

EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No. 647 December 2026 £1



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



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COPY FOR THE NEXT EDITION: Please email EPN copy to: epn@stmarysewell.com. Hand-written or typed copy will only be accepted by prior agreement (call 020 8393 4804). Please do not embed photos in WORD files, but send the images separately. Copy date for the January 2027 edition is noon on Monday 14 December but if possible please send copy before this date.

Fr Mark Stafford writes

Christmas: Hope, Hospitality and Caring for Creation

As the days grow shorter and Christmas lights begin to appear around our streets and homes, Advent invites us to pause and prepare. In a world that often seems hurried and noisy, the Christian story begins not with bustle but with waiting. Advent reminds us that God comes close, bringing hope, peace and light into the ordinary places of life. This year's parish Advent course has been exploring that wonderful theme: God drawing near to ordinary through the lens of Luke's Gospel. The course is designed to be a gentle introduction to the Gospel, ideal for those who are just thinking about Faith.

Christmas also reminds us that God chose to enter the world in humility. Jesus was born not in a palace but in a simple shared lodging. That story speaks powerfully today. It encourages us to look for Christ not only in our worship and celebrations, but also in our neighbours, our communities, and our care for the world God has entrusted to us.

At St Mary's, one of the joys of parish life is seeing this lived out week by week. Our Lunch Club and the many activities that take place in Ewell Hall provide friendship, welcome and support for people of all ages and backgrounds. In a season when loneliness can be particularly difficult, such simple acts of hospitality reflect the generosity at the heart of Christmas. The Hall continues to be a place where community flourishes, offering opportunities for people to gather, share meals, make friends and find support.

This Christmas, we are also mindful of our calling to care for creation. The wonder of the Incarnation tells us that God values the physical world so deeply that he entered it himself. As a parish, we continue to work towards reducing our environmental impact through energy-efficient lighting, exploring greener heating solutions, and seeking ways to make our buildings more sustainable. These practical steps are part of our discipleship and our commitment to future generations.

Perhaps one of the gifts of Christmas is learning again that small things matter. A shared meal. A kind word. A visit to someone who is lonely. Switching off unnecessary lights. Choosing to walk rather than drive when we can. Welcoming a newcomer. Like the tiny child in Bethlehem, small acts of love can change the world.

As we celebrate Christmas, may we find time to marvel once more at God's gift to us in Christ. May our homes be filled with joy, our hearts with hope, and our communities with generosity. And may we continue, together, to care for one another and for the beautiful creation God has placed in our keeping.

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Sunday 29 November 17:30 Advent Carols

Come and join us as we start our Advent celebrations with a traditional service of Advent Carols, Choral music, and Bible readings.

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: 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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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.

Lunch Club The Lunch Club will operate from noon – 14:00 on Thursdays in Ewell Hall **and is open to all**. We will offer a free simple lunch and chance to get together, chat and play games! Running until the beginning of February.

Bereavement café We will be meeting at 14:45 in the Parish Room (entrance at the back of the church) on Thursday 3 December and on Thursday 17 December.

Christmas, what's it all about? Through Advent we will be running a short 3 week course exploring the Christian faith. The meetings will take place on Tuesdays at 19:00 for refreshments, (1, 8, and 15 December) 19:30 start or Thursdays at 14:30 following the lunch club (3, 10, and 17 December) why not come and have lunch and then stay for the course?

Singalong Sound of Music- 5 December Doors open at 18:30 for 19:00 start. Tickets cost £10 for adult, £5 for a child. All funds are in support of the Mayor's Charities. Please do dress up, the more Austrian, the better! See also the poster on p7.

Gift of Song! Join us on Wednesday 9 December for *The Gift of Song*, a joyful evening of outstanding festive performances by the Laine Theatre Arts Choir at St Mary the Virgin, Ewell, raising funds for Momentum Children's Charity. See also the poster on p10.

Jingle bells Jazz- 12 December Doors open at 19:00 and tickets cost £15, join us for a night of "Jingle bells Jazz!". See also the poster on p6.

Duo Christmas concert – Saturday 19 December at 19:30 (Doors open at 19:00) The two great flamenco guitarists, Will and Ben are returning to St Mary's for their regular Christmas concert. Those lucky enough to see them last Christmas were wowed by their talent - an evening not to be missed! Tickets are available online. See also the poster on p10.

