish coast and is part of Northern Ireland. Around 120 people live there and it has an excellent ferry service but no airstrip. I landed there in a field a few years ago and inquired of the farmer if it would be alright to drop in from time to time. In spite of giving him some wine, and a box of chocolates for his wife, his reply was not in the affirmative. He said that my aircraft tyres would flatten his grass! My search for a more sympathetic farmer on the island continues. Rathlin has an RSPB centre



which is a great place to see puffins and other sea-birds. A programme to rid the island of rats and wild ferrets, in order to encourage ground-nesting birds such as the corncrake, is having some success. The island has two places of worship – a C of I (Anglican) church and a Catholic chapel. There are no resident clergy but the denominations try to send over a minister once a month on the ferry. Needless to say, this arrangement relies heavily on the weather, especially during the winter months.

John Fallis

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Have you always wanted to know how to make a foliage Christmas Door Wreath? Then why not come along for a fun workshop and leave with your own creation for your front door. Basic materials and some greenery will be provided. You can bring some foliage, ribbon, baubles and other accessories to personalise your wreath. (Further details on application.)

Please contact Lucy Morrell at flowers@stmarysewell.com for further details, or see me at church after the 9.30am service. You can choose between a morning or afternoon session, but places are limited so do book early. Payment is required in advance to secure your place by the 23 November.

LM

SEPTEMBER PCC REPORT

Fr Mark reported that the newly formed Funding Group had met recently and had come up with some suggestions of how to 'give more', 'earn more' and 'spend less'.

A poster with a QR code is being prepared to go in the churchyard explaining that the maintenance of the churchyard is funded through donations and appealing for donations from those who use the churchyard to help with its upkeep. The group will also look at the possibility of setting up 'Friends of St Mary's'. Fr Mark explained that this can be done under the existing charity umbrella of the PCC or as a separate charity with its own trustees etc. Other suggestions included updating the guidebook, having Christmas cards printed and having church postcards printed, all for sale in church, especially now that the church is open to visitors daily.

Fr Mark feels that more attention needs to be drawn to the current Mission Action Plan, to keep this in the minds of the congregation and not just a PCC agenda item.

There is some enthusiasm for the idea of a 'school hymn service' to be held in January or February 2026. Safeguarding Sunday is set for 16 November.

A feasibility study has begun about the possibility of having a servery and café space in church. It is thought that the back welcome area would be the best option. It would require taking out the raised platforms, so removing trip hazards and creating a more flexible space for a café and children's area.

The next meeting of the PCC will be on 2 October

Liz Divall

JAZZ ON THE LAWN 2025



"Not too hot and not too cold". The weather proved ideal for this year's jazz concert and barbecue in the Vicarage Garden. It was great to see so many people there.



Nikki M and friends proved an excellent replacement for Florrie. Their music was mellow and Nikki soon had us humming or singing along with some golden oldies. "Minnie the Moocher" had us all joining in the refrain. The rhythm was so catchy that those waiting for their burger and salad were soon swaying along and dancing. One group was even line-dancing.



Thanks to those who so efficiently cooked and served the food (which was even more delicious this year), to those who ran the bar and raffle and to those who helped with the preparation for the event and the clearing up afterwards.

Finally, enormous thanks to Mark and Lucy who allowed us to use their garden once again and who masterminded the whole event.

Jazz on the Lawn IV was a huge success. We look forward to Jazz on the Lawn V next year!

JMD

EASYFUNDRAISING FOR ST. MARY'S

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More than 8000 on-line retailers (including Argos, John Lewis, Booking.com, British Airways, Tui, Expedia, Sainsbury's and Tesco) offer charitable donations through **Easyfundraising**, for purchases made via their website. Presently St Mary's has 42 people signed up to Easyfundraising and we have received £1627 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.

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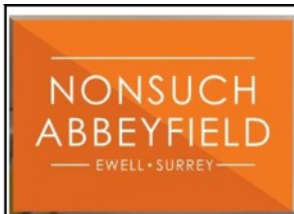


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St Mary's is part of the ACTS435 network of Churches. ACTS435 is a Christian online giving charity that anonymously connects those who want to give with those who are in need of their help, through a network of local churches and charities. Please 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 October



Said Morning Prayer will usually be celebrated at 0900 Monday to Saturday and shown online.

(Saturdays will be specifically prayers for peace.)

W	01	1930	Ewell Yule Meeting (Parish Room)
Th	02	1445	Bereavement Café (Hall)
		1930	PCC Meeting (Parish Room)
S	04	1400-1700	Board Games Afternoon (Hall)
S	05	TRINITY 16	
		0800	Said Holy Eucharist 1662 (Lady Chapel)
		0930	JAM (Hall then Church)
		0930	Sung Holy Eucharist
M	06	Day	Home Communion by Clergy
		1400	Remembrance Planning Meeting (Hall)
T	07	1000	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
		1305-1335	Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital
W	08	1930	St Mary's Crafters (Hall)
S	11	1000-1200	Shoe Box collection (Church)
		1930	'Golden Age' Chamber Music Concert
S	12	TRINITY 17	
		0800	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
		0930	JAM (Hall then Church)
		0930	Sung Holy Eucharist
		1115	Choral Mattins
T	14	1000	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
		1930	PCC Meeting (Parish Room)
W	15	2000	Quiz on Zoom
Th	16	1445	Bereavement Café (Hall)
S	18	1000-1200	Shoe Box collection (Church)
		1930 for 2030	'Legends of Swing', live show (Church)
S	19	TRINITY 18	
		0800	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
		0930	JAM (Hall then Church)
		0930	Sung Holy Eucharist
		1730	Choral Evensong
M	20	1400	Remembrance Planning Meeting (Hall)
		2000	Julian Group (Zoom)
T	21	1000	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
W	22	1430-1600	Shoe Box collection (Church)
S	25	1000-1200	Shoe Box collection (Church)
S	26	TRINITY 19 - BIBLE SUNDAY	
		0800	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
		0930	Sung Holy Eucharist
		1115	Holy Baptism
M	27	1930	Ewell Yule Meeting (Parish Room)
T	28	1000	Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
W	29	1430-1600	Shoe Box collection (Church)
Th	30	1900	Ewell Tower Preservation Trust AGM (Parish Room)

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