



# EWELL PARISH NEWS



The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 641

June 2026

£1

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



## CONTENTS

Fr Mark Stafford writes.....	2, 3 & 4
Giving to St. Mary's.....	3
Foodbank.....	4
A Day for All.....	4
St Mary's on-line quizzes.....	4



Prayers for June.....	5
Concert reports.....	5
Bereavement café.....	5



Spring Market.....	6
June concerts.....	6
PCC report.....	6
Crafters.....	6
Notices in church newsletters.....	6
From the Parish Registers.....	6
Ewell Village Fair 2026.....	7
St. Mary's ECO Group.....	8
Brownies celebration service.....	8
Jazz on the Lawn.....	9
Corpus Christi.....	9
Feeding birds in the Spring.....	9
Abba Magic.....	9
Financial review for 2025.....	10
Members of the new PCC.....	10
Observation.....	10
Easyfundraising.....	11
Acts 435.....	11
Calendar for June.....	12

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## Fr Mark Stafford writes

### Sharing the Garden — and the Planet

The media seems to be alive with Eco celebrations as Sir David Attenburgh hits 100. I remember watching “Life on Earth” in 1979 and getting the book for Christmas. I often have a regular book cull, but that one has remained firmly in place!

Like so many others, those documentaries inspired me to be more aware of the natural world and our place in God’s creation.



May has brought a rather unexpected visitor to the vicarage garden: a young deer who has decided that St Mary’s is the perfect place for a peaceful retreat and a rather generous lunch. Lucy and I were amazed the first morning we saw her (She is now named Deer-dre) wandering through the borders with an air of entitlement, nibbling the tender new shoots on the trees and polishing off the roses the moment they dare to bloom.

There is, admittedly, a moment of heartbreak when you see a rose, or fruit tree that Lucy and I have been nurturing for weeks reduced to a neatly trimmed stalk, but after the initial sigh, something else settles in a reminder that we are part of a world that is shared, not owned. The deer doesn’t know it’s trespassing; it simply knows that this is a safe, green, life-giving place, and perhaps that is something to be proud of.

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In its own way, our four-legged guest has become for me, a small symbol of the kind of Church we are trying to be. St Mary’s is a Gold Eco Church, recognised nationally for our commitment to caring for creation. This isn’t just a badge on the wall; it’s a way of life we are learning to practise together. We are working steadily towards becoming net carbon zero, not because it is easy, but because it is a faithful way of honouring God’s world and the generations who will inherit it.

Much of this work is carried out by people whose names may not appear on noticeboards, but whose dedication is woven into the life of the parish. Our Eco Group helps us think about sustainability in worship, buildings, and daily living and everything from energy use to ethical purchasing to how we steward the land around us.

Our Litter Pick Team quietly serve the village by keeping our shared spaces clean, safe, and welcoming. It is astonishing how much difference a small group of determined people can make with a few bags, a pair of gloves, and a willingness to show up.

And our Churchyard Management Team work with patience and care to ensure that the grounds are not only beautiful but also rich in biodiversity. Wildflowers, insects, birds, small mammals all find a home here. The deer, of course, has taken this invitation rather literally.

## 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;

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### 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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What all these groups share is a simple conviction: that caring for creation is not an optional extra for Christians. It is part of our discipleship, part of our witness, part of our love for God and neighbour. It is also, quite simply, joyful. There is something deeply grounding about working with soil, plants, and living things, the fruits of this are often enjoyed by many. In the past year we have seen a new initiative springing up as members of the congregation are bringing excess garden produce to share with others on a Sunday morning. Lucy and I are looking forward to seeing how this progresses this year, and as always will be bringing our “Vicarage veg box” as part of this.

If you have ever wondered how you might get involved, or if you simply want to be part of something hopeful and practical, we would love to hear from you. Whether you have an hour a month or a whole afternoon, whether you enjoy gardening, organising, litter-picking, or simply being outdoors, there is a place for you. You don't need expertise just a willingness to care.