Together at Christmas local Christmas Day lunch Run by Churches Together in Ewell for those who would be alone at Christmas. If you can help out, please see the poster in the welcome area. There are also flyers at the back of Church with information about the Christmas lunch to pass onto anyone you know who might be alone on Christmas Day. Please do come yourself if you'd be alone. See also the poster on p8.

Christmas Services

Sunday 20 December

17:30 Nine Lessons and Carols

Come and join us as we start our Christmas celebrations with a traditional service of carols, Christmas choral music, and Bible readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve

14:00 "The Perfect gift"

All age service - Feel free to come dressed as angels or shepherds

16:00 Arrival at Bethlehem

A Family Service for all ages

23:15 Choral Midnight Mass

Come and join us as we celebrate the 1st service of Christmas.

Friday 25 December Christmas Day

08:00 Said Holy Communion According to 1662 Prayer Book.

10:00 Sung Communion.

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas from all at St Mary's

Fr Mark

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Epsom & Ewell foodbank

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

Urgently needed:
tinned meat, ketchup/brown sauce/mayonnaise, jam/honey/marmalade/peanut butter/chocolate spread, porridge, pasta/beans with meat, noodles, cooking sauce, sugar, crisps, longlife juice, squash, instant coffee, cereal bars, chocolate biscuit bar, packet soup, sponge pudding, hot chocolate, male/female deodorant, washing up liquid, children's toothpaste, shaving foam, washing powder, adult toothpaste, toilet rolls.

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 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.*

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Prayers for Advent



'Prepare the way of the Lord!'

O God, as we begin our Advent journey, help us to listen to that ancient voice crying in the wilderness 'prepare the way of the Lord' and guide us in all that we do.

Help us to recognise the great gift You have given us in Your Son, Jesus, that we may prepare well for His rebirth in our hearts this Christmas. **Amen**

So, let us take time to stop in the busyness of our hectic lives during this season of Advent to be still and find peace, peace which the world seems unable to give. Be assured that God loves each one of us and is with us. Take a moment to think about all that the message of Christmas means. Christ has come, salvation has come, God is with us.

Lord**, thank you for loving each one of us with a love that is unconditional. Knowing that You love us, help us to share that love with others – with our family, friends, and neighbours, that that part of the world where we have influence may become a better place and we may become the people You created us to be. This year may the true meaning of Christmas remain with us, not just for a few festive days, but throughout the entire year. **Amen

LINK TO HOPE



A very **big thank you** to all those who took part in our Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal this year. At the beginning of November, we were able to send off **30** shoe box gifts to commence their onward journey to families and elderly folk in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, and Bulgaria, who continue to live in extremely difficult circumstances, and who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present. Thank you all for your generosity.

ST. MARY'S QUIZZES

Our next on-line quiz will be in January

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.*

BACH PLUS ONE
Tuesday 4 November
J.S. Bach and Marcell Dupré
Jonathan Holmes - organ

Here are two famous 20th century Marcells both of whom are French: Dupré and Marceau. One is an outstanding mime artist; the other a musician. "which is which? The English frequently mix the two up, either with each other or with Jacqueline Dupré who was English anyway. The fact that one of the Marcells is sharing a recital with Bach suggests it is a musician and that is Dupré. What is appropriate is that Dupré's compositions owe a lot to Bach as we hear today.

Dupré achieved fame - rather like Jonathan - performing all the organ works of Bach in a series of concerts. However, I doubt whether Dupré will have treated his audience to tea and homemade cakes at his concerts!

Undoubtedly, *Dupré* would have known Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV544* a work probably dating from Bach's later Leipzig years. B minor is a key not often associated with Bach, apart from the mass of course. Arguably B minor is a key redolent of angst, as we heard in the Prelude, displaying dense counterpart - the skill of combining two or more themes or tunes together - and a taxing pedal part.

Dupré belonged to a family of professional musicians. His father learnt the organ with Alexandre Guilmant, whose music we sometimes hear at Saint Mary's. Young Marcel was sent to Paris to study with Widor, at the Church of Saint Sulpice. Master and pupil struck up a long-life friendship to the extent that, when Widor eventually retired, he appointed Dupré as his successor.

