



EWELL PARISH NEWS



The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 642

July 2026

£1

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



St Mary's Ewell
www.stmarysewell.com
presents

***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



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

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Fr Mark Stafford writes

A day for the whole village: looking forward to Ewell Village Fair

July at St Mary's always carries a sense of anticipation, but this year that feeling is especially strong as we prepare once again to welcome the whole community to the Ewell Village Fair on Saturday 11 July. The Fair is one of those many special days when the church becomes the village square; alive with music, laughter, tradition, and the simple joy of being together.

What makes the Fair so special is not only the bustle of activity, but the way it draws together every corner of village life. It is a day when long-standing friendships are renewed, new connections are made, and the church's grounds become a place where all ages can relax, explore, and enjoy themselves.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, this year's programme is wonderfully rich. From the moment the Fair opens, it will be filled with movement and music.

Outdoors, the day begins at 9.45am with St Mary's Bell Ringers, whose joyful peal sets the tone for the hours ahead. Throughout the day, Barrie Gilbert's fairground organ will add its unmistakable charm, while Enchanted Entertainment brings roaming fun with balloon modelling, bubbles, parachute games, and party activities for children.

We are delighted to welcome back the Ewell St Mary's Morris Men, dancing at 11.30am and again at 2.30pm – a tradition that feels woven into the very fabric of village life. And for those who enjoy something a little quirky, the ever-popular Gurning Through the Horse Collar returns at 12.30pm. Bring your worst face and your best sense of humour.

Later in the afternoon, the talented young performers of Protem Dance School take the stage at 3.00pm, showcasing the energy and creativity of local dancers.

Indoors, the entertainment continues. Enchanted Entertainment offers magic, bubbles, and games at 11.00am and 2.00pm, while the Epsom Male Voice Choir sings at 12.00pm and 2.00pm, fresh from their recent performances at the Epsom Playhouse. At 1.00pm, the ladies' group Divas from Fitznells Music Centre bring their harmonies to the Fair. And at 3.30pm, we gather for the Raffle Draw, always a highlight.

Throughout the day, experienced pianists are warmly invited to take a turn at our piano "on the half hour," adding yet more variety to the atmosphere.

Alongside the entertainment, visitors will find traditional games, stalls, refreshments, a BBQ, and a beer tent and the almost world famous bottle tombola and cheese rolling. But the heart of the Fair is not the programme – it is the people. It is the volunteers who give their time, the families who come year after year, the newcomers who discover St Mary's for the first time, and the countless conversations that happen over a cup of tea or while browsing a stall.

Our much-loved cake stall returns once again, laden with homemade treats from across the community, be quick they sell like, well, hot cakes!

No village fair would be complete without a cake baking competition! This is one of the highlights of the Village Fair and not to be missed! This year entrants will be baking

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com
Registered Charity Number 1128409

CLERGY

Vicar: Fr Mark Stafford 020 8393 1297

Email: vicar@stmarysewell.com

Day off: Friday

Assistant Priest: The Reverend Sue Ayling OBE; 020 8337 6347; Email: assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com

Day off: Wednesday

LICENSED LAY MINISTER

Sara Holland;

Email: llm@stmarysewell.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Valerie Wood 020 8393 5991;

Email: churchwarden1@stmarysewell.com

Mrs Vicky Gocher 07732 459281;

Email: churchwarden@stmarysewell.com

Bereavement Café

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

Email: pastoral@stmarysewell.com

Lay Pastoral Visitor

Mrs Marian Morrison 020 8391 2325;

Email: pastoralvisitor@stmarysewell.com

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Helen Crossley;

Email: safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com

Diocesan Safeguarding

Safeguarding team 01483 790379;

Email: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk

Finance Officer

Day-to-day financial queries

Donna Boosey 07791 993261;

Email: financeteam@stmarysewell.com

Stewardship Recorder

Mrs Sarah Holmes;

Email: plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com

Private Prayer

The Church is generally open daily for private prayer between 9am and 5pm

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)

Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

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

The Parish Office is on the south side of the church.

The parish office is staffed periodically during the week. Emails and phone messages will be answered when the office is open.

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Carrot Cake. The competition is always well supported and inspires both pride and playful rivalry among our bakers. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or a first-time entrant, we'd love you to take part. Entry forms are now available in church and can be downloaded from our website (see also p7).