And who knows, you may even catch sight of our resident deer, looking very pleased with itself among the rose bushes. At St Mary's, we are learning sometimes reluctantly, often with a smile that sharing is part of the journey. Even when it involves the garden.

If you'd like to volunteer or find out more, please contact us. We would be delighted to welcome you.

### Praying for the Sick at St Mary's

Prayer for those who are unwell is an important part of our worship at St Mary's. Many people entrust us with names of loved ones, and it is a privilege to hold each one before God.

In recent months our Sunday intercessions have grown quite long, and the list now includes a number of people who are living with long-term illness. To ensure that our prayers remain focused and manageable within the Sunday service; while still honouring every person on our list, we are making a small but important change.

From this month onwards:

- At Sunday services we will pray by name for those in urgent or immediate need.
- At weekday services we will continue to pray faithfully for those who are living with long-term illness or ongoing treatment.

This allows us to keep Sunday intercessions clear and prayerful for the whole congregation, while ensuring that every person entrusted to our prayers continues to be remembered regularly and with care.

If you would like to add a name to either list or if a situation changes and someone needs to be moved to the urgent list, please contact the parish office or speak to a member of the clergy.

Let us continue to uphold one another in prayer, trusting in God's compassion and healing.

## 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.

## What's on in June?

### Creation Celebration!

Come and join us on Saturday 7 June at 9.30am for our family friendly Eco Church celebration. A great service of praise and thanksgiving as we remember God in His creation.

**Corpus Christi Mass and Benediction** Come and celebrate the gift of Holy Communion on Thursday 4 June at 8.00pm.

**Lunchtime Bach plus one Tuesday recital 2 June** Come and join us for our Lunchtime Bach Tuesday recital from 1.05pm – 1.35pm Featuring the major Preludes and Fugues. This month it is Bach plus Reubke. Tea, coffee and refreshments to follow.

**St Mary's crafters** A warm welcome awaits you at our craft group in Ewell Hall. We will be meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 June.

**Church online quiz** Come and virtually join us in the evening on Wednesday 24 June on Zoom for our wonderful Church quiz. You will need to register beforehand using the



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Fr Mark writes, continued from page 3

link in the Weekly Notes or you can simple email:  
[zoom@stmarysewell.com](mailto:zoom@stmarysewell.com).

**Bereavement café Thursday 4 June and Thursday 18 June 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.

**Don't forget to come to our fabulous 8 hands on two pianos concert on Saturday 27 June at 7.30pm.** Join Jonathan, Sarah, Matthew and Simon in a concert featuring wonderful orchestral classics arranged for 2 pianos.

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark

**St Mary's church bells will ring out on 26 September during 'A Day for All'!**

I'm writing this on Bell Sunday, 17 May, and I'm therefore especially delighted to announce that this year, as well as launching 'A Day for All' as usual, the St Mary's bell ringers will be offering four sessions during the afternoon when the ringers will show visitors how the bells are rung. Last year lots of people were disappointed because limited spaces were available. The 'A Day for All' planning team are very grateful to the ringers for responding to popular request. More information will be available nearer the time.

As mentioned in May's edition of EPN, the theme of the fun community event this year is 'Autumn Glories' and everything is free as usual – except the fish and chip supper at 5.30pm. More details will be in July's edition of EPN. Any questions to Sue Ayling (see page 2 for contact details).

