



# EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 639

April 2026

£1



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

## Holy Week & Easter

### 29 March – Palm Sunday

08:00 and 9:30 Holy Communion

### 30 March – Holy Week

20:00 Holy Communion

### 31 March – Holy Week

10:00 and 20:00 Holy Communion

### 1 April – Holy Week

20:00 Holy Communion

### 2 April – Maundy Thursday

20:00 Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper,  
*Stripping the altar and Gethsemane watch*

### 3 April – Good Friday

08:00 Mass of the Pre-sanctified  
11:00 Children and Families Stations of the Cross  
12:00-15:00 Three hours at the foot of the Cross  
last hour Service of Veneration of the Cross

### 4 April – Holy Saturday

20:30 Easter Vigil and Service of Light

### 5 April – Easter Day

08:00 and 09:30 Holy Communion  
11:15 Family Easter Worship  
*followed by an Easter Egg hunt*  
12:00 Bring and share lunch in Ewell Hall



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## Fr Mark Stafford writes

### Celebrating 100 Years of St Mary's Brownies

Some of my happiest childhood memories come from my time with the 7th Tamworth Cubs, Scouts, and Venture Scouts. We learned practical skills, went camping, played wide games, occasionally misjudged a situation, and—most importantly—discovered how to work together as a team. Scouting taught us that community matters and that life is about more than serving ourselves. I can still hear Alex, our Skip, calling us to order, when we got a little over excited and a scrap was on the horizon, in his thick Glaswegian accent, pipe in hand — “you need to treat your buddy as yourself.” Different times, but lessons that stayed with us.

Scouting offered us some great opportunities and experiences we would never normally have, boating down the Thames, weekend hikes through the Peak District, summer camps in the UK and Europe, orienteering and pioneering challenges (basically building towers and bridges from rope and wood and seeing how many people you could get on it before plummeting to the ground or into a river), but most of all an opportunity to grow, to take chances, work as a team, assess risk and develop resilience.

This April, our parish has the pleasure of celebrating a remarkable milestone: **100 years of St Mary's Brownies**. For a full century, Brownies have gathered here to learn new skills, make friends, serve the community and experience the joy and adventure of Guiding. Generations of girls have worn the uniform, made their Promise and carried the Brownie spirit into their homes, schools, and wider lives.

It's amazing to think how much the world has changed since the first Brownies met at St Mary's in 1926. Yet the heart of Brownies has stayed wonderfully consistent: helping others, growing in confidence and finding joy in working together. Leaders and volunteers have given countless hours over the decades to nurture that spirit, and our parish has been truly blessed by their dedication.

To mark this centenary, **St Mary's Brownies will join us for a special Parade Service on Sunday 26 April**. We hope that the church will be filled with colour, energy and memories as we give thanks for all that Brownies has meant to our community. Together, we'll honour the past, celebrate the present and look forward to the next hundred years of adventure.

The service will include contributions from the Brownies themselves and offer a moment to reflect on

## 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.**

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the values that have shaped their journey—kindness, curiosity, teamwork, and service. These qualities enrich not only the girls who learn them, but our whole parish family.

Whether you were once a Brownie, have a daughter or granddaughter in the unit, or simply wish to share in a moment of parish celebration, **you are warmly invited to join us.** It promises to be a joyful and memorable morning. We will be renewing Brownie promises and would invite anyone who was in or still is in Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts to come in uniform or wear one of your badges.

Here’s to a century of St Mary’s Brownies— and to the next chapter of their story.

(Please see also the article by our Brownie leader on page 7 of EPN and the Brownies invitation to the service)

**WHATS ON IN APRIL**

April 7 Tuesday Recital Bach and Franck. Come and join us at 1:05pm for our recital followed by refreshments.

**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

**2 April - Maundy Thursday**

8:00pm Stripping of the Altar and Gethsemane watch

**3 April - Good Friday**

8:00am Mass of the Pre-sanctified.

11:00am 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.

**4 April - Holy Saturday**

8:30pm – Easter Vigil and service of Shadows and Light.

**5 April- Easter Sunday**

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

11:15am Family Easter worship, followed by Easter Egg hunt.

12:00 Noon, Bring and share lunch in Ewell Hall.

**St Mary’s Crafters group meeting in Ewell Hall:**  
Wednesday 8 April – The group will meet at 7.30pm. Cost is £5 per person to cover activity costs.

**Bereavement café** – Thursday 2 and 16 April 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.

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark

**GIVING TO  
ST. MARY’S**

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

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

or you can phone:  
0333 0021260.

