



EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin

No.421

February 2008

60p



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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

It is a terrible thing to live in fear of what other people think. Or rather what we think they may think.

In the material world - applying for jobs, performing in jobs, seeking selection to teams, what others think is part of a straight competition. There is performance and result. Everyone can see that. OK.

However, in the realm of ideas life can be different. Liberals often fear that their fellow-liberals will consider them insufficiently liberal; Communists fear that their comrades will think them insufficiently committed to the cause, deviationist even; Conservatives can fear that their friends may think them wet; tribespeople fear forming an alliance with someone from another tribe.

It is when we come to religion we find people truly living within cages in their own mind, often unable even to mention to family or friends doubts they have about their group's Catholic, Protestant, Sunni, Shia, Ahmadiyya, Meso-American, Brahmin, Buddhist beliefs - beliefs about the nature of The Almighty, about how we ought to behave towards others, about how and where to pray.

These tribalisms, ethnicities, social backgrounds, localities, weave themselves into Balkan ways of living which can become veritable prison-houses round growing children. Children are expected to fit into an adult template (it may include a football team!), some grow to adulthood unable to think for themselves. And much of this sadness is due to the accident of birth.

The leadership of almost every group seeks to maintain control of the group, occasionally warning members that, if they don't measure up, they'll go to Hell!

Where should we at St Mary's stand in all this? There is a helpful phrase in the Prayer Book referring to God - "whose service is perfect freedom".

Neatly paradoxical, it frees the individual from the service of any other power, establishes unambiguously where authority lies and direction comes from, and is the individual's own choice.

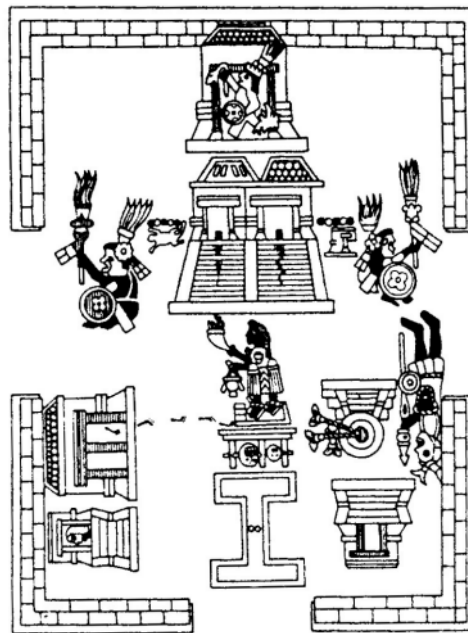
It has the added advantage of letting us Christians off the hook of "telling others what to do". God tells them.

Here we meet possibly the greatest mystery in the universe - the gift of Grace. Grace seems to come with the decision to accept it - and certainly often without such decision - "There, but for the grace of God, go I"!

God wants to use us Christians to set people free from their prisons of wealth and poverty, position and power, exclusion and helplessness, cop-out and opt-out, -and give everybody their

chance to help lead the human race Home.

That seems to be something God wants for all His children - the freedom of joining Jesus in saving the race. There is no other freedom.



Mesoamerican City

Aztec ceremonial centre
(Great Temple of Huitzilopochtli, Tenochtitlan)



THE VICAR writes

MANY THANKS

It was a pleasant surprise to find that a Reception was being arranged to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of my Induction at Ewell, way back in 1983 on 7 January. The Reception took place in church between the Sung Eucharist and Mattins on the Sunday after the actual date. I am most grateful to those who set it all up, and I was very touched by the kind words which were said and indeed by the presence there of so many people, some of whom had forsaken their usual Sunday service and turned up for the Sung Eucharist instead. My wife and I also wish to say a warm thank-you for the flowers and the delightful silver memento which accompanied the kind words from the churchwarden David Crick, and also to others who sent cards and other things, and most certainly to those who actually did the work of arranging the event, laying it all up and clearing it all away afterwards. It was a warm-hearted and kindly occasion, which we shall remember with affection.

A BRIEF LOOK BACK...

Although Christmas now seems a long time ago, this is the first opportunity to say in *Ewell Parish News* my own words of thanks to all who helped in connexion with the Christmas services at St Mary's. A great deal of hard work always goes into the production of our Christmas services, and there is always a sense of real joy when they take place. Christmas is indeed a happy time in church at St Mary's. Some very appreciative comments have been made after the 2007 Christmas services, and this makes me think that by and large we are on the right lines with the very mixed fare which characterises our Christmas worship at St Mary's. Jonathan Holmes produced some really great music from the choir over the festive season, and Jeremy Coles' accomplished accompaniment of the services was rounded off with a bravura performance of the Widor Toccata on Christmas morning, which was loudly applauded. Indeed, the Christmas services seemed to me to have a decidedly new vigour and vitality about them this time. I am also grateful to those who took on board such items as folding the service-papers. Such jobs are not exactly thrilling, but they are essential if the services are to run smoothly and efficiently. It was good to see the church looking so festive, bright and happy over Christmas; curiously enough, it seemed slightly less outrageous than usual. One delightful feature this time was the revival of the *'Mass for Midnight'*, written by our former Director of Music, Richard Jenkinson, and based on very familiar Christmas carol melodies. *'Quoniam tu solus sanctus'* sounding like 'Silent night' was indeed a very different sound from the more jaunty Viennese settings of Mozart and Schubert to which we have become accustomed in recent years.

