



# EWELL PARISH NEWS

The monthly newspaper of St Mary the Virgin Ewell

No.465

October 2011

60p



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

## THE GOCHERS SAY GOODBYE



On Sunday 11 September after Evensong we held a party to say goodbye to the Gocher Family, who have been such a central part of our church's life for several years, with Jonathan, churchwarden for the past four. The Vicar and fellow-churchwarden paid warm tribute to the part they had played through their time with us.

We all wish them God's blessing in their new life.

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## The Vicar writes

I'm always a little reticent at the idea of printing my sermons to be read. They are written for a particular occasion, to be heard in the moment, as just one part of a whole service. They aren't necessarily intended to be read and re-read: there are much better things to be read on any given passage of Scripture than my sermons! But as I have been asked by a couple of people to reproduce my sermon from our Dedication Festival, my sermon from 28 August 2011 this month takes the place of my usual column.

*'Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away; they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening of the day.'*

Those words from the great hymn "O God our help in ages past" speak of the way in which all things stand to be forgotten with the passage of time. How many lives and deeds there have been across the world, across the ages, which have now been borne away by the ever-rolling stream of time: 'they fly forgotten'. Part of what the Christian church is about is preventing our most precious memories being lost to time. We keep alive the memory of God's acts recorded in Holy Scripture, and especially the words and deeds of Jesus, so that they can be told and retold in this and every generation.

Today, on our dedication festival, we give thanks for this church building, and we remember the dedication of this church in August 1848. The people of Ewell built a new, larger, parish church: not that different 163 years ago to how it looks today. The purpose of the building, then as now, was and is to serve the gospel of Christ. To help make the memory of Christ a living reality, Christ among us. A church building to house the church itself, the People of God. A place that would lift heart and soul to God through its beauty and grandeur and stabilitas.

What was it like being a part of this congregation in the earliest years of the new church? Was Christianity a very different proposition in the England of Victoria's reign to our early twenty-first century society?

Well, a secular mind in those years might well have questioned why a church had been built at all. Many certainties of the church seemed to be passing. A renewed atheism and secularism questioned the believability of the Christian faith, and proposed reforms in every area of national life laid open an uncertain future for the establishment and the funding of the church. Religious census data— a new thing in 1851— showed, for the first time, exactly how few were the churchgoers in the counties of England. Battles between church and state were raging, such as when the state supported a priest Gorham, who denied the efficacy of infant baptism, against the decision of the church. There were many reasons why some people said, sniffily, that new churches like St Mary's (and so many others) shouldn't have been built, that Christianity was in terminal decline. That all these factors, and more, pointed to a church that couldn't, wouldn't survive the century.

And yet, of course, the Church is still here. 160 years later, the number of Christians alive today is more than double the entire population of the globe back in 1851.

## St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH 020 8393 2643

Website: [www.stmarysewell.com](http://www.stmarysewell.com)

### CLERGY

**Vicar: The Reverend Russell Dewhurst MPhys BTh LLM**  
Email: [vicar@stmarysewell.com](mailto:vicar@stmarysewell.com)

**Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Patrick Miller MA PhD**

### READER

Mrs Wendy Varney 020 8393 5212

### CHURCHWARDENS

Mr Malcolm Lawther 020 8224 6693

Mrs Margaret Humphries 020 8393 6067

### Visiting Co-ordinator

Mrs Wendy Paxman 0208 224 2851

### 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 Crèche provided in church.

There is coffee in the church hall between the 9.30 and 11 o'clock services on Sunday mornings, to which all are welcome, and especially newcomers and visitors.

#### 1100 SERVICE

There is a wide variety of services in our 11 am service. Sometimes traditional Choral Mattins or a traditional Sung Eucharist, at other times we have a short and lively toddler service, baptisms, or a family service. See the calendar on the back page for more details.

#### 1730 EVENING PRAYER (as advertised)

Usually a simple said service, but sometimes Choral Evensong.

