



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 636

January 2026

£1



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

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON

Saturday 24 January
2-5pm in Ewell Hall



All
Ages
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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

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**Happy New Year
2026**

COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: epn@stmarysewell.com. Handwritten or typed copy will only be accepted by prior agreement (call 020 8393 4804). Please do not embed photos in WORD files, but send the images separately. Copy date for the February 2026 edition is noon on Monday 12 January but if possible please send copy before this date.

Fr Mark Stafford writes

As we step into the new year, there is a renewed sense of hope and purpose at St Mary's Ewell, as we think about new heating systems and a café area at the back of Church.

January is a time for fresh starts, and this year we invite our community to join us on an eco-conscious journey, inspired by the wonders of creation and the pressing call to care for our environment.

Our faith calls us to be stewards of the Earth, recognising the beauty and fragility of the world that God has entrusted to us. From the first daffodil shoots in the churchyards to the crisp winter mornings, the start of the year is a poignant reminder that all life is sacred and worth protecting.

At St Mary's, we believe that small acts of care can have a big impact. Whether it is reducing energy use within our buildings, recycling more diligently, or simply taking time to appreciate the natural world around us, every gesture matters.

- **Eco-Friendly Worship:** We will be making time in our worship and study time to focus on environmental issues.
- **Community Churchyard:** Our eco group are planning on doing further work to the wildflower meadow and will be restarting sessions to plant native species, and create wildlife habitat, not to mention the monthly litter picks.
- **Green Group:** Join our Eco Group to explore ways to make our parish more sustainable, from energy audits to litter picks in our churchyards. All ages welcome!

Tips for an Eco-Friendly New Year

1. Walk or cycle to church when weather permits, reducing your carbon footprint and enjoying the local scenery.
2. Consider switching to renewable energy suppliers at home.
3. Recycle Christmas trees and decorations responsibly: check Ewell council's schedules for tree collection.
4. Make a resolution to reduce plastic use: refill containers, avoid single-use bags, and choose sustainable products.

As January unfolds, let us remember that caring for the environment is not just a trend - it is an act of love and respect for our neighbours and for generations yet to come. By working together, St Mary's Ewell can be a beacon of hope for a greener, fairer world.

If you have ideas or would like to get involved in our eco initiatives, please speak to a member of clergy or email the parish office. Let's make 2026 a year to celebrate creation and community, hand in hand.

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Epiphany party at the Vicarage - Lucy and I would love to see you at the Vicarage, 14 Church Street for a post-Christmas/ Epiphany drinks party. Come and join us on Saturday 10 January 19:00- 21:00 for drinks and nibbles.

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

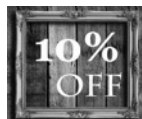
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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.

St. Mary's Crafters – Wednesday 14 January – Join Sara Holland for crafting, chatter and cake. Sara will be demonstrating paper crafting techniques 19:30 - 21:00 at Ewell Hall. For more information, speak to Sara in church or email llm@stmarysewell.com.

Church online quiz Why not join us online in the evening on Wednesday 21 January for our Church quiz on Zoom? To get the joining link you need to register in advance. You can do this by emailing zoom@stmarysewell.com.

Lunch Club -The Lunch Club will operate throughout January from 12:00 - 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!

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. In January the café will be open on Thursdays the 8th and 15th from 14.45 - 15.45 at Ewell Hall.

Note that there are no recitals or concerts in January. The next Tuesday lunchtime recital is on 3 February. This year the lunchtime recitals are a new series, Bach plus one, starting on the 3rd with Bach plus Liszt, The concert on Saturday 21 February will be a Fundraising Concert by young organists to raise money for the Strover Organ Scholarship Scheme, which is organised by our Director of Music, Jonathan Holmes.

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

Wishing all readers a blessed and sustainable New Year.

Fr Mark

EPIPHANY 6 JANUARY THE GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple.

Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



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NOVEMBER PCC REPORT

Fr Mark reported that the diocese has selected St Mary's to be one of the 20 churches in the diocese that they will be supporting to become net zero carbon within the next two years. As a start to this process, Fr Mark and the churchwardens will be visiting Nork church to look at the infra-red heaters installed there, with a view to considering them for St Mary's.