...AND A SLIGHTLY LONGER LOOK FORWARD

The very early date of Easter means that Lent is upon us very quickly, and Ash Wednesday falls on 6 February. Details of our Lent arrangements are given elsewhere in *EPN*. After having been at Ewell all these years it is fairly clear by now that this Vicar has been 'keen on Lent.' Whilst we might not exactly share the outlook of the saintly George Herbert, who wrote 'Welcome, dear feast of Lent', we can still welcome the opportunities it provides annually for our own personal growth in the life of the Spirit, and for our common activity as a local community of faith. There is nothing particularly original about this year's Lent at St Mary's. The well-tried and reliable features seem appropriate for

St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH

020 8393 2643

Website: www.stmarysewell.com

CLERGY

Canon W R Hanford MA BD LLM Vicar of Ewell
Ewell Vicarage, Church Street, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2AQ
The Reverend Patrick Miller MA PhD (Honorary)

READERS

Mr Reginald Saunders MA MEd 020 8393 5550
Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr David Crick 07850 709461
Mr Jonathan Gocher 020 8224 5942

SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

0930 SUNG EUCHARIST

The Wayfarers and the Sunday School meet in conjunction with this service, and there is a Creche provided in church.

There is coffee in the church hall between the Eucharist and Mattins on Sunday mornings, and a chance for members of the congregation to meet or visitors to be welcomed to St Mary's.

1100 MATTINS

(Third Sunday in each month SUNG EUCHARIST to the Book of Common Prayer Rite)

1200 HOLY COMMUNION

(On Greater Festivals and on the last Sunday of the month except in December)

1830 EVENING WORSHIP

Either at St Mary's or at Ewell United Reformed Church. Details are on the Notice Board or on the Weekly Notes.

Occasionally there are variations from this pattern; details are given in this paper, on the Notice Board or on the Weekly Notes available on Sundays.

ON WEEKDAYS

The Eucharist is normally celebrated at present on Tuesdays at 1000, and at other times as printed on the Weekly Notes. Most of the Weekday services take place in the Parish Room (entry through the door on the Church Street side of the Church).

THE PARISH OFFICE

Administrator:

Mrs Lynne Yuille 020 8393 2643 (Office)
Office email: parishoffice@stmarysewell.com

This is in the Sacristy on the south side of the church and is open from 0930 to 1300 on Monday to Friday, (though at present it is not usually open on Thursdays). Also on Friday evening from 1830 to 2000, except in August, the office is open particularly for routine enquiries about Baptism, Banns of Marriage, Confirmation, or fixing up later appointments.

The Vicar is not usually available on Thursdays, and would be grateful not to be contacted on routine matters. Emergencies are different.

**CHILDREN'S
HOUR CHRISTMAS
OUTING**

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" was the Christmas treat for St. Mary's Children's Hour. A group of 25 children, parents and helpers made their way to Epsom Playhouse on 4th January to see the pantomime.

It was a foot-tapping, hand clapping lively show and judging by the shouting, cheering, and "Look behind You!" audience participation, was thoroughly enjoyed by our Children's Hour.

Rosemarie Henson

EST.1934

**A.E. BOOTH & SON
REPAIRS TO
ANTIQUE &
REPRODUCTION
FURNITURE**

300 Hook Road, Hook
Chessington KT9 1NY
020 8397 7675

**P.S. GALE
DECORATORS**

A high quality interior & exterior service by a qualified craftsman

020 8786 0601

this year, though when we get to Holy Week there may possibly be some minor changes. Although there is always a measure of self-denial in Lenten discipline, and a certain concentration on good works (we always have a Lenten Project at St Mary's), it is important to realise that Lent does not exist primarily for this side of things. The traditional readings for the First Sunday in Lent about Christ in the wilderness have perhaps helped to slant it this way, but Lent did not evolve simply as a time to fast and give things up, as if it were some sort of recollection of the Lord who had to rough it in the wilderness, in order that we might identify with him in some way. Historically it grew up originally for the benefit of those whom today we would call Confirmation candidates, and it took some time to develop into its present form of an annual period of reflection and renewal and of generally taking one's faith a bit more seriously. These features have made the Christian Lent something which is probably unique in the world's religions. However, it is these Christian neophytes who give us the clue to the true purpose of Lent: they were going to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, and Lent was their last period of serious preparation for this turning-point in their lives. Essentially Lent is all directed to what comes at the very end: something which is a new beginning. The 'end' of Lent (in both meanings of that word) is our entering into the annual commemoration of the re-creation, renewal and restoration of our human nature, brought about by Christ in the Easter mystery. The Proper Preface at the Eucharist in Lent, as given in *Common Worship*, brings all this together very succinctly:

'And now we give you thanks, because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with heart and mind renewed.'

The word 'paschal' covers the whole of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, as it is portrayed in the worship of the Church, starting on Maundy Thursday evening, and reaching its climax at the Easter Vigil. The rest of Easter Day basks in the glory of the totality of that paschal experience, and the 'day' itself lasts liturgically for 'a week of weeks' until the fiftieth day, Whitsunday. Most other languages call Easter Day by various forms derived from the Latin *Pascha*. English is unusual in this respect, by using an old English name which relates to the newness of spring. It is interesting that *Common Worship* now expects Church of England folk to be familiar with the word 'paschal'; before, it appeared often enough in the hymn-books, but not much, if at all, in the English liturgical texts. At the end of the day, Lent bids us 'leave our Galilee' (like Jesus), and in spirit 'behold, we go up to Jerusalem.' We travel there *with* the Christ of history, but much more importantly we make that journey *in* the Christ, who is Lord of all history. That is why this time of the year is so important in church. Lent is not about mournful hymns and no flowers in church; it is about looking to Jesus and walking with him, and making real to ourselves that in 'the paschal experience' we are taken with Christ through the waters of death into the risen life of the Spirit. At our own baptism we had a personal share in that experience, and every Easter we can rejoice at it, and renew our vows of Christian commitment in church - and do so with greater meaning if we have kept a good Lent and Holy Week. That is why Lent Rules are such a good thing, even if they so often fall apart after a good start. At least the failure can have the positive advantage of deepening our penitence, and that is no bad thing.

This is, of course, the last time I shall write in *Ewell Parish News* on these things, because by this time next year I shall have left the parish. It is my hope and prayer that my last Lent, Holy Week and Easter in Ewell will be well-observed by the Christians of St Mary's. I have often said that the devotional life of this parish has two focal points in the year, roughly six months apart: Holy Week and Easter, and the Patronal Festival in September. Both are important, and each has something distinctive to proclaim; but it is the first which is obviously the more important, for there would be no second without the first. The annual start to this climax to the devotional year begins this month; and the Lord bids us make a start once more on this annual journey of faith and love.