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

Morning prayer is *usually* said at 9 am Mondays-Thursdays, in church. See the Weekly notes or phone ahead to make sure. The Eucharist is celebrated on Tuesdays at 10 am, 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](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysewell.com)

St Mary's Church is in London Road, Ewell, and the Parish Office is in the Sacristy on the south side of the church.

The Office hours are normally 9.30-12.00 Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, but please check before visiting as appointments are usually needed.

The postal address is:

C/O Ewell Vicarage, Church Street, Ewell KT17 2AQ.

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 Thursday and Friday  
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 time in the church  
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People can still sniff and predict the end of the Church, as they always have. But really, our situation isn't so different from 150 years ago. A still newer group of atheists and secularists attack the church; debates about the place of the Bishops in the House of Lords continue world without end; parishes worry still about money and funding; church and state are sometimes in conflict (now about the wearing of crosses and equality legislation, rather than infant baptism); and the people taking the religious censuses still use the time-honoured method of guaranteeing front-page newspaper coverage: making predictions of catastrophe. But I'm struck how similar our issues are to those alive in the first years of this church building. We might think our worries are unique: but St Mary's has seen them come and go... back and forth... and so, I'm sure, the stones of St Mary's see them in a perspective it's easy for us to lack.

So as we think of all this church has done over the past 160-odd years, we can rejoice: countless people baptized, married, and commended to God in their death. Worship offered Sunday by Sunday; community strengthened, friendships made, sins forgiven, faith discovered. How grateful we must be for the faith and the hope displayed by those who built this new church. How grateful also for all those across the years who have worked to maintain and repair this church, right up to today and all those who look after St Mary's today.

And today is not just about looking back. For all that this church has seen in past years, how much more will it see in years to come? For all the great days of the past, I firmly believe that days just as great lie in the future. The world still needs Jesus Christ. Ewell still needs Jesus Christ.

The purpose of St Mary's remains the same today as it was the day it was dedicated and consecrated to God in 1848. St Mary's is here to glorify God, to be a holy place, a place of meeting; a base of operations, if you like, for the gospel of Christ.

And here, as we look at these walls, as we hear our voices re-echoing from these stones, we are reminded of God's faithfulness to us. God has been with us at St Mary's since the foundation stone was laid— and before that, when this church met in the older building a little way south of here. God has been our help, indeed, since before we were born, since before the world began. God today remains the source and summit of our faith and our life; in God rests our hope for all we long for, pray for, dream for, in the life of this church. Just as this sturdy roof and these stout walls shelter us from the rain and wind when we come here to worship, so God himself will continue to shelter us from all the storms that threaten the life of the Church. And as we give thanks for this place, we look around and perhaps we think, this holy place is somewhere we feel at home; a home for now, at least, until that day when we reach our eternal home with God.

*Our God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
 And our eternal home.  
 Amen.*

**IN CHURCH IN OCTOBER**

As always, our usual Sunday services are detailed in the calendar on the back page of this magazine.

On Saturday 8 October is one of the highlights of our musical year: our schools' concert. Schools from the local area come together to sing and play music and always put together an exciting and varied programme, led by our own parish music department. Tickets, as usual, available from treasurer@stmarysewell.com or 020 8337 2160 but note the earlier than usual start time- 7pm in church.

*Continued on page 4*

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*The Vicar writes: continued from page 3*

Our monthly toddlers' service for October is on Sunday 16. These are proving very popular, and are open to all toddlers as well as family, friends and supporters. They start at 11am and last about twenty-five minutes, followed by refreshments. Our monthly service of Choral Evensong falls the same day at 5.30pm-- all are most welcome and on this occasion we extend a particular invitation to all Churches Together in Ewell to join us for worship.

On Saturday 29 October some of us will be going on the parish quiet day to St Barnabas, Lingfield, 10am-4.30pm. Hopefully we will be able to share cars, the journey is about 45 minutes, so cars will need to leave at 9am and will be back by 5.30pm. The cost is £16 including lunch, and the quiet day will be led by the Warden, Fr Howard Such, including addresses on icons of Christ and plenty of space for personal reflection. At the time of writing there are still places: all are welcome, and if you are interested in taking part, contact the parish office.