Events like this remind us that the Church is not only a place of worship but a place of welcome. When we open our doors and our grounds to the village, we live out our calling to be a community of generosity, hospitality, and joy.

To everyone who has planned, prepared, baked, lifted, painted, organised, or offered their gifts in any way: thank you. The Fair simply couldn't happen without you.

So come and join us on 11 July, whether for an hour or the whole day, know that you are warmly welcome. Come and enjoy the music, the games, the food, the laughter, and the company. Come and be part of something that belongs to all of us.

See you at the Fair.

WHAT'S ON IN JULY?

Lunch time Bach recital

Come and join us at 1.05pm on Tuesday 7 July for our lunchtime series of Bach-plus-one recitals. This time it is Bach and Rheinberger. The recital is followed by refreshments in the parish room.

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 8 July.

Bereavement café Thursday 9 July and Thursday 16 July 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.

Ewell Village Fair

The big July event is of course Ewell Village Fair. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the Fair, Lucy and I will be walking around and helping on various stalls and games throughout the afternoon so please say hello. The Fair is on Saturday 11 July in the grounds of St Mary's Church, London Road, Ewell. We will be entertained by the Morris Men, organ music, dancers and singers.

We will have a bar, side shows, stalls as well as hot food, tea, cakes and sandwiches. Come and join us a fun filled day for all the family!

Cake Competition At Ewell Village Fair.

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 9 July – they can either be dropped off at church or emailed to flowers@stmarysewell.com. Any queries see Lucy Morrell (choir member) or email as above.

St. Mary's on-line quiz

Our next quiz using Zoom will be on Wednesday 29 July at 8pm. Our quizzes are great fun, so please consider joining us. Registration details will be in the weekly notes near to the event or you can simple email: zoom@stmarysewell.com.

If you are reading this after Ewell Village Fair, we still have lots of other community events you can come along to:

22 August – Jazz on the lawn, our annual jazz concert and BBQ at the Vicarage, 14 Church Street

26 September – A Day for all – Our free Church activities day, a great celebration of Village life and community

4 December – Ewell Yule – The High Street is closed and there are entertainers, stalls, side shows and street food sellers at the Christmas Market.

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

ADMISSION TO FIRST COMMUNION

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread

24 May Edward Gordon Gulik
Abigail Ruth Larkin
Isobel Anne Smitherim

HOLY MATRIMONY

A holy estate, instituted of God himself

6 June Mark Julian Curry and Oana Chimina

FUNERALS

In sure and certain hope (BCP Burial rite)

Ashes interment

8 June Patricia Ann Starsmeare, aged 93

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 29 July

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.

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Epsom & Ewell Foodbank was set up 12 years ago by local churches and community groups to tackle hunger in our local area. It runs distribution centres in Epsom, Ewell, Banstead, Leatherhead and Tadworth, providing emergency food and support to individuals and families who are experiencing severe financial hardship. The number of people using the Foodbank has nearly doubled in the last few years, due to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis. In 2023/24, it distributed enough food to feed nearly 10,000 people for at least 3 days.

Foodbank clients must be referred by another local agency or by one of our support workers. As well as receiving food and toiletries, clients are offered practical, financial and emotional support to help address their underlying needs and help them not to need the foodbank. Its long-term vision is to help lead our community to a poverty-free future,

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, instant coffee, pasta sauce, noodles, tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, breakfast cereal, microwave rice, tea (bags), crisps, packet soup, tinned spaghetti, long life juice, powdered milk, sugar, rice, instant mash, sweetcorn, chocolate, sponge pudding, squash, biscuits, male / female deodorant, shower gel, shaving foam, sanitary pads, children's toothbrushes 0-2 and 6+, hair conditioner, children's toothpaste 0-2 only, washing powder, washing up liquid, nappies size 4, 4+, 5, 5+, 6 and 6+, shampoo, hair conditioner, 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.

Prayers for July



Dear God,

I come before You today with a grateful heart. Thank You for these long summer days. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside enjoying Your creation. Thank You for increased time to be with my friends and family and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Guide me through this month, that I may be renewed and invigorated with a new vision and purpose. Help me to share with others the blessings that You have so graciously bestowed on me that they too may come into a closer relationship with You. This I pray in Jesus' name.

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).

AV/SOUND DESK AT ST MARY'S

Can you help?

