



# EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 635

December 2025

60p



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

**Merry Christmas**

**Advent and Christmas at St Mary's Ewell**

**Sunday 30th November**  
17:30 Advent Carols  
Come and join us as we start our Advent celebrations with a traditional service of Advent Carols, Choral music, and Bible readings.

**Sunday 21st December**  
17:30 Nine Lessons and Carols  
Come and join us as we start our Christmas celebrations with a traditional service of carols, Christmas choral music, and Bible readings.

**Christmas Eve**  
14:00 The story of Christmas  
All age service - feel free to come dressed as angels or shepherds.  
16:00 Arrival at Bethlehem  
A Family Service for all ages.  
23:15 Choral Midnight Mass  
Come and join us as we celebrate the 1st Mass of Christmas.

**Christmas Day**  
08:00 Said Holy Communion  
According to 1662 Prayer Book.  
10:00 Sung Communion.  
Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.  
Sung Choral Holy Communion.

## CONTENTS

|                                                             |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Fr Mark Stafford writes.....                                | 2 & 3 |
| Giving to St. Mary's.....                                   | 3     |
| Archbishop Designate Sarah Mullally sets out her hopes..... | 4     |
| St Mary's on-line quizzes.....                              | 4     |
| Foodbank.....                                               | 4     |
| Sing-a-longa Ding Dong Thing.....                           | 4     |



|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Prayers for December.....          | 5  |
| Ewell Village Advent calendar..... | 5  |
| Concert review.....                | 5  |
| Preparing for Christmas.....       | 6  |
| Together at Christmas.....         | 6  |
| EPN Subscriptions 2026.....        | 6  |
| Observations.....                  | 6  |
| St. Mary's Crafters.....           | 7  |
| Ewell Yule.....                    | 7  |
| Wonderful World of Christmas.....  | 7  |
| AV Sound desk.....                 | 7  |
| Lunch club.....                    | 8  |
| Shoobox Appeal.....                | 8  |
| Remembrance Sunday.....            | 8  |
| Well known Pilot.....              | 8  |
| Legends of Swing concert.....      | 9  |
| St. Mary's ECO Group.....          | 9  |
| Duo Flamenco Fusion.....           | 9  |
| From the Parish Registers.....     | 9  |
| Sing in our choir.....             | 9  |
| Happy Christmas Everyone.....      | 10 |
| Easy fundraising.....              | 11 |
| Acts 435.....                      | 11 |
| Calendar for December.....         | 12 |

**COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: [epn@stmarysewell.com](mailto: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 January 2026 edition is noon on Monday 8 December but if possible please send copy before this date.**

## Fr Mark Stafford writes

As winter descends, the nights draw in and our hearts and minds turn to Christmas. We are reminded in the Christmas story of the relationship we have with God and with God's creation. The Christmas season is often associated with generosity, joy, and hope. At Christmas I am mindful of the blessings I have received. I am also prompted to think about how we can extend the values we think about at Christmas to the world around us? How can we proclaim the Christmas message of love, joy, peace, reconciliation and re-creation to others?

Christmas can be a time of excess, as we can get so caught up in, "joyous noel", that we forget the cost of Christmas! People overspend and max out the plastic, overdo the Christmas cheer and I am sure that weight watchers rejoice each year as we regret the additional Christmas pud! The Christmas celebration can also put a strain on the planet too.

December is synonymous with gift-giving, but this year, maybe we could reimagine what it means to give. Can we offer gifts that are sustainable, locally sourced, or even handmade? By choosing eco-friendly options, we can show love not only to family and friends but also to the planet. Consider wrapping presents in reusable cloth, recycled paper, or even old maps for a creative and green twist.

Christmas decorations bring warmth and light to our homes, but many are made from plastics and materials that are difficult to recycle. Why not make your own decorations from natural materials found in your garden or local park? Pine cones, holly, and dried orange slices all make beautiful and biodegradable ornaments. If you're buying a Christmas tree, seek out local growers who practise sustainable forestry, or consider a potted tree that can be replanted later.

As we gather for worship this December, let us include prayers and hymns that celebrate God's creation. Advent is a time of waiting and reflection; it's also an opportunity to renew our commitment to caring for the Earth. Whether it's through church-led recycling drives, energy-saving initiatives, or nature walks, every small action is a step towards a more sustainable future.

As we close this year and look forward to another, let us carry the spirit of awareness into January and beyond. The small decisions we make today—recycling, reusing, reducing—can have a lasting impact on our community and the world. Together, as people of faith, let us rejoice in creation and commit ourselves anew to its care.

Wishing everyone a joyful, peaceful, and eco-friendly Christmas!