*Sue Ayling*

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

**Urgently needed:** tinned meat, custard, 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 fruit, tinned carrots, non dairy milk, tinned tomatoes, breakfast cereal, savoury biscuits, instant coffee, long life juice, powdered milk, sugar, packet soup, instant mash, sweetcorn, tinned spaghetti, chocolate, sponge pudding, squash, biscuits, male / female deodorant, shower gel, shaving foam, shampoo, hair conditioner, washing powder, washing up liquid, children's toothpaste 6+, nappies size 4+, 5+, 6 and 6+, adult toothbrushes and toothpaste 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 24 June

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 June



**Creator God**, we thank You for the loveliness of Springtime, the increased daylight, and the opportunity to take time to relax and enjoy the wonders of Your creation. Help us to take time to notice the beauty and diversity that we see in all the living things around us. Fill

each one of us with love for the whole of Your creation. Awake in us a thirst and energy to work tirelessly to maintain the world as You would wish it to be.

**Lord**, we pray that You will help us to find ways to use earth's resources wisely and to find a path to good, sustainable living. Help and inspire us and all those who work to find solutions to the damage and decay that our thoughtlessness has brought about that once again we may live in harmony with all of creation, just as You intended. Draw us closer to You during these Spring and Summer months. Help us to stop for a while and take time to renew our relationship with You and with all those we care for and love. **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

### Tuesdays 7 April and 5 May

#### Jonathan Holmes – organ

Can you name six famous Belgians? This is a favourite brain-teaser in my family. (See end of the article for some ideas). One famous Belgian has to be the composer César Franck. Born in Liège, he moved to Paris and established himself as one of France's leading composers. Franck studied music with the Bohemian Anton Reicha. It seems that Reicha is a man with an interesting past: he certainly knew Beethoven in Vienna. Reicha introduced young Franck to the music of Bach. Thereafter, Franck worked tirelessly to promote Bach's music to French audiences. One of Bach's most magnificent works is the *Passacaglia in C minor, BWV582*. Almost certainly, Franck would have played this piece many times, for memories of it clearly lie behind the *Trois Chorals* which Franck composed late in life. Jonathan played *no. 2 of the set, in B minor*. This begins with a passacaglia-like movement in triple time.

Jonathan was at pains to describe an organ stop called the Vox Humana, or 'human voice' which, when combined with the Tremulant, results in a bleating sound akin to that of a Wurlitzer. Franck asks for this sound at the end of the Choral, where the music goes into the major key.

Now we come to May, and we meet for the first time François Couperin (1667-1733). Rather like Bach, François — nicknamed 'le Grand' - belonged to a dynasty of musicians in Paris. Portraits depict a cheerful-looking man, whose good humour is revealed in the titles he gave to some of his harpsichord music; he worked at the King's Court at Versailles, writing mostly dance music for the King. Though the two men never met, Bach admired the Parisian's music and that we heard for ourselves, for at the start of Bach's monumental *Prelude and Fugue in E flat, BWV 552 'St. Anne'*, Bach takes over the stately, double-dotted rhythms characteristic of eighteenth-century French music. Incidentally, the St. Anne nickname only applies to English-speaking countries, owing to the identity of the fugue tune with William Croft's hymn, called St. Anne: 'O God, our help in ages past'. Apart from dances, Couperin wrote church music some of which we heard at the May concert. Movements from the *Messe des paroisses* or 'Mass for the parishes' published in 1690. Roman Catholic custom in France at that time was what they called 'alternatim' practice, whereby choir and organ alternated throughout the Mass service. Of course, we no longer know what or how the choir sang, except that it was in 'plainchant'. Jonathan played the five short organ interludes demonstrating the capacity of our organ to reproduce the type of sound prevalent in Paris in those days.

Finally, some of those Belgian names. How many did you find? Audrey Hepburn; Georges Prosper Remi (Hergé — creator of the TinTin and Asterix the Gaul cartoons); Eddy Merckx (cyclist); Eden Hazard (footballer); fictional characters such as Hercule Poirot; and many more.

TT



## SPRING MARKET 16 MAY



We were once again blessed with a dry and sunny day for this annual event. Many people took advantage of the warm weather and Ewell Hall was pretty busy as folk browsed the stalls, bought raffle tickets and enjoyed the delicious coffee and cakes. The plant stall was, as usual, very popular as was the homemade cake stall.