Dupré had the good fortune to live at a time when it was comparatively straightforward for a musician of talent, such as Dupré, to make a living from travelling widely around the world - and this is exactly what Dupré did. As well as England and Australia, he made a number of tours to America. The story goes that, on one of these tours, in 1921, he was invited to play the legendary Wanamaker Grand court organ in Philadelphia. This, the world's largest pipe organ with no fewer than six manuals or keyboards - compare that with our three - was introduced to the young Frenchman who was asked to improvise upon a theme someone handed to him, without prior notice. Such was the improvisation success that, when Dupré arrived back home - presumably by ocean liner thus allow him plenty of time to collect his thoughts - he decided to maximise his profits by writing down what he could remember. That is no easy task, especially when the improvisation comprised four movements. Here is the basis of what eventually became the basis of the *Symphonie-Passion Opus 23* which is an organ symphony akin to those of Widor and Vierne, though much more modern. The two movements we heard could have been written for our organ, the first *Le monde dans l'attente du Saveur* and lastly *Resurrection.*

TT



ST. MARY'S ECO GROUP

MAKE ONE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS A GIFT TO GOD'S CREATION

DON'T

Buy Christmas cards with glitter.

Buy Christmas cards with 'extra bits' such as foil, sequins or fancy adornments.

Buy wrapping paper with glitter on.

DO

Buy Christmas cards from sustainably sourced paper, preferably with recycled content.

Buy charity Christmas cards, especially from environmentally charities such as the WWF *https://shop.wwf.org.uk/collections/stationery-books*, RSPB *https://shopping.rspb.org.uk/* and Surrey Wild Life Trust *https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/support-us/shop-wildlife.*

Make your own Christmas cards.

Send your Christmas greetings electronically or ring up the person.

Recycle any cards with 'extra bits' **only after you have taken off** the glitter, foil or fancy adornments. The extra bits need to be put in your ordinary waste to go to landfill.

NB The same applies to birthday cards, thank you notes and wrapping paper through the year.

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*.



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS



It's good to prepare for Christmas by reading an Advent book. There are lots to choose from and below are some you may like to consider. All apart from the first book have a daily scripture suggestion, a reflection and a prayer.

'Walking with Angels' by Eleanor Sanderson, £9.59. This is the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2025. Drawing on the words spoken by angels in the Bible, the book explores how these messengers of God reveal the good news at the heart of the Christian story.

'Treasures in Straw' by Tanya Marlow, £8.99. This book explores the griefs and gifts of the Christmas story. It recognises that while Christmas is a magical time for some, for others it can be painful. The book traces the themes of loss and gain throughout the nativity.

'O Come Emmanuel' by various well-known writers, £8.99. The Antiphons – ancient biblical titles for Christ – and the Magnificat invite us to pray with longing as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. With coloured paintings.

'Advent from A to Z' by three writers, £4.99. Whether keeping Advent for the first time or the hundredth time we are helped to prepare to celebrate the great gift that God gives us of Himself in the birth of Jesus at Christmas. (This can also be downloaded free at the Church of England website link below.)

'Waiting in Joyful Hope' by Peter Dwyer, £2.69 or large print £5.59. This book offers brief reflections that will help busy people to enrich their prayer life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

There are copies at the back of church on Sunday and Tuesday mornings for you to look at and a list to sign. We'd be happy to place an order for you or you can order yourself, maybe through *https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/church-times-bookshop* or *https://www.eden.co.uk* If you'd like us to order a book for you, either email Sue Ayling at *assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com* or ring 020 8337 6347 and Sue will obtain it for you ASAP. As usual, there will also be a basket of books in church from which you can choose one to borrow. Any questions to Sue Ayling. or *assistantpriest@stmarysewell.com*.

In addition, you can learn about the Church of England ***The Gift of Christmas*** theme for Advent and Christmas 2026 here - *https://www.churchofengland.org/faith/advent-and-christmas/gift-christmas*.

Using this website link or via the daily devotional app from the Church of England 'Everyday Faith'. you can access daily prayers, reflections, and uplifting stories.

If you can't make it to church this Advent and Christmas, you can join online services from across the Church of England *https://www.churchofengland.org/faith/online-church-services*

PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 26 October, Godfrey M, the chair of the Estates Committee, informed members that planning has been approved for the Hall windows and that the projects for the Hall and the Church are progressing well.

A meeting of all contractors and trades for the Hall works was planned for 5 November to discuss the order of tasks to be carried out ensuring smooth progress and minimising disruption to regular hirers. The actual work is expected to begin in February 2027.

Another meeting was planned with the DAC and architect about the works in the Church. It is hoped that this work will begin in the summer of 2027 following on from the completion of the work on the Hall.

