



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 640

May 2026

£1



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



Spring Market

Plants, Bric-a-Brac, Cakes, Ladies' and Gentlemen's accessories, Raffle and Refreshments

**Saturday 16th May
in Ewell Hall (London Road)
10 – 12 Noon**

Please bring donations from 8.30am or

Alternatively, Items for sale can be brought to Ewell Hall
on Friday 15th May between 2.00pm and 5pm



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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 June 2026 edition is noon on Monday 18 May but if possible please send copy before this date.

Fr Mark Stafford writes

Supporting St Mary's Through Prayer

Do you remember the good old days when Christian book shops were full of tee shirts with quirky slogans? I remember seeing one that said "7 days without prayer makes one weak" and this has stuck with me. Over my years in ministry, I have become increasingly aware of a profound, but simple truth: prayer is the lifeblood of the Church.

It is the quiet strength that sustains our worship, shapes our mission, and anchors our hopes for the future. The psalmist reminds us that "*unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain*" (Psalm 127:1). Everything we undertake every act of service, every ministry, every decision finds its meaning and power only when rooted in prayer.

This year, as we continue discerning God's call for our parish, we would like to establish a series of dedicated prayer groups, that either pray at home or come together for short prayer meetings, maybe over coffee and cake, each committed to interceding for a particular area of our church's life.

These groups are not committees, nor are they task driven teams. They are spiritual companions; small circles of people who hold before God the ministries, people, and practical responsibilities that enable St Mary's to flourish.

Our hope is simple: that every aspect of our Church's life will be upheld in faithful, intentional prayer, trusting that God will guide, strengthen, and bless us as we seek to serve.

Throughout Scripture, God's people are invited again and again, into a life of prayer. Jesus himself withdrew to pray (Luke 5:16), taught his disciples to pray (Luke 11:1), and promised that "*your Father who sees in secret will reward you*" (Matthew 6:6). The early Church "*devoted themselves... to the prayers*" (Acts 2:42), recognising that prayer was not an optional extra but the very atmosphere in which Christian life grows.

Prayer is not merely a spiritual discipline; it is a way of seeing the world. It reminds us that we are not alone in our labours, that God is present in our planning, and that the Holy Spirit is at work in ways we cannot always see. When we pray, we step into the truth that "*in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, we may let our requests be made known to God*" (Philippians 4:6).

In this spirit, our new prayer groups seek to surround the whole life of St Mary's with intercession-quiet, faithful, and sustained.

Each prayer group or group of home-based prayer partners will focus on a particular ministry or responsibility within the parish. We will have little prayer cards for each group of prayer partners, suggesting some prayers and highlighting the needs of the activities you are praying for, these prayer areas are diverse, yet each plays a vital role in our shared mission. Groups and individuals may pray for :-

The PCC We pray for wisdom, discernment, and unity as the PCC guides the governance and future direction of our parish. We trust the promise that "*if any of you lacks wisdom, ask God, who gives generously to all*" (James 1:5).

Children's Ministry We uphold those who nurture faith, joy, and belonging among our youngest members. Jesus' words

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;

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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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echo through this ministry: *“Let the little children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs”* (Matthew 19:14).

Music Ministry We give thanks for the gift of music, which lifts our worship and enriches our liturgy. The psalmist calls us to *“sing to the Lord a new song”* (Psalm 96:1), and we pray for inspiration, creativity, and joy for all who lead us in song.

Outreach and Community Support We pray for our service to the wider community - our acts of compassion, hospitality, and witness. Jesus urges us to *“let your light shine before others”* (Matthew 5:16), and we ask God to help us shine with generosity and hope.

Fabric and Estates We hold before God the stewardship of our historic church buildings and grounds. In caring for these spaces, we seek to *“do all things for the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The Hall Team We pray for those whose practical work enables countless groups, events, and community gatherings. Their service embodies the call to *“serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received”* (1 Peter 4:10).

Clergy and Lay Ministers We uphold those who lead, teach, preach, and offer pastoral care. With Paul we pray: *“pray for us, that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured”* (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Together, these groups form a tapestry of intercession-threads of prayer woven through the life of our Church and village.

Outreach and Mission I am sure that this should be included in all that we do. However I think we need to have a dedicated group of people to think about ways in which we can use what we do to reach others and what we could do too!

How Can I Take Part? I hear you say!

There are two simple ways to join this ministry of prayer.