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



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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

**We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock**

22 February Nathaniel David Huggins

### FUNERAL

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord**

19 February Lorraine Anne Wood, aged 64

4 March Janice Elizabeth Priddle,  
aged 86

*Ashes interment*

27 February Robert Michael Bruce, aged 90

## APRIL CONCERT

7 April 1.05 pm

**Tuesday lunchtime organ recital**

**Bach and Franck**

**Jonathan Holmes**

Director of Music

Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

*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, sweetcorn, tea bags, instant coffee, noodles, squash, tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, etc.), pasta sauce, savoury biscuits, biscuits, custard, rice pudding, cooking sauce, powdered milk, ketchup /mayonnaise /brown sauce, jam/honey/chocolate spread /peanut butter /marmalade, dried pasta in sauce, tinned fish, cereal bars, UHT milk, sugar, packet soup, instant mash, sponge pudding, male/female deodorant, shower gel, shaving foam, shampoo, washing powder, washing up liquid, hair conditioner, children's toothbrushes 0-2 only, children's toothpaste 0-2 only, nappies size 5 & 6 and toilet rolls.

**Please no more of these items as we are at capacity:** 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](http://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 27 May

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).

# Prayers for April



## An Easter Prayer

**Lord, Jesus,** You have risen to new life! Alleluia!

This we may say, but often, we remain deaf to hearing the good news and power of Your resurrection story. Even when we do hear it, we fail to respond and allow it to change us. So, Lord, we pray open our eyes that we may see Your glory and recognise Your renewing and life-giving spirit in the world around us. Help us to see beyond the ordinary events of each day and into the extraordinary reality of Your ever-loving presence.

Lord, open our lives to Your resurrection power that we may live each day as You would have us live it. Lord, in You we have found a Saviour no grave can withstand. Help us to find that miracle of new life that we too may live more fully in the knowledge of Your saving grace. **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).

### Observations

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible. - Anon

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - Anon

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point. - Anon

# WOMEN COMPOSERS

How many women composers do you know? Precious few, I should think.

When I was young, the only one I had come across was *Germaine Tailleferre*. Photographs of her show a glamorous woman in furs and cloche hat, characteristic of the Twenties; after all, she was a colleague of Poulenc, Honegger and others active in Paris at the time. Bearing in mind that women make up 50% of the population, it is surprising there are so few. On the other hand, one must remember it was for long assumed that the place for women was in the home.

Talented girls were actively discouraged from making music a career. A few doggedly persisted and, eventually, achieved a measure of grudging success. One such was the American *Amy Beach* some of whose music we have heard at St. Mary's. The Englishwoman *Rebecca Clarke* became the famous teacher Charles Villiers Stanford's first female student at the Royal College of Music. Her music is rarely performed. Other women had a little more good fortune. *Ethel Smyth* came of a military family and her father encouraged his daughter's musical talents by having her studying at Leipzig in Germany. She is out of fashion at the moment, and, sad to say, her extensive output of operas and orchestral music languish on library shelves unperformed.

Some women were able to succeed independently. *Hildegard of Bingen* was a nun writing for her abbey. *Barbara Strozzi* was among the earliest to have her music published. The illegitimate daughter of a Venetian poet, she set her father's lyrics for soprano and lute (or theorbo). A few other women of the seventeenth century, such as *Francesca Caccini*, are receiving more performances now than they ever did.

Other women - very few - were lucky enough to have husbands or fathers, who were wealthy enough to enable them to compose in their spare time. One such was Felix Mendelssohn's sister *Fanny*. She lost out to her younger brother, despite being (arguably) more talented, because their father had to choose one or other to be musically educated and that meant the daughter made way for her brother. Much the same happened to Mozart's sister *Nannerl*. Both children were acclaimed as 'infant prodigies' and both hugely enjoyed their tours of Europe. When she entered her teens, Nannerl was compelled to stay at home with their mother. On the other hand, Robert Schumann married *Clara* who was already an accomplished pianist and composer. Robert actively encouraged his wife's compositional skills, which ultimately stood her in good stead after Robert's untimely death. Poor old *Alma Schindler*, on the other hand, lost out completely after she married Gustav Mahler in 1902. "Only one composer in this household" he declaimed, meaning himself. As a girl, she had written all sorts of songs and piano pieces. Perhaps unsurprisingly, she went off with another man. Gustav sought psychiatric advice from Sigmund Freud, but by then it was already too late.

