



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 645

October 2026

£1



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



St Mary's Ewell

www.stmarysewell.com

QUIZ? NIGHT?

Ewell Hall

Saturday 31st October

6:30pm for 7:00pm start

£10 TICKET INCLUDING CHEESE & BREAD

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Tickets must be purchased in advance after Church services



**Tables of 6 – come on your own
or with your friends!**

CONTENTS

Fr Mark Stafford writes.....	2, 3 & 4
Giving to St. Mary's.....	3
Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal.....	4
Foodbank.....	4



Prayers for October.....	5
Bereavement café.....	5
Organ recital report.....	5
St. Mary's ECO Group.....	6
Keeping St. Mary's open.....	6
AV Sound Desk.....	6
Bossa Nova-ing the afternoon away.....	7



Creation Celebration.....	7
The cow and the Bible.....	7
Cartoon.....	7
Home Start.....	8
Ray Lowe performs Sinatra.....	8
Fairtrade Sunday.....	8
PCC report.....	9
Wow! What a night!.....	9
Obituary Thelma Easton.....	9
St Mary's quizzes.....	9
Christmas Wreath Workshop....	10
William Brooke at Peterborough	10
October Concert.....	10
Knit & Natter and Craft Group...	10
Flamenco Christmas.....	10
Easy Fundraising.....	11
Acts 435.....	11
Calendar for October.....	12

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Fr Mark Stafford writes

Rooted in Hope: Trees, the Woodland Trust, and Caring for St Mary's Churchyard

What's a tree's favourite subject in school? Geometree.

What type of tree has the best tan? A beech tree.

Why did the cat go up the tree, anyway? Because it decided to go out on a limb.

Why is there so much dirt on the forest floor? Because nature abhors a vacuum.

What crime did the forest commit? Treason.

On a more serious note, there is something quietly reassuring about the trees of St Mary's. At a recent "Deanery Greenery" talk by the Woodland Trust, we explored the importance of trees, the effect they have on reducing carbon, the effect they have on reducing climate change and the effect they have on our mental health.

The Trees of St Mary's stand above the bustle of Ewell Village, marking the seasons with a patience that outlasts us all. Many parishioners tell me that the churchyard feels different depending on the time of year: the soft green of April, the deep shade of July, the golden drift of leaves in October. Our trees are not just scenery they are part of the story of this place.

In recent years, churches across the country have been rediscovering the spiritual and ecological importance of their land. St Mary's is no exception to this and Helen and the volunteer team that meet every first Saturday have been working hard to renovate and preserve our Church land, not just for the many human visitors we have each week but also for the many, many more creatures that depend on our green spaces.

The Woodland Trust has been at the forefront of this movement, encouraging communities to protect mature trees, plant new ones, and manage green spaces in ways that support wildlife and help tackle climate change. Their work reminds us that caring for trees is not simply an environmental duty; it is an act of hope.

Christian tradition has long understood trees as signs of life, renewal, and shelter. The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a city where the *tree of life* stands at the centre. Jesus himself often taught outdoors, using the natural world to reveal the kingdom of God.

At St Mary's, our churchyard trees quietly continue that teaching. They offer shade to visitors, habitat to birds and insects, and a sense of peace to those who come to remember loved ones. They also remind us that our parish is part of a wider creation, one that we are called to steward with care.

The Woodland Trust's guidance has shaped how many churches now think about their land. Their resources emphasise:

- **Protecting mature trees**, which store carbon and support rich ecosystems
- **Planting native species**, chosen for long-term resilience
- **Managing churchyards as havens for wildlife**, especially in urban and suburban settings
- **Engaging volunteers**, so that caring for creation becomes a shared ministry

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

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Email: llm@stmarysewell.com

CHURCHWARDENS

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Mrs Vicky Gocher 07732 459281;

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Bereavement Café

Mrs Wendy Paxman 020 8224 2851;

Email: bereavementcafe@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

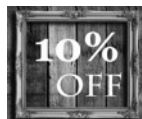
The postal address is: St Mary's Ewell Parish Church, London Rd, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 2AY.