Your friend and Parish Priest
Richard Hanford

WA TRUELOVE & SON LTD
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
& MONUMENTAL CRAFTSMEN SINCE 1885

Serving the local community

- International repatriation
- Monumental masonry
- Horsedrawn funerals
- 24 hour call out service
- Home visits available

For further details about TrueLove guaranteed pre-arranged funerals Call FREEPHONE **0800 074 3797**

EPSON Tel: 01372 723337 14/18 Church Road

Branches also in: Banstead • Caterham • Cheam
Coulston • Mitcham • Morden • Sutton • Wallington

www.wa-truelove-and-son.ltd.uk email: funerals@wa-truelove-and-son.ltd.uk

To hire the Church Hall please contact

020 8394 0453

for full details of cost and availability

PAINTER & DECORATOR

A.L. BOVIS

Reliable friendly service for all exterior and interior household maintenance and improvements
Free estimates given

01737 359581

FEBRUARY MUSIC NOTES

Starting this month *EPN* will sometimes (though not always) contain information about aspects of the music in church during the particular month. It may be about the words, the music, the composer or the liturgical setting. It may even be about the hymns. This month sees an abrupt change of musical mood in church, as it mirrors the liturgical calendar.

First of all, on 3 February, the last Sunday before Lent, there is the 'Closure of the Alleluia'; the word Alleluia vanishes from the liturgy until the Easter Vigil, when it comes back in great style just before the Gospel. The day will be marked by fairly jolly music, with hearty hymns, and at the Sung Eucharist a jaunty Tuba Tune as the voluntary. There will be some particularly fine music at the 1700 Choral Evensong. This is the only Choral Evensong this term, but it promises to be a very special one. In addition to various 'Alleluyatic' hymns (including the famous one proper to the day, known as the *Alleluia, dulce carmen*), there is the magnificent *Stanford in G* setting of the evening canticles, with a soprano solo throughout the Magnificat against a running background of choir and organ, the composer having in his mind a picture of Our Lady at her spinning-wheel, singing her hymn of praise. There is an equally splendid *Nunc dimittis* with a baritone solo for 'Simeon.' The anthem also comes to a climax with the cry of Alleluia; it is a version of the Cherubic hymn from the ancient Jerusalem Liturgy of St James, and known to English congregations through its version as the hymn 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence.' The mischievous organ voluntary, the *Sortie in E flat* by Lefébure-Wély, will be a final goodbye to all this musical jollity as we get ready for the change of mood that Lent inevitably brings with it.

Secondly, the season of Lent always entails a measure of musical restraint. At St Mary's we are in a position to follow during Lent the custom of having polyphonic settings of the Eucharist, in which the organ does not dominate or cavort. We now have some exquisite settings of this sort in the repertoire, and during Lent we shall be having settings of the Eucharist by English, Italian, Spanish, and German composers. There are also some lovely Lenten anthems. Most of the organ voluntaries will be grand and noble, rather than bright and jolly, and Jonathan Holmes will be playing some demanding works by Dupré and Duruflé.

By the time we reach March there is another change of gear, for there is always a bit of a relaxation to the Lenten mood on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, a day which also takes into its system the cult of Mothering Sunday. The mood and the music will be generally lighter just for the day, before the real seriousness sets in for the final count-down to Holy Week and Easter. There is a note in the next column about the service on St David's Day, which is (as they say) something completely different.'

FURTHER DISTINCTION FOR OUR ORGAN SCHOLAR JEREMY COLE, ATCL

Jeremy Cole, who gained his ARCO last summer, has now also gained the diploma of Trinity College, London, for piano this time - and gained it with distinction. So he is now an ATCL as well. To have gained both these awards at the age of sixteen is indeed most remarkable, and for a second time we offer him our good wishes and congratulations. The number of parish churches with an Organ Scholar of this calibre can probably be counted on a maximum of one hand. We have now taken to putting the initials of whoever is playing the Organ Voluntary at each service (JH or JC), both on the printed service-sheets and on the *Weekly Notes*. We are at present having a very wide range of organ music, and in the coming weeks there will be some great favourites like 'the' Toccata and Fugue in D minor (JC on 17 February), and also other great works like the Duruflé Toccata (JH on 10 February).

SOMETHING UNUSUAL: SUNG EUCHARIST IN WELSH FOR ST DAVID'S DAY

On St David's Day, Saturday 1 March, there will be Sung Eucharist (Offeren Gân) in Welsh, celebrated by the Vicar. Dr Bowen Perkins will be reading the Epistle. All the hymns will be capable of being sung bi-lingually, and the sermon will be in English. Any Welsh expatriates (whether from the parish or not) are invited to attend, as well as any others who may simply just be interested. Although the Welsh Church has its own Eucharistic rite both in English and Welsh, on this occasion the service will follow the rite of the Book of Common Prayer, which was first translated into Welsh in 1567, and the 1662 version appeared in 1664. The 'old' Welsh Prayer Book rite is not heard all that much these days, but it is a part of the Church of England's own heritage, since at the time of its compilation the four ancient Welsh dioceses were part of the Church of England. Not everyone realises that there is also a Latin version of the Book of Common Prayer, which first appeared in 1560, a year after the Elizabethan revision of the 1552 book, and mainly for use at Oxford and Cambridge, and certain public schools.* There is still a Latin celebration on the Thursday before full term at the University Church at Oxford. A few parts of the service on St David's Day will of necessity be in English, and obviously this includes the purely choral music, for although our choir is capable of singing Latin, Greek, French and German texts, so far they have demurred at tackling anything in Welsh, so the 'ordinary' of the service (Gloria, Sanctus, etc.) will be in English. The anthem and the organ voluntary will be by the 20th century Welsh composer William Mathias. This is of course a one-off occasion: St David's Day only falls very occasionally on a Saturday, and after this year the odds are that there will not be quite the same motivation for holding such an event, since the likelihood of there being two Welsh vicars in succession is probably somewhat remote.