We continue to seek volunteers to learn how to operate our AV/sound desk and to join the team helping with livestreaming/videos at our services.

This is a vital part of our outreach so if you think you may be able to help, please contact the churchwardens, our clergy or John Larkin.

BACH PLUS ONE Tuesday 2 June Jonathan Holmes – organ

Today, we heard two works, a straightforward *Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 557* by Bach; a much more ambitious composition followed, by a later German composer, *Julius Reubke*.

The Bach piece is probably one that he wrote for his students, introducing them to such musical devices as counterpoint, that is, the interweaving of two or more musical themes, and pedal technique. No doubt Reubke, too, learned Bach's music as a student at Quedlinburg and Berlin. But his *Sonata on the Ninety-fourth Psalm* is light years away from Bach in style. Indeed, the Willis organ could have been designed for this piece. The Sonata comes across as a formidable technical challenge and very angry music indeed. The youthful composer - he died in 1858 aged only twenty-four - follows the text of the psalm closely, as you can see for yourselves at home, if you take a copy of the Old Testament and read through the psalm as you listen to the music.

There are two names it might be worth bearing in mind in connection with Reubke. One, already familiar to us, is that of Franz Liszt. The other name, possibly less familiar, is that of the pianist and conductor Hans von Bülow (died 1894). It was at college at Berlin that Reubke met Bülow and evidently impressed him enough for Bülow to recommend the young man to Liszt at Weimar. It seems that Bülow even gave Reubke the idea - never fulfilled - of writing an opera. In the Sonata, we hear how Reubke transfers Liszt's dazzling pianistic virtuosity onto the organ, both manuals and pedals. Another of Liszt's ideas, adopted by Reubke, is to reduce the classical sonata structure from four movements into just one. Like Liszt, Reubke uses plenty of fast block chords up and down all the organ manuals.

The work received its premiere at Merseburg Cathedral in June 1853, played by the composer.

MORE ON PLAINCHANT

In a recent article of mine, the term 'plainchant' occurred in connection with the Catholic Church in France. I have been asked to explain more about this.

Plainchant, or plainsong, is probably as far removed from Reubke's music as it is possible to go. Briefly, it is the kind of thing medieval monks and nuns would have sung, but with the rise of the Tractarian Movement in Victorian times, it became much more widespread. An alternative term is Gregorian Chant, after the medieval pope, Gregory I, who is often credited with its popularisation. This gave rise to the somewhat derogatory expression 'Gregory singing' in my home part of England. Anyway, plainchant sounds austere, there being only one vocal line and unaccompanied, though it is true there are editions of it in four-part harmony; this is reckoned to be inauthentic. Here at St. Mary's, we sometimes hear the choir sing plainchant, usually at penitential seasons such as Advent or Passiontide.

TT



BELLRINGERS SPRING OUTING



On Saturday 9 May St Mary's Ewell Bellringers embarked on their 4th annual day out.

On another perfect spring day, a group of 13 ringers (including 3 ringers from All Saints Benhilton) of mixed experience and abilities and one dog started the day at St Margaret in the beautiful village of Ditchling, East Sussex. This was followed by ringing at Holy Trinity Hurstpierpoint. Lunch was taken at The Gardeners Arms Ardingly. Afternoon ringing started at St Peter Ardingly and the final ring of the day was at Holy Trinity Lower Beeding.

All in all, an enjoyable day out and thanks to the towers for welcoming us to their beautiful churches.

Phil Read



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

Ewell Hall, London Road

7:30 – 9:00pm

£5

PCC REPORT

On 8 June PCC members were invited to take communion prior to the start of the meeting. This was very well received.

Fr Mark reported that our LLM, Sara Holland, is preparing 10 to 12 prayer cards, each with a scripture verse and suggested prayers for the various church activities and groups including the PCC. Information about the cards will be included in a sermon when they are completed and ready for use.

The treasurer told us that it costs £650 per day to maintain the church, and we are running at a loss of £2,000 a month. It was suggested that notices in the Weekly Notes, EPN and at the back of the church should highlight this information. It was also suggested that another Gift Day or Giving Campaign should be planned with a breakdown of what single or regular gifts of e.g. £5, £10, £20 etc. would provide with people encouraged to give whatever they can afford.

Those members of the congregation who are part of the Parish Giving scheme will be encouraged to take tokens from the Welcome Area to put in the collection baskets so that others can see that they are regular donors.

