



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 638

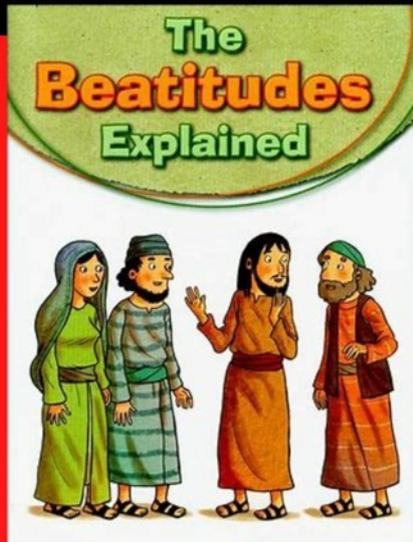
March 2026

£1



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

Lent 2026



Come and join us as we explore
the Beautiful Attitudes.
Tuesday Evenings in Lent
7:30pm for 8:00pm start.
Feb 24th ,
March 3rd , 10th , 17th , 24th

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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 April 2026 edition is noon on Monday 16 March but if possible please send copy before this date.

Fr Mark Stafford writes

Toilet Twinning



Lent has always been a season of reflection, simplicity, and renewed compassion. It invites us to look outward as much as inward, to notice the needs of others, and to respond with generosity that mirrors Christ's love. This year, our parish is supporting **Toilet Twinning**, a wonderfully practical and hope-filled charity that transforms lives through something most of us rarely think about: the humble loo.

For around 1.7 billion people around the world, a safe, clean toilet is not a given. Many families must use unsafe open spaces, putting them at risk of disease, violence, and deep indignity. Children miss school because of illness; women and girls face daily vulnerability; whole communities struggle to thrive.

Toilet Twinning tackles this head-on by funding **latrines, clean water, and hygiene education** in some of the world's poorest communities. When a toilet is built, it becomes more than a convenience—it becomes a foundation for health, safety, and dignity.

How it Works

The idea is beautifully simple. By donating £60, you “twin” a loo with one in a community that desperately needs it. We receive a certificate showing the location of your twinned toilet, which we can display in Church and the Hall, and the funds help families build safe sanitation where it's needed most.

It's a small act with a surprisingly large impact. A single latrine can protect a family for years, reduce disease, and give children the chance to attend school regularly. Hygiene training empowers communities to take ownership of their health and future.

Lent encourages us to give up something—but also to give *towards* something. Supporting Toilet Twinning is a way of turning our Lenten discipline into lasting change.

As we journey toward Easter, we remember that resurrection begins in the small, hidden places of life—just like the quiet transformation that happens when a family receives a safe, clean toilet.

How You Can Take Part

- Pray for communities without access to clean water and sanitation.
- Share the story with friends or neighbours who might like to join in.
- Please use the Lent collection boxes to donate or talk to Donna, the Wardens or Clergy about donating.

A Final Thought

Clean water and safe sanitation are things we often take for granted. Yet for millions, they remain out of reach. This Lent, may our giving reflect our gratitude—and may our parish

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.

help bring dignity, health, and hope to families who need it most.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Lent gatherings – “Beatitudes” – Every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in Lent, from 24 February – 24 March, we will gather to explore the Beatitudes. We will meet in the parish room for refreshments and 8:00pm start. Each session will be self-contained, it would be great if you could attend all the gatherings, but if this would not be possible you can dip in and out.

Stations of the Cross – We will pray the Stations of the Cross every Sunday in Lent at 5:30pm, please come and join us in this devotional service.

3 March Bach and Buxtehuda – Come and join us for our **Lunchtime Tuesday recital** from 1.05pm – 1.35pm. Tea, coffee and refreshments to follow.

4 March – We will be going to Mimosza for a **Parish Meal**; menu choices and sign-up sheets are in Church.

Craft group in Ewell Hall: Wednesday 11 March – The group will meet at 7.30pm. Cost is £5 per person to cover activity costs.

Mothering Sunday – 15 March 8:00am and 9:30am. Please come and join us as we celebrate motherhood and Mother Church.

Ewell Parochial Trust AGM. The trust invites you to attend its AGM on Monday, 16 March at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the parish room.