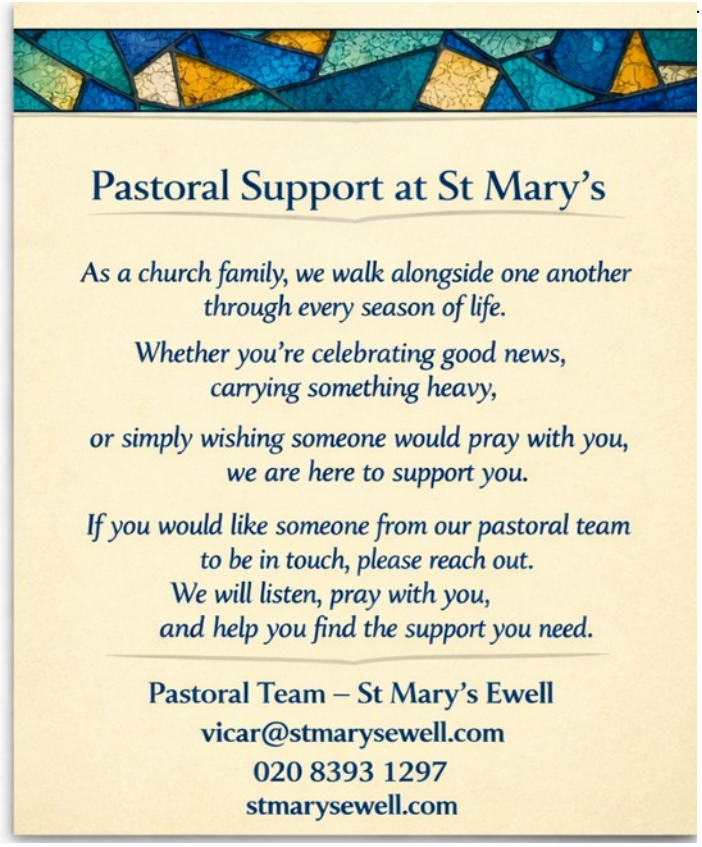
PCC members noted that the Junior Choir did extremely well when they joined St Mary's Singers for the baptism service on Sunday 25 October. They wished their thanks to be recorded to Susana, Jonathan and the children and their parents for all their dedication and efforts. It is hoped that they will have opportunities to sing over the Christmas period when additional members may be recruited. Fr Mark will be dropping off Junior Choir leaflets along with the Christmas leaflets to the local schools.

Helen C reported from the Eco Group that one older tree in the Churchyard had been felled and ivy removed from the trunks of several others. A tree specialist has prepared a report for the council Tree Officer to plan the way forward. The monthly work party will be taking down most of the honeysuckle near the entrance in order that the hedge may be kept trimmed. This will provide safety for those visiting the cemetery. Thanks were recorded to Helen and all the volunteers for their hard work.

Members approved the adoption of an updated Data Protection policy and an updated Complaints Procedure.

The next meeting is on 23 November.

Liz Divall, PCC secretary



QUIZ NIGHT IN EWELL HALL



Since the start of COVID in 2020 we have hosted 68 on-line quizzes using ZOOM, but it was not until 31 October that we held an in-person quiz night in the hall. It was very well attended and much enjoyed. There were ten tables and those on each table formed a team. There was a generous supply of bread, cheese and pickles on the tables from the start, but it was 'bring your own drink and glasses'. Our excellent compere, Lucy M, read out six quiz rounds, covering a wide range of topics, mostly not too difficult, and there was a music round with a song from each of the decades between 1930 and 2020.

At the start there was a picture quiz on each table and there were two other table quizzes to be completed during and between rounds. One of these was a 'sock' round provided by Jo. For this it was necessary to feel and identify the contents of each sock.

Once each round had been marked, the scores were written on a score board by Lucy S. The final winners were the 'Malden Wanderers', who received a bowl of seasonable produce and the team that was last each received a wooden spoon.

Our thanks to John and Jane, who hosted a well-stocked raffle, to all that came to the quiz, to those that produced the quiz rounds, and especially the quiz team Mark, Lucy S, Lucy M and David, for planning and organising such an excellent and fun evening and finally, to those that worked so hard throughout the evening keeping everything running smoothly.
Let's have another in-person quiz soon!

DRD



EPN Subscriptions in 2027

Thank you for your support of EPN during 2026.

The Editorial and Production Team hope that you have enjoyed reading EPN this year and finding out more about all that goes on at St Mary's. We try to keep you abreast of our services and the our many activities to which you are most cordially invited.

For 2027 EPN copies downloaded from our website are again free, and issues collected at church remain at £1 per issue.