## SPRING MARKET

Our ever-popular Spring Market will be held on Saturday 16 May between 10.00am and 12 noon in Ewell Hall.

**Admission is free** and all are welcome. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available for your mid-morning break and there will be an extensive selection of plants, cakes, toys and bric-a-brac for your perusal. We also hope to have a selection of ladies and gentlemen's accessories for sale.

Home-made cakes are always popular so please get baking! Donations for any of the other stalls will also be most welcome. Non-perishable contributions can be left in church from Sunday 10 May. Any other items for sale can be brought to Ewell Hall on Friday 15 May between 2pm and 5pm or from 8.30am on the Saturday. Alternatively, a list of stall-holders is shown below to enable specific arrangements to be made.

There will be a **raffle** – for which any donations will be gratefully received.

We look forward to welcoming you, along with your family and friends, to enjoy this social occasion.

All proceeds from this event are put towards the running expenses of the Ewell Village Fair which is to be held on 11 July.

Plants	Gillian Reynolds	020 8393 3752
Cakes	Lucy Morrell	020 8873 2184
Bric-a-brac	Gillian Merrick	07817 566562
Refreshments	Rosemarie Henson	020 8224 2713
Accessories	Valerie Wood	020 8393 5991
Raffle	Gill Bird	01372 277436

## CHURCH DINNER



On Wednesday 4 March 47 people sat down for a lively evening at the MIMOZA Restaurant in Ewell.

Efficient, friendly service, abundant and tasty food were keynotes of the evening, as well as the noisy, happy chatter that emanated from those attending.

Thanks go to Lucy and Fr. Mark for organising this very enjoyable meal.

*JMD*

## PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 23 February the meeting was informed that the current office phone system is now out of contract. To remain with BT would see the annual cost going up to £2,000 plus. Splitting the phone and wi-fi provider was suggested in order to save at least £1,000 a year. Exploring the use of a mobile phone for the office with an app to transfer calls via a 'virtual' landline, whilst keeping the existing church phone number was also put forward. This will be done in consultation with the Parish Administrator.

Fr Mark referred to the new Mission Action Plan Part 3, distributed in church on Sunday 22 February. This focusses on the fabric of the church and Ewell Hall and how they are used. Research has already begun on replacing the Hall heating system for an air source heat pump and solar panels and replacing the single glazed windows in the Hall with double glazed windows. Planning permission may be required to replace the glazing in the large front window as we are in a conservation area. Fr Mark will be contacting the council's Conservation Officer.

So far, an air to water heating system has been suggested for the church, taking out the back two rows of pews, levelling the floor and installing a servery/kitchenette. The new space would also allow for bistro style tables and chairs, opening up more possibilities for church and community use.

The next meeting PCC meeting will be on Friday 27 March

*Liz Divall, PCC Secretary*



## 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

## 1ST EWELL VILLAGE (ST MARY'S) BROWNIES 100th ANNIVERSARY



On 7 March nearly 50 current and previous members plus supporters of 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies attended a party at Bourne Hall to celebrate the unit's 100th Anniversary.

Leaders, unit helpers and Brownies from over the years celebrated with tea and cake and enjoyed looking round the temporary exhibition about Brownies and Girlguiding in Bourne Hall Museum.

The exhibition showcased Brownie memorabilia and press cuttings including a newspaper report about the unit's 70th birthday which featured a Brownie who 30 years later attended this party! There were also brownie handbooks, uniform, badges and event souvenirs on display.

The unit was originally called "1st A Ewell" and opened in February 1926. It was renamed 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) in 1977.

Girlguiding was started in 1910 by Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of Boy Scouts founder Robert Baden-Powell after a group of girls gate-crashed the first Scout Rally at Crystal Palace in 1909 demanding something for the girls.

A section for the younger age group of 7-10 year olds was set up in 1914 called Rosebuds but it quickly became apparent that this name was not popular and Agnes changed them to Brownies in 1915 after the helpful fairy creatures from a story.

Today the Brownies enjoy a varied programme of activities following a themed programme designed to give them independence and courage, to look after other people and the environment and teach them new skills to become confident young women making a positive difference in the world.

Assistant County Commissioner for Surrey East Girlguiding Kate Fowles gave a moving speech at the event. She spoke about the Brownies being part of 100 years of friendship, adventure and courage in Ewell Village and hoped that one day they might look back and realise they were part of this incredible moment in the unit's history. She thanked the leaders – past and present – for giving their time, patience, humour and dedication so that girls could flourish and thanked the parents for allowing their children to keep this century-long legacy alive. She congratulated the unit and hoped that they would continue to laugh loudly, try bravely and shine brightly.