A huge thank you to all who helped and supported the Spring Market in any way - especially the gentlemen who did all the heavy lifting to get things into the hall. However, a special thank you must go to the lone gentleman who gallantly dealt with the clearing up - we could not

manage without any of you.

A very successful event which raised a little over £700.

Well done everyone.

*Gill Bird*

  
**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**

## PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 22 April members approved the annual report for 2025 which will be published and made available to the congregation in time for the APCM.

It was reported that the BT phone line would cease operating from 5 May and the new system activated on 7 May. The annual saving will be £1600.

The PCC agreed that an approach be made to the architect to begin the process of drawing up plans for the new kitchen area and replacing the heating system in the Church. With plans in place, a faculty and grant applications can be considered.

Fr Mark suggested following the 'Pilgrim and Place' course, culminating in a visit to Chertsey Abbey which could be reached with a walk of four and a half hours. He also stated that he intends to set up prayer groups to pray regularly for different aspects of church life and the various groups and activities.

Plans are in motion for another outdoor mass on 7 June, possibly to be led by Bishop Paul.

Dates for the next PCC meetings will be decided after the APCM on 17 May.

*Liz Divall, PCC Secretary*

## JUNE CONCERTS

**2 June 1.05 pm**

**Tuesday lunchtime organ recital**

**Bach and Reubke**

**Jonathan Holmes**

Director of Music

Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

**27 June 7.00 pm**

**8 Hands on Two Pianos**

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

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS HOLY MATRIMONY

**Till death us do part**

18 April Michael Daniel Valentine and  
Jane Elizabeth Allman

## Notices found in church newsletters

Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.

The organist invites any members of the congregation who enjoy sinning to volunteer for the choir.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.



**St Mary's Ewell**  
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# Ewell Village Fair 2026

**Saturday 11th July**  
St Mary's Church and grounds  
London Road, Ewell KT17 2AY

**10am - 4pm**  
**Admission Free**



Reg charity number 1128409



Plans are coming on very well for the annual village fair held in and around St Mary's Church on Saturday 11 July.

Slight changes are afoot with more old-fashioned Punch and Judy now making way for a children's entertainer aiming to entertain the younger members amongst us.

The excellent burger stall and the ice cream van have now confirmed, the beer tent as always is a great draw, as is the raffle!

Morris Men and other community dancing will be livening up the proceedings and we are delighted to welcome back Barrie and his Wurlitzer which helps give the fair its traditional feel. Don't forget there will be lots available to eat, drink and buy along with games and most importantly 'gurning through the horse collar'!

Thank you all for your support with this traditional community event, St Mary's Church and Ewell Hall is always at the heart of our village.

There will now be a small book stall at Ewell Village Fair. Space is limited so please, only books in good condition. We CANNOT accept CDs, videos, cassettes, magazines or comics. Children's books welcome but again, good condition only please.

If you would like to get involved in this or any of our community events, we would always welcome extra help. Please contact Father Mark for more information:  
[vicar@stmarysewell.com](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com).

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 our planning meetings are as follows:**

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

Lucy S

## CAKE STALL AT THE SUMMER FAIR



**CALLING ALL BAKERS.** Once again there will be a cake stall at Ewell Village Fair on 11 July. This is always a very popular stall and we need plenty of cakes to sell. Donations of home-made fruit cakes (these are especially popular), sponge cakes, fairy cakes, muffins, chocolate brownies, flapjacks & shortbread would be most welcome. Loaf shaped cakes are easier to sell than larger round cakes. Chocolate cakes are to be avoided due to the often hot weather at this time of year.

Cakes can preferably be delivered to the stall from 8.30am on the day of the fair, or on the afternoon before, to the Parish Room.

Please label all the ingredients in your items, and especially 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.