Both junior and adult confirmation groups are also meeting this month, preparing for confirmation in November-- please hold them in your prayers.

## SPOTLIGHT ON 8AM HOLY COMMUNION

This is the first in a series of very short articles describing each of the regular services we hold at St Mary's. I begin by looking at the first service to take place on almost every Sunday: the 8am service of Holy Communion. This early morning service is quiet and contemplative, being without music. Most weeks we use the modern 'Common Worship' order of Holy Communion, but occasionally the traditional 1662 Book of Common Prayer is used instead. The full Holy Communion service fits into half an hour, including a sermon, and there are usually about two dozen of us there. Of course, those not wishing to receive Holy Communion are also welcome, and at Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, or remain in their places, as they choose. I personally value the 8 o'clock service as a moment of stillness and prayerfulness at the start of a busy Sunday. For most who come along at 8am it is their regular service, but we also sometimes see 'visitors' from other services who have other plans for the rest of the day and so come along to church early.

Your friend and Parish Priest  
Russell Dewhurst

## SCHOOLS AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

"Songs from Mary Poppins"

St Mary's Choir with local schools

Saturday 8 October at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets £4

## AN INVITATION TO WINCHESTER



A special Coffee Morning Coach Outing to the Cathedral City of Winchester has been arranged for Thursday 1 December to coincide with the Christmas Market which is held on the Cathedral's famous Close.

Winchester was England's ancient capital and the former seat of Alfred the Great. It was home to John Keats in 1819 when it inspired him to write the famous poem "To Autumn".

The Cathedral holds many treasures, amongst them wall paintings, medieval carvings and 12th century illuminated manuscripts, and the Winchester Bible. Jane Austen and King Canute are buried there. It also has a refectory and gift shop.



The Hospital of St. Cross, a medieval almshouse founded in 1132 is still home to 25 Brothers and continues to provide refreshment for the traveller including Wayfarer's Dole. The 13th Century Great Hall, the only surviving part of Winchester Castle, has for the past 700 years or so housed the Round Table associated with King Arthur. It was said to have been built by the wizard Merlin, a story of history and myth!

There are two museums in the City, a tempting array of shops, quaint pubs and "eating places" - and the Christmas Market.

If you fancy an interesting day out with lots to see and the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, then book your seats on the coach as soon as possible. The coach will depart at 0930 from St. Mary's and leave Winchester at 1630 for the return journey. Seats cost £10 each.



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## SUGGESTED PRAYERS

Dear Father, give me the peace  
 To meet life one day at a time, one step at a time;  
 To have the strength and the will to keep on keeping-on;  
 To have the wisdom to handle the affairs of my life;  
 To have the ability to make right and good decisions;  
 To have the courage to let the past go, to forge ahead resolutely;  
 To have the grace to meet each experience expectantly, happily,  
 To have the faith to know there is no loss or separation in God;  
 That in Him I am forever with those I love;  
 To have the vision to see the good in all things, the Christ in all persons;  
 To have an awareness of God's presence, close, abiding;  
 To know that 'underneath are the everlasting arms,'  
 That God will never fail me nor forsake me,  
 This is my prayer.

### FOR A SENSE OF HUMOUR

Lord, give us gaiety of spirit and a true sense of humour. Make us more ready to laugh at ourselves, at our foolish pride, and our, sometimes, pompous ways. We thank thee for thy gift of laughter; for the fun it is to enjoy a good laugh with other people. May our laughter always be with kindness, good humour, courage and understanding, for thy name's sake.


O Lord Jesus Christ, teach me to pray, increase my faith, and help me to follow and to abide in you always.

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.

*Psalm 51 v10*

O Lord Jesus, we confess how quickly we see other people's faults, and how slow we are to recognise our own. Forgive us, and make us more forgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Beryl Bye*



Congratulations to:  
 Susanne Parker-Miller, Marion Rao, and others on an excellent exhibition at Bourne Hall last month.