* There were a few further interesting additions in the Latin version: in the Eucharist the familiar *Benedictus* was added to the *Sanctus* (as in the pre-Reformation rite and in most of the modern rites), and 'propers' for a Requiem were also provided.

Hymnathon Saturday 9th February 2008

Keep the date free for this year's
Sponsored Hymnathon.

It will take place once again in the Parish Room
and will start at 10.00 am. There will be two
sessions: 10.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm

Please sign up for an hour or two. It's a very
relaxed affair and, apart from the vocal
chords, not too strenuous. Those of you who
have taken part before will no doubt agree that
it is a very enjoyable way of raising funds for
the forthcoming fair.

Those wishing to take part need to pick up a
Sponsorship Form from the Welcome Area.

For further information, please contact
Rosemarie Henson on 020 8224 2713

Greenfield


and Company

Surveyors and Estate Agents


Property Lettings and Management


Ewell Village Branch (Est. 1923)

55 HIGH STREET, EWELL
020 8393 0077



Also at Tolworth,
Surbiton & Chessington





Specialising in this area for over 70 years
PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SERVICE

SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Pray daily for the people of :-

SUDAN	PALESTINE
BOSNIA	KENYA
AFGHANISTAN	PAKISTAN
IRAQ	

May the strength of God pilot us,
 May the power of God preserve us,
 May the wisdom of God instruct us,
 May the way of God direct us,
 May the shield of God defend us,
 May the host of God guard us against the snares of
 evil and the temptations of the world. May Christ
 be with us,
 Christ before us,
 Christ in us,
 Christ over us.

St Patrick

Come, Holy Spirit...
 Wash away the dirt,
 Water the dry places;
 Heal the wounds;
 Bend the rigid mind;
 Warm the cold heart;
 Direct the wayward will.

Thirteenth century prayer

Fill every part of me with praise...
 So shall each fear, each fret, each care
 Be turned into a song
 And every winding in the way
 The echo shall prolong.

Horatius Bonar

*Visit the Surgery or ask for our
Domiciliary Service provided for the Elderly at Home*

Chiropody Service

The Longmead Centre
 Sefton Road, Epsom KT19 9HG
 Tel: (01372) 745150 (Surgery)
 020 8393 1245 (Alternate Call)

Your Feet will Thank You



COFFEE MORNINGS

WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY
 FROM 10.30 am – 12 noon
 IN THE CHURCH HALL

Wednesday 13 February

We welcome a new guest speaker, Martin Upwood, who will be giving a talk entitled "Walking Dickens' London" and illustrating it with slides.

DO COME AND JOIN US

Joan Boulden

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

HOLY BAPTISM

‘At the font we were marked with the Cross on our brow,
 Of our grace and our calling the sign.’ (AMR 541)

6 January	Ethan Richard Charles Woolsgrove Rowan Paul Woolsgrove
-----------	---

FUNERALS

And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly my hope is even
 in thee (Psalm 39, used in the BCP Burial rite)

16 December Betty Evelyn Green, aged 87

LENT AT ST MARY'S

ASH WEDNESDAY

6 February

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

- 0900 Ewell Castle Junior School service
- 1140 The Litany
- 1200 Holy Communion (Nave Altar)
- 1900 SUNG EUCHARIST with the Liturgy of Penitence and the Imposition of Ashes.

There will not be Imposition of Ashes at 1200

LENT COURSE: DIALOGUES WITH A DIFFERENCE

On Christian Denominations
Led by Revd Dr Patrick Miller

Tuesday evenings in Lent at 8.0 pm
The Church Hall, London Road (coffee at 7.30 pm)

- 12 February ***How Did We Get Where We Are?***
- 19 February ***A Unitarian View***
Eila Forrester
Former President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
- 26 February ***The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)***
Ruth Bradbury, Member
- 4 March ***Baptist DNA***
Graham Dawson, Minister,
Stoneleigh Baptist Church
- 11 March ***Roman Catholicism***
Fr Graham Bamford,
Parish Priest St Clements, Ewell and Stoneleigh
- 18 March ***Where Do We Go From Here?***

For further information, please phone the Parish Office: 020 8393 2643

KNITTING FOR LENT

Caps for sailors-Large sizes
Easy to knit.-No 7 needles-double knitting wool
Ash Wednesday February 6 -so start now!
Edna Atwood

Website: www.sailors-society.org For patterns and poster

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DETAILS WILL BE
IN NEXT MONTH'S PAPER**

FROM THE PULPIT

The Vicar will be doing all the preaching during Lent, Holy Week and Easter this year, except on Lent 5, when Iain McKillop will be preaching at the Sung Eucharist.

AT 0800

A series of short meditations based on Samuel Crossman's hymn, 'My song is love unknown.' (NEH 86; AMR 102).

- 10 February Lent 1 *My song is love unknown, My Saviour's love to me.*
- 17 February Lent 2 *He came from his blest throne Salvation to bestow.*
- [24 February Lent 3 Address by Dr Miller.]
- 2 March Lent 4 *But O, my Friend, my Friend indeed, Who at my need his life did spend!*
- 9 March Lent 5 *Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?*
- 16 March Lent 6 *Never was love, dear King like thine.*

SERMONS AT THE SUNG EUCHARIST

The course of sermons on **The Lord's Prayer** will (at last) be concluded on the Sundays from 3 February to 24 February inclusive. There are now four of these left. So there will not be a straight course of sermons throughout Lent at 0930 this year, mainly because of the need to finish this course on the Lord's Prayer, and because the second half of Lent is not really the time for 'general' subjects; it is the time to start focussing more directly on the Paschal mystery itself in devotion and preaching. The hope is that later in the year the complete collection of the sermons may be made available either in booklet form or in a short series of pamphlets. Meanwhile, this is what remains:

The Lord's Prayer: 'After considering the actual text...'