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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These principles align beautifully with our own eco commitments at St Mary's. We have already taken steps to improve biodiversity across the churchyard, and we continue to explore how best to care for our trees in a way that honours both heritage and habitat.

Our churchyards are some of the most visited green spaces in Ewell. They are used daily by dog walkers, families, commuters, and those seeking quiet reflection. The trees here, from the tall evergreens to the older deciduous specimens, form the backbone of this landscape.

Good land management is essential. Over the past year we have:

- Carried out professional tree surveys to ensure safety and long-term health
- Removed dead or dangerous branches while preserving natural shape
- Allowed areas of grass to grow longer in summer to support pollinators
- Encouraged volunteers to help with gentle, seasonal maintenance
- Planned future planting that will benefit generations to come

This work is not glamorous, but it is deeply important. A well-managed churchyard is a gift to the whole village.

The Woodland Trust encourages communities to think in decades, not months. Trees planted today will be enjoyed by children who have not yet been born. That long view is profoundly Christian, a reminder that we build not only for ourselves, but for those who will follow.

In the near future, St Mary's hopes to:

- Plant a small number of native saplings and hedging in suitable areas of the churchyard
- Continue improving habitats for birds, bats, and insects
- Work with volunteers to maintain paths and green spaces
- Explore opportunities for community involvement, especially with local schools

Every new tree is a sign of hope. Every act of care is a small step toward a healthier parish and a more sustainable future.

St Mary's has always been a place where faith meets everyday life. Our trees are part of that witness, standing quietly, offering beauty, shelter, and continuity. As we work with national partners like the Woodland Trust and continue our own land-management efforts, we do so with gratitude for the gift of creation and a commitment to protect it.

May our churchyard remain a place where people find peace, where wildlife thrives, and where the deep roots of faith and community continue to grow.

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Fairtrade Sunday Sunday 4 October we will be thinking about Fairtrade. Bishop Peter will be joining us as will his daughter who works for the Fairtrade foundation, she will deliver our talk at the 9:30am Mass.

Music We have two great musical events in October. On Tuesday 6 October at 1.05pm, Jonathan will continue the lunchtime Bach recitals followed by tea and cake! On 10 October at 7.00pm we welcome Ray Lowe, back to St Mary's. Ray will perform a jam-packed programme of swing standards; tickets are available from Red Carpet entertainment (see the poster on page 8).

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 at Ewell Hall.

On Wednesday 14 October you can join our LLM Sara Holland for **Knit and Natter or St. Mary's Crafters**, both in Ewell Hall at 7.30 (see page 10 for details).

All Saints and All Souls Each year at St Mary's we keep a day of thanksgiving and memorial for the lives of our loved ones who have died. This year there will be two services on Saturday 31 October. At 12 noon there will be a simple, said requiem Mass. At 4pm there will be a relaxed and gentle service with readings, hymns and music. Both services are followed by tea

Fr Mark writes, 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 online here:

<https://www.paritygiving.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

and coffee for those who would like to stay and chat. You, your family and friends are warmly invited to attend either of these services. At both services the names of departed loved ones will be read out, and there will be the opportunity for you to light a candle in remembrance. There is a list of names to be read out and if you are unsure whether a name you wish to be remembered has been included, do ask the Welcomer to check for you and add it if necessary. Please be aware that the 4pm service is being live streamed and will be available to view for one week on the Church Facebook page. If you do not want your loved one's name read out at these services please let us know by telephoning the parish office on 0208 393 2643 or by e-mailing parishoffice@stmarysewell.com by Monday 26 October.

On the evening of 31 October we will be holding a **Quiz Evening in Ewell Hall**. Tickets cost £10 and are on sale after services. (See the front page for more details.)

