

October 2025 Edition 116

*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.*  
(Psalm 127:1)



## **Civic Service and Dedication**

Many of you will know that on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, at 9.30am, St Mary's is hosting a Civic Service and Dedication for the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor Robert Leach. I'm sure some are wondering what that is all about, and why we are doing it!

Those who have been in St Mary's for a long time will know Robert well, as he was our Organist and Choirmaster some years ago, and you will imagine how surprised I was when he contacted me prior to taking up the Office of Mayor, to ask me to be the Mayor's Chaplain during his mayoral year.

I didn't know anything about the role – in fact, all I knew was that the Mayor had a chain of office, a chauffeur, and a Mayoral car, but I didn't know the Mayor also had a chaplain! However, I was delighted to accept.



The photo is from the 'Mayor Making' ceremony and AGM in the Council Chamber at Epsom Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> May, to which both Charlie and I were invited. Also in attendance was the chaplain, who had served the outgoing Mayor up until that day, our Area Dean, Revd Canon Rosemary Donovan, from Christchurch Epsom.

My first duty as Mayor's chaplain was to attend the service in Epsom Town Centre at The Clock Tower on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, for Armed Forces Day 'Fly the Flag' Ceremony, where I led the prayers.

I attend all the Council Meetings, where the councillors and the Chief Executive of the Borough Council formally robe and where I am asked by the Mayor to lead prayers at the beginning of the meeting.

It has been really interesting to see the dedicated and respectful way that local government is performed in our Borough, and to know that the vast majority of our councillors are from local Residents' Associations rather than being party political.

The Civic Service is often held annually, usually in the church where the Mayor's chaplain worships – hence this year it is at St Mary's. The purpose of the service is to give thanks to God for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, to pray for all who hold public office on our behalf, and especially our Mayor, as he begins his term of office, and for all of us at the service to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of others, remembering, and inspired by, the example of Jesus Christ.

Robert will be talking briefly about his 'I am a Friend of the Mayor' initiative. This is intended primarily for children, but adults are more than welcome to participate too. The qualification for becoming 'a Friend' is a commitment to say - 'I don't hate anyone'. In today's world, this seems a very worthwhile and meaningful affirmation.

So do come and support the Civic Service. There will be a number of Council Officials present, as well as the Mayor and Mayoress, and Mayors from other boroughs in Surrey have also been invited to join us.

There is a part of the service which includes an Act of Dedication, to commit ourselves to the faithful service of others, working for peace and justice, with compassion, for the good of the world. The Mayor also, is asked to dedicate himself to the service of all, 'with the help of God'.

*Maggie*

## **H** Heritage Open Day 2025

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September we took part in Heritage Open Day with another of David Rymill's impressive displays in church. This time the main displays traced the history of our church over its 130-year history. Among the 70+ visitors was the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Robert Leach, and although it was a semi-official visit, he couldn't resist the temptation to play the organ again!



## October Services and Events

Wednesday 1	10.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Thursday 2	14.00	Dementia Awareness Session
Saturday 4	09.00	Men's Breakfast at Horton Golf Park
Sunday 5	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Harvest Parade Service
	12.00	Harvest Lunch in the Cuddington Hall
Monday 6	19.30	Knit & Natter Group in the Leverton Room
Sunday 12	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)
	09.30	Civic Service for Mayor of Epsom & Ewell
Wednesday 15	20.00	PCC Meeting in the Cuddington Hall
Thursday 16	14.30	Afternoon Group in the Cuddington Hall
Saturday 18	10.00	Women's Group in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 19	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
Saturday 25	19.00	Quiz Night in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 26	09.30	Sung Communion
Wednesday 29	19.00	Men's Dinner at Ewell Toby Carvery
Sunday 2 Nov	08.00	Holy communion (BCP)
	09.30	Sung Communion and Children's Groups
	15.00	Annual Commemoration Service
	18.00	Fauré's <i>Requiem</i> in Church

Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am

Everyone is very welcome