- 3 February Quinquagesima *An overview of the petitions in the Lord's Prayer as a whole.*
- 10 February Lent 1 *The Lord's Prayer in personal devotion.*
- 17 February Lent 2 *The Lord's Prayer in the Church.*
- 24 February Lent 3 *The power and the glory for ever.*

SERMONS AT 11 O'CLOCK

Once again this year we shall be making direct use of Iain McKillop's wonderful Stations of the Cross during Lent, though not in the same form as last year. They will form the basis for a series of addresses during the sermon-slot at 1100, and will be conducted by the Vicar.

Five Stations of the Cross.

- 10 February Lent 1 Flowers and Fear
- 17 February Lent 2 Mother and Son
- 24 February Lent 3 Three falls and a submission
- [2 March Lent 4 *Mothering Sunday service.*]
- 9 March Lent 5 Mother and Son again
- 16 March Lent 6 'O my Saviour, lifted.'

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be formal Stations of the Cross on Sunday evenings at 1800:

- 10 February The familiar text of 'Jerusalem' Stations.
- 9 March The 'fourteen' with Iain McKillop's sonnets.

Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) at St Mary's

Members of the congregation at St Mary's will already be aware that we have a Group Membership with BRF, and that recently examples of the material provided was arranged on the Church pews for perusal. As we are now approaching the beginning of a new BRF Subscription Year (1 May 2008), the purpose of this article is to provide information about BRF and St Mary's involvement to a wider audience.

Since the first leaflet of bible readings was offered to the congregation of St Matthew's Church, Brixton in 1922, the BRF has expanded to become a Christian Charity committed to resourcing the spiritual journey of adults and children alike. For adults, BRF publishes notes and books and offers an annual programme of quiet days and retreats. For children, BRF publishes a wide range of books for those working with children under eleven in school and home, as well as providing training and other events.

The BRF connection at St Mary's involves us subscribing for a publication called "New Daylight" which contains four months of daily bible readings and comment, offering a devotional approach to studying and understanding the Bible. There are three issues during the year. The team of contributors is drawn from a wide range of church backgrounds, and they provide a Bible passage with text included for each day, comment and a prayer or reflection. The notes highlight the Sundays and special festivals of the Christian calendar. Also included is the BRF magazine plus extracts from some of BRF's new books. For more in depth study, BRF also produces a four monthly publication called "Guidelines", aiming to provide a link between the devotional life and current scholarly approaches to the Bible, to which we also subscribe.

The aims and purposes of the BRF are ably described in the BRF prayer which is quoted below. For further information about joining St Mary's BRF Group, please contact John and Sarah Stovell telephone 020 8393 0786.

The BRF Prayer

Almighty God,

you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word, to deepen our fellowship with each other through your love. And in so doing may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly, and follow more faithfully in the steps of your son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for evermore. Amen.

Lent Project 2008: Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain." Psalm 127

Our Lent project this year is to raise money towards the building fund for the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany, to be a companion to the Jeel Al Amal Boys' Home. Bethany is in the West Bank, outside Jerusalem. Money raised through the Wednesday Coffee Mornings has been sent to Jeel since the year 2000, when four members of St Mary's church visited the Home and saw the worthwhile work that was being done for the children.

There are many children, boys and girls, who have been abused, abandoned, orphaned, are living on the streets or just unwanted (one little boy was found dumped inside a dustbin). They are all in dire need of somewhere to live, to be loved, cared for and educated. For the boys, this happens at Jeel; but because of local customs, girls cannot be accepted with the boys - meaning that even brothers and sisters have to be separated. At present over 30 girls are living in nearby rented accommodation, but this is no longer adequate to meet the need - hence the building of a new girls' Home about 200 metres away. The concrete basement slabs and walls of the new building are in place and it is hoped work on the ground and first floors will be completed early in 2008. Funds are now being raised for the final phase, the second and third floors. It is projected that £600,000 will be needed.

Joan Boulden remains in touch with Alice at Jeel and with Shirley (Treasurer of The Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany) and receives regular newsletters telling of life in the Homes and of the building progress.

We will have four Lent Lunches, which together with the Lent boxes will raise an encouraging amount of money towards this much needed Home. There will also be an opportunity to Gift Aid individual donations.

The Lunches are all on a Wednesday on the following days:

Dates: 20 & 27 February, and 5 & 12 March.

Venue: St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

Time: 12.15-1.45 p.m. Cost: £3.50

Mr Alan Anderson, Vice Chairman of the Friends of Lazarus Home for Girls, will be giving a presentation about the project at the Wednesday Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on 12 March, and hopes to be able to stay on for the Lunch. We look forward to seeing you.

Julian Varney

AN UPDATE ON STUDIES

Studying theology for ministry is engrossing, but really hard work when you're still doing two day-jobs! I don't remember my brain ever being so stretched and tired, but I'm relishing it! Last term we explored church practices and what ministry might mean. This term we concentrate on analysing the Gospels and learning to preach. It is confrontational but fascinating to dissect scripture, exploring what it REALLY says, not what you assume it means.

Since starting on this path, my thoughts have been constantly challenging me... "Why do you believe this?" Surely, if I'm going to be a priest, I'll have to justify my faith more comprehensively than ever before. I'll need to help people through their own questions too. It feels a huge responsibility, finding my way through all the mysteries that faith contains, but it's

exciting.

A temporary delay in studies came in October. The BBC commissioned a painting for Songs of Praise and filmed its creation. Don't expect greatness, if you watch on 24th Feb! I was only given a month to conceive it. In interviews, I was SO nervous that I didn't say anything I planned. But the team and Aled Jones were wonderful to work with... a great experience. I'm happier with the Stations of the Cross and Resurrection Altarpiece for St. John's, Bury St Edmunds, to be dedicated on 2nd Feb.

As with the Ewell pictures, there was time to contemplate the depth of meaning in the subjects as I painted.

I look forward to sharing the new things I'm learning with you at church.