The current Brownies had been invited to design a woven badge to celebrate the centenary, and the winner Anna received a framed certificate. Everyone attending was presented with one of these beautiful badges and enjoyed the delicious birthday cake and lemon drizzle cake and most appropriate chocolate brownies kindly made by Kathie and Lucy from St Mary's.

We are extremely proud to be the Brownie unit at St Mary's and would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr Mark and the church community for their continued and much appreciated support and enthusiasm for what we do.

*Mary Zoeller, Brown Owl (Unit Leader)*





**ST MARY'S CRAFTERS**

**8<sup>th</sup> April – Spring**

**13<sup>th</sup> May – A Stitch in Time**

**10<sup>th</sup> June – For the men in our lives**

**8<sup>th</sup> July – Congratulations**

**9<sup>th</sup> September – Autumn**

**14<sup>th</sup> October – Recycled Christmas**

**11<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas**

**Ewell Hall, London Road**

**7:30 – 9:00pm**

**£5**

### PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Ewell Village Fair 11 July

Jazz on the Lawn 22 August

A Day for All 26 September

## THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*This is the text of the first Presidential Address of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, at the February 2026 General Synod group of sessions.*

Synod, thank you for the warmth of your welcome.

I stand here among you by no means for the first time, but for the first time as the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a humbling privilege to be called to serve in this role. It brings with it huge weight of responsibility, at a time when people love to remind me that the church faces significant challenges.

But when the wind and the waves are rocking the boat, I am reminded that what I need to do is to focus on Christ, who calms the waters and stills the wind. With your help and with God's grace, I pray that I am able to approach this ministry with calm, consistency and compassion – as we seek to be what the Church has for so long been: a stable presence in an unstable world.

Do, please, continue to pray for me in the months and years to come, as I will always pray for you. I do not carry my new responsibilities alone. We serve God's church together, lay and ordained; uniquely reflecting God's image into one another, and remembering His prayer that we should be one in our love for God and of one another.

At my Confirmation of Election, I was deeply moved to be asked, during the Charge which was given to me, to 'help the Church love itself more ... believing that its best days are still to come'. And I do believe that this is true. Through every challenge, our hope in Christ remains - and our confidence in the Gospel, as good news for our nation and for God's world, is not shaken.

I see God's Kingdom, the pearl of great price, revealed in countless places across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The Church of England is a Christian presence in every community. In parishes and chaplaincies across the country, day in and day out, faithful clergy and congregations worship God and love their neighbours. With every Eucharist that is offered, with every prayer said; with every child helped to flourish in our schools; with every family cared for in times of celebration and of sorrow; with every night shelter and food bank; with each worship service, youth group and community lunch; with every effort to work for justice, dignity and fairness in our nation and our world – with all of this and so much more, we live out our calling to share the love of God with those around us.

And across the global Anglican Communion, in its profound diversity, we see Anglicans offering that same hope to a world around them: working for peace in places of war, caring for the sick and lifting up new generations of young people, and speaking of the hope that we find in Jesus Christ.

Because with Christ, the Church is there in all those

places and with all those people, and the Kingdom is made known. I rejoice in every example I see of this – the pearl of great price - glimpsed in faithful, local, sensitive, intelligent ministry which embodies and speaks of the Kingdom.

So, what sort of Archbishop do I feel called to be? As I said when I accepted the nomination, as I respond to the Call of Christ in this new ministry, I remain rooted in my first calling: to follow Christ, to know Him – and to make Him known in the world. My Christian vocation first led me to become a nurse – then later a priest, then a bishop, and now an archbishop. The theme that has run through of all of these chapters of my life has been washing feet, and in serving and caring for others.

And so, I believe that I have been called to love and serve the Diocese of Canterbury, the Church of England, and the Anglican Communion, not through developing new programmes and initiatives, but by being a shepherd, who works collaboratively and in partnership, enabling others to flourish.

And I will work with you, Synod, with my fellow bishops, and with our national church bodies, striving to ensure that the Kingdom is being nurtured everywhere - in parishes, chaplaincies, cathedrals and schools, in the smallest and most fragile communities, as well as the larger and more confident expressions of church, wherever disciples seek to be salt and light.