Wendy Paxman reported that the last Deanery Synod meeting had been led by a speaker from St Martha's College about their courses for lay vocations. Fr Mark said that he has offered to host meetings for lay persons' ministry and for 'Deanery Greenery', with the next meeting of this group coming up later this summer. The minutes of future Deanery Synod meetings will be displayed in the Welcome Area.

Liz Divall, PCC Secretary

JULY CONCERT

7 July 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Bach and Rheinberger

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.

Observations

An egotist is a man who talks about himself so much that you don't have a chance to talk about yourself. - V Havner

Education is never as expensive as ignorance. - Anon

If you know someone who tries to drown their sorrows, you might warn them sorrows know how to swim. - Anon

Golf: a game in which the balls lie on the ground and the players lie in the clubhouse. - Anon



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www.stmarysewell.com
presents

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 well under way for the Ewell Village Fair which is to be held on Saturday 11 July and will run from 10am - 4pm inside and in the grounds of St. Mary the Virgin, Ewell.

A timetable of events has been organized for the day and you will find plenty to keep both adults and children fully occupied.

We have the Ewell St. Mary's Morris Men dancing in Church Street which will be closed from 12noon until 3pm. We are in need of help with the marshalling during this time so if you are able to volunteer your services please contact either Father Mark or Lucy Stafford.

There will be a large variety of stalls for your perusal and plenty of sideshows for the younger generation (and all ages!) to test their skills.

The BBQ and bar will be available for refreshments outdoors and tea, coffee and sandwiches will be on sale in the Parish Room.

The cake competition this year is to find the best carrot cake so all you budding bakers, get practicing (see also the next column). Forms for this are available on the website or in church.

Donations for stalls are always welcome - especially the bottle tombola (it would be great to have a wide selection of bottles on the tombola, not just alcoholic drinks, but soft drinks, table sauces, bath products and maybe the odd bottle of pasta sauce too) toys, books (good condition only please and NO CDs, videos, or magazines), jewellery, bric-a-brac and ladies and gentlemen's accessories are all in need of stock. Donations for any of these stalls may be brought to church from Sunday 21 June. Should you be donating bottles for the bottle tombola, please could they be delivered by Friday 5 July at the latest.

Put the date in your diary and come and join us for a day of leisure and pleasure.

We look forward to seeing you.

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 Thursday 9 July - they can either be dropped off at church or emailed to 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.



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



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP CHURCHYARD UPDATE

If you went down to the Churchyard today.....

You're sure of a big surprise! No, you won't find a Teddy Bear's picnic; although wouldn't that be fun?

You will find a lot of hard work has been put in by several volunteers, intent on making the churchyard a pleasant place to visit.

Rain followed by sun, then more rain and now more sun means that all the vegetation in the churchyard is growing at great speed. I'm sure you're noticing this in your gardens. Well, of course it is no different in the churchyard – it's just more noticeable.

So, we have started the mammoth task of clearing the growth along the adjoining boundary with the houses on the left-hand side as you enter the churchyard from Church Street through the lych gate. It really is like the Forth Bridge as soon as we finish, it'll have grown back where we started but we are set on not using any weed killers so a manual task it is. Eventually we want to plant a hedgerow along the boundary which I believe will be easier to manage. But that will take time.



We started mowing the grass between the graves in March and that is now continuing fortnightly. Except, that is, at the rear of the playing field. We are leaving this to grow for the wildlife. The photo shows this area at this time. You can clearly see the one metre strip that was taken back to earth and the wild flowers seeds sown last year with the support of the pupils from Ewell castle School and The Surrey Wildlife Trust. The amazing

Ox Eye daisies have taken extremely well and we hope to see other wild flowers blooming as the season progresses.

Following our first working party of the year in March, we have met on three Saturdays in June to clear and tidy up the Churchyard. There are many tasks to do, some easier than others. A huge 'thank you' must go to the group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly for a couple of hours on these Saturday mornings.

We are going to meet regularly on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon. **Would you like to join us?**

If so, please get in touch with Helen on
safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com

If you have, as yet, to visit the Churchyard across the road from the Church, do make it a priority on your to do list. It really is a very tranquil place to spend some quiet reflective time.

Helen Crossley

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.

'A DAY FOR ALL' - OLD FAVOURITES & NEW ACTIVITIES!