18 March, 8pm -we will hold our **Monthly Online Quiz**, great fun for all and no need to leave the comfort of home – registration details can be found in the weekly notes in due course, or you can simply email zoom@stmarysewell.com.

21 March 1:05pm – **Afternoon concert of family music** with Jonathan Holmes

Bereavement café – Thursday 5 and 19 March 2:45pm – 3:45pm at Ewell Hall (opposite the Church). Bereavement Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. Bereavement Café is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement, and find mutual support and encouragement, when you need it most.

Holy Week and Easter 2026.

Morning prayer will be said each day at 9:00am

29 March – Palm Sunday

Holy Communion at 8:00am and 9:30am

Holy Week

Monday 30 March, Holy Communion at 8:00pm

Tuesday 31 March, Holy Communion at 10:00 am and 8:00pm

Wednesday 1 April, Holy Communion at 8:00pm

3 April - Maundy Thursday

8:00pm Stripping of the Altar and Gethsemane watch

4 April - Good Friday

8:00am Mass of the Pre-sanctified.

11:00 Children and Families Stations of the Cross in and around the Church.

Noon – 3:00pm Three hours at the foot of Cross- last hour Service of Veneration of the Cross.

5 April - Holy Saturday

8:30pm – Easter Vigil and service of light.

6 April- Easter Sunday

Holy Communion at 8:00am and 9:30am

11:15am Family Easter worship (including JAM), followed by Easter Egg hunt.

12:00 Noon, Parish Easter Celebration

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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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.

MARCH CONCERTS

3 March 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Bach and Buxtehuda

Jonathan Holmes - Director of Music

Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

21 March 1.05pm

Family Concert

All Concerts have a suggested donation of £10 which can be gift aided. Children Free.

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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. In 2024 the Foodbank distributed 7963 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis.

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

Urgently needed: tinned meat, long life juice, tinned fruit, tinned spaghetti, sweetcorn, tea (bags), instant coffee, tinned fish, noodles, squash, microwave rice, tinned vegetables, pasta sauce, biscuits, chocolate biscuit bars, rice pudding, cooking sauce, powdered milk, ketchup/mayonnaise/brown sauce, jam/honey/chocolate spread/peanut butter/ marmalade, UHT milk, sugar, sponge pudding, male/female deodorant, shower gel, shaving foam, washing powder, washing up liquid, sanitary pads, hair conditioner, children toothpaste and tooth-brushes 0-2 and 6-8 only and toilet rolls.

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked: tinned soup, dog food, 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 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



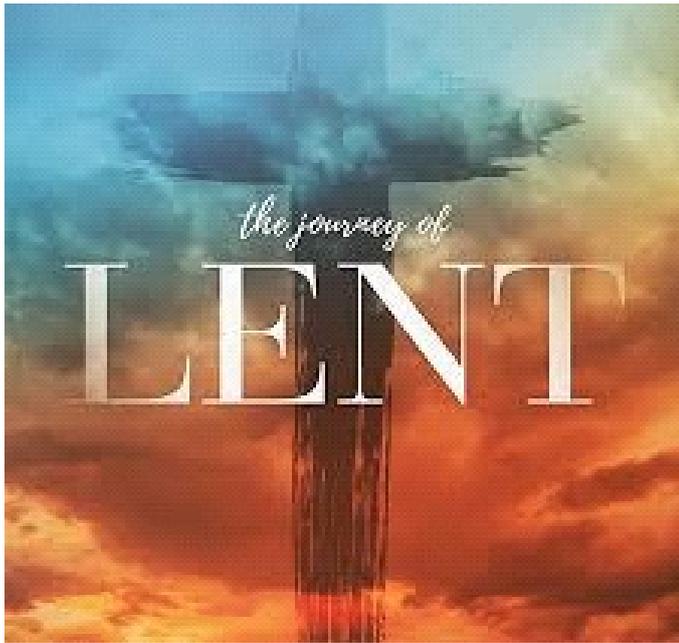
These are very popular and are fun for all the family, so why not join us?

Our next quiz is on Wednesday 18 March

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 March



Dear Lord Jesus,

Hear our prayer as we make our journey with You through the dark days of Lent towards Calvary. Help us to be honest with ourselves, as we reflect in our heart and soul, noticing the times that we have turned away from You.