## WHAT'S ON

**Lunch Club** The Lunch Club will operate from noon – 14:00 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! (Not Christmas or New Years Day).

## St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

Website: [www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)  
Registered Charity Number 1128409

### CLERGY

**Vicar: Fr Mark Stafford 020 8393 1297**

Email: [vicar@stmarysewell.com](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com)

**Day off: Friday**

**Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE; 020 8337 6347; Email: [assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com](mailto:assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com)**

**Day off: Wednesday**

### LICENSED LAY MINISTER

Sara Holland;

Email: [llm@stmarysewell.com](mailto:llm@stmarysewell.com)

### CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991;

Email: [churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com](mailto:churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com)

Mrs Vicky Gocher 07732 459281;

Email: [churchwarden@stmarysewell.com](mailto:churchwarden@stmarysewell.com)

### Bereavement Café

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

Email: [pastoral@stmarysewell.com](mailto:pastoral@stmarysewell.com)

### Lay Pastoral Visitor

Mrs Marian Morrison 020 8391 2325;

Email: [pastoralvisitor@stmarysewell.com](mailto:pastoralvisitor@stmarysewell.com)

### Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Helen Crossley;

Email: [safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com](mailto:safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com)

### Diocesan Safeguarding

Safeguarding team 01483 790379;

Email: [safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk)

### Finance Officer

*Day-to-day financial queries*

Donna Boosey 07791 993261;

Email: [financeteam@stmarysewell.com](mailto:financeteam@stmarysewell.com)

### Stewardship Recorder

Mrs Sarah Holmes;

Email: [plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com](mailto: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](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysewell.com)

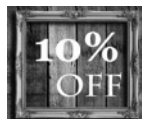
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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.**

## HANDMADE PICTURE FRAMES

ALL FRAMES -  
MADE IN OUR STUDIO  
FREE LOCAL COLLECTION  
& DELIVERY



WITH THIS  
VOUCHER

M: 07748 712133  
25 THE HEADWAY  
EWELL VILLAGE

WWW.HANDMADEPICTUREFRAMES.JIGSY.COM

## 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.

**Bach Recital** – Tuesday 2 December at 13:05 – We continue our Bach Lunchtime Recitals.

**St. Mary's Crafters** – Wednesday 10 December – Join Sara Holland, for crafting, chat-ter and cake. Sara will be demonstrating paper crafting techniques 19:30 - 21:00 at Ewell Hall.

**Elvis is back in the building!** – Following on from the success of two previous shows at St Mary's Church Ewell, Lee Alexander will be returning for a traditional Christmas show. Come and join us on Saturday 13 December, doors open at 19:00 and tickets cost £12:50. Please use this link to book tickets <https://www.redcarpetentertainments.co.uk/>.

**Fundraising event for the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank** – In church on Saturday 17 December at 19:30 admission £3. The Ewell Grove Singers present *Sing-a-longa Ding Dong Thing*, a community choral singing event.

**Duo Christmas concert** – Saturday 20 December at 19:30 (doors open at 19:00) – The two great flamenco guitarists – Will and Ben, are returning to St Mary's for their regular Christmas concert. Those lucky enough to see them last Christmas were wowed by their talent - an evening not to be missed! Tickets @ £18 are available now online at [www.tickettailor.com/events/duo destino/1885472](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/duo destino/1885472).

**Together at Christmas local Christmas Day lunch** – run by Churches Together in Ewell for those who would be alone at Christmas. If you can help out, please see the poster in the welcome area. There are flyers at the back of church with information about the Christmas lunch to pass onto anyone you know who might be alone on Christmas Day and there is also a poster on page 6 of EPN. Please do come yourself if you would be alone.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Sunday 30 November

**17:30 Advent Carols** Come and join us as we start our Advent celebrations with a traditional service of Advent Carols, Choral music, and Bible readings.

**Nicene to see you to see you Nice!** Through Advent we will be running a series of lectures exploring the Nicene Creed. The lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 19:00 for refreshments with a 19:30 start or Thursday at 14:30 following the lunch club, why not come and have lunch and then stay for the lecture (but not on Christmas Day!).