At this year's event on 26 September, the A Day for All planning team are delighted to announce the return of the popular photo competition, the visits to the bell tower and the Children's Craft activities. The theme of the day is 'Autumn Glories', which gives scope for photos on almost any topic - on the glory of creation or of humans! Due to popular demand, there will be extra opportunities to visit the bell tower and see how the church bells are rung. There will be more information about the photo competition and how you can sign up to see the bells rung in August's edition of EPN. Many of the other regular activities will be a part of the day. We'll provide more details nearer the time.

This year we shall be having not just one, but two interesting talks. There will be an illustration of how wind instruments are played - we are promised eight different instruments, so do come along and find out what they will be! You can also hear about the wonderful work of the Christian charity 'Through the Roof' which seeks to ensure that everyone world-wide, including people with a disability, are valued equally, belong fully and are able to contribute their gifts and skills.

Any questions to Sue Ayling (see page 2 for contact details).

Sue Ayling

LADIES NIGHT OUT



At the Ladies Night Out on 3 June about 30 St Mary's ladies enjoyed an evening of good food, wine and conversation at Amalfi, Ewell. Sara Holland had cut a cardboard heart for each of us, so that we could celebrate Oana and Mark's upcoming wedding. On the cards we were invited to write a few words expressing what love meant to us. These were then read and presented with a toast to Oana wishing them both all the best on their big day. Birthdays were celebrated and old friends remembered.

Thank you to Lucy for organising the event and the staff at the Amalfi for coping with our "noisy" group.

PS Mark popped in to make sure we were behaving ourselves!

JMD

MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN!



Saturday, 30 May saw an ABBA tribute band playing at St Mary's. It certainly got the place rocking, as the disco lights flashed and approximately 70 people took to the aisles to sing and dance even in the heat. The two ladies forming AbbaMagic worked hard singing and dancing, with numerous costume changes seamlessly blending all the old Abba hits. Many of the audience came prepared to participate wearing 60's or sparkly outfits.

Thanks go to Mark and Lucy who organised the event and a special cheer to the hard working bar staff! I'm sure AbbaMagic will be back in the future.

JMD

Christmas is coming...



It is only July you cry! We can't start thinking about Christmas yet; the summer holidays have not yet been and gone! However, no sooner have we returned from our summer holidays and families got their children ready for a new term at school, a new academic year, than

the shops are beginning to set out their Christmas stock. It begins earlier and earlier each year but, no, here at St. Mary's, we have not succumbed to the rampant commercialism that we see all around us. **However**, we are once again preparing to think ahead in readiness for Christmas.

This year, St Mary's will be once again supporting the **LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL** which is UK based and has been sending shoe box gifts to Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, and Bulgaria since 1992. It isn't just about gifts to children either, but whole families and isolated elderly people.

FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Family Shoeboxes of gifts are given to families who often must make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time - buying presents is just not a priority. Many families do not have running water, heating, or electricity. Some live in appalling conditions, often living in just one or two rooms, and life for them is a real struggle to survive.

A shoebox for a family means that everyone receives a gift. A scarf for the mum, a small DIY tool for the dad, toys, and games for the children as well as stationery and coloured pens. Also, toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo, and soap to keep everyone clean and free from the germs that make them ill. And of course, sweets and chocolates for everyone – a family favourite.

ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Due to the number of elderly people now living alone and isolated because their families are leaving to work away, Link to Hope launched its **Elderly Shoebox Appeal** several years ago. The boxes are similar but with the children's games and education materials replaced with a wind-up torch, sensory items, candle and holder etc.

Link to Hope sends the boxes collected to **Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Ukraine**. From all that we see, or read in the news, it very much continues to be a critical time to be sending them this year!

Link to Hope is a Christian Charity which remains small enough that they continue to have a personal relationship with all their key contacts in Eastern Europe who distribute your shoebox gifts, and they also do spot checks to ensure that the correct people receive them.

Want to know more, then go the Link to Hope website at www.linktohope.co.uk or pick up a leaflet from the back of church. We know it can be expensive, but it need not be. **Why not join in and make up a box with family members or a group of friends or neighbours.**

Collection time for the Appeal will be during October so get started right away!

More details about when to drop off your filled boxes will be given in the next issue of the EPN, in the pew notices and on the website in due course.

Thank you.