For those who have their EPN copies delivered by hand, the annual subscription is £10. Your distributor will be knocking on your door to ask if you would like to subscribe again. Please make cheques payable to "**PCC St Mary the Virgin, Ewell**".

If you would like to become an EPN subscriber for delivery by hand, post or email, please complete and return our subscription form which you can find on the church website.

RUNNING FOR HOPE: SUPPORTING CRAWLEY OPEN HOUSE FOR THE LONDON MARATHON



I am taking on a big challenge over the coming months as I prepare to run the London Marathon in 2027. As part of my training, I ran the Reigate Half Marathon a couple of Sundays ago, finishing in 1 hour and 36 minutes!

I am running the marathon to raise funds for an incredible charity based down in Sussex: Crawley Open House.

For over 30 years, Crawley Open House has been a lifeline for individuals suffering the effects of homelessness, hardship, and social exclusion. Every single night, they provide a safe, warm place to stay for up to 60 men and women across their high-support hostel and community move-on houses. Beyond emergency accommodation, their weekday Resource Centre offers hot meals, medical appointments, life-skills training, and dedicated outreach support to help people overcome severe challenges and transition into stable, independent living.

As an independent charity, they rely heavily on community support and donations to keep their doors open to those who unexpectedly find themselves with nowhere else to turn.

I am aiming to raise as much as possible to ensure they can continue providing this life-changing support. Every penny makes a real difference to someone in need.

If you are able to support my journey and donate to this vital cause, please follow the link to my fundraising page:

https://2027tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/david-boosey-lm2027

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement!

David Boosey

Together at Christmas

Are you alone at Christmas this year?

Come and join us for a traditional festive dinner!

'Churches Together in Ewell'
is pleased to offer a Christmas dinner plus festive activities to all who would otherwise be on their own.

Christmas Day 12:30 - 4:15pm

at a local church.
This offer is open to all Ewell residents.
Local transport can be arranged.

No charge

To join us call: 07999 805 475 or
e-mail: christmas.dinner@serenic.co.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER in EWELL

All Saints, West Ewell
Epsom Vineyard Church
Ruxley Church
St Mary's, Cuddington
Stoneleigh Baptist
Oasis at Auriol
Ewell URC
St Clement's RC
St Mary's, Ewell
Stoneleigh Methodist
Christ Church, Ewell
Generation Church
St John's, Stoneleigh
St Paul's, Howell Hill
The King's Church, Epsom

ADVENT CALENDAR PUZZLE

The Ewell Village Advent calendar is back!

From 1 December, different letters – the puzzle clues – will be displayed in the window or inside 22 local shops and on the outside notice boards of St. Mary's Church and Christ Church, Ewell. Each shop and church will have a number from 1 to 24 designed by 1st Ewell Village (St. Mary's) Brownies. St. Mary's is number 24.

Explore the shops and St. Mary's Church and Christ Church Cheam Rd to uncover the single letter clues at the 24 numbered locations. You can hunt for them all at once or dip in anytime between 1 December and 2.00pm on 24 December.

Every child wishing to take part will be given a special booklet to complete by writing next to each number the matching letter. When they have cracked the puzzle, answers can be delivered to 'All Things Nice' in the High St. until noon on 23 December or to St. Mary's on 24 December from 9am until just before the start of the 2.00pm Christmas Eve Crib Service, when there will be a draw for the winning entries (there are several prizes).

There will be copies of the leaflet available to collect at the back of St. Mary's and at 'All Things Nice'. It can also be downloaded from our website and Facebook page.

As you entertain relatives this Christmas, remember:

Know that even when you are in the kitchen, our Lord moves amidst the pots and pans - *Teresa of Avila*

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

May the peace of the Christ-child enfold you this Christmas and every day through 2026
Sue Ayling



Lucy and Fr Mark would like to wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Christmas Blessings to everyone and Best wishes for a Happy New Year.
Rosemarie and Mike

Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed Christmas,
Love Vicky & Jonathan xx

Warmest wishes to you all, at Christmas and throughout the coming year
Valerie Wood

Godfrey and Lucy wish everyone in the St Mary's family a very Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year

A very happy Christmas and prosperous 2027 to all my friends at St. Mary's.
Lots of love Angie x

Wishing everyone at St. Mary's a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. Gill Bird

Happy Christmas to All and a Very Healthy New Year.
God Bless
Gill and Humphrey x

To everyone at St Mary's, wishing you all a very happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year
Nicholas and Janet

Wishing everyone at St Mary's a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Gillian Merrick