Lord, we ask that You guide us through the difficult days of Lent, the difficult days in our own lives, encouraging us along the way. Guide us as we humbly seek to repent and return to Your love.

Transform us this Lent, Lord. Give us the strength to commit ourselves to growing closer to You each day. Help us to remember the ultimate sacrifice that You made for each one of us and help us to look beyond the darkness of Calvary towards the amazing promise of Easter and the new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in You.

AMEN



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).

BACH & LISZT

Jonathan Holmes organ

3 February

At first glance, it would appear that Bach and Liszt have little in common. After all, one was a member of a dynasty of practising musicians steeped in the German Lutheran Church; the other, born much later, stemming from a completely different background. Yet there are connections, albeit tenuous, between the two, as we shall see.

Jonathan is continuing his exploration of the entire oeuvre of Bach's organ music. Today we heard six of what are called Schübler chorales. All are short in duration, cheerful in character. Around 1747, Bach arranged some of his preludes based on popular hymn tunes, for publication by the engraver Johann Georg Schübler. First of these is well known. "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" BWV 645 is sung at Advent to the words 'Sleepers awake, a voice is calling'. The others are perhaps less well known. BWV646 is "Wo soll ich fliehen" ('O whither shall I fly?'); "Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten" BWV 647 ('If thou but suffer God to guide thee'); "Meine Seele erhebt den Herren" BWV 648 is well known as Mary's song in the Magnificat: 'My soul doth magnify the Lord'; "Ach, bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ" BWV 649 ('O stay with us Lord Jesu Christ'); and lastly "Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter" BWV 650 which translates as 'Art thou coming now, Lord Jesu, from Heaven above?'

Now for a completely different world. In his own lifetime, as now, Liszt was honoured as a champion pianist. As an organist he is less well known and wrote comparatively few works for the organ. A link with Bach occurred - as Liszt himself was always proud to acknowledge - when he moved to the town of Weimar where Bach had lived and worked a century before. Liszt had been invited to take up an appointment in the town at a time when he wanted to retire after many years spent as a travelling piano virtuoso; in Weimar he carried out most of his composition work. One of the more substantial organ works is the 'Variations on Bach's Weinen, Magen, Sorgen, Zagen' which derives partly from Bach's Cantata No. 12 of the same title. The other source is the 'Crucifixus' movement from the B Minor Mass. Composed in the ultra-serious key of F minor, the music reflects the German text - the words mean 'tears, complaints, cares, fears, anguish and stress are the bitter bread of Christians' - and personal tragedy. At that time Liszt had learned the distressing news that his daughter Blandine had died at the early age of twenty-six, of an unknown cause. Around the same time, he and his lover Carolyne von Sayn-Wittgenstein were both engaged in the throes of seeking Papal permission - ultimately unsuccessful - for a divorce from her husband. Only at the very end of the work is there any hint of optimism, when the music changes into the major key.

TT



ASIAN HORNET UPDATE

The Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH), otherwise known as the Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is an invasive species which was first recorded in Europe in 2016 after one disembarked off a cargo ship in Bordeaux from China. The reason there are concerns about the YLH is that it has no natural predators in Europe and that it preys upon pollinating insects, including the honey bee. Unless the spread of the YLH can be restricted or eliminated the biodiversity of flora will be impacted leading to horticulture and overall biodiversity being affected.

In the 2024 and 2025 March editions of the EPN you were updated on how many YLH nests had been found and destroyed in the previous year. During 2023 72 YLH nests were found and destroyed. During 2024 only 24 nests were found and destroyed. Unfortunately, the number rose to 162 during 2025. Although most nests were found in Kent and East Sussex they were also found as far afield as Dorset, Cheshire, and North Yorkshire. In Surrey nests were found in Godstone and Holmbury St Mary.

When nests are destroyed DNA is taken from the Hornets to see whether they are the offspring of nests found in previous years. This was not the case for many of the nests which means that some of the hornets originate from Europe, either by being carried on the wind across the English Channel or hitching a lift on vehicles crossing the Channel.

There were 544 credible sightings of a YLH reported during 2025, but not all of their nests were found which means that there is a strong possibility that these nests will overwinter.

As individuals what can we do to thwart the spread of the YLH? Please be vigilant and report any sightings of the YLH. Reports can be made using the 'Asian Hornet Watch App' for Apple and android devices or by using the online form at, https://brc.ac.uk/risc/alert.php?species=asian_hornet.