### Sunday 21 December

**17:30 Nine Lessons and Carols** We start our Christmas celebrations with a traditional service of carols, Christmas choral music, and Bible readings

### Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24 December

**14:00 The Story of Christmas** All age service – Feel free to come dressed as angels or shepherds

**16:00 Arrival at Bethlehem** A Family Service for all ages

**23:15 Choral Midnight Mass** Come and join us as we celebrate the first service of Christmas

### Christmas Day: Thursday 25 December

**08:00 Said Holy Communion** According to 1662 Prayer Book

**10:00 Sung Communion** Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Sung Choral Holy Communion

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark



**WA TRUELOVE & SON LTD**  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
& MONUMENTAL CRAFTSMEN SINCE 1885

### Serving the local community

- 24 hour call out service
- Home visits available
- Horse-drawn funerals
- Monumental masonry
- International repatriation
- Pre-paid Funeral Plans



**EPSOM 01372 723337**

**14/18 Church Road KT17 4AB**

[epsom@watltd.co.uk](mailto:epsom@watltd.co.uk)

[www.watltd.co.uk](http://www.watltd.co.uk)

Branches throughout the North East Surrey Area

## Archbishop Designate, Sarah Mullally sets out her hopes for the Church

Shortly after the announcement of her nomination as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Sarah Mullally delivered an address at Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting on her calling, the challenges facing the Church, and her hopes for its future.

Rooted in her early vocation as a nurse and shaped by her ministry in London, she spoke of “washing feet” as a guiding image of Christian service, and of finding hope in the quiet faithfulness of churches, chaplaincies, and communities across the Anglican Communion.

She addressed the Church’s responsibility in safeguarding, the need to confront power dynamics, and the importance of standing against hatred and antisemitism.

She said she would seek to be “a shepherd who enables everyone’s ministry and vocation to flourish,” and expressed her desire to nurture confidence in the Gospel. “Held fast by the Lord’s hand,” she concluded, “please pray for me as I will pray for you.”

### 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 21 January

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](mailto:zoom@stmarysewell.com).

# Greenfield

Independent, family run estate agents, specialising in all aspects of residential and commercial property sales, lettings and management



020 8393 0077  
[www.greenfieldewell.co.uk](http://www.greenfieldewell.co.uk)

55 High Street  
Ewell Village  
Surrey KT17 1RX



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

**Urgently needed:** tinned meat, pasta/beans with meat, tinned vegetables, dried pasta in sauce, instant mash, crisps, ketchup/mayonnaise/brown sauce, squash, long life juice, jam / honey / chocolate spread / peanut butter / marmalade, instant coffee, UHT milk, powdered milk, sugar, hot chocolate, porridge, rice pudding, custard, sponge pudding, chocolate, male/female deodorant, shaving foam, kids and adult toothbrushes, adult toothpaste, washing powder, hair conditioner, washing up liquid and toilet rolls.

**Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked:** tinned tomatoes, tinned soup, dog food, cat food, beans, 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](http://www.epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk) where you can also sign up to their newsletter.

THE EWELL GROVE PLAYERS PRESENT THIS XMAS ONE NIGHT ONE SONG

# SING-A-LONGA DING DONG THING

THE ALTERNATIVE XMAS CHOIR

COME AND LEARN A THREE PART FESTIVE BANGER!

BAR ON-SITE

NO SINGING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17**

7:30PM ST MARY'S CHURCH EWELL  
LONDON ROAD, KT17 2AY

**£3 ON THE DOOR OVER 11YRS ONLY**

ALL PROCEEDS TO Epsom & Ewell Foodbank Together with Trussell

## Prayers for December



**‘I waited patiently for the Lord: he turned to me and heard my cry’** Psalm 40 v 1-2

**O Lord, our God**, in this season of waiting, of Advent expectation, draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo throughout our church and through our lives.

O God, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

O God, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

O God, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

O God of hope, the rock upon which we stand, be the centre, the focus of our lives.

In this season of Advent expectation, Lord, draw us together in mission, that the hope within us might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation, Lord, draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity. AMEN

## EWELL VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR

The Ewell Village Advent Calendar is back! From 1 December, different letters – ‘the clues’ – will be displayed in the window or inside 22 local shops and on the outside notice boards of St Mary’s Church and Christ Church, Ewell. Each shop and church will have a number from 1 to 24 designed by 1st Ewell Village (St Mary’s) Brownies.

Every child wishing to take part will be given a special booklet to complete by writing next to each number the matching letter or ‘clue’. St Mary’s Church will have number 24. Answers to the puzzle can be delivered to ‘All Things Nice’ until noon on Tuesday 23 December and to St Mary’s Church until just before the start of the 2.00pm Christmas Eve Crib Service.

An ideal time for children to find the clues will be on 5 December from 4pm to 8pm at ‘Ewell Yule’. This is the annual community event when shops in the village are open late for shopping, with children’s rides, festive food and drink, Morris Men, Phoenix Cloggs, carols and music. Car parking is free from 4pm.