Iain McKillop

Women's World Day of Prayer- This year: Guyana

Theme: *God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding*

Date: FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2008

Time: 2pm Venue: St Mary the Virgin, Ewell

Speaker: Canon W R Hanford

Yes folks, it's our turn to host the region's annual service. We need all hands to the deck as people from all over the area- from all the Christian Churches gather as one 'together in prayer'.

The WWDP is a tradition at St Mary's which we hope will continue going from strength to strength. Every service is prepared in advance by the Christian Women of another country. All over the world, the same service is being held- like a Mexican wave across the time zones. We learn something about the country, its people and its struggles, as well as uplifting messages of hope for the future.

Guyana is a beautiful place- its very name comes from the Amerindian for "Land of many waters." Today it is also a land of many peoples- having at least 6 different countries of origin amongst its people. Mainly this stems from the slave trade, which brought poor souls from Africa to work in dire conditions on the sugar and cotton plantations. Following emancipation, these former slaves refused to continue to work, even for money and better conditions, but settled in tribal areas in Guyana. They were replaced by cheap immigrant labour from Europe, China and, eventually, India.

Guyana also boasts the largest community in the Caribbean of the regions first settlers- the Amerindians. Around 45,000 of these people are divided into 9 tribes inhabiting both forest and Savannah regions.

The diversity of the people is clearly reflected in the service prepared by the Christian Women of Guyana. It is a service of praise, thanks and wonderment.

Anybody, who can spare an hour on March 7th, will leave feeling truly uplifted.

Refreshments will be available after the service.

Obviously, the literature, orders of service etc. all cost money, so we will be holding a fund raising, bring and buy type coffee morning two weeks before on Friday 24 February. This will start at around 10.30 am with raffle, refreshments and an opportunity to see some of the wonderful literature and pictures about Guyana, as well as hear the music that has been supplied for the service.

Help on the day, offers of bring and buy bits or just your company would make the whole thing go with a swing. Although it is labelled "Women's," it is really a service for everybody and gentlemen are equally welcome, as are children.

For more information please contact:

*Theresa Baker on 07743132819 or 01372 200660
(evenings or weekends)*

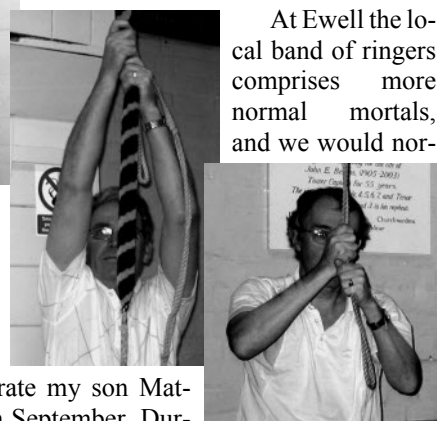
News from the Belfry

If you were walking past St. Mary's during the middle of New Year's Day you might have been surprised to hear the bells ringing. And for a very long time without a single break at that. This was because we had a visiting band of ringers from the Oxford Diocesan Guild ringing a peal. Well, what's a peal, you might ask. It's not the set of bells hanging in a tower, that's called a "ring". To define what a peal is, I first have to define a "change", which is a sequence of each bell being struck once. A peal is 5000 or more changes without any of the sequences being repeated. As you might guess, ringing a peal is very difficult, and takes about 2 3/4 hours -just standing still for that long would take some stamina, and if a sequence is accidentally repeated then as far as the records are concerned it doesn't count as a peal. I could never manage one!



At Ewell the local band of ringers comprises more normal mortals, and we would nor-

mally only ring two or three quarter peals a year. As the name implies, a quarter peal is only a quarter as long as a peal. The last that



we rang was to celebrate my son Matthew's 21st birthday in September. During practices and for services we would normally only ring for 5-10 minutes at a time before having a rest.

To be able to control the changes of sequence whilst still keeping the bells evenly spaced out (that's if we're doing it right!) requires a 360 degree wheel for the rope to go around, plus a mechanism to be able to safely momentarily park a bell upside down. Before the bells were re-hung and so fitted in 1767 (when they were still in the old tower near Glyn House) they would just have been hung in a random manner, as is still done on the Continent, which sounds very un-musical to English ears.

You may also have noticed that the bells sounded strange before the Remembrance Day service, and thought for a moment that the clappers had fallen out. We now have a decent set of "muffles" - pieces of leather that fit onto one side of the clappers to deaden the sound on alternate strokes of the bells, as they swing, first one way and then back the other. So we are now able to ring with due reverence for memorial services.

Let me introduce the ringers. I am Jeff Cousins, the Tower Leader, a position more commonly called the Tower Captain at other towers. But the ringing at Ewell is very much a team effort. Malcolm Pitstow, a former Tower Leader, is deputy and teaches beginners how to handle a bell. Margaret Glasgow organizes the list of volunteers to ring for weddings. She, Lynn Reddick and Brenda Philbrick also do the catering for special events when we have visiting ringers from around Surrey. Andrew Thorne is treasurer and helps maintain the belfry, assisted by his son Phillip. Other ringers include Margaret Howard, currently recuperating at Priory Court, John Hitchen, Peter Emery (on Sundays), my sons Matthew and Oliver (when they're at home) and Michael Rogerson (a frequent visitor).

Just let me know if you want to take a peek at what happens up in the tower.

Jeff Cousins

1st Ewell Village Guides - Review of 2007

Welcome to the 1st Ewell Village Guides review of 2007. We started 2007 with a training session for all Patrol Leaders where we looked at the role of the patrol leader and how to plan the Go For It resources.

We started the Spring term with a co-operative games evening run by Charlotte and Christina for their Baden-Powell award and we also had a Chinese New Year evening where the Guides learnt about the festival. The Guides also worked on Sport, Space, On the Move and Communicate Go For Its in their patrols.

We had a Thinking Day candle ceremony in February and the shiny pennies collected went to the "WAGGGS" fund. We also spent an evening following a trail round Ewell Village and finished the term with a Big Brother evening, complete with Diary Room, Big Brother style challenges like making armpit fudge and we also played the Chocolate game.