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

Every blessing

Fr Mark

The Countdown

Now only days away

Don't forget... and spread the news



St Mary's is continuing to support the **LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL** again this year. The charity 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. This year, with so many continuing to live under the threat of war coming to their homes, these gifts are needed

more than ever. Check out the charity's website at <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2026>.

With all the cost-of-living rises, everyone is stretched so why not put together a box or two with other members of your family or with your neighbours or a group of friends? Every box that we send off in October will be bringing a glimmer of hope to people who are even worse off.

PICK UP A LEAFLET FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH or find out all you need to know by going to the charity's website shown above.

St Mary's will be a drop off point for all your filled boxes. Drop them off to us anytime the church is open or on:

Saturday, October 10 10.00am-12.00pm,

Wednesday, October 14 2.30pm – 4.00pm,

Saturday, October 31 10.00am – 12.00pm.

Or bring them along and join us for one of our church services on Sunday, October 11, 18 or 25.

Any problems? Please contact the Parish Office tel: 020 8393 2643.

PLEASE NOTE: Shoe box gifts will be collected from church on Monday, November 2, so don't be late!

Linda Staff



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

Urgently needed:

tinned meat, custard, Longlife juice, tea (bags), ketchup/brown sauce/mayonnaise, jam/honey/marmalade/peanut butter/chocolate spread, packet soup, pasta sauce, non-dairy milk, sweetcorn, cooking sauce, tinned fruit, instant coffee, noodles, savoury biscuits, crisps, beans, sugar, instant mash, pulses, chocolate biscuit bars, dried pasta n sauce, sponge pudding, biscuits, male / female deodorant, hair conditioner, shower gel, washing powder, children's toothbrushes (0-2 and 6-8 only), washing up liquid, nappies size 4, 4+, 5, 5+, 6 and 6+ and shampoo.

Please no more of these items as we are at capacity:

tinned soup, dog food, cat food and pasta.

*** 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 Binstead, 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.

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Prayers for October



Autumn is already upon us with shortening days, misty mornings, and falling leaves. It is a time for preparing for the coming months of winter.

Creator God,

We thank You for the harvests already gathered in, providing us with food for the coming months.

In gratitude for the harvest, help us to remember all those who struggle and so frequently go without. We pray for all those living in countries where there has been drought, excessive flooding, or other natural disaster which has ruined crops and livelihoods; for those living in the many war-torn countries around the world who no longer have homes to live in or can work the land to provide for their own harvest. We also pray for all those in this country, and closer to home, here in Ewell who find it difficult to make ends meet and we give thanks for our local Foodbank which does so much to support those in such need.

Lord, help each of us to remember to say thank you for Your goodness towards us and that those of us who have plenty may share with those who are not so fortunate.

We bless You, God of Seed and Harvest, and we bless each other that the beauty of this world and the love that created it might be expressed through our lives and be a blessing to others now and always. **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 MENDELSSOHN

Tuesday 1 September Jonathan Holmes - organ

Felix Mendelssohn:

Organ Sonata No. 4 in B flat major, opus 65 no.4

J.S. Bach:

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542

Hands up all those who have heard of Carl Friedrich Zelter!

The name sounds German and that is correct. Born in 1758, he spent his career in Berlin where he worked as a music teacher. Two of his pupils were a talented brother and sister. Their names? Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn. As a female, poor Fanny eventually lost out to her brother, when their father could no longer afford to pay for both of them to progress to further education; inevitably, it was the boy who benefitted.

When the children were born, Bach had been dead for fifty years. In the interim, his choral music had dropped out of use but musicians continued to play his keyboard music with enthusiasm. One of these musicians was Zelter, and he did his best to ensure his pupils received as thorough a grounding as possible in Bach's music. In course of time, Fanny pursued a different route (she continued to compose) while Felix followed his teacher, becoming a great exponent and advocate of Bach's music. A 'watershed' moment occurred in 1829 when the teenaged Mendelssohn persuaded Zelter to allow him to arrange and direct a performance of the St. Matthew Passion at the 'Singakademie' in Berlin which Zelter had founded. This event had been billed as "the first performance in a hundred years"; not quite true, but the gist is there. For an audience unaccustomed to Baroque music, Mendelssohn drastically reduced the work's length by cutting most of the chorales and arias, and by altering Bach's orchestration by substituting clarinets for oboes (of different kinds).