## FROM THE PARISH RECORDS

### HOLY BAPTISM

We welcome you into the Lord's family

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 11 September | Ronnie Will Harley<br>Poppy Elizabeth Ava<br>Lawrence  |
|              | Cicely Wray Merciar<br>Otto Henry Merciar<br>Reuben Penn Merciar<br>Henry Michael Spiros<br>Ruscoe |

### FUNERALS

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

|             |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 23 August   | Audrey Vera Green, aged<br>87 |
| 2 September | Pamela June Ahern, aged<br>82 |

# OUR NEW CHURCHWARDEN

I am delighted to join Malcolm Lawther as a Churchwarden at St Mary's. Although I've sung in the choir for most of the last ten years I thought it might help to tell you a bit about myself as I start to learn my new role.

I've lived in the Ewell area for most of my life: I grew up in Stoneleigh and, after trying Oxford, Esher and Chessington, returned to live near Ewell Court Park in 1992. Six years and two children later we moved again to East Ewell and have been here ever since.

My degree is in music, and when I qualified as a librarian I was very lucky to work in the City of Westminster's then wonderful Central Music Library. However, the discovery that no one ever moves out of senior music library jobs prompted a rapid rethink, and after a short time in a specialist reference library (same problem) I moved to manage the day-to-day work of New Malden and Old Malden libraries. The next stop was Surrey County Hall, where I developed the information service for Councillors, staff and the public before going part-time when Lizzy was born. In my new role I worked on a wide range of projects, including the development of the County Council's internet site and intranet (twice), its one-stop-shops and call centre, and did lots of partnership working with the district councils, police and health service.

Redundancy forced a second rethink. Information Management Consultants were certainly in demand but not in the local area and definitely not part-time. With Lizzy and Michael aged only 11 and 8, and John starting to work abroad, proximity and part-time-ness were crucial and, after a chance encounter with an imaginative job agency, I became PA to the Director of Sense South East, conveniently based in Epsom. Sense supports people who have impaired sight and impaired hearing and for the next five years I was privileged to support colleagues who make an immense difference to children and adults who have been deafblind from birth as well as those who have lost their sight and hearing later in life. If you want to support a charity you could do much worse than consider Sense.

I enjoyed almost every minute of my time with them and yet..... As we sat in a hall in Woking at Easter waiting for one of Michael's concerts to start, my sister gave me a job advert on behalf of a mutual friend. As a result, in June I became PA to the Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston. Since then I've been on a very steep learning

curve but it's one which I'm enjoying and I'm hoping that it also has potential to help a little as I start to understand the role of Church Warden.

But while I very much enjoy working I'm absolutely clear that my family comes first. We're all musicians but Lizzy and Michael also enjoy sport and drama and all three



interests guarantee that we spend a lot of time getting to and from rehearsals/training and concerts/matches/plays. This becomes particularly interesting when John – a music teacher and examiner – is working abroad but we manage somehow and have learned to survive in his absence in a state of (mostly) cheerful chaos. Lizzy sings in St Marys' Choir and Michael appears in a

number of roles (bell-ringer, lesson-reader, sidesman, acolyte) so please do let them know if you're looking for me. Both are willing to take messages!

*Margaret Humphries*

**BOARD GAMES  
AFTERNOON**

**Saturday 19th November  
3pm-6pm in the church hall**



All  
Ages  
Welcome

**St Mary's Church  
plays board games!**

*Come and join us 3-6pm at St Mary's  
Church Hall for some board game fun.  
Games of luck and skill, familiar games,  
some new and unusual games, suitable  
for young and old. Tea will be served. No  
need to book – just turn up!*




# NEW EVERY MOMENT

One great thing about The Holy Spirit is that his/her love for us is always **new**. And always **now**. Never yesterday (that's gone by), nor tomorrow (hasn't come yet).

Not only new but interesting, relevant. And is it from He, She, It Or They? Most plump for 'He' because of English-speaking tradition. The main thing is its real! That warming experience, that still small voice, that all-embarrassing care, is alive and well and awakens us to be alive and well.

"It's clear to me" OR "It came to me in a dream" make conversation possible with unbelievers but somewhat impersonal, not even as personal as "I had an idea".