**CAKE COMPETITION.** Can you bake and decorate a delicious Carrot Cake? Entry Forms are available in church or can be downloaded from the church website. Please submit them by Sunday 5 July - they can either be dropped off at church or emailed to [flowers@stmarysewell.com](mailto:flowers@stmarysewell.com). Judging is at 11.30am on the day of the Fair. Any queries see Lucy Morrell (choir member) or email [flowers@stmarysewell.com](mailto:flowers@stmarysewell.com).



St Mary's Ewell  
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**EVF**  
EWELL VILLAGE FAIR

**Saturday 11th July**  
**CAKE COMPETITION**  
Free Entry

**A Carrot Cake,**  
presented on a plate or  
cake stand. Decoration  
welcome.

All entries to be delivered to the  
cake stall in church with completed entry  
forms by 11am on the day.

Judging will be at 11.30am.

Any enquiries email Lucy M at  
[flowers@stmarysewell.com](mailto:flowers@stmarysewell.com)



## ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP JUNE UPDATE

One of our aims when we put our application together for our Gold Eco Award was to become more involved with the Deanery eco group aptly named Deanery Greenery. This group had not met for a while but with Fr. Mark's enthusiasm, the group has been rejuvenated and now meets alternate months at different churches with a speaker at every other meeting.

The latest meeting was held at St John's Stoneleigh and the speakers were both volunteers from the Surrey Wildlife Trust. Surrey Wildlife Trust is a nature restoration charity dedicated to caring for local wildlife and wild places with the help of thousands of volunteers and members. It is part of The Wildlife Trusts - a federation of 46 Trusts working together to bring back wildlife across the UK.

The trust looks after over 60 nature reserves covering around 3% of the county. However, their impact is much broader than that as they work with local organisations, communities, land-owners and young people to protect and connect wildlife where they live and work. We were able to create our wildflower meadow strip in our churchyard with the support of the Surrey Wildlife Trust and Ewell Castle School.

There is so much information on their website. Do take a look and maybe join in. Every tiny bit of support helps. You will be amazed how many opportunities are out there. I was so surprised to hear how many creatures are under threat in Surrey. Our gardens cover 12 % of the land area in Surrey so we can all play a huge part in caring for wildlife. In the churchyard we will be mowing between the graves but the area to the right behind the playing field will be left for wildlife to enjoy as we support No Mow May.

*Helen Crossley*

### Recycling update

Since 1 April Epsom and Ewell have increased what we can put in our green bins. The revised list is below.

- **Paper** - any colour, printed or plain, including envelopes (even with windows). **NO SHREDDED PAPER** (loose shredded paper may be put in your garden waste bin)
- **Cardboard** - any type, like boxes or packaging. **NO GREASY PIZZA OR FOOD BOXES. NO COFFEE CUPS**
- **Cans and tins** - both steel and aluminium, including aerosols (fully expended please) and bottle/jar lids.
- **Plastic bottles (lids on), pots, tubs and trays** - **NO BAGS OR SACKS, NO OTHER PLASTICS**
- **Cartons** - such as juice and plant milk cartons
- **Foil and foil trays** - foil needs to be clean and scrunched into a ball no smaller than a tennis ball
- **Non-black plastic plant pots** - need to be clean and free of soil.
- **Squeezy metal and plastic tubes** - such as tomato puree and toothpaste tubes.

*Sue Ayling*

*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](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com).*

## 1st EWELL VILLAGE (ST MARY'S) BROWNIES 100th CELEBRATION PARADE SERVICE



As part of our unit's 100th anniversary celebrations we were delighted to be invited to take part in a service of celebration on Sunday 26 April 2026.

Current and former Brownies and leaders attended the service as well as other members of local Girlguiding and Surrey Scouts, Brownie parents and the regular St Mary's congregation.

The unit flag was paraded by three Brownies during the first hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. The hymns for the service were chosen by the unit and also included *Give Me Joy in My Heart*, *Morning Has Broken* and *Lord of the Dance* – clearly a nostalgic reminder of the current leaders' school assemblies!