Much later, Mendelssohn felt encouraged to present the Passion to an audience without any cuts and restoring Bach's original orchestration.

Though he took over aspects of Bach's style, such as polyphony (the sounding-together of several 'strands' of music) and his terminology (such as sonatas), what Mendelssohn composed for the organ are, in effect, suites rather than sonatas of the Classical type, as used by Mozart, for instance. An example of this is no. 4 in B flat, which Jonathan played and in which we could detect allusions – brief though they are – to the famous Wedding March!

We will, of course, never know but it is likely that Zelter taught the young Mendelssohn one of Bach's most magisterial works, the Fantasia and Fugue in G minor. This work may date from a visit Bach made to Hamburg, to audition for a prestigious organist's post: it is designed to impress. Note that a Fantasia is, as its name suggests, a piece without form: what could be called 'free composition'. On the other hand, a fugue by its very nature needs to be tightly organised. This is what Bach excels at; and at which Mendelssohn, in his turn, also excels.

TT





ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP CHURCHYARD UPDATE

Have you visited the Churchyard recently? If not, you really should give yourself a few minutes break to have a gentle wander.

It is a very tranquil place for a quiet stroll. You can keep to the path which is probably the safest route. If you wander amongst the graves, just take care as the ground can become a little uneven.

So what are the latest happenings in the busy life of the churchyard? A group of us have been meeting on the first Saturday of the month to continue our cutting back of vegetation around the periphery. As I have mentioned, before this is a never-ending job, but very worthwhile. This summer, of course, has been so hot that the growth has been much slower which has given us the opportunity to clear other spaces where 'stuff' had been accumulating.

Our main focus at the moment is the trees. A tree survey of Churchyard 4 will be completed in the next week or so and we will then have a clearer plan of the work required going forward. We are, of course, constantly checking the trees, in particular, to ensure the churchyard is a safe place to visit. However, this will be the first formal tree survey for a while and the follow up work may well be expensive.

If you are able to support our work, financially, please do give a donation, please label the donation 'Churchyard management' so that it goes in the right column in our accounts. Most Sundays, there is a watering can on the table at the back of the church and any cash donations can be placed in there. Also do look out any small change you'd like to get rid of – every little helps as they say!!

As you may have read in Father Mark's letter, the Deanery Greenery group met at St Mary's last week with a visiting speaker from The Woodland Trust. Interestingly, the UK has only 13% tree cover whilst the average in the rest of Europe is 30/37%. Why is this important? To quote from The Woodland Trust website 'Trees help fight climate change, save wildlife, and improve our health. We all need trees.' Do take a further look at their website, there's information explaining how important trees are. There's also plenty of very helpful information as to how we can help by planting trees in our gardens.

Finally, I want to highlight the work that is going on in our own wildlife space. I must give an enormous **thank you** to our small band of volunteers who are working hard to keep the churchyard a pleasant place to visit as well as creating a space for wildlife to feel at home. **We would love more volunteers to join us.** The work can be as simple as picking up sticks, easing the job of mowing of the grass between the graves or it can be a little more strenuous as we wrestle with the vegetation, ensuring that each and every grave is clearly visible. The time commitment can be as little or as much as you can.

If this tempts you, please get in touch

email: safeguardingofficer@stmarysewell.com.

I look forward to hearing from you!!

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.

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Thank you for everything you give to the Church; your support is greatly appreciated. However, we continue to run at a deficit, spending more each year than we receive.