We must each find our own voice for each situation.

It's reassuring that The Holy Spirit has an accurate knowledge of all our circumstances, from all points of view.

Each of us knows our own patch. The Holy Spirit knows it better, how it abuts on other people's patches, and how they all work together (or don't).

So what is The Holy Spirit?

It is the Essence of Love in Action.

Those who have had the experience of falling in love will appreciate the anxiety about whether the one we love also loves us.

With the Holy Spirit things are the other way round. We know we are loved (too much maybe) but are sometimes not sure how much we love in return.

This writer grew up through a wartime period when the very human dictum was "Don't just stand there, do something!" the implication was that the one you'd said you loved couldn't be sure until you'd shown it in action, and

since the war might end everything any minute, you'd better show it now.

The Holy Spirit is permanently on the job of making us happy all the time from when our eyes open in the morning to when we drop off at night. (Nobody has ever been able to find out where we are while we are asleep but it's a safe bet that The Holy Spirit is looking after us there too.)

The Holy Spirit is always positive and puts correctives on the negatives of conscience. We can have a conscience about not showing others all the love we were meant to show. He simply says, "Cheer up! Get on with it now!"

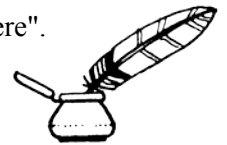
Conscience can be a very tangled response to feelings of ought, should, can, can't, won't, not now. The Holy Spirit implants in us a loving, laughing response to every situation - and is a tonic for those who think avoiding sin is the main aim of life (a real dull job they make of that!)

It takes courage to give The Holy Spirit right of way in our lives. Churchill was right to say "Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality that guarantees all others". His words fit well with those of his King, "Step out into the dark and put your hand into the hand of God. It shall be better to you than light and safer than a known way."

Love, courage, the hand of God - with these three we are well equipped to love God and our neighbour.

The Holy Spirit never "just stands there".

We shouldn't either.




---

## WE TRAVEL ON, THE FORMAT NEVER VARIES, WITH TEN GOOD SOULS AND TRUE, GATHERED FROM ST MARY'S

An enterprising traveller, with a smile upon her face,  
 She'd printed lots of handbills to advertise the place.  
 She tracked a bobcat hybrid to its very messy den  
 There in that narrow margin between the wood and fen.  
 The nearby lakes as I am led to understand  
 Are by some loose consensus annexed to that hinterland  
 Where birdsong is the sweetest and greenery is lush  
 And listeners love the carolling of jenny-wren and thrush  
 Keen on food and danger, she'd be chasing made wild bees  
 And, in searching for the honeycomb, rend apart the trees.  
 When it came to fine cuisine, she wasn't any dunce,  
 She'd eaten raw fish, insects and calamari once.  
 She built a tiny oven out of stainless steel and brass,  
 Declared the mountain Kargil dales too dangerous to pass.  
 But travel attracted ailments all of which she'd had,  
 We discovered that her earache latterly was bad.  
 Though exaggerating things a lot, this tragic tale she told,  
 Saying she had pneumonia instead of just a cold,  
 Potions by the score were tried to prove they weren't satanic,  
 But everyone at length pronounced the rare gin alder manic.

*P.M.*



## TRIBUTE TO RAMAYA RAO



**R**amaya Subba Rao was born in Fiji in the South Pacific, of parents whose forebears were indentured labourers in the days of the British Empire. They were brought there to work on the sugar plantations, and never had the benefit of any education. One of Ramaya's earliest memories was of learning to read. He was taught by Catholic nuns. On his first morning in school he called them 'sir', as they wore black boots and had no visible feminine attributes.

There were no books at home, but Ramaya had fond memories of the comic Tiger Tim, which he was given by the sugar cane manager, after his young son had finished reading it. This reading matter, was augmented with Australian newspapers which had been used as wrapping paper and discarded by a local shop.

Ramaya's father was in charge of the horses for the manager. Every day he had to make sure that the horses were groomed and saddled ready for whenever the manager needed to ride through his plantation or visit the sugar mill. Ramaya had an abiding love of horses and all animals after assisting his father in the stables.