The role of the Archbishop of Canterbury is a complex and challenging one. But at its heart is something profound and simple. Along with my fellow bishops, I am called to share the hope that we have found in Jesus Christ – and what that means for us all as individuals, and as a society. I pray that the thread running through my time as Archbishop will be that of nurturing confidence and hope, rooted not in institutions, but in God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With our confidence in God, we can believe that indeed, the best is yet to come for the church that we love and nurture, and therefore for the world that the church is called to serve.

As Archbishop of Canterbury, I commit myself to nurturing, supporting and praying for all our parishes, chaplaincies, cathedrals and schools, where quiet faithfulness is coupled with a readiness to respond to every opportunity, however small, to embody the hope of the Gospel at the heart of a community; where people, together, become places where the Kingdom happens.

As a shepherd, I will strive to be calm, consistent and compassionate to all. I commit myself to enabling the Church to be the Church. May we continue to offer ourselves in God's service for God's world: our hope rooted in the Gospel, and our confidence rooted in God, who holds the Church and its future in love.

Please pray for me as I pray for you. Amen.



## ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP

### St Mary's - a Fairtrade Church

I'm sure you will have noticed that our Eco group have been encouraging the use of Fairtrade produce. The PCC has agreed that St Mary's should sign up as a Fairtrade Church.

To be awarded Fairtrade Place of Worship status there are just two core requirements.

1. To use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and share information about Fairtrade products with the wider congregation.

You will notice our tea coffee and sugar available following our Services will have the Fairtrade mark.

2. To integrate Fairtrade into the life of your place of worship. We have already been doing this but in addition, this year we intend to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight from 22 September to 5 October. We are planning to conclude the fortnight with an outdoor service on Sunday 5 October. Look out for more details nearer the time.

So what is Fairtrade? Fairtrade is a global movement that ensures farmers and workers get a fair deal for the goods they produce. It works to improve incomes, uphold rights and promote sustainability through ethical trade. (Statement adapted from The Fairtrade website.)

Back in October 2023, I wrote an article for EPN admitting that I always seem to be in a rush, and so tend to buy the same food from the same source without thought of the ethics behind it. We are all very aware at the moment of the increasing household bills and that, understandably, must take priority. But could I/we do more?

I have continued to be interested in following the LOAF principles...

Locally grown - so fewer food miles; Organic – fewer chemicals which helps to conserve biodiversity; Animal friendly – if you choose to eat meat, buy meat with a higher welfare standard and Fair-trade – better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

I love having fresh flowers at home and like everything else I just buy them when I see them. I had not realised that it is possible to buy Fairtrade flowers. It was whilst I was looking up information on the Fairtrade website [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org) that I found out more information.

There's plenty to read – do have a look.

According to the Fairtrade website, Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador and Uganda. Fairtrade flowers can be traced back to the original farm. Fairtrade-certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a Fairtrade premium which allows workers to invest in Healthcare, Education and other social benefits.

There are many well-known stores where you can purchase Fairtrade produce. A list is available here [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org).

In particular, Fairtrade flowers are available at – Aldi, Asda, the Co-op, Arena flowers, Bloom and Wild and Nisa.

Will you swap one item in your shopping basket for local, organic or Fairtrade food? (or flowers!)

*Helen Crossley*

## PEN RECYCLING

You may have noticed that there is no longer a pen-recycling box at the back of the Church. We were taking pens to a recycling collection point at a shop in Epsom. Unfortunately, this collection point no longer accepts pens, and we have been unable to find a replacement collection point.

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](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com).