We are not asking everyone to give more, and we are grateful to those already giving as much as they can. We do, however, encourage you to review your giving. You may be able to Gift Aid your donation or give through the Parish Giving Scheme by phone on 0333 002 1260 or online at info@parishgiving.org.uk.

If you have any questions about ways to donate, please contact Sarah Holmes at plannedgiving@stmarysewell.com.

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.

BOSSA NOVA-ING THE AFTERNOON AWAY



Saturday 22 August saw the vicarage garden bathed in warm sunshine, the smell of barbeque smoke, the gentle sounds of Nikki and friends and the clink of glasses from the bar. It was Jazz on the Lawn again!



About 120 people enjoyed this relaxing afternoon, joining in the singing and some even dancing, while the queue for burgers fluctuated.

Thanks to all who helped set up the garden, served at the bar, cooked and cleared up afterwards. In the words of Fr Mark, "You are all stars!" (Especially Mark and Lucy for the use of their house and garden. Double stars for you!)

JMD

The cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "It's not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

The Scammer

I got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords."
I said, "Great. What are they? I'll grab a pen."

CREATION CELEBRATION



On Sunday 25 August we were blessed with a warm sunny day and a good attendance for our outdoor 'Creation Celebration' Eucharist, which was held alongside the north side of the church. Everything was ready outside in good time for the service. Chairs were moved from the hall and parish room, the sound desk and organ keyboard were in place, and a display for Epsom and Ewell Climate Action Network set up.

The celebrant was the Rt Rev Paul Davies, who is Bishop of Dorking and the Acting Bishop of Guildford. For the readings Bishop Paul chose the creation verses of Genesis (1:1-25) for the first lesson and Matthew (6: 25-33) for the Gospel. The hymns chosen included 'All creatures of our God and King' and 'When I in awesome wonder'. The Bishop gave a wide ranging and most inspiring sermon with an ECO-related theme, congratulating our ECO team and St. Mary's on the Gold award received last year and reminding us that as an ECO church there is still much more to do.

The service was followed by refreshments in Ewell Hall. Our thanks to all who helped in so many ways with the service or provided refreshments.

DRD



"Wait a moment, dear, this isn't a tourists'-attraction ratings guide, it's a Health and Safety warning!"

HOME-START

At the 9:30 Eucharist on 16 August we welcomed a guest speaker, Briony from Home-Start Epsom, Ewell and Banstead (including Mole Valley North). Briony writes below about the work Home-Start.



We have been supporting local families since 1996. Our team of expert staff and specially trained volunteers offers compassionate, confidential and non-judgemental support, tailored to the individual needs of each family.

What makes Home-Start special is the personal relationship we build with families. We carefully match families with volunteers who

can offer friendship, encouragement and practical help, often in the family's own home. We understand the challenges families face and can help connect them with other sources of support.

Our support is free to families and includes individual support, parenting courses, workshops and family support groups and outings.

Volunteer Home Visiting: the same volunteer visits each week providing the support that family needs.

The Perinatal Service: supports families during pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life – a precious but sometimes very challenging period.

Over 5s/ SEND service provides support for families with children aged 5–11 who are experiencing challenging behaviour.

Dad Matters service, which promotes the wellbeing of fathers.

By offering support early, we help parents build confidence, develop their skills and create stronger foundations for their children. Evidence shows that early, home-based support can improve wellbeing, reduce isolation and help families become more resilient and self-sufficient.

How can you help?

Volunteer: Our home-visiting volunteers are at the heart of Home-Start. With training and ongoing support, they give their time to walk alongside a family, offering friendship, encouragement and practical help when it's needed most.

Give: Donations, however large or small, help us to continue providing practical and emotional support to families who are struggling.

Offer practical support: We need fundraising volunteers or Churches and community groups who support Home-Start EEB.