You can find full details about the Advent Calendar and about Ewell Yule on St Mary’s Church website [www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com) and on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysewell>.

## CONCERT REVIEW

Saturday 11 October

### THE MAELDUNE CONSORT

*“Music from the courts, great houses and churches of the ‘Golden Age’ of English music, 1550-1650”*

*Performers: Susana de Oliveira (soprano, percussion); Tristram Clucas (tenor); Kate Jackson (viol, recorder); Helen Williams (viol, alto); Sue Benson (viol, alto); Christopher Benson (viol, bass, recorder)*

Christopher writes in his programme notes: “England under the Tudor monarchs experienced an astonishing cultural renaissance in almost every artistic form: art, architecture, literature, drama and music”.

In the Maeldune Consort’s programme of sacred and secular music, the composers featured were nothing if not versatile. Many indeed are well known to St. Mary’s churchgoers. That all-too-frequent name **Anonymous** made an appearance, in the guise of two madrigals “*When Daphne from fair Phoebus did fly*” and “*The Dark is my Delight*”. Of the named composers, most were London-based. **Thomas Morley** opened proceedings in “*Sing we and chant it*” performed by the entire company. Two composers were fortunate to be appointed ‘Gentlemen of the Chapel’, or Singers of the Chapel Royal, a post which entitled the holder to special privileges. **William Byrd** was created a Gentleman of the Chapel on the accidental death of his predecessor **Robert Parsons**. Owing to Parsons’ early death, few works of his survive. One that does is “*Ave Maria, gratia plena*” or ‘Hail Mary, full of grace’. Despite Byrd’s official recognition, he had to exercise great secrecy in writing his Latin Church music. His secular madrigals, however, needed no such caution. We heard “*Tho’ Amaryllis dance in green*”, “*In Fields abroad*” and “*This sweet and merry month of May*”. **Richard Nicolson** was organist at Magdalen College, Oxford and, presumably for the edification of the undergraduates, wrote the humorous tenor-soprano duet “*Joan, quoth John*”. His contemporary **Michael East** of Lichfield wrote “*You meaner beauties of the night*”. **Orlando Gibbons** whose five-hundredth anniversary we celebrate this year, successfully combined sacred with secular music, as in “*Ah, dear heart, why do you rise?*” and “*Almighty and Everlasting God*”. **Thomas Tallis** also managed to please both Catholic and Protestant patrons: “*O Sacrum Convivium*” (‘O Sacred Banquet’) and “*If Ye Love Me, Keep my Commandments*”. Other composers wrote purely instrumental music. One was **Richard Mico** – of French descent – in “*Fantasia No. 16*”; the Fantasy or Fantasia being a popular form at the time. Among **John Jenkins’** large output is “*Pavan in D minor*”. A pavan is a stately Spanish dance, often associated with the lively Galliard, and indeed we heard “*Heart’s Ease*” and “*Galliard*” by another rather shadowy figure, **Anthony Holbourne**. Finally, **John Dowland** who worked abroad for most of his life, and who was brave enough to convert to the Roman Catholic church. He wrote much for both voice and instruments; among his extensive madrigal repertory is “*Come away, sweet Love*”. As an encore, the evening’s entertainment was nicely rounded off by **Gibbons’** wonderful madrigal “*The Silver Swan*”.

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS



As we prepare for Easter by reading a Lent book it's good to prepare for Christmas by reading an Advent book. There are lots to choose from and this year we are suggesting three, so you can choose the one that most appeals.

**'Advent for Everyone' by Tom Wright £9.19.** We are invited to join the author on a journey into the heart of Matthew's Gospel, exploring the key themes of watching, repenting, healing and loving with daily readings and meditations from Advent to Christmas.

**'Listening to the Music of the Soul' by Guli Francis-Dehqani £8.79.** This is the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2025, In it, Bishop Guli makes connections between the themes of Advent and her own experiences - and invites us to do the same, so that we may be sustained through the complexities of life when meaning and hope can be hard to find.

**'Women of the Nativity' by Paula Gooder £9.89.** This book is an Advent and Christmas journey using nine imagined stories, all from the perspective of women. One commentator writes 'Once more Paula Gooder offers us her extraordinary blend of deep scholarship and empathetic story telling.'

Please sign the list at the back of church or email Sue Ayling at [assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com](mailto:assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com) or ring 020 8337 6347 to order a book and Sue will obtain it for you as soon as possible (or you may prefer to order yourself). As usual, there will also be a basket of books in church from which you can choose one to borrow. Any questions to Sue Ayling.