Another abiding memory of his youth in Fiji, was the arrival of Christian missionaries in the form of Seventh Day Adventists. He was persuaded to attend church services, sing hymns, listen to sermons and read the Bible. Juxtaposed against this was his continued participation in his family's Hindu rituals and ceremonies.

As a young man Ramaya wanted to explore the world. He came to London with a letter of introduction to India House and got a job doing accounting. From this he moved on to become a Court Auditor. Eventually he trained to be a podiatrist, as he wanted a profession helping people. He loved the work and set up a practice at Longmead, where he worked for well over twenty years. He had no desire to retire.

This year Ramaya had to have serious heart surgery, after which he never fully recovered. He was forced to close his Longmead Centre. He very much missed his day to day contact with people.

Ramaya felt that his life was enhanced by his participation in services at St Mary's Ewell. He was confirmed in the year 2005. He was able to take his last communion from our Vicar, the Reverend Russell Dewhurst at Epsom Hospital.

During the last few months of his life, Ramaya was completing a degree in Podiatry and on 7 July, only a short time after his death, his family received his certificate, awarding him a degree of Bachelor of Science in Podiatry.

*Cousin John Eades and Marion Rao August 2011*

### Stay-at-home Christmas?

Are you staying at home for Christmas? Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university?

HOST invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special.

HOST will match you with one or two guests to suit your household. More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 1-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round. Please see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call HOST 020 7739 6292

# THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO OR WAY OF THE YELLOW ARROW

The Apostle St. James travelled to Northern Spain spreading Christianity. On his return to the Holy Land he was captured and executed by King Agripa I. In order to give him an honourable burial his body was brought by his disciples back to Spain and buried in the corner of a field. It was here that a shepherd led by a star (stella) discovered his remains in the field (campo) and eventually a great cathedral was built to inter his remains and those of two of his followers.

The Way of St. James has existed for over a thousand years. It was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during medieval times. The scallop shell, often found on the shores in Galicia, has long been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago. Over the centuries the scallop shell has taken on mythical, metaphorical and practical meanings, even if its relevance may actually derive from the desire of pilgrims to take home a souvenir.

The scallop shell also acts as a metaphor. The grooves in the shell, which come together at a single point, represent the various routes pilgrims travelled, eventually arriving at a single destination: the tomb of James in Santiago de Compostela. The shell is also a metaphor for the pilgrim. As the waves of the ocean wash scallop shells up on the shores of Galicia, God's hand also guided the pilgrims to Santiago.

The scallop shell also served practical purposes for pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago. The shell was the right size for collecting water to drink or for eating out of as a makeshift bowl. It also acted as a badge to prove that travellers were genuine pilgrims prior to the days of written passports.

People travelling the route today still carry and exhibit their shells on their packs.

The number of pilgrims travelling the route gradually diminished during the middle ages because of wars and widespread diseases like the Black Death. Its renaissance came in the form of a Galician priest Don Elias Valiña Sampedro, who having restored the church and tiny village of O Cebreiro, turned his attention to the pilgrimage route that had been the reason for their existence. In 1971 he produced a simple handbook called *Caminos a Compostela*, small enough to fit into a pocket and containing only the information useful to a pilgrim on foot. This had the effect of increasing the number of pilgrims from Spain and other countries. In 1982, Don Elias undertook what was probably the single most essential project to revive the French Camino - he waymarked it along its entire length from the Pyrenees to the ca-

thedral in Santiago. Thus there came into being the ubiquitous yellow arrow, a symbol he devised and painted on trees, rocks and buildings using surplus paint begged from the Galician highway authority.

The French route starts at St Jean Pied-de-Port and is approximately 800 kms long. David and I tackled this route this summer joining it at Leon, Northern Spain, some 200 km from

Santiago where we collected our credentials or passports. Some of our fellow pilgrims had been on route for over 40 days carrying all their necessities on their backs, although the route is well served by hostels and cafés, as well as camp sites.