## FLOWERS IN CHURCH

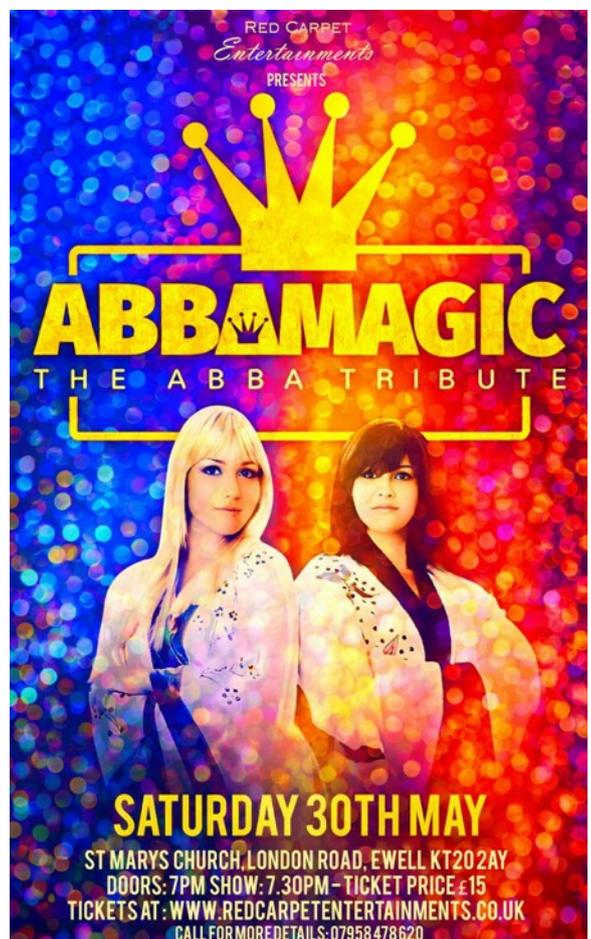
### More Team Members Wanted

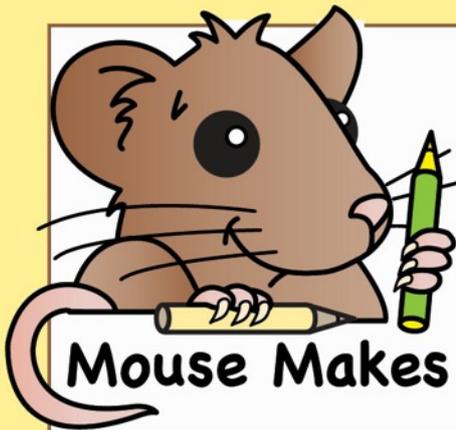


We know how much the flowers in church are appreciated by so many of you and it is our great pleasure to add to the beauty of our church through the year. We are very keen to add to the team which currently stands at four, especially to help with major festivals and weddings. We work in pairs on a Friday (sometimes Saturday) morning arranging a new pedestal and maintaining the one from the previous week.

If you have some limited experience in arranging flowers and would like to consider joining the team, why not come along one morning to see what we do? We're a friendly group and also meet a couple of times a year for tea and cake, to exchange ideas and have a catch up.

If you'd like to know more please speak to Lucy (in the choir) or email her at [flowers@stmarysewell.com](mailto:flowers@stmarysewell.com).





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**EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE**

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

**Read Matthew 21:1-11**

I handed Jesus over to be crucified

**Read Matthew 27:11-26**

I nailed Jesus to the cross

**Read Mark 15:16-32**

We watched Jesus die

**Read Mark 15:33-41**

I laid his body in my tomb

**Read Mark 15:42-47**

I guarded the tomb

**Read Matthew 27:62-66**

We saw the empty tomb

**Read Matthew 28:1-10**

and spoke to the angel

**Jesus is alive!**  
He ate a meal with me!

**Read Luke 24:13-35**

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**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!

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

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

## Calendar for April

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



- W 01 WEDNESDAY (Holy Week)**  
2000 Holy Communion
- Th 02 MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
1445 Bereavement Cafe (Hall)  
2000 Sung Holy Communion of the Last Supper, Stripping the Altar, Gethsemane Watch
- F 03 GOOD FRIDAY**  
0800 Mass of the Pre-sanctified  
1100 Stations of the Cross (Children & Families)  
1200-1500 Three hours at the foot of the Cross, Last hour Service of Veneration of the Cross
- S 04 HOLY SATURDAY (EASTER EVE)**  
2030 Easter Vigil - Service of Shadows and Light and lighting of new Paschal Candle
- S 05 EASTER DAY**  
0800 Said Holy Communion 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1115 Children's & Family worship followed by Easter Egg hunt  
1200 Bring and share lunch in Ewell Hall
- M 06 Day** Home Communion by Clergy
- T 07 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1305-1335 Bach+Franck, Lunchtime Organ Recital  
1930 Ewell Tower Meeting (Parish Room)
- W 08 1930** St Mary's Crafters (Hall)
- S 12 EASTER 2**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion
- T 14 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- Th 16 1445-1545** Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 19 EASTER 3**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1730 Choral Evensong - 1662
- M 20 2000** Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 21 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1930 Ewell Village Fair Meeting (Parish Room)
- W 22 1400** EPT Meeting (Vicarage)  
1630-1730 First Communion Class (Parish Room)  
1930 PCC Meeting (Parish Room)
- S 26 EASTER 4**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Holy Communion with 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies Parade celebrating 100 years 1926-2026
- M 27 1930** Music Support Group Meeting (Parish Room)
- T 28 1000** Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

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