In addition, you can learn about the Church of England *The Joy of Christmas* theme for Advent and Christmas 2025 here -

- <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/sign-joy-christmas>

Using this website link you can –

- Sign up to receive daily reflections via email.
- Get daily prayers, reflections, uplifting stories via the new daily devotional app from the Church of England 'Everyday Faith'.
- Follow the Church of England on WhatsApp to access prayers, reflections, uplifting stories, Bible verses and news from across the Church of England.

If you can't make it to church this Advent and Christmas, you can join online services from across the Church of England <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services>

### Observations

Gossip is letting the cat out of the bag - *Anon*  
A good example is the best sermon - *Anon*

## Together at Christmas



### Are you alone at Christmas this year?

Come and join us for a traditional festive dinner!



**'Churches Together in Ewell'** is pleased to offer a Christmas dinner plus festive activities to all who would otherwise be on their own.

**Christmas Day 12:30 - 4:15pm**

at a local church.

This offer is open to all Ewell residents.  
Transport can be arranged.

**No charge**

To join us call: 07999 805 475 or  
e-mail: [christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com)



All Saints, West Ewell  
Epsom Vineyard Church  
Ruxley Church  
St Mary's, Cuddington  
Stoneleigh Baptist

Oasis at Auriol  
Ewell URC  
St Clement's RC  
St Mary's, Ewell  
Stoneleigh Methodist

Christ Church, Ewell  
Generation Church  
St John's, Stoneleigh  
St Paul's, Howell Hill  
The King's Church, Epsom

## EPN Subscriptions in 2026

Thank you for your support of EPN during 2025.

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 2026 EPN copies downloaded from our website are again free, but after 11 years we have made a small price increase for printed copies for issues collected at church. These are now £1 per issue.

For those who have their EPN copies delivered by hand, the annual subscription is now £10. 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.

## ST MARY'S CRAFTERS

Thank you to everyone who has joined our first three craft evenings!

In September we created thank-you cards using watercolour techniques. October saw us exploring colour blending with stencils and ink stamping to make "Thinking of You" cards. This month we made a money wallet/gift card holder and a Nativity lantern to help us focus during the four weeks of Advent and light our way toward Christmas.

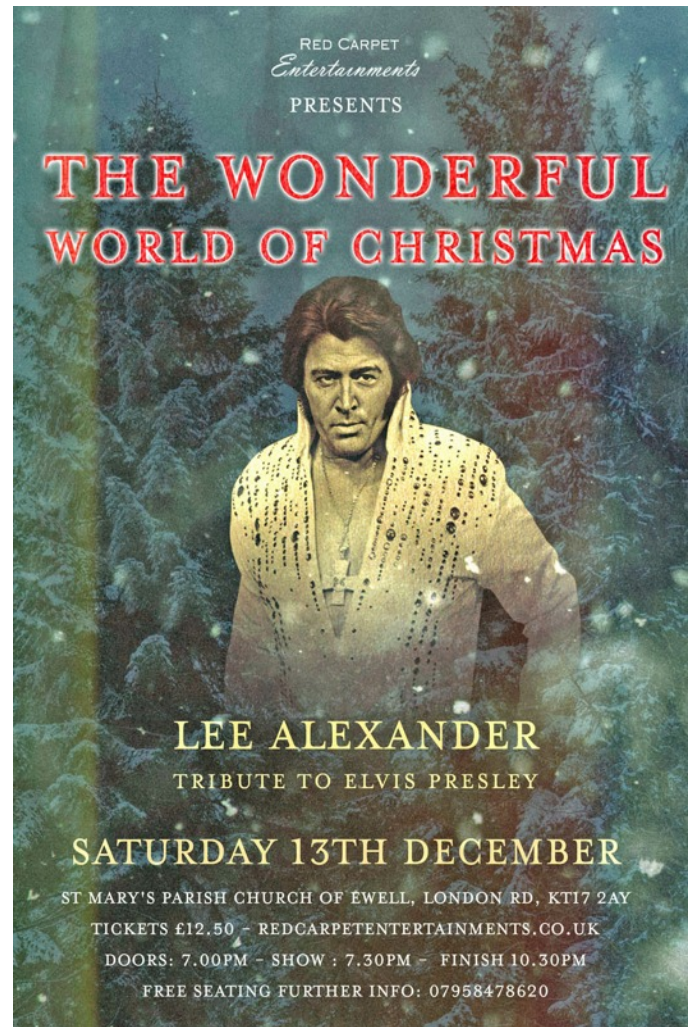
Our next session will be on **Wednesday, 10 December**, with the theme **"Three Kings."** We'll be using the scoreboards again to make a gift box and a special Christmas card.