Pray at Home Many parishioners will feel called to pray privately, offering regular intercession from home. Jesus assures us that such hidden prayer is precious: *“your Father who sees in secret will reward you”* (Matthew 6:6). Even a few minutes of prayer each week can make a profound difference.

Join a Small Prayer Group Others may prefer to gather with a small fellowship group for shared prayer, encouragement, and reflection. Christ promises that *“where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them”* (Matthew 18:20). These groups will meet in simple, accessible ways - some in person, some online, some in homes or quiet corners of the church.

Whether you pray alone or with others, your participation is a gift to the whole parish.

When a Church prays, something shifts. Hearts soften. Vision sharpens. Hope grows. We begin to see God's hand at work in places we had overlooked. We find courage for challenges and gratitude for blessings. We discover that prayer does not simply change circumstances, it changes us.

A praying church becomes a listening church, a discerning church, a compassionate church. It becomes a community shaped not by anxiety or scarcity, but by trust in God's abundant grace.

As we step into this new season of prayer at St Mary's Ewell, we do so with confidence that God hears and answers the sincere petitions of God's people.

If you feel drawn to join a prayer group or commit to regular intercession at home, please speak to Fr Mark, Sue or Sara and we will add you to the list of potential prayer partners. Whether your offering is public or private, frequent or occasional, it is deeply valued.

Together, let us root the life of St Mary's Ewell in prayer, trusting that God, who has begun a good work among us, will bring it to completion.

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Bereavement café Thursday 7 May and Thursday 21 May 2:45pm - 3:45pm in 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.

Continued on page 4

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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Fr Mark writes, continued from page 3

St Mary's Crafters group meeting in Ewell Hall Wednesday 13 May – The group will meet at 7.30pm. Cost is £5 per person to cover activity costs.

Spring Market We will be holding our annual Spring Market on Saturday 16 May. This popular event is well known for its wide variety of bedding plants and homemade cakes. There will also be a bric-a-brac stall. Tea and coffee will be available. The sale will be held between 10.00am and 12.00 noon in Ewell Hall, London Road, Ewell, opposite the Church. Admission is free, and all are welcome!

Church APCM 17 May after 9.30 Service.

Beating the bounds Beating the bounds is a great historical event; it is a centuries-old tradition aimed at reminding everyone of boundaries that were important in their lives.

It would be great if on Sunday 24 May, after the 9.30 service we could walk and "beat" our parish boundaries as we celebrate the Birthday of the Church (Pentecost). The full boundary walk is about 8.5 miles, but there is also a possible shorter route 4.5 miles. If you are interested please add your name to the sheet at the back of Church.

Monthly Online Quiz On 27 May, 8pm we will hold our monthly quiz. These are 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.

Music in May

Tuesday 5 May 1.05pm Bach and Couperin recital in Church
Saturday 23 May 1.05pm Choral Music from St Mary's Parish Choir including Chilcott Jazz Mass.

Saturday 30 May Abba will be in Church! - please see poster on p9 for booking details.

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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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, tinned fruit, microwave rice, crisps, custard, rice pudding, cooking sauce, ketchup/mayonnaise/brown sauce, jam /honey/chocolate spread/peanut butter/marmalade, dried pasta in sauce, UHT milk, pasta/beans with meat, tinned potatoes, tinned fish, savoury biscuits, instant coffee, long life juice, sugar, packet soup, instant mash, sweetcorn, tinned spaghetti, noodles, squash, biscuits, sponge pudding, male/female deodorant, shower gel, shaving foam, shampoo, hair conditioner, washing up liquid, sanitary pads, children toothbrushes 0-2 only, children toothpaste 0-2 only, adult toothbrushes and toothpaste, toilet rolls, nappies size 4+, 5, 6 & 6+.

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.

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.

Prayers for May



A prayer for Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, come and make your dwelling within each one of us.

Come, Holy Spirit, come fill us with love for the whole of your creation.

Come, Holy Spirit, come awake in us a thirst and energy to work tirelessly to maintain the world as you would wish it to be. Help us to find ways to use earth's resources wisely and to find a path to good, sustainable living in peace and harmony with all that populates this world, both humankind and all living things around us.

Come, Holy Spirit, come be our guide through life in good times and the not-so-good times. We pray that through the darkness felt by so many war-torn countries today, your Holy Spirit may give courage and comfort to those who have lost loved ones, their homes, their livelihoods, are displaced by war, forced to travel as refugees to a foreign country.