We also went on our annual ice skating trip to Guildford Spectrum where the girls had a great time skating to the disco and Ashleigh, Holly and Lauren made their promise after the session.

The annual Division netball rally took place in March and we had two teams of 12-15 year old Guides and two of our younger Guides joined a group with 3 other units which came 2nd - well done!

The District Funday also took place during the Easter Holidays and seven guides from the unit went on an Easter egg trail around Ewell Village and took part in a competition to decorate a crème egg.

We worked on the Fire Safety badge in the Summer Term and this included a visit to Epsom fire station (much to the leaders' excitement!)

We learnt about what happens when an emergency call comes through and about the equipment that the firefighters use. We also tested the equipment and got soaked in the process!

In early May a Division camp was held at our campsite - Little Acres - in Horton Country Park. Twelve girls from the unit took part in orienteering, wide games and cooked over a wood fire.

We also started preparing for our Summer Camp and as part of this we had a Cook Out up at Little Acres (when it didn't rain!) The girls cooked sausages and toasted marshmallows on a wood fire and Melody got enrolled in the quiet area.

The Guides also practised for the cooking competition, which took place in early July against other teams of Epsom Guides and Scouts. They did very well and improved on last year's score - who knows, next year we may come 1st!

Our Baden Powell Guides went on their Adventure weekend in June to Faurfold in Dorking. They took part in various challenges such as sleeping under a bivouac (in the rain!) and cooking without utensils on an open fire.

Within the unit we also did the "Right to be Happy" badge where we explored what it meant to be happy in today's world.

A specialist diabetic nurse came to a meeting to talk to us about diabetes. It was very informative and the girls now have a better understanding of the condition.

Eight Guides took part in "Summer Fun at the Campsite" up at Little Acres in July. After some awful weather in June the sun shone and the girls enjoyed sausages on the BBQ, a wide game and singing round the campfire.

We finished off the summer term with a chip crawl in Epsom with 12th Epsom Guides which the girls thoroughly enjoyed. Also 17 of our Guides went up to London by coach with 12th Epsom Guides to see the theatre production *Wicked!* at the Apollo Victoria - which I can only say was wicked! While we were there we enrolled Georgia.

A big thank you to all the Guides who helped at the St Mary's Church Summer Fair - together with the Brownies we raised an amazing £350 by running various stalls, even though it rained for part of the day!

On the subject of fundraising, we decided to start raising money to buy brand new tents for our unit. We needed to raise around £1200 to buy four new tents and kicked off in true Guiding style with a cake sale organised by Jenny, Katie and Laura which raised £50!

My personal highlight of 2007 was our Summer Camp at Little Acres. It was a great chance for myself and the other



Guiders to get to know the Guides better and the Guides to also get to know each other better!

Nearly every Guide from the unit came to camp, either for the whole week or for a day or two and we had some brilliant fun learning basic camping skills, making tie dye T-shirts, cooking on wood and gas, singing campfire songs, sleeping under the stars and going on a dawn hike and an afternoon ramble.

We also descended on the Rainbow Centre for a well-deserved wash (sorry swim!) which the girls enjoyed. All the girls earned their camper badge and Go For It "Camp Out" certificate. Can I just say thanks again to all the Guiders who made the camp possible - I still have great memories!

In the Autumn Term we re-introduced scarves as part of the uniform. The girls were in favour of this and I think it makes us look smart and easily identifiable as the uniform is now so varied.

We arrived back for Autumn Term and set up new patrols. The girls took the chocolate badge which involved chocolate tasting (something which they are very good at!), designed a 21st century chocolate bar and kept a diary of how much chocolate their family had eaten.

Seven guides have embarked on their Baden Powell challenge this term and I wish them good luck with this! Also during September three Guides from the Unit went to the Guide and Brownie Activity Day at Walton Firs, where archery, a maze and a very muddy adventure course were some of the activities on offer!

Victoria was enrolled by candlelight during the term and the girls have enjoyed doing the "Passion for Fashion" Go For It and taken turns to make pizzas and fairy cakes in the kitchen.

During October a team of four Guides from the unit took part in the Mug Tree Challenge against six other units from Epsom. They had to follow a map round Horton Country Park doing different activities on the way. Our team narrowly missed winning the Mug Tree Trophy coming second out of 8 teams! Maybe next year?

After half term we stepped our fundraising up a gear by going to Sainsbury's to help pack bags for the customers. In just four hours we managed to raise £635 which is truly incredible - enough for two tents in one go - and the girls did

amazingly well, even though they were completely knackered by the end of it! As a result of this huge effort we are now the proud owner of four new tents!

In November we had a rock n roll evening organised by Sainsbury's Active Kids, where Emma from a local dance school came and showed us how to do a proper rock n roll routine - I never realised how unfit we all were!!!

Twenty guides turned up for the Remembrance Parade on 11th November, which was a brilliant turnout - even though it was pouring with rain when we met at Ewell West Station. The girls marched alongside the army, scouts and brownies looking very smart!

We were very sad to say goodbye to Mel Crick - former Unit Guider - at the beginning of December. Mel ran the unit between 2000 and 2006 and her return to full time work and additional responsibilities at St Mary's church has now prevented her playing a more active role with the unit.

We have now received new equipment from Sainsbury's Active Kids: a netball post, frisbees, skipping ropes and compasses. This is to add to the digital camera, smoothie maker, laminator and new tents.

We are now at the end of term, looking forward to a visit to Pizza Hut for our last meeting and a trip to the Epsom Playhouse to watch Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs on 5th January.

Lastly, but not least I would like to thank all the parents who have helped out in various ways throughout the year. I am looking for a new Assistant Guider - if you are interested or know of anybody who could be, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to 2008....

We start back on 24th January and we have three camps coming up in the summer, including Scoutabout in June. The unit are really looking forward to using their new tents!