He said that a new Area Dean has been appointed and that St Mary's will be hosting the next meeting of the Deanery Synod on 27 January, when the digital communications officer from the diocese will be explaining how churches can fund-raise digitally.

It was noted that the process has begun to explore the possibility of drawing up formal leases for the Church land currently being used as gardens by two properties in Church Street. The property owners will be offered a long lease with an annual peppercorn rent. Meetings will soon be set up with them.

Fr Mark also reported that plans are being made to start up St Mary's junior choir in February and hopefully recruit further members once practices begin. There is a scholarship fund available to help support the project.

The next meeting of the PCC will be on Wednesday 28 January.

*Liz Divall
PCC Secretary*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT (Brainteaser)

Unscramble these anagrams of things to eat

Sugared ambulances

Pinch his fads

Let a four backstage

Answers in next month's EPN

DRD

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Epsom & Ewell Foodbank runs five distribution centres in Epsom, Ewell, Banstead, Leatherhead and Tadworth,

providing emergency food and support to individuals and families who are experiencing severe financial hardship. The number of people using the Foodbank has nearly doubled in the last few years, due to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis. In 2023/24, we distributed enough food to feed nearly 10,000 people for at least 3 days.

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

Urgently needed: tinned meat, cooking sauce, pasta/beans with meat, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, tinned spaghetti, packet soup, instant mash, savoury biscuits, ketchup/mayonnaise/brown sauce, squash, long life juice, jam / honey / chocolate spread/ peanut butter / marmalade, instant coffee, UHT milk, powdered milk, sugar, hot chocolate, rice pudding, custard, sponge pudding, chocolate, male/female deodorant, shaving foam, shampoo, adult toothpaste, washing powder, hair conditioner, toilet rolls and nappies sizes 3 and 6 ONLY.

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 except Bank Holidays).

You can make a monetary donation via the Foodbank website www.epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk.

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.

Prayers for January



‘O Lord,

Here we are again, at the beginning of another New Year and wondering what it may hold. For us, it brings a chance to reflect, reset and refresh. So, let it be a time that we turn to You in prayer for guidance, strength, and blessing.

We ask that You guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire You above all else. Help us to be like those wise men who sought an earthly king but who were instead led to a very humble home and found You, the One born to bring freedom, forgiveness, and a hope of heaven. Like them, during the coming days, may we also be led to that Light, to You who opens eyes to understanding God’s Word and Truth.

In these continuing difficult and dangerous times, where there continues to be war, flood, famine, and all manner of disasters both natural or arising from our own greed and selfishness, we ask for Your wisdom, for Your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray that You will make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able and let Your gifts flow freely through us, so that You may be honoured by our lives and others be drawn to You. **AMEN**

TUESDAY BACH RECITALS

Jonathan Holmes — organ

4 November and 2 December

Over the course of these monthly Bach recitals, we have learned much new musical terminology. 4 November was no exception. Here was an opportunity to hear a Double Fugue. We often meet 'conventional' fugues, where the tune or 'subject' is 'subjected' to a series of repetitions at both pitch and time. One of the most magnificent of Bach's organ works is the *Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV548* nicknamed the 'Wedge'; it is a single fugue and one where it is down to the skill of the composer that this music sounds both harmonious and interesting. A Double Fugue occurs when, as well as the principal 'subject', the composer brings in a second subject. This can be done in one of two ways, either simultaneously with the first subject, or later. Readers who are choral singers will be familiar with the first type. The second 'subject' of the Kyrie in Mozart's Requiem enters at the same time as the first. Mozart was a master of fugue, as witness the Finale of his 'Jupiter' Symphony.

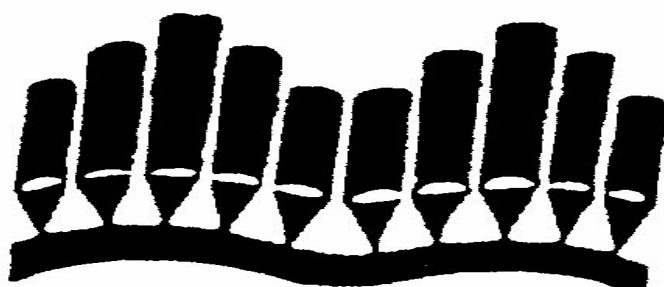
Jonathan's November recital began with a Double Fugue, the *Fugue in C minor on a theme of Legrenzi, BWV574*, Giovanni Legrenzi was a Venetian composer of an older generation; his theme is short and terse somewhat like Beethoven's. Bach very soon combines both his 'subjects' into a complex and abrupt ending. We also heard some Chorale Preludes. Two are based on the same humble prayer, *Liebster Jesu, BWV 730 and 731*. 'Dearest Jesu' in English. These two pieces were flanked by two more on an identical German text: *Valet will ich dirgeben BWV 736 and 735*. 'Farewell I gladly bid thee' in English. Lastly the superb 'Wedge' *Prelude and Fugue* as aforesaid.