Come, Holy Spirit, make us alive to the needs of all those who are so desperately in need, and give us the strength to be instruments of your healing and caring.

Lord, through your Holy Spirit, help me to truly think about the words that I pray. Help me to mean the words that I pray. Help me to live the words that I pray. **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 PLUS ONE

3 March Jonathan Holmes – organ EPSOM COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR 14 March 'Gloria' by ANTONIO VIVALDI

Jonathan's on-going series of Bach recitals have reached the point where we are starting to meet composers whose careers owed much to Bach. We met Franz Liszt last month. Bach himself was proud to be part of a dynasty of musicians, all organists practising in the same region of Central Germany. Another outstanding musician, that Bach greatly admired, is perhaps less well known than he deserves. This is Buxtehude.

Dieterich (or Dietrich – he himself tended to use either spelling) Buxtehude was Danish by birth, but much older than Bach. For much of his life, he was organist at St. Mary's Church, Lübeck in North Germany. Such was his fame as performer and composer, that it even reached the ears of young Bach at Arnstadt, over two hundred miles away. He sought, and was granted, leave from his employer to visit Buxtehude and, maybe, study with him to further his career. Arriving in due course at Lübeck, he met and duly impressed the great man. While there, Bach would almost certainly have taken part in the *Abendmusiken*, the series of evening concerts instituted by Buxtehude in the town.

According to a no doubt apocryphal story, Buxtehude was impressed by Bach to the extent that he offered him a job, which Bach turned down when he learned that it would involve accepting the hand in marriage of Buxtehude's daughter. Apparently, Handel was also offered the job which he also turned down for the same reason. Poor girl. Was she so awful or bad-tempered? We shall never know. What of their music? Although he did write a fine Magnificat, it is as composer for the organ that Buxtehude's name is chiefly remembered. Jonathan played the *Prelude and Fugue in F sharp*, an unusual key for those times owing to difficulty in tuning. Note that the key of F sharp major makes use of all the black notes on the keyboard. As for Bach himself, it was appropriate, in view of the season (Lent) for a Passiontide hymn, the *Chorale Prelude "O Mensch, bewein" BWV622*. The famous *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, BWV565* is a real showpiece for the performer, displaying to maximum effect his or her dexterity on hands and feet. Though it can never be proved, we can well imagine young Bach impressing Buxtehude with his skill.

Youthful performers presented *Vivaldi's Gloria*. Solo numbers for soprano and alto were shared among members of the choir. A Venetian by birth, and trained in Holy Orders, Vivaldi worked at the '*Ospedale della Pieta*', which was not a hospital in the modern sense; rather, a sort of home or alms house for the illegitimate daughters of noblemen. Consequently, their fathers kept the girls well supplied with money. No doubt they enjoyed the *Gloria* just as much as the College students.

TT

Politicians

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both. - *Anon*

A politician doesn't stand on his record; he jumps on the other fellow's. - *Anon*

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, Scarves, Ties, Handbags, Wallets etc. Should you have any suitable items that are surplus to requirements we would be delighted to accept them for the stall.

We are in urgent need of bric a brac so if you are having a spring clean please do get it touch with either Gillian Merrick or Gill Bird – thank you.

Home-made cakes are always popular so please get baking (see also p9)! 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

MAY CONCERTS

5 May 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Bach and Couperin

Jonathan Holmes

Director of Music

Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

23 May 1.05 pm

Favourite Choral Music from

St Mary's Parish Choir

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

PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

Every year since 2016, Christians all over the world have prepared for Pentecost through joining the ecumenical prayer movement 'Thy Kingdom Come'. The movement started as call to prayer from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England and is now international. It occurs during the eleven days between Ascension and Pentecost, and so this year will run from **Thursday 14 May to Sunday 24 May**. 'Thy Kingdom Come' invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. The theme this year is 'God with us' and a booklet has been written by Archbishop Sarah Mullally with a short Bible reading, a reflection and a prayer for each of the nine days in the run up to Pentecost. Free copies of the booklet will be available in church, or you can download a copy at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0>. Do get in touch with Sue Ayling (contact details on page 2) if you'd like a copy delivered or posted to you.

PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 27 March it was agreed to switch to Vodaphone for the phone and internet contracts in the church and Ewell Hall. This will make an annual saving of £1200 compared to the previous contract with BT.