It has been such fun getting to know each other in a relaxed, creative atmosphere while learning new techniques and styles. I'm delighted to share that **Ewell Hall is now booked for the second Wednesday of each month next year (except August)**. We're already planning shaker cards for January, pop-up cards, Easter decoupage eggs (as requested!), and many more techniques and fun folds throughout the year.

Why not come and join the fun?

I can guarantee there is always cake!

*Sara Holland*



## AV/SOUND DESK AT ST MARY'S

**Can you help?** 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.



## LUNCH CLUB



WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US ON THURSDAYS BETWEEN NOON AND 2:00PM FOR A FREE LIGHT LUNCH AND SOME GREAT COMPANY?

WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU HEATING ADVICE, KEEP WARM KITS, ELECTRIC BLANKETS AND ENERGY VOUCHERS

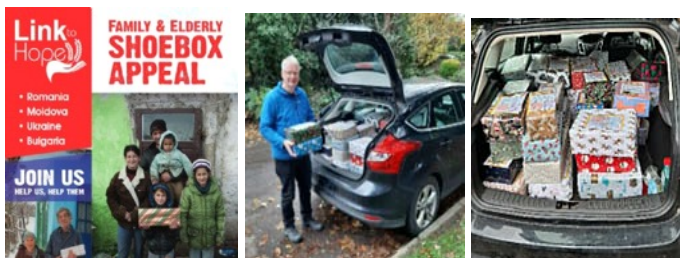
THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
EWELL HALL. LONDON ROAD. EWELL KT17 2AY



It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words, like 'What about lunch?' (A.A. Milne)

This season's Warm Hub venture from St Mary's is all about lunch! We're delighted to be able to offer a warm space in the Ewell Hall every Thursday from 12-2pm in conjunction with Surrey County Council's initiative. This will run through to 29 January 2026. We have electric blankets and warm kits to give away, but probably more importantly we have chats, catch ups and conversations to share with all who join us. 'Let soup steam and conversations simmer' (anon).

## LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL



**A very big thank you** to all those who took part in our Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal this year.

At the beginning of November, we were able to send off 45 shoe box gifts to commence their onward journey to families and elderly folk in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Bulgaria, living in extremely difficult circumstances, who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present.

Thank you all for your generosity.

*Linda Staff*

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2025



On Remembrance Sunday we were pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom & Ewell, Cllr Robert and Mrs Marilyn Leach, our M.P, Helen Maguire BEM, the Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey, Cmdr F Thomson VR RN, members from the Royal British Legion and Veterans, officers of the Council, Army Cadets, 135 Geographic Squadron RE, St. Mary's Guides and Brownies, Scouts and many members of the public. We began with a procession from the Church to the War Memorial. The services here and that which followed in church were conducted by Fr Mark Stafford assisted by the Revd Sue Ayling and our LLM, Sara Holland. After initial prayers, the Act of Remembrance and the Exhortation, the standards were lowered at the sound of the Last Post, raised after 2 minutes silence at Reveille, followed by wreath laying.



Many then joined the Service of Remembrance in Church. The choir led the singing and the Standards were taken to the altar. The Bible reading from Revelation 21:1-7 was read by the Mayor, the sermon was given by Fr Mark and the Hymns included 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', 'Abide with me' and 'O God our help from ages past'. The choir sang the Anthem, 'Greater love hath no man' during the collection of the Standards. The National Anthem followed the Blessing and the service finished with the Kohima Epitaph.

Many thanks to everyone who took part, helped organise and attended the service.

*DRD*

### Well known pilot

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

## LEGENDS OF SWING CONCERT



The popular singer Ray Lowe returned again to St Mary's for a wonderful evening on 18 October. Serenading the audience with songs from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis and the like. People came from near and far, one group of ladies from Chessington had seen the ad on social media and along with many others enjoyed a drink or two from the bar. Ray created a very relaxed atmosphere as he sang and some people were dancing in the aisles or swaying in their seats and joining in well known choruses such as "That's Amore". As the audience left with smiles on their faces, I would say a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Ray for a splendid evening and thanks to all those who helped on the night.

RDH



## ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP MONTHLY ECO TIP

### CLEANING PRODUCTS

You can reduce the number of chemical-based cleaning products that you use by buying environmentally friendly ones instead. Many supermarkets now have their own brand of 'eco-friendly' cleaning products. Or, better still, use 'natural' cleaning methods. I recently unblocked the sink in my bathroom using boiling water, though it did need three attempts!

This month I have a sparkling clean kettle after using the following method: -

1. Fill the kettle with an equal part solution of water and white wine vinegar and let this soak for an hour. (Do not exceed the maximum level for liquid.)
2. Once the hour is up boil the kettle.
3. Then empty the kettle and rinse it thoroughly.