It was a privilege to be invited to do the first reading and join Clare (Tawny Owl) and Brownie Abi for reading prayers.

Fr. Mark spoke enthusiastically about the Guiding and Scouting movements and what important skills were gained by being part of these organisations. Many skills are needed and learned by being a Brownie including teamwork, leadership, enthusiasm, commitment and a huge sense of fun, however, as Fr. Mark mentioned, at the heart of everything we do is community and we are honoured to be part of the St Mary's Ewell family.

Brownies enjoy a varied programme of events and activities including days out, pack holidays and sleepovers but one of the highlights of the calendar is always litter picking the churchyard – which we are doing soon! The Brownies also love decorating the advent numbers for Ewell Yule and it is a highly anticipated and very exciting evening when Assistant Priest Sue comes to judge the artwork.

It was wonderful to see how many people stood up to re-make their Girlguiding promise when invited to do so, particularly so many members of the choir!

Thank you for a moving and uplifting service celebrating Brownies.

*Mary Zoeller  
Brown Owl (unit leader)*

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ST MARY'S CHURCH, EWELL

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## CORPUS CHRISTI, THANKS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by Thomas Aquinas, focused on the Eucharist or Holy Communion. It celebrates the joy of sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with His presence in the Eucharist, and is usually celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

How do we understand the significance of the Eucharist or Holy Communion? Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32, points us in three directions.

*A Past Commemoration:* The Eucharist looks back as we remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples (Luke 22:14-20). Jesus broke the bread and took the cup to signify that His atoning sacrifice on the Cross delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. As we remember His broken body and shed blood, it becomes personal: Christ died for me, suffered for my sins that I might live. It is truly a eucharist, a thanksgiving: 'Do this in remembrance of Me' (1 Corinthians 11: 24,25).

*A Present Communion:* The Eucharist speaks of the communion we enjoy with a living Christ, because our sins are forgiven. Paul encourages us to look in at the state of our hearts: 'Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.' (28). We should also look around acknowledging the communion we have with other believers. Holy Communion expresses our unity together: 'Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.' (11:17). Paul is expressing his concerns here about the divisions in the Corinthian Church.

*A Future Certainty:* The Eucharist is also a place where we look forward to Christ's return: 'For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.' (26). It declares that the reign of Christ has already begun, as we look forward to Jesus' return. He will unite earth and heaven under His rule and sin, death and Satan will finally be defeated.

So, when we next take Holy Communion, let's reflect on the past, present and future implications of what this meal means for us.

## SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO FEED WILD BIRDS IN THE SPRING?

Briefly, the answer is Yes, but with qualifications.

Early spring, is known as 'the hungry time' because food levels 'in the wild' are low. Beware of putting out 'hard' items from May onwards. This includes seeds and nuts of any kind. Here are a few ideas.

1. Whole peanuts, etc. can lead to choking in baby birds.
2. Feeder hygiene (at any time of year): limiting nuts and seeds helps prevent the spread of mould and of disease such as trichomoniasis — a killer of birds.
3. Cleaning feeders regularly also helps limit disease.
4. Safe alternatives include protein-rich foods such as fat balls, suet, mealworms, fruit, potatoes (not raw nor chips), bacon rinds, cheese (not oily) and other kitchen scraps.
5. Some species have more than one brood, so avoid nuts and seeds until October by which time all young will have fledged.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025

## Introduction

The financial results for 2025 show continued gradual improvement, with a total deficit of £20k compared to £24k in 2024. Whilst this is better than expected given the level of maintenance undertaken during the year, the church continues to operate at a deficit and remains reliant on maintaining and growing income.

Cash at bank at the year end was £344k. Based on the current level of deficit, this equates to approximately 14 years of available reserves. However, this measure should be treated with caution. A proportion of the church's funds are restricted and therefore not available to support general day-to-day activities. As a result, the level of freely available reserves is lower than total cash balances suggest, and unrestricted funds are being utilised more quickly than this headline figure implies.