The photocopier in the office, which was purchased 11 years ago, has now become inefficient, as it is slow and often jams. Parts to repair it have now become scarce. The PCC agreed that hiring a machine would be more beneficial as service is better and updates are offered. Photocopier leases available through the Parish Buying Scheme will be investigated and reported back to the PCC before a decision is made.

The Junior Choir has already begun to rehearse. Fr Mark and Jonathan are very pleased with progress so far. They expressed their thanks to Susana for her invaluable input. There has also been positive feedback from some of the parents.

The use of a portable speaker will be tried to aid with sound delivery for those in the Welcome Area during services.

The next meeting of the PCC will be on Wednesday 22 April.

Liz Divall, PCC Secretary

How to get rid of squirrels

Three churches in town were overrun with squirrels.

After much prayer, the elders of the Baptist church decided that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? So, they did nothing, and the squirrels multiplied.

The elders of the Methodist church, deciding that they should not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and then set them free outside of town. Three days later the squirrels were back.

It was the Anglican church which succeeded in solving the squirrel problem. The curate baptised the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now, they only see the squirrels at Christmas and Easter.



Ewell Village Fair event planning is well underway. This year it will be held on Saturday July 11 in and around the Church and many of the stalls and charities that were with us last year are keen to return.

The Wurlitzer is booked and of course the Morris men will be there giving the fair its village feel.

We have decided that the children's entertainment needs updating and because Punch & Judy are retiring after 55 years, we are hiring a local children's entertainment company based in Epsom for varied, upbeat, lively entertainment.

We are very much hoping that St Mary's Choir, Scholars and musicians will entertain us with their musical talents as always.

There is still quite a lot to organise and we are always looking for helpers to give out posters and leaflets in advance and also on the day, setting up and taking down. If you are willing, there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of Church, please do put your name down! The more of us that get involved, the quicker and easier it is for all - and it is always a lot of fun too.

Forthcoming dates for meetings are as follows:

Monday 18 May, Tuesday 9 June, Monday 22 June, Monday 6 July. All take place in the Parish Room at 7.30pm.

Lucy S

St Mary's Ewell
www.stmarysewell.com

ST MARY'S CRAFTERS

8th April – Spring
13th May – A Stitch in Time
10th June – For the men in our lives
8th July – Congratulations
9th September – Autumn
14th October – Recycled Christmas
11th November - Christmas

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7:30 – 9:00pm
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ST MARY'S CHURCH, EWELL

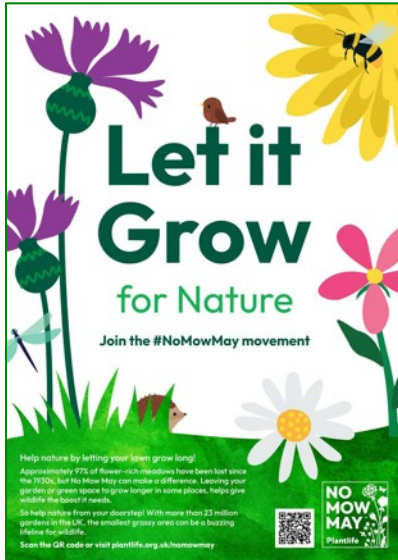
JAZZ ON THE LAWN
 Saturday 22nd August
 14 Church Street, Ewell, KT17 2AQ
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ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP NO MOW MAY

What is No Mow May?



No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature. Whether you're in a city, town or the countryside, it is super easy to take part.

No lawn is too small! Even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies, connecting us with nature and giving nature the best start

to summer.

At St. Mary's we have decided that the grass at the top of Churchyard 4 should be left unmown during May. [The area with memorial stones will be mown to respect the feelings of anyone who comes to remember a loved one.]

Why do we need No Mow May?

Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat needed by wildlife.

Your garden can help!

A healthy lawn with some longer grass and wildflowers helps to tackle pollution, benefits wildlife and can even lock away carbon below the ground.

With over 23 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities, and the climate. Above the soil, plants form mini jungles which shelter, feed, and support all kinds of beasts from insects to birds and mammals. Our valuable green spaces can be teeming with life across the seasons – if we only give them a little room to grow.

No Mow May is the perfect starting point for summer. Leaving a mix of grass lengths in your lawn from No Mow May and beyond means you are giving nature the boost it deserves. Plantlife would like you to tell them about the area that you will not be mowing and you can find out more about this campaign and about wildlife gardening at <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>.