No double fugues featured in Jonathan's December recital. Since it is Advent, it is appropriate to include a selection of short chorale preludes written for this and the Christmas season. It was instructive to hear the wealth of sound colour available to the organist by judicious choice of organ stops. Most of these preludes have texts in German though one or two are in Latin. Here they are:

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599; Gott, durch deine Gute, BWV 600; Herr Christ, der ein'ger Gottes-Sohn, BWV 601; Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott, BWV 602; Puer natus in Bethlehem, BWV 603; Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ BWV 604; Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605; Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, BWV 606; Vom Himmel kam der Engel Schar, BWV 607; lastly the familiar Christmassy *In dulci jubilo, BWV 608*.*

To round off an excellent recital, Jonathon finished with Bach's exuberant *Prelude and Fugue* — not double! — in *D major, BWV532* which exploits to the utmost the player's dexterity on both hands and feet.

TT



Ewell Hall EVENTS + ACTIVITIES

A WELCOMING VENUE IN THE HEART OF EWELL*

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

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

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON



Come and join us in Ewell Hall on 24 January at 2-5pm for a cuppa and a slice of cake.

Spend the afternoon playing board games, games of luck and skill, familiar games and some new and unusual, games suitable for young and old. You can bring your own games along too!

Come as a family or come alone, all will receive a warm welcome! No need to book—just turn up!

BEING QUIET AND STILL IS GOOD FOR YOUR WELL-BEING!



Life can be so hectic and being still is such a rare gift! I asked AI the question 'Is being quiet and still good for your well-being?' The answer came back 'Yes, being quiet and still is **highly beneficial** for your overall well-being, with numerous documented physical and mental health advantages.' Combined with some spiritual input, there is blessing of body, mind and spirit!

All over the world Julian groups meet regularly to spend time together in stillness and silent

prayer. They are named after Mother Julian of Norwich and follow her precept that the highest form of prayer consists in simply waiting on God. St Mary's has a Julian Group which meets on the third Monday of each month from 8-8.40pm via Zoom. We spend time being still and quiet in God's presence hearing some words of Mother Julian of Norwich or another spiritual writer or from the Bible.

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to show the picture of yourself on Zoom if you'd prefer not to. The dates for the next three months are 19 January, 16 February and 16 March. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with me (020 8337 6347 or assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com).

Sue Ayling

EWELL VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR PUZZLE



Over recent years, it's become a tradition that 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies design the 24 numbers that go in the windows of 22 shops in the village and on the noticeboards of St Mary's Church and Christ Church for the

Ewell Village Advent Calendar Puzzle. Our Assistant Priest, Sue Ayling, had the challenging task of judging the three winners. On the evening when the judging took place, Sue told the Brownies that it becomes more and more difficult every year to decide who the winners should be, because the designs created by the Brownies become better every year!

This year, Sue says she found it the most difficult ever to make her choice. She explained to the Brownies that she is looking for the numbers to include something about the Christmas story, as well as showing how we might celebrate Christmas in our homes. The impact the numbers will have when shown in the shop windows or on the church notice boards is important too. The winners this year were, in third place, Neave, in second place, Ceci, and, in first place, Robyn. Many congratulations to them and to all the Brownies (and their leaders) who designed numbers.

If you want to find out more about the Ewell Village Advent Calendar Puzzle, which is held every year, see page 5 of December's EPN.

Sue Ayling

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

Come and join us for an evening of paper crafting,
all materials provided.

Or bring your own craft project – knitting, crochet,
sewing, painting, or....?