The photos illustrate what a YLH and their nests look like. More information can be obtained on the Asian-Hornets.com website.

Please be vigilant in your gardens during the summer and



autumn especially when gardening and trimming hedges. If you see a hornet or a nest DO NOT approach it as the hornets become aggressive when disturbed. Just report the sighting on the App.

Derek Dowle

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS FUNERAL

Let light perpetual shine upon them

30 January Richard Edward Hendrie, aged 75

EPN Subscriptions in 2026 SECOND REMINDER

Thank you to all who have paid their annual Ewell Parish News subscription for 2026. For those who have yet to pay, please note that the annual subscription for the delivery by hand, payable to your deliverer is now £10.

Please make cheques payable to 'PCC St Mary the Virgin, Ewell'. We hope you will continue to subscribe and that you enjoy reading the EPN.

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.

PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 28 January the treasurer reported that the Parish Share will increase to £106,000 for this year, an increase of 4%. Members discussed and agreed responses to a questionnaire from the diocese about the Parish Share - how it is set, how fair it is and ideas for improvement. Fr Mark will return the completed questionnaire.

Fr Mark said that seven or eight young people have now been recruited for the Junior Choir. Jonathan will be assisted by Parish Choir member, Susana, who is a qualified music teacher. He pointed out all the well-being benefits for children singing together whilst also learning both music and choral skills. There is evidence also that church growth occurs from having church choirs.

The choristers will follow the published RSCM scheme and work towards achieving their surplices and then 'ribbons' at different levels. Presentations of these will take place during services in front of the congregation.

St Mary's hosted the most recent meeting of the Diocesan Synod on January 27 when the digital communications officer from the diocese explained how churches can and should have a digital presence. St Mary's is doing well with its monthly magazine, website, media pages, Facebook, email contacts, and X.

A member of the PCC offered to look at how these platforms could be linked.

It was reported that the door closer on the west door is closing too quickly and could cause injury. If it cannot be adjusted or repaired, it will be replaced.

The next meeting of the PCC will be held on Monday 23 February.

Liz Divall, PCC Secretary

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.

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO sponsor a Lily THIS EASTER?



As in previous years we are offering you the opportunity to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one and we hope that our church can be filled with beautiful flowers this Easter Week-end. We suggest a donation of £4 for each lily. Please contact Lucy (in the choir), or email flowers@stmarysewell.com.

Cash is preferred, either give to Lucy, or the churchwardens, in an envelope on a Sunday, or you can make a donation by on-line transfer to the St Mary's Flower Arrangers account (please request details from the above email address). **The closing date for lilies is Monday 23 March** and don't forget to say how many lilies you would like and of whom they are in memory.

A notice is put up on Easter Saturday by the font with your loved ones' names.

SPRING MARKET

We are once again making plans for our annual Spring Market which will be held on Saturday 16 May in Ewell Hall from 10am to 12noon. Please put the date in your diaries.

The ever-popular plant stall will be in great need of supplies to ensure we have a good assortment on offer so get growing please! Tomato plants are particularly popular but bedding plants - Geraniums, Petunias, Busy Lizzie and any other summer flowering plants will be most welcome.

When you are doing your spring cleaning please remember that the Bric-a-Brac stall will be looking for new stock so we will be pleased to accept any donations.

Homemade cakes are always popular so contributions on the day will be very welcome. More details nearer the time.

As we sadly no longer have a book stall, we thought it might be an opportunity to fill the spare table with something different so if you have any scarves, pashminas, handbags, purses, wallets, small items of jewellery and any other accessories that might appeal please donate them for our new innovation.

There will be the usual raffle so any donations for prizes will be most welcome.

Offers of help will be much appreciated - contact Gill Bird - 01372 277436 or speak to me in church.

Parish meal

4th March 26 at 19:30

Mimoza Turkish Resturant

£22 per person

Please speak to

Lucy Stafford for details

lucy@stmarysewell.com



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DAME SARAH MULLALLY THE 106TH ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28 January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.

She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London

She worked as a nurse in the NHS Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse becoming a sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Nursing Director at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.

She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton.

On 12 May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24 May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.