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 our chairman, Fr. Mark on 020 8393 1297 or vicar@stmarysewell.com.

WE WERE BLESSED INDEED!

The Lent course this year looked at The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-10) and we followed The Church of England Pilgrim book of the same title.

In our final session we were introduced to the Jerusalem Bible's translation as "happy" rather than the traditional "blessed". Does "happy are the poor in spirit" have the same resonance? For many of us brought up with "blessed", "happy" can sound a bit weak in comparison. Notwithstanding, whichever word we use, the Beatitudes are the first part of Jesus' teaching to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. The eight qualities describe Christ's character and the authentic life to which we are all called.

Each Beatitude is a triplet: a blessing, which is an outpouring of God's grace, followed by a vocation, which is a call to a specific way of life, and a promise, a future hope or reward. They are inspirational. We reflected on what it means to be poor in spirit. As with most of the Beatitudes, the meaning is not always obvious. Jesus is not talking about material poverty here but about people who are fully aware of their need of God. Blessed are those who do not take themselves too seriously!

Blessed are the meek, better translated as gentle, kind or humble. In fighting for hunger and thirst we are fighting for justice for those around us, standing against what is wrong.

Blessed are the merciful centres on the issue of God's mercy and how this might have changed from the God of wrath of the Old Testament to the God of love of the New Testament; and the transition of limited mercy only to God's chosen to the availability of His mercy to all - Jews, Gentiles and those who are repentant.

Blessed are the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for righteousness. Examples of peacemakers such as Gandhi and Nelson Mandela could be described as anti-establishment and even revolutionaries. Jesus challenged the religious authorities of the time and many would describe Him as a social and religious revolutionary as much as a peacemaker.

Jesus announced that the kingdom of God was near and called his followers to live as citizens of this kingdom. We are called to be holy, set apart and with God. In Communion we become the Body of Christ. We agreed that our Christian faith should influence our whole lives and should not be looked upon as something separate from our everyday lives. This can be challenging to the way we live and the decisions we make e.g. buying Fairtrade products, ethical investing. We shared examples of when we have seen God's kingdom break into the kingdom of the world, such as the Live Aid concert to raise money for the Ethiopian famine and Open Doors which supports persecuted Christians around the world.

We are most grateful to Fr Mark and The Rev Sue for leading us through these reflections which greatly enriched our spiritual journey through Lent. This report can only be a very brief summary of some of the topics we discussed. We were truly blessed - and also very happy!

My thanks also to Godfrey Morrell for his assistance in providing me with his notes for those sessions I was unable to attend.

BACSECT NEWSLETTER No 14 MARCH 2026

Hi to all our BACSECT supporters.

On behalf of the school we wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Easter.

We were able to visit our school again this month after not getting out to The Gambia for nearly a year because of some medical issues that I have had. Finally, we were able to get travel insurance so have been able to spend a week with the school. It was wonderful to see everyone. Whilst all our prayer and financial support is invaluable, visiting the school and actually meeting the staff and children and the local community is so important both for us and for them.

On our arrival the whole school greeted us with a song of welcome and the waving of handheld flags they had made in the classrooms showing both the Union Jack and the Gambian flag. We visited every classroom and were most impressed with the standard of teaching, something that has always been commented upon by the Education Officer during his inspections.

Whilst we were there, we were able to visit the shop where we always purchase stationery material to restock the school and help it over the busy months ahead. After the normal "dis-

cussions " about costs and discounts we got a good deal again.

The headmaster, Richard, sent thanks on behalf of all the teachers for the help the school receives from its supporters in the UK. Sadly, his deputy head had a motor accident when he was knocked off his motorbike and had to give up teaching. He will be sorely missed.

The students are preparing for their national assessment tests next term using old test papers for revision.

Richard has created a new school report form and we visited the firm doing the printing for the school. After some discussion, we settled the account for the printing. The reports are expensive but show a good picture of the school to the parents so are very worthwhile.

We are hoping to visit again in November when we will be able to meet some of the new children and continue to progress the work of the school.