14th January – Our cup overflows

11th February – God is Love

11th March – Spring

8th April – Decoupage Eggs

At Ewell Hall, London Road, Ewell KT17 2AY
7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Cost – £5.00 per person

All Welcome

For more information please speak to Sara
Holland

Email: llm@stmarysewell.com

THE VENERABLE RUSSELL DEWHURST

We offer **many congratulations to Russell Dewhurst** (our previous Vicar) on his installation as Archdeacon of Hastings by the Bishop of Chichester at Evensong at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 29 November. The photo shows Russell with his son and parishioners from St. Mary's who made the journey to Chichester to support him.



Russell moved to the Diocese of Chichester in 2021 and has assisted parishes in vacancy around West Sussex. He has been one of the two acting Archdeacons of Chichester since January 2025 as he completes a doctorate on Anglican canon law.

On his appointment Russell said: "It has been a wonderful experience to be Acting Archdeacon here in West Sussex and I look forward to getting to know the clergy, churchwardens, parishes, schools, and chaplaincies of Hastings Archdeaconry. We know there are many challenges but also many opportunities for the Church today, and I pray that my work as archdeacon may help to 'equip the saints for the work of ministry' as together we seek to serve God in East Sussex."

Please remember Russell and his family in your prayers.

DRD

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EPN copy dates for 2026

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

12 Jan	09 Feb	16 Mar
13 Apr	18 May	15 June
13 July	17 Aug	14 Sept
12 Oct	16 Nov	07 Dec

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

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



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It's not only 'ladies who lunch', anyone can!

And lunch in Ewell Hall every Thursday in Winter is not to be missed. Probably the chat and banter are as filling and fulfilling as the food. Add to that tea, coffee, biscuits and a couple of games and you have the perfect way to warm up on these chilly dark days. Everyone is welcome and the more of us who do come along make each lunchtime even more welcoming to our guests. Thank you to all our lovely volunteers; couldn't do it without you!

The puppy

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, surrounding a small puppy. Concerned lest the boys were hurting it, he went to investigate. One boy explained, "We just found this puppy, and we all want him. So, we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to take him home."

The minister was taken aback. "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie? Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for a moment. The minister thought he had got through to them.

Then the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

A REFLECTION ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Most of us have probably grown up with the Lord's Prayer. It may be one of the few prayers we know by heart. I think the writer of this reflection intended that it should make each one of us think more deeply about those words. I doubt that it was ever intended to make us stop praying the Lord's Prayer but rather that we need to let its words truly live in our hearts and minds.

Our Father

Don't say 'Father' if you don't behave like a son or daughter. Don't say 'our' if you only ever think of yourself.

Hallowed be thy name

Don't say 'Hallowed' if you don't honour that name

Thy kingdom come

Don't say 'Thy kingdom come' if you are weighed down only with material considerations

Thy will be done

Don't say 'Thy will be done' if you don't accept the hard bits

On earth as it is in heaven

Don't say 'as in heaven' if you only ever think about earthly matters

Give us this day our daily bread

Don't say 'our daily bread' if you have no concern for the hungry or the homeless

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

Don't say 'Forgive us our trespasses' if you remain angry with your fellows

Lead us not into temptation

Don't say 'lead us not into temptation' if you intend to continue sinning

But deliver us from evil

Don't say 'deliver us from evil' if you won't make a stand against injustice

For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen

Don't say 'amen' without considering the words of your prayer.

Anon.



Bereavement Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. Bereavement Café is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement, and find mutual support and encouragement, when you need it most. The café is open on the **first and third Thursdays** of the month from 2:45pm to 3:45pm in Ewell Hall (7 London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY).

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS BAPTISMS

A member of Christ, the child of God
(BCP Baptism rite)

23 November	Etta Edith Morgan Jackson
	Jack Charles West
30 November	Mark Julian Curry

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

On the afternoon of Saturday 29 November a group of 12 gathered in Ewell Hall for a Christmas Door Wreath Making Workshop kindly run by Lucy Morrell. This was the perfect start to the Christmas season and made everyone feel really festive. This was the second workshop of the day – with another 12 participants in the morning.

Lucy provided all the materials required to make a beautiful door wreath – this included a wide variety of foliage including fir, eucalyptus, ivy, skimmia and some holly as well as pretty sprayed fir cones, orange slices, walnuts and cinnamon. She then gave a demonstration and made it look very easy indeed finishing with the usual flourish “And here’s one I prepared earlier” !