As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, and the couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOON 24 JANUARY

The rattle of dice and the chink of counters echoed around the parish room. Competition was fierce amongst the 25 or so adults and children people playing there and at the back of the church.

An array of different board games was displayed on a table, alongside a delicious variety of homemade cakes and biscuits.



Thank you to Valerie and Gill, who served us with copious cups of tea and coffee and masterminded the event, and to those who made the delicious cakes.

To those that won - well done and to those that did not - better luck next time.

We hope to see you at next year's board games afternoon.

JMD

VALENTINE'S SERVICE

Our annual service to mark St Valentine's Day took place on 15 February and those who were married at St Mary's were welcomed back to attend the service.

The opening hymn was The King of love my shepherd is, New Testament reading was 1 Corinthians 13 1-8 and the Gospel John 1:1-14, both well known readings about love. Fr Mark spoke about the meaning of love. "Peppering" the sermon with some personal "cheesy" quotations of his own.



Afterwards we all enjoyed tea or coffee, and some luscious cake from a suitably decorated table.

JMD

FOUNDATIONS IN MINISTRY

At the 9:30 Holy Communion service on 1 February we were pleased to welcome a guest speaker, Beth Perkins. Beth told us about the Foundations in Ministry programme, for which she is the Diocesan Lead.



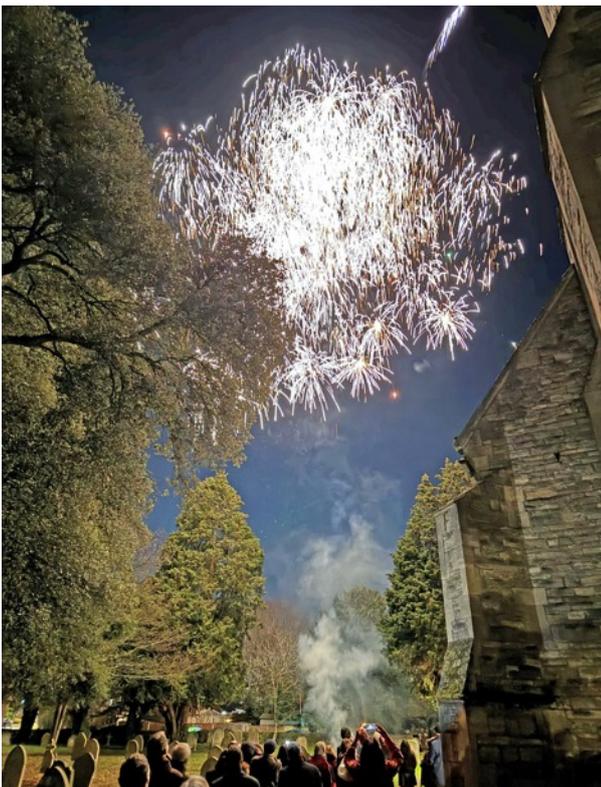
Foundations in Ministry trains and equips lay leaders in local churches. Local churches appoint leaders (actual, emerging and potential) as Lay Associate Ministers, or LAMs, and send them on the programme. LAMs join a supportive community to explore what leadership might be like and to

grow in confidence. It is based on a robust theological framework. Over the course students are encouraged to keep a journal, to share their learning with others, and to pursue reading and further development.

The programme is part-time across two years. It is spread over the course of an academic year from September to July, with six Saturdays in person, and small group meetings online in between. For further information, speak to our clergy or see the Diocesan Website.

FIREWORKS AT ST. MARY'S

The much loved member of St. Mary's congregation, Promilla Mullen died on 7 January. She was cremated at North East Surrey Crematorium and this was followed by a service in church. After the service, members of the congregation were invited by Prom's family to go outside the church to watch a fireworks display! You can read Prom's obituary on page 10.



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the end of the Lent course in 2019 Ben Niblett from Tearfund came to share some ideas about how we might make a difference for the better as individuals and as a church. He encouraged us not to feel guilty about what we can't do but to focus on what we can do - out of love for God and for our neighbour and for the earth. He shared with us his top four tips which would be steps in the right direction and we thought it would be good to share these again.

- Switch electricity to renewable sources in our homes and churches;
- Drive less. If you are able to use public transport, walk, cycle or share a car. Some people are switching to an electric car but this isn't for everyone;
- Fly less. Not taking one flight makes a difference. Can you take a train or ZOOM/WhatsApp/Skype/Facetime?
- Eat less meat. (Cows and sheep breathe out methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.)