God Bless

Revd John Baxter

Chair of Trustees

Email: revdjohn60@gmail.com

CALLING ALL BAKERS

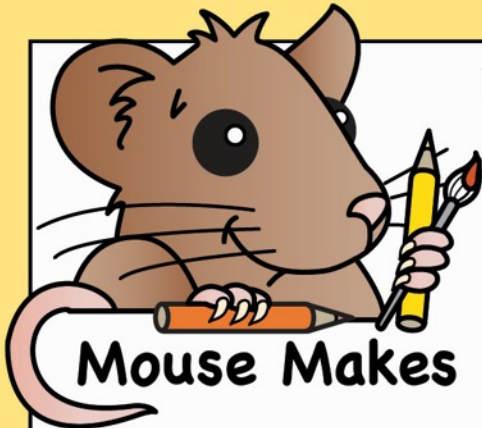


With both the Spring Market (16 May) and Summer Fair (11 July) to look forward to, we'd love the bakers among you to get busy baking for items for the Cake Stall which is always very popular. Especially welcome are:-

Fruit Cakes, Sponge Cakes of all varieties, Tray Bakes, Rock Cakes, Chocolate Brownies and Biscuits.

Please label your items and especially mention if they contain nuts or are previously frozen. If you can make gluten free or vegan cakes that would also be very welcome and please label accordingly. For the Spring Market please deliver your items to Ewell Hall on the day as soon after 8.30am as possible.

Once again we will be holding a Cake Competition at the Summer Fair. This year we invite you to make a Carrot Cake. Entry forms will be available at the back of the church later this month. Any queries see Lucy Morrell (choir member) or email flowers@stmarysewell.com.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

_____ *Genesis 1:2*

The

_____ of the Father. *Acts 1:4*

The Spirit of

A _____ *Romans 8:15*

H _____ *John 14:26*

The Spirit of

_____ *John 16:13*

The Spirit of

_____ *Acts 16:7*

The Fruit of the Spirit *Galatians 5:22-23*

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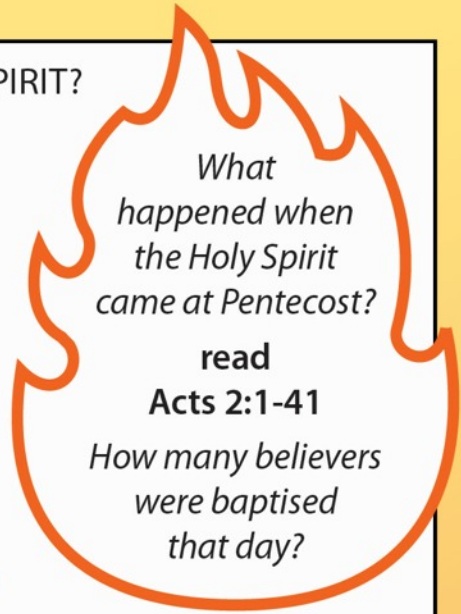
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 J S R J O T R U T H F S Y
 R S P I R I T I L U I U K
 K P P R O M I S E R S R
 I D W I N D D O V E W

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

- HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
- ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
- GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

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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 May



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

- S 03 EASTER 5**
0800 Said Holy Communion 1662 (Lady Chapel)
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 04 BANK HOLIDAY**
Day Home Communion by Clergy
- T 05**
1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
1305-1335 Bach+Couperin, Lunchtime Organ Recital
1930 PCC Meeting (Parish Room)
- Th 07**
1445-1545 1545 Bereavement Café (Ewell Hall)
- S 10 EASTER 6 (Rogation Sunday)**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
- T 12**
1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 13**
1930 St Mary's Crafters (Ewell Hall)
- Th 14 ASCENSION DAY**
2000 Holy Communion for Ascensiontide
- S 16**
1200-1400 St Mary's SPRING MARKET (Ewell Hall)
- S 17 EASTER 7**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion
1115 St Mary's APCM
1730 Choral Evensong - 1662
- M 18**
1930 Ewell Village Fair Meeting (Parish Room)
2000 Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 19**
1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 20**
1630-1730 First Communion Class (Parish Room)
- Th 21**
1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Ewell Hall)
- S 23**
1305 Concert - Choral Music from St Mary's Parish Choir
- S 24 PENTECOST (Whit Sunday)**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 Sung Holy Communion (+ day for 1st Communion)
1100 'Beating the Bounds' walk
- T 26**
1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 27**
2000 St Mary's Quiz on Zoom
- S 30**
1930 ABBAMAGIC (The Abba Tribute) (Church)
- S 31 TRINITY SUNDAY**
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
0930 Sung Holy Communion

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