It was then down to each participant to create their very own, hopefully beautiful, Christmas wreath, and with Lucy’s help, everyone managed to do exactly this, and I think it is fair to say that we were all absolutely delighted with the results. Each wreath was completely unique, some with more natural colours, whilst others used white and silver or the traditional red and green of Christmas.

All this was all done in the warmth of the hall whilst drinking plenty of tea and consuming more than a few mince pies.

A very happy and productive afternoon! Merry Christmas !

Louisa



ST. MARY’S ECO GROUP

EPSOM & EWELL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

In 2020 Our Borough Council developed its first Climate Change Action Plan to cover the period 2020-2024 and setting a target of becoming carbon neutral by the year 2035. In 2025 an updated plan has been adopted to cover the period 2025-2029. You can download it here: <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/climate-change>.

The plan gives objectives, desired outcomes, timescales, costs, and co-benefits related to reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability within the borough. It is a long and detailed document and I have used AI to help me extract some of the key features.

Energy Efficiency and Housing Initiatives

The plan emphasizes improving energy efficiency in housing and supporting residents with energy efficiency measures.

Transport Improvements and Emission Reductions

The plan aims to transition to lower polluting vehicles and improve transport infrastructure.

Environmental Enhancements and Biodiversity

The plan includes initiatives to enhance local biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

Waste Management and Reduction Strategies

The plan focuses on minimizing waste and promoting recycling initiatives.

Technology and Digital Transformation

The plan highlights the importance of technology in reducing emissions and improving efficiency.

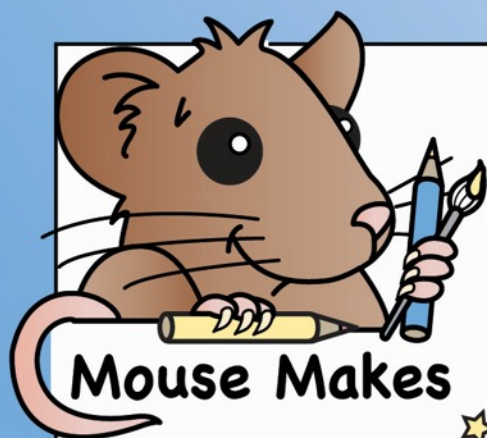
DRD

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.

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.



Mouse Makes

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine **blueish-white**, then **yellowish-white**, **yellow**, **orange** and the coolest stars shine **red**.



WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets fortold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in **Matthew 2:1-12**

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

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
FRANKINCENSE
WORSHIP • JOY
EPIPHANY

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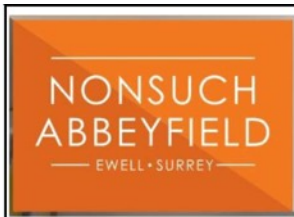
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'...giving to anyone who has need.'

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

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

Calendar for January

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



- S 04 CHRISTMAS 2**
 0800 Said Holy Eucharist 1662 (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
- M 05 TWELFTH NIGHT**
 Day Home Communion by Clergy
- T 06 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)**
- Th 08 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)**
 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 10 1900-2130 Epiphany Party at the Vicarage**
- S 11 EPIPHANY 1 (The Baptism of Christ)**
 0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
- T 13 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)**
- W 14 1930 St Mary's Crafters (Hall)**
- Th 15 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)**
 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
 1900 Old Tower Trust Meeting (Parish Room)
- S 18 EPIPHANY 2**
 0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist
 1730 Choral Evensong
- M 19 2000 Julian Group (Zoom)**
- T 20 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)**
 1200 Day for All Meeting (Zoom)
- W 21 2000 St Mary's Quiz on Zoom**
- Th 22 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)**
- S 24 1400-1700 Board Games (Hall)**
- S 25 EPIPHANY 3**
 0800 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Eucharist (Singers/Choir)
- M 26 1930 Music Support Group (Parish Room)**
- T 27 1000 Said Holy Eucharist (Lady Chapel)**
 1900 Deanery Synod Meeting (in Church)
- W 28 1630-1730 First Communion Class (Parish Room)**
 1930 PCC Meeting (Parish Room)
- Th 29 1200-1400 Warm Hub/Lunch Club (Hall)**

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