If you don't have any white wine vinegar to hand, try using ordinary household vinegar.

*Sue Ayling*

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](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com).

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### BAPTISMS

Washed, sanctified, justified  
(1 Corinthians: 11)

26 October Celia Monroe Smith

#### FUNERAL

I will come again and take you to myself  
(St. John 14: 3)

*Ashes Interment*

12 November Marie Brenda Bullen, aged 91

### SING IN OUR CHOIR



St Mary's is looking for 10 Choristers aged approx. 7 – 13 to begin a choir programme for children. Choristers will be paid separately for every rehearsal and service they attend plus extra fees for weddings. They will make progress through the RSCM 'Voice for Life' scheme, and as they improve their skills their pay will increase. The rehearsals will run during term time from 6pm to 7pm on Fridays and the services from 9.30 am to approx. 10.30am on Sundays. To learn more or if you would like an initial audition please email Jonathan Holmes, our Director of Music, at [directorofmusic@stmarysewell.com](mailto:directorofmusic@stmarysewell.com).



Improving homes inside and out

### Oakdene Home Services

Home Maintenance  
Painting & Decorating, Gardening & General DIY

**Roger Phillips**

TELEPHONE: 07831 663 323  
EMAIL: [oakdenehomeservices@gmail.com](mailto:oakdenehomeservices@gmail.com)

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

May the peace of the Christ-child  
enfold you this Christmas and every  
day through 2026

Sue Ayling



Lucy and I would like to wish all  
our Church family every Blessing  
this Christmas. Thank you for all  
you did this year and let's hope and  
pray for a peaceful 2026, where all  
can share God's grace and mercy

Fr Mark

Christmas Blessings to everyone  
and Best wishes for a Happy  
New Year.

Rosemarie and Mike

Happy Christmas to one  
and all! We wish you  
good health and happiness  
in 2026

Vicky & Jonathan xx

Warmest wishes to you all, at Christmas  
and throughout the coming year

Valerie Wood

Godfrey and Lucy wish ev-  
eryone in the St Mary's fami-  
ly a very Happy Christmas  
and a Joyful New Year

Wishing all my friends at  
St.Mary's a very Happy  
Christmas and may 2026  
be kind to everyone  
Lots of love Angie.

Christmas Greetings to all our  
friends at St. Mary's. God Bless

Gill and Humphrey x

Wishing everyone at St. Mary's  
a very happy and peaceful  
Christmas and every blessing  
for the New Year Gill Bird

Christmas greetings and all  
good wishes

Gilda Everson

To everyone at St Mary's, wish-  
ing you all a very happy,  
blessed and peaceful  
Christmas and New Year

Nicholas and Janet

Wishing everyone at St  
Mary's a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

Gillian Merrick

Best wishes for a happy  
Christmas and a peaceful  
year ahead

Sue Moseley

May you find peace, hope, and  
joy this Christmas.

With love to all at St Mary's  
from: Linda Staff

Wishing you all a blessed  
and peaceful Christmas and  
New Year

Tony and Cristina Tucker

Wishing all my friends at St  
Mary's a very happy Christmas  
and a happy, healthy and  
peaceful New Year

Valerie Smither

A happy & peaceful Christmas  
and all the best for the New Year

Jenny and David Dance

Peace and Justice in the world  
Blessed and Joyous Christmas  
Best Wishes for the New Year

Ray Kasey

Happy Christmas to all

Sybil Hale

Wishing you all a Happy Christ-  
mas and New Year

with best wishes Joyce Sharp

Wishing you and your families a  
Blessed and Joyous Christmas  
And every good wish for 2026  
God Bless

Sara

Best wishes for the season of  
Christmas. Celebrate and enjoy  
Marian Morrison  
(Lay Pastoral Visitor)



## EASYFUNDRAISING FOR ST. MARY'S

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

**More than 8000 on-line retailers** (including Argos, John Lewis, Booking.com, British Airways, Tui, Expedia, 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 £1656 in charitable donations from their purchases.

**We can raise much more** if more people register and shop via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Please select **St Mary the Virgin Parish Church - Ewell** as your nominated charity and remember to make purchases via the EasyFundraising website.

Thank you!