Find out more or get in touch:

Email: fundraising@hseeb.org.uk

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Website: www.hseeb.org.uk

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FAIRTRADE SUNDAY

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WITH A GUEST SPEAKER FROM THE

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9:30 AM SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 20 August it was reported that Fr Mark and Godfrey met with the Conservation Officer and showed her a copy of an old original sketch of what the big, road-facing window in Ewell Hall had looked like in Victorian times. The Conservation Officer has now agreed that the replacement should look like this sketch. This will entail repairing/replacing the wooden external frame and inserting double glazed 'leaded' units. Ewell Windows have agreed to keep the cost the same as the original quote (£6,000) and to make a sample for inspection/approval. The kitchen window will also have to match. Godfrey will now be investigating electricians (to remove the wiring) bricklayers (to repair the window surrounds) and carpenters (to repair the wooden frame). The work will be started as soon as possible.

Having studied the preliminary architect's drawings for the new kitchen area in the church, members voted in favour of obtaining detailed drawings which can be costed and presented to the DAC for approval.

Draft policies for baptisms and funerals at St Mary's were circulated prior to the meeting. Members approved both policies for immediate use.

The treasurer having negotiated a slightly lower price for both colour and black and white copies, Gill Bird and Lynne Yuille were asked to progress the lease option on the Epson photocopier as soon as possible.

*Liz Divall
PCC secretary*

WOW! WHAT A NIGHT!



Wow! What a night! Fr Mark and I were slightly concerned when we heard that Lee Alexander was not feeling his best and had considered cancelling due to a sore throat, but being a true professional, he produced a show that was hard to beat. His voice was as powerful as ever, and Lee had the audience eating out of his hand from the first note. Favourites such as 'You'll never walk alone', 'American trilogy'

and 'Sweet Caroline' got the audience on their feet and then, they just didn't sit down again! The bar staff, Fr Mark, Valerie and Helen did a grand job ensuring that no one left thirsty and we were delighted to see so many familiar faces from the congregation joining us. The evening concluded with Lee leading a massive Conga around the Church.

As a night of entertainment and fun, this was certainly one to remember, and everyone left the Church saying what a brilliant evening it had been. Pure delight.

Lucy S

Thelma Easton

13 March 1942 - 14 July 2026



Thelma and Gordon had their first date on a very auspicious day - 20 July 1969 – the day that humans first took some steps on the moon! They were married on 6 November 1971. Thelma had left Barbados where she was born in 1961 and came to England to train

as a nurse. She qualified as a state registered nurse and a psychiatric nurse and eventually retired from nursing around 1986 after being the charge nurse of Elgar Ward at Epsom General Hospital.

Thelma was a strong, brave lady and her energy was boundless. She helped Gordon with his surveying business and then property rental, also working in nursing homes and for the charity Home Start (looking after children to give single mums a rest) and supporting battered or abused mums. She also showed endless love to her family and cared for her grand-children, whom she spoiled rotten.

Thelma was a person full of love – she gave so much to so many, many people – Corrine, her sister, said she had 'a beautiful heart' – her life was love in action', her Christian faith lived out in her kindness, her caring, and her self-giving generosity every day. Michelle, her daughter, told me how Thelma would be in St Mary's every Sunday, that she taught in the Sunday School and helped with the annual church fair – the Ewell Village Fair. It was here that Michelle was baptised and confirmed and sang in the choir, that Michelle and Stew were married in 2007 and that Charlie, Alfie and Malakai were all baptised. Thelma's soul is now free and she is at peace. She will always be with her family and friends in their memories and their hearts.

Sue Ayling

ST. MARY'S QUIZZES



On 31 October there will be a quiz in Ewell Hall with bread and cheese - see Fr. Mark's letter and the advert on page 12

We also hold on-line quizzes using Zoom

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

Our next on-line quiz will be in November. 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.