Linda Staff

ST MARY'S CHURCH, EWELL

JAZZ ON THE LAWN

Saturday 22nd August
14 Church Street, Ewell, KT17 2AQ
Noon - 3:00pm
£10 adult/ £5 child includes a burger. (cash licensed bar)
Tickets on sale in Church and on eventbrite
<https://jazzonthelawn26.eventbrite.com>

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CREATION CELEBRATION

In August of last year, we held an outdoor 'Creation Celebration' Eucharist. This was our first outdoor Eucharist for many years as we celebrated our Gold Eco award.

This year we planned to hold two outdoor Eucharists, with first of these on Sunday 7 June.

However, it rained for much of 6 June, and our well-attended Creation Celebration Service was in fact held in the church.

The hymns were chosen by our ECO group and included 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder'.

There was a special welcome for the guest speaker, Alison Moulden, who is the Diocesan Mission Enabler - Sustainability/Net Zero. Alison explained what her post involves and told us about the National Emergency briefing. The UK faces a growing climate and nature emergency. Yet most people have never been fully briefed on what it means for our lives, our economy and our future. In November last year a meeting was held where leading experts set out the evidence on the climate and nature crisis in a formal briefing to national decision-makers. A film based on this the *Peoples Emergency Briefing* is now available for general screening.

The next outdoor Eucharist is planned for Sunday 23 August

DRD

Church attendance grows for fifth year in a row

Church of England congregations saw their fifth year of growth in a row in 2025 with steady increases in weekly and Sunday attendance and strong growth in Christmas and Easter services, an early snapshot of official figures shows.

Overall, there were an estimated 1.023 million regular worshippers across Church of England congregations last year, up 1.4 per cent on 2024, according to preliminary returns for the annual *Statistics for Mission* report.

It is the fifth year in a row in which attendance both on Sundays and across the week have risen – the first time this has been seen since current records have been kept.

Just under two million people (1.96 million) joined services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day last year - up 5.5 per cent - in addition to 4.8 million attendances over Advent, a 2.0 per cent rise.

Over a typical week an estimated 707,000 people attended Church of England services, up 0.7 per cent on the previous year, and 15.5 per cent higher than 2021 when attendance rebounded after Covid.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said: "It is so encouraging to see the ways that God is at work in our Church. I give thanks for the clergy, lay people and volunteers who each week make people feel welcome in every parish across our country."

Debbie Clinton, the Church of England's Director for Vision and Strategy, said: "From our rural villages to our post-industrial towns, in parishes across the country, churches are reaching out to their communities and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our 2025 statistics are a testament to their hospitality and faithfulness. We praise God for all that He is doing in His Church."

Upcoming Tribute Nights
— at St Mary's —

<p>LEE ALEXANDER as ELVIS</p>  <p>SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm</p>	<p>A TRIBUTE TO SINATRA performed by RAY LOWE</p>  <p>SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm</p>	<p><i>Jingle Bell</i> JAZZ CHRISTMAS ★ PARTY ★ with Jenny Green Live Band</p>  <p>SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm</p>
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We can raise much more if more people register and shop via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Please select **St Mary the Virgin Parish Church - Ewell** as your nominated charity and remember to make purchases via the EasyFundraising website.

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'...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 July

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



- W 01 1930 Deanery Greenery Meeting (Parish Room)
- Th 02 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Ewell Hall)
- S 05 TRINITY 5**
 - 0800 Said Holy Communion 1662 (Lady Chapel)
 - 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 - 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 06 Day Home Communion by Clergy
 - 1930 EVF Meeting (Parish Room)
- T 07 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 - 1305-1335 Bach+ Rheinberger, Lunchtime Organ Recital
- W 08 1930 St Mary's Crafters (Ewell Hall)
- S 11 1000-1600 Ewell Village Fair (in and around Church)
- S 12 TRINITY 6**
 - 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 - 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
 - 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- T 14 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- Th 16 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Ewell Hall)
- S 19 TRINITY 7**
 - 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 - 0930 Sung Holy Communion
 - 1730 Choral Evensong - 1662
- M 20 2000 Julian Group (Zoom)
- T 21 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 22 1930 PCC Meeting (preceded by Mass at 1900)
- S 26 TRINITY 8**
 - 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
 - 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- T 28 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 29 2000 St Mary's Quiz on Zoom

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