We were doing it the easy way as our luggage was taken from hotel to hotel for us. The holiday planners had also

made it possible for us to avoid walking through some of the large towns en route, by providing taxi transfers. In order to obtain the certificate of pilgrimage your credentials had to be stamped twice each day at an approved place usually a church or café and you have to walk or ride on horseback at least the last 100 km to Santiago, or cycle the last 200 km. We joined the queue at the Cathedral in July and were able to verify that we had indeed walked the last 100km unaided and were duly presented with our Latin certificates.

Considering there were so many pilgrims on the way, (last year the estimate was over 145,877), David and I spent much of the day by ourselves enjoying the peace and beauty of the countryside. One or two people passed going in the opposite direction and of course around cafes there were groups taking a well earned rest. On being overtaken or passing others the usual greeting was "Bon Camino". Strange since this was in Spain! Occasionally we would fall into conversation with others and discuss routes and compare aches and pains. There were people from all over the world on the way. Not only that they were all ages and we were far from the oldest.

The route we took was interesting and varied, Santiago de Compostella is a picturesque city but quite a culture shock with its crowds of people and vehicles after nearly 10 days of sleepy countryside. The cathedral is magnificent. Although I think I preferred Leon's with its abundance of beautiful stained glass.



## TWO DAY GAMES EXTRAVAGANZA OR THE RISE OF "KILLER CRICKET"



24 and 25 August saw a group of children aged between 5-12 plus helpers play a wide range of indoor and outdoor games. We are grateful that Ewell Castle School allowed us to use the grounds of Glyn House for outdoor games.

In the mornings the children were grouped by age and enjoyed craftwork, challenge activities, and a variety of indoor games.

Luckily, although it rained on both days, it was dry for the outdoor games session in the afternoon when the children each decided which of the games they wished to play. Their choices tended to divide by gender, with the boys playing "Qwik Cricket" and the girls the "Silly Game", while older children tended to gravitate towards Giant Jenga and some less active games.

"Qwik Cricket" rapidly became "Killer Cricket" as runs were scored with increasing desperation and the fielders raced about chasing the ball. Meanwhile the bowler bowled relentlessly. "Qwik Cricket" requires that the batsman runs for every ball bowled, whether he hits it or not. The bowler once he has the ball continues to bowl whether the batsman has regained his position or not. Batsmen could only score a maximum of 15 runs per innings before they retired with a well deserved round of applause. There was only one person who achieved this.

The photographs show some of the activities.

Thanks go to those who took part on the days and planned or organised the event.

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# Calendar for October

- S 1 18.30 for 1900 Harvest Supper
- S 2 **TRINITY 15**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Sung Eucharist  
1100 1662 Choral Mattins
- M 3 1630-1730 Junior Confirmation Class  
2000 Meeting of the Growth and Pastoral Care  
Committee
- T 4 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Parish  
Room
- W 5 2000-2100 Enquirers' Group
- S 8 1900 Local Schools Concert
- S 9 **TRINITY 16**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Sung Eucharist  
1100 Mattins and Holy Baptism  
1730 Evening Prayer
- M 10 0930-1230 Holy Communion to the house  
bound and to The Elders  
1630-1730 Junior Confirmation Class  
2000 Meeting of the Parochial Church  
Council
- T 11 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Parish  
Room
- S 16 **TRINITY 17**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Sung Eucharist with prayers for healing  
1100 Toddler Service  
1730 Choral Evensong
- M 17 1630-1730 Junior Confirmation Class
- T 18 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Parish  
Room
- S 23 **LAST AFTER TRINITY**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism  
1100 1662 Eucharist  
1115 Holy Communion to Priory Court  
1730 Evening Prayer
- T 25 1000 Holy Communion (said) in the Parish  
Room
- S 29 Quiet Day at St Barnabas
- S 30 **ALL SAINTS**  
0800 Holy Communion  
0930 Sung Eucharist with Procession  
1100 Choral Mattins  
1730 Evening Prayer
- M 31 1630-1730 Junior Confirmation Class



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