Christmas greetings and all good wishes
Gilda Everson



May you find peace, hope, and joy this Christmas. With love to all at St Mary's.
Linda Staff

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and New Year
Tony and Cristina Tucker

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful year ahead
Sue Moseley

A happy & peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year
Jenny and David Dance

The wonderful gift of Christmas is here to remember, sending peace and blessings to you, today and always.
Ray Kasey

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2027
Valerie Smither

Happy Christmas to all
Sybil Hale



Wishing you and your families a Blessed and Joyous Christmas
And every good wish for 2026
God Bless
Sara

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year
with best wishes Joyce Sharp





With very best wishes for peace and joy at Christmas and for 2027
Marian Morrison
(Lay Pastoral Visitor)





FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all (Ephesians 4:5)

25 October Lily Grace Wilson
1 November Raphael Louis Elijah Cardona

FUNERAL

Let Light perpetual shine upon them

Ashes Interment

7 November James Read, aged 93

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2026



On Remembrance Sunday we were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Cllr Lucie McIntyre, our M.P, Helen Maguire BEM, members from the Royal British Legion and Veterans, officers of the Council, Army Cadets, members of the 135 Geographic Squadron RE, St. Mary's Guides and Brownies, Scouts and many members of the public. We began with a procession from the Church to the War Memorial. The services here and that which followed in church were conducted by Fr Mark Stafford assisted by the Revd Sue Ayling and our LLM, Sara Holland. After initial prayers, the Act of Remembrance and the Exhortation, the standards were lowered at the sound of the Last Post, raised after 2 minutes silence at Reveille, followed by wreath laying.

Many then joined the Service of Remembrance in Church. The choir led the singing and the standards were taken to the altar. The Bible reading from Micah was read by the Mayor, a poem was read by two Army cadets and a talk was given by Fr Mark. The Hymns included 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', 'Abide with me' and 'O God our help from ages past'. The choir sang the Anthem, 'And I saw a new heaven (Bainton)' during the collection of the Standards and the National Anthem followed the Blessing. The service finished with the Kohima Epitaph.

Many thanks to everyone who took part, helped organise and attended the service.



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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.

Thank you!

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

www.acts435.org.uk/our-mission/how-we-work/

Calendar for December



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

T	01	1000	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		1305	Bach Plus One Organ Recital
		1900 for 1930	Advent Course (Parish Room)
Th	03	1200-1400	Lunch Club/Warm Hub (Ewell Hall)
		1430	Advent Course (Ewell Hall)
		1445-1545	Bereavement Café (Parish Room)
S	05	1000-1200	Churchyard 4 Work-party
		1900 for 1930	Singalong Sound of Music (Mayor's Charity)
S	**06**	**ADVENT 2**	
		0800	Said Holy Communion 1662 (Lady Chapel)
		0930	JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
		0930	Sung Holy Communion
M	07	Day	Home Communion
T	08	1000	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		1900 for 1930	Advent Course (Parish Room)
W	09	1900	Laine Theatre Arts Choir 'The Gift of Song' for Momentum Children's Charity
Th	10	1200-1400	Lunch Club/Warm Hub (Ewell Hall)
		1430	Advent Course (Ewell Hall)
S	12	1900 for 1930	Jingle Bell Jazz Concert
S	**13**	**ADVENT 3**	
		0800	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		0930	JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
		0930	Sung Holy Communion
T	15	1000	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		1900 for 1930	Advent Course (Parish Room)
Th	17	1200-1400	Lunch Club/Warm Hub (Ewell Hall)
		1430	Advent Course (Ewell Hall)
		1445-1545	Bereavement Café (Parish Room)
S	19	1900 for 1930	Duo Christmas Concert
S	**20**	**ADVENT 4**	
		0800	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		0930	JAM (Jesus & Me) (Hall then Church)
		0930	Sung Holy Communion
		1730	Nine Lessons & Carols
M	21	2000	Julian Group on Zoom
T	22	1000	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
Th	24	1400	'The Perfect Gift' - All Age Service
		1600	'Arrival at Bethlehem' - A Family service for All Ages
		2315	Choral 'Midnight Mass'
F	**25**	**CHRISTMAS DAY**	
		0800	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		1000	Sung Holy Communion
S	**27**	**CHRISTMAS 1**	
		0800	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
		0930	Sung Holy Communion
T	29	1000	Said Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)
Th	31	1200-1400	Lunch Club/Warm Hub (Ewell Hall)

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