## Alan Greenwood & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors  
[www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com](http://www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com)

The Funeral Service that caters for everyone's needs

- A choice of the latest Jaguar or Mercedes Hearses and Limousines
- Home visit arrangements
- Pre-paid funeral plans
- Memorials
- Quality Service 24 hours day

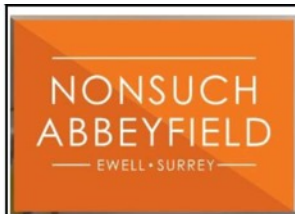


*The Greenwood Family are directly involved in the running of the Company, ensuring that your wishes are carried out with the utmost dignity and precise attention to detail.*

83 High Street, Ewell Village, KT17 1RX **020 8393 0197**

425 Kingston Road, Ewell, KT19 0BT **020 8786 7476**

706 London Road, North Cheam, SM3 9BY **020 8150 9525**



**Abbeyfield Southern Oaks - Independent living with care - Ewell**

Stylish new one- and two-bedroom apartments to purchase or rent  
Restaurant cinema club-room lounges fitness suite "What's not to like?"

Phone 020 8393 0050 Email [admin@abbeyfieldsouthernoaks.org](mailto:admin@abbeyfieldsouthernoaks.org)

Nonsuch Abbeyfield Old Schools Lane Ewell KT17 1FL Charity no 247308



## ALFRED & EWART LONGHURST

*FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS*

- A complete, caring professional service
- Estimates and advice freely given for funerals and memorials
- Flexible pre-paid funeral plan - details on request

21-23, KINGSTON ROAD, EWELL

020 8393 1077



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

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

[www.acts435.org.uk/our-mission/how-we-work/](http://www.acts435.org.uk/our-mission/how-we-work/)

## Calendar for December

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



### ADVENT 1

- M 01 Day Home Communion by Clergy  
 T 02 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 1305-1335 Lunchtime Bach Organ Recital  
 1900 for 1930 Advent Study: Nicene Creed (Parish Room)  
 W 03 1630 First Communion Class (Parish Room)  
 Th 04 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)  
 1430 Advent Study: Nicene Creed (Parish Room)  
 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)  
 F 05 1600-2000 EWELL YULE in Village (Church open)

### S 07 ADVENT 2

- 0800 Said Holy Eucharist 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist  
 T 09 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 1900 for 1930 Advent Study: Nicene Creed (Parish Room)  
 W 10 1930 St Mary's Crafters (Hall)  
 Th 11 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)  
 1430 Advent Study: Nicene Creed (Parish Room)  
 S 13 1930 Concert - 'Elvis at Christmas' (in Church)

### S 14 ADVENT 3

- 0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
 0930 Service of the Word  
 1000 Confirmation service at Christ Church, Epsom  
 M 15 2000 Julian Group Zoom Meeting  
 T 16 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 1900 for 1930 Advent Study: Nicene Creed (Parish Room)  
 W 17 1930 'Sing-a-longa Ding Dong!' - Ewell Grove Players (Church)  
 Th 18 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)  
 1430 Advent Study: Nicene Creed (Parish Room)  
 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)  
 S 20 1930 Concert - 'Christmas with Duo!' (in Church)

### S 21 ADVENT 4

- 0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist  
 1730 Nine Lessons and Carols  
 T 23 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 W 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 1400 The Story of Christmas - All Age Service  
 1600 Arrival at Bethlehem - Family Service for All  
 2315 Midnight Mass

### Th 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- 0800 Said Holy Eucharist 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
 1000 Sung Holy Eucharist

### S 28 CHRISTMAS 1

- 0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist  
 T 30 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)  
 W 31 1630 First Communion Class (Parish Room)

**B** Birchgrove Ewell  
**Lower Mill Apartments**  
 Modern retirement apartments

Request an Info Pack

Everyone has a story...

**Upsize your life. Defy expectations.**

At Birchgrove, retirement living comes with a twist. Behind our front doors, you'll find more than just beautifully designed, self-contained apartments and inclusive rents (with no additional service charges in sight). You'll find remarkable characters – residents with stories to tell, talents to share, and maybe even a mystery or two. This isn't your typical retirement. It's a new chapter where life gets more interesting, not less.

Continue *your story* with Birchgrove.  
[www.birchgrove.life](http://www.birchgrove.life) / 020 3929 5599

Locations in Surrey, Kent & London:  
 Banstead | Chiswick | Ewell | Godalming | Hampton  
 Leatherhead | Mill Hill | Sidcup | Woking

RESI  
 Local Living Specialist of the Year

HealthInvestor  
 Senior Housing Award  
 Winner

Keeping you connected

- All residential work undertaken
- Private or subcontract work
- Emergency repairs
- Fault finding
- Electrical testing & inspection
- Landlord certificates
- D.B.S cleared
- Fully qualified & insured
- Competitive rates

Andy Fuller

Telephone 07778 356 752