This is reflected in the movement on unrestricted funds, which recorded a deficit of £37k in 2025 compared to £31k in 2024, an increase of £6k. This indicates that underlying unrestricted expenditure continues to exceed unrestricted income, and that the church is becoming increasingly reliant on restricted income and reserves to support its overall position.

## Review

Preliminary analysis of the figures throws up some interesting trends.

### *Income:*

Total income increased to £205k (2024: £180k).

Key drivers of this increase were:

- an increase in planned giving of £7.5k, improving visibility and stability of income;
- higher grant income of £6k (2024: £1.5k);
- an increase in legacy income of £5k;
- continued support from Ewell Castle (£10.5k in the year);
- modest growth in hall income and continued strong performance from the Summer Fair (£7k raised).

### *Expenditure:*

Total expenditure increased to £226k (2024: £204k).

This was primarily due to:

- an increase in parish share of £5k;
- essential maintenance works, including £7.5k relating to the nave floor and £4k for organ repairs;
- additional spend on hymn books, candlesticks and IT equipment.

These costs are largely non-discretionary and reflect the ongoing need to maintain the church estate and operations.

## Summary

Overall, while the financial position has improved compared to prior years, the church continues to operate with a structural deficit. Continued focus is required on increasing regular giving, maintaining income-generating activities, and carefully managing costs.

The PCC remains committed to ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of St Mary's whilst continuing to support its mission and activities within the parish.

*Donna Boosey*  
*Treasurer*

## PCC MEMBERSHIP

*Our PCC members after the 2026 Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in church on 17 May are:*

Fr Mark Stafford - Vicar and Chair  
 Revd Sue Ayling - Assistant Priest  
 Mrs Valerie Wood - Churchwarden and Vice-Chair  
 Mrs Vicky Gocher - Churchwarden  
 Cllr Julian Freeman - Deanery Synod  
 Mrs Wendy Paxman - Deanery Synod  
 Cllr Humphrey Reynolds - Deanery Synod  
 Mr Nicholas Allsopp  
 Mrs Gill Bird  
 Mrs Donna Boosey - Treasurer  
 Helen Crossley - Safeguarding Officer  
 Mrs Sara Holland - Licensed Lay Minister  
 Mr John Larkin - Security Manager  
 Mr Leo Morrell  
 Mr Hamish Reid  
 Mrs Gillian Reynolds  
 Mrs Emma Watt-Smith  
 Mr Philip Worsley  
 Ms Liz Divall - Secretary

St. Mary's thanks all PCC members and appointed officers for taking on these important roles and sends them good wishes for their periods of office.

## Observation

Humility is the beginning of true intelligence - John Calvin

## EASYFUNDRAISING FOR ST. MARY'S

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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.

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

## Calendar for June

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



- M 01 Day Home Communion by Clergy
- T 02 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1305-1335 Bach+ Reubke, Lunchtime Organ Recital
- Th 04 CORPUS CHRISTI**  
1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Ewell Hall)  
2000 Service for Corpus Christi
- S 07 TRINITY 1**  
0800 Said Holy Communion 1662 (Lady Chapel)  
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 08 1930 PCC Meeting (preceded by Mass at 1900)
- T 09 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
1930 Ewell Village Fair Meeting (Parish Room)
- W 10 1930 St Mary's Crafters (Ewell Hall)
- S 14 TRINITY 2**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 15 2000 Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 16 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- Th 18 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Ewell Hall)
- S 21 TRINITY 3**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion  
1730 Choral Evensong - 1662
- M 22 1930 Ewell Village Fair Meeting (Parish Room)
- T 23 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 24 2000 St Mary's Quiz on Zoom
- S 27 1900 Eight hands on two pianos
- S 28 TRINITY 4**  
0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)  
0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)  
0930 Sung Holy Communion

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