PERSONAL LIFESTYLE ECO AUDITS

Might you be able to take a personal lifestyle audit?

An easy way to do this is to use the audit tool provided by *climate stewards* which is for both individuals and families. You can find it at <https://footprintr.me/> If you click on the link you can calculate your carbon footprint under the headings home, private travel, public travel, flying, food and expenditure. For example we have a small hybrid car and I learnt that for an annual mileage of 3000 miles the carbon footprint is 621 kgCO₂. If I spend £100 on a restaurant meal for two, the carbon footprint is 29 kgCO₂.

Climate Stewards is part of the A Rocha family of organisations, caring for God's creation around the world. They work with many hundreds of individuals, charities and churches to provide advice and support in their carbon reduction journey. Once you have used their site to calculate your carbon footprint they offer advice on how to reduce this footprint. You can also make a donation to offset your carbon emissions. The money you pay is used to fund Climate Stewards' partners in Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda. They work with local partners on community-based projects that either reduce carbon emissions or remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - creating carbon offsets.

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

Count your plastic 9 to 15 March and join thousands of people from households, schools and communities across the country taking part in the UK's biggest people-powered investigation into household plastic waste. You're not just counting plastic - you're building a movement for a fair future that's free from the impacts of the plastics crisis. Sign up here: <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

If you have an ECO tip or would like to join our ECO Group, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Fr. Mark on 020 8393 1297 or vicar@stmarysewell.com.

Promilla Mullen

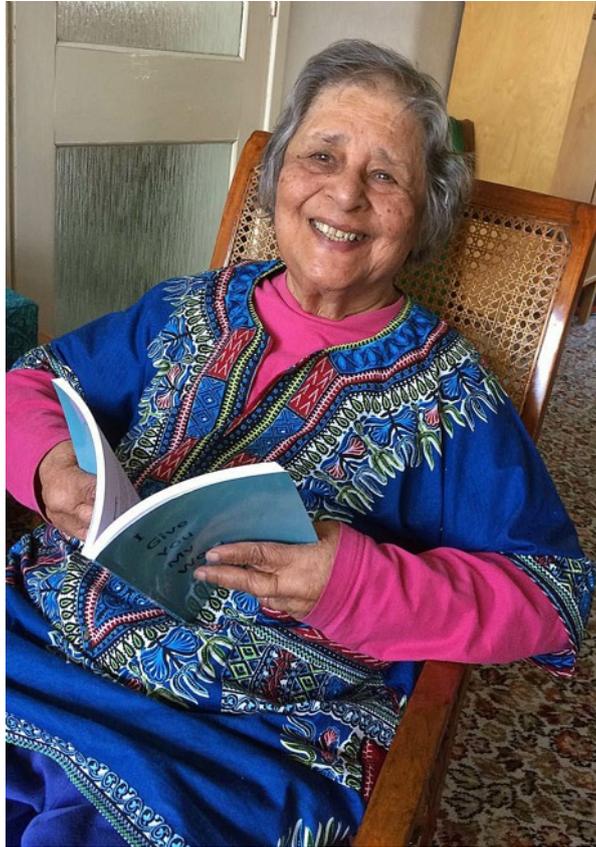
26 September 1930 - 21 December 2025

Promilla Mullen, my Nanna, was known and loved by many. She filled any room she walked into with her bright and lively presence. She loved us with words, celebrated us with music and entertained us with her many talents. To my Nanna, all the world was a stage, and today we are here to applaud her wonderful life. She was a strong woman, enduring illness, mistreatment and political turmoil all while remaining full of life and faith. She was never afraid to speak to God, to take all her troubles and give them to him. She praised his creations and embraced them in her art, encouraging us all to do the same.

She was born in Mussoorie, India and grew up in Agra. She attended St.