The guides are also looking forward to organising a Scout and Guide Disco in the New Year and we are hoping to organise a fundraising quiz night at the end of the Spring Term.

The following girls have joined us during 2007: Melody, Georgia, Lou-Lou and Victoria.

We have said goodbye to: Amy, Riannon, Charlotte G, Christina, Lauren W, Stephanie and Erin.

Welcome to our new Churchwarden



Jonathan Gocher was formally admitted as Churchwarden at St. Mary's by the Archdeacon of Dorking, the Ven. Julian Henderson, on the Sunday before Christmas. The photo shows Jonathan (left) with Churchwarden David Crick (centre) and the Archdeacon.

And thank you for 25 years as our Parish Priest



The photos show the Vicar and his wife Susan at the celebration to mark 25 years service to St. Mary's, Ewell.

KINGSWOOD SERVICES

SPRING CLEANING

Thinking of Spring Cleaning Your Home but You are too busy / dislike cleaning

We can help - All Year Round - with

- Regular Cleans
- Thorough One-off Home Cleans
- Carpet Cleaning

undertaken by experienced people you can trust

Superior Work at Sensible Prices

Domestic Cleaning and Commercial Contracts undertaken

HOUSE LETS

Kingswood Services can also advise you on

- House Letting arrangements
- Inventory Cleans
- Property Makeovers

To arrange a free no-obligation estimate or to request further details, please phone:

020 8669 7298 (office)

St Mary's Toddler Groups

Sessions are held on:

Monday afternoon,
Thursday and Friday
mornings during term time
in the church hall.

For more information:

Tel. 020 8393 4804

A la Carte Menu

with daily specials and Sunday roast

Large Garden and BBQ

Function Room with Bar

with capacity for 45 people

All functions catered for



The Rising Sun

The Rising Sun (Epsom) Ltd

14 Heathcote Road, Epsom KT18 5DX

Tel: 01372 740809 Fax: 01372 740621

Email: rising_sun@unicombox.co.uk

www.pub-explorer.com/surrey/pub/risingsunepsom.htm

John & Debbie Baker, Proprietors

ALFRED & EWART LONGHURST

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS

- A complete, caring professional service
- Estimates and advice freely given for funerals and memorials
- Flexible pre-paid funeral plan - details on request

21-23, KINGSTON ROAD, EWELL

020 8393 1077

Calendar for February



- F 1 The Candlemas Eucharist originally scheduled for 1900 has been cancelled. See below on 3 February.
- S 3 **QUINQUAGESIMA**
0930 Sermon course on The Lord's Prayer resumes at the Sung Eucharist.
1100 '**Candle Mass**': *All-age service of Christian Family Praise*. This is the only Candlemas service this year. Other services are 'of the Sunday.'
1700 **Choral Evensong** This is the only Choral Evensong during this very short choir term.
- M 4 2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church Council.
T 5 The Annual Clergy Study Day. This means that the Eucharist will not be celebrated on Shrove Tuesday.
- W 6 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
The First Day of Lent. See page 6.
- Sat 9 1000-1300 and 1400-1600: *The Annual Hymnathon*. (See page 4)
- S 10 **THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**
T 12 1930 for 2000 in the Church Hall: Lent Course with *Dr Patrick Miller*. See page 6.
2000 The Social Committee also meets on this evening.
- S 17 **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
1100 Book of Common Prayer Sung Eucharist
T 19 1930 for 2000 in the Church Hall: Lent Course with *Dr Patrick Miller*
W 20 1200-1345 Lent Lunch in the Church Hall
- S 24 **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
Sermon course on The Lord's Prayer finishes today *Iain McKillop talks to Aled Jones about his work on BBC Songs of Praise*
- T 26 1930 for 2000 in the Church Hall: Lent course with *Dr Patrick Miller*
- W 27 1200-1345 Lent Lunch in the Church Hall

And early next month:

- Sat 1 March **St David's Day**
1200 There will be a Sung Eucharist in Welsh for St David's Day. (See note on page 4)
- 2 March **Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday**.
There will be the usual Mothering Sunday Service of Christian Family Praise at 1100. This will include the blessing and distribution of flowers.

SWALLOW HOMECARE SERVICES

HOMEBASED CARE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN IN THEIR OWN HOMES

We have highly trained carers who provide a high standard of care.

Our services include:-
Personal care, laundry, light Domestic, Meal Preparation, Shopping and companionship.

For further information call us now on:-

0208 823 9240.



Easy Buy Appliances

Now Open in Ewell Village (Near Free Car Park)

Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Tumble Dryers
Fridges & Freezers, Gas & Electric Cookers
Vacuum Cleaners, Built in Appliances
All Types of small appliances

Open 9am - 5.30 (Mon-Fri)
9am - 5.00 (Sat)

Quality products at low prices
Free local delivery

5 Cheam Road, Ewell Village, Surrey KT17 1SP
020 8224 0916

PRIORY COURT,

OLD SCHOOLS LANE, EWELL VILLAGE, SURREY



Priory Court Care Home is situated in the heart of Ewell Village. This modern home offers both nursing and residential care, long or short term stays.

We have 60 en-suite single rooms, some offering direct access onto our peaceful garden.

Our motivated care staff will respect your independence, while helping you with the daily routines that you find a struggle. We provide in-house activities, outings and regular Church services. Visitors are welcome at any time.

If you would like further information, please contact:

Sue Crayden, Mary Ross or Susan Dowley.
Telephone 020 8393 0137 Fax 020 8394 1905
Email: manager@priorycourtcare.plus.com
Website: www.stcloudcare.co.uk

**WELCOMING YOU TO A
CARING FUTURE**



BRADLEY & ARTHUR LTD.

Established 1923



Serving Epsom, Ewell and district for over 80 years

- Builders, Contractors and Decorators •
- Domestic and Commercial •

Contact us now for a no obligation quotation

53 High Street, Ewell KT17 1RZ

Phone: 020 8393 5122

Fax: 020 8394 2008

Email: bradleyandarthur@aol.com