CHRISTMAS DOOR WREATH WORKSHOP SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Ewell Hall, London Road, Ewell. KT17 2AY
10am- 1pm £30



Have you always wanted to know how to make a foliage Christmas Door Wreath? Then why not come along for a fun workshop and leave with your own creation for your front door. Basic materials and some greenery will be provided. You can bring some foliage, ribbon, baubles and other accessories to personalise your wreath. (Further details on application.) Please contact Lucy M at flowers@stmarysewell.com for further details, or see me at church after the 9.30am service. Places are limited so do book early. Payment is required in advance to secure your place by the 22nd November.

OCTOBER CONCERT

October 6 1.05 pm

Tuesday lunchtime organ recital

Bach and Florence Price

Jonathan Holmes

Director of Music

Jonathan continues his lunchtime Bach recitals

All Concerts have a suggested donation of £10



WILLIAM BROOKE AT PETERBOROUGH



On Sunday 6 September, several from St. Mary's travelled to Peterborough where the authorities at the magnificent cathedral are delighted to have William as their Organ Scholar. He joins the cathedral's team of young talented musicians. We attended a service of Choral Evensong, an opportunity for us to hear their excellent choir, and during which there was a short ceremony where William and a new Lay Clerk were officially welcomed. I think we all know how talented William is; it was good to hear him play hymns and, to close, the mighty Te Deum by Jean Langlais, a work that does ample justice to the organ and the cathedral acoustic.

TT

New! Knit & Natter

Bring your project and enjoy the company!

A relaxed evening to knit, crochet, craft and chat

Bring along whatever you enjoy making and share ideas, skills and friendship with others.

Whether you are an experienced maker or just fancy a friendly evening out, you are very welcome.

St Mary's Craft Group

Creativity • Friendship • Fun

Each month we explore a different theme, making cards, decorations and other crafts to take home.

Try new techniques, learn new skills and enjoy good company along the way.

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday 14 October

Wednesday 11 November

7.30pm – 9.00pm

£2 for Knit & Natter or £5.00 for Craft group

(covers all materials)

Tea, coffee and cake included.

Held at Ewell Hall

For more information:

Sara Holland LLM

llm@stmarysewell.com

EASYFUNDRAISING FOR ST. MARY'S

Do you make on-line purchases from on-line retailers and if so do you know about Easyfundraising?

More than 8000 on-line retailers (including Argos, John Lewis, Booking.com, British Airways, Tui, Expedia, Sainsbury's and Tesco) offer charitable donations through **Easyfundraising**, for purchases made via their website. Presently St Mary's has 44 people signed up to Easyfundraising and we have received £1852 in charitable donations from their purchases.

We can raise much more if more people register and shop via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Please select **St Mary the Virgin Parish Church - Ewell** as your nominated charity and remember to make purchases via the EasyFundraising website.

Thank you!

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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 October



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

- Th 01 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 03 1000-1200 Churchyard 4 Workparty
- S 04 FAIRTRADE SUNDAY**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (1662) (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 05 Day Home Communion
- T 06 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 1305 Lunchtime Organ Recital: Bach + Florence Price
- S 10 1000-1200 Drop-off - Link to HOPE Shoebox Appeal
- 1930 'SINATRA' Tribute Show (In Church)
- S 11 TRINITY 19**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- T 13 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- W 14 1430-1600 Drop-off - Link to HOPE Shoebox Appeal
- 1930 St Mary's Crafters & Knit & Natter (Hall)
- Th 15 1445-1545 Bereavement Café (Hall)
- S 18 TRINITY 20 (Luke the Evangelist)**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- 1730 Choral Evensong
- M 19 2000 Julian Group on Zoom
- T 20 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- S 25 LAST AFTER TRINITY (Bible Sunday)**
- 0800 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- 0930 Sung Holy Communion
- M 26 1930 PCC Meeting (Preceded by Mass at 1900)
- T 27 1000 Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
- S 31 1000-1200 Drop-off - Link to HOPE Shoebox Appeal
- 1200 All Souls' Said Requiem Mass
- 1600 All Souls' Service of the Word
- 1830 for 1900 St Mary's Quiz Live (Hall)

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