Patrick's Convent and it was here she took her first music lessons. Many may have heard her speak fondly of the little chair she had to pump up to reach the piano, but her talent soon towered over those keys, and it remained so for the rest of her life. As a child, she told me stories of the pet duck she befriended, and subsequently ran away with when Easter dinner approached, of her boredom with constantly taking guests to see the Taj Mahal and her art for causing trouble. As a teenager, she attended St. Deny's School which was nestled high in the Himalayas. The pine trees and clear skies often appeared in her poems long after she left the mountains, and I believe they held a special place in her heart. At the Kinnard College in Lahore she completed college courses in English Literature and joined the Dramatic Society, and it was in one of her plays that my Grandpa, Lloyd Mullen, first saw her. It was also during this time that she met and befriended Agatha Christie.

Going on to lecture in English at Lahore College for Women she also honed her skills in a wide variety of talents including German, bridge and card tricks. In 1963 her talent for the word was acknowledged by a British Council Scholarship, and she was invited to learn Language and Linguistics at Manchester University. She returned home to Lahore and married my



Grandpa in 1967 and together they moved back to Manchester. Of all her homes, Manchester was my Nanna's favourite. The kindness she experienced there will stay with her forever. If you asked her about it, she would smile the kind of quiet smile that told you she wasn't trying to excite you with wonderful tales of her travels, as she often did, but was reminiscing on her own special memories. She would recount how neighbours, strangers and co-workers all supported her when she was pregnant with my mother, Cherry. How people bought food, gave their seats up and pushed her to the front of lines when she was alone in a new, unfamiliar country.

In 1972 my grandpa's post with the British Council took my grandparents to Bangalore and then Colombo, Sri Lanka, going on to spend time in Karachi and Kampala. It was not until 1982 that they returned to live in Ewell when my grandpa was posted to the London Office. However, in 1987, my grandpa was posted to Uganda and finally 1991 that they both retired back to Ewell.

In all these places, my Nanna's wonderful ability to plan, host and entertain all manner of guests made her many friends. She brought many people together and was a master in the art of the party. I doubt that anyone who has met her has ever truly forgotten it. And she didn't just entertain us with her stories and songs, but also her delightful poems and creative writing. Many of which won awards and prizes, some have been featured in magazines like Women's Weekly and Poetry Monthly. Some were joyful, some were deep, and many were rather cheeky, but all were brilliant.

It is with happiness, fondness and the same feeling of awe that overcomes you as the final curtain drops after an excellent play, that I remember my grandma.

Hazel Blundell

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 £1750 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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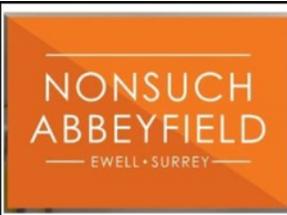


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'...giving to anyone who has need.'

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 March

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



- S 01 LENT 2 (St David's Day)**
 0800 Said Holy Communion 1662 (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Communion
 1730 Stations of the Cross
- M 02 Day** Home Communion by Clergy
- T 03 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 1305-1335 Bach plus One - Lunchtime Recital
 1930 for 2000 Lent Course: Beatitudes (Parish Room)
- W 04 1930** Parish Meal at 'Mimoza' (pre-book)
- Th 05 1445-1545** Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 08 LENT 3**
 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Communion
 1730 Stations of the Cross
- M 09 1930** Ewell Tower Meeting (Vicarage)
- T 10 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 1930 for 2000 Lent Course: Beatitudes (Parish Room)
- W 11 1930** St Mary's Crafters (Hall)
- Th 12 1930** Ewell Village Fair Meeting (Vicarage)
- S 15 LENT 4 (Mothering Sunday)**
 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Communion
 1730 Stations of the Cross
- M 16 1930** Ewell Parochial Trust AGM (Parish Room)
 2000 Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 17 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 1930 for 2000 Lent Course: Beatitudes (Parish Room)
- W 18 2000** St Mary's Quiz on Zoom
- Th 19 1445-1545** Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 21 1305** Family Concert with Jonathan Holmes
- S 22 LENT 5 (Passiontide begins)**
 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Communion (Singers/Choir)
 1730 Stations of the Cross
- T 24 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 1930 for 2000 Lent Course: Beatitudes (Parish Room)
- W 25 1630-1730** First Communion Class (Parish Room)
- F 27 1930** PCC Meeting (Ewell Hall)
- S 29 PALM SUNDAY (Holy week)**
 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 0930 Sung Holy Communion with Passion Reading
- M 30 2000** Holy Communion
- T 31 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 2000 Holy Communion

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