

The Epsom Group Ministry St Martin of Tours, Epsom

The parishes of Christ Church, St Barnabas and St Martin
The Parish of St Martin of Tours Epsom,
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Registered Charity Number: 1134149
Please take this newsletter home with you!

Welcome to our churches, especially if you are visiting Epsom or Langley Vale or have come to live in the area. Please sign our Visitors' book and join us for refreshments afterwards. **A hearing loop and large print versions of the Parish Communion Booklet, the Weekly Service Sheet and the Hymn Book are all available.** The Welcome Team or a Sidesperson can give you any help you need – **please ask!**

Newsletter – 29th January 2012

Today we celebrate the Presentation of Christ (traditionally called Candlemas), transferred from 2nd February. After we celebrate the festival of the Presentation, the Crib is removed to mark the end of the Incarnation season. The church starts to turn its attention to the Cross and prepare for the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday (22nd February).

Evening Worship today - Volunteer's Service. Today we shall be holding the annual service of celebration and thanksgiving for all our volunteers at 6.30pm at St Martin's. This is preceded by tea in church from 5.45pm - all are welcome.

Next Sunday - All-Age Parish Communion: Change of time - Please note that the All-Age Communion next Sunday will **begin at 10.30am** to facilitate the Parish Lunch.

Parish Lunch - Sunday 5th February - We shall be holding a Parish Lunch next Sunday at St

Martin's - please sign up **today** if you would like to join us.

Grand Piano - For many years now we have enjoyed the long-term loan of the present 'baby' grand piano at St Martin's. The piano was loaned to the parish by Babs Becker and when she died in 2008 her family indicated that they would wish to repatriate the instrument at some stage in the future. We have therefore been looking at how we could obtain a replacement grand piano for some time, but the costs have always been prohibitive.

I am therefore delighted to announce that the family of the late Terry Brown have just confirmed the purchase of a brand new Kawai grand piano (an RX5 model), together with a new piano stool, cover and A-frame. The instrument and associated equipment is being presented to the parish as a gift in memory of Terry. We are so very blessed to be given this top-class piano, which will enhance our musical life in many ways. I would like to record my thanks to the

Brown family for their generosity. The new piano is on order and should arrive with us in 2-3 weeks. Shortly thereafter, we are planning to arrange an evening recital to celebrate the gift and to dedicate it in Terry's memory. More details to follow. In the meantime I have been in contact with the owners of the present piano, thanking them for their generous loan and trying to arrange for its removal to a new permanent home.

**Easter Craft Workshop -
Coordinator Urgently Needed -**
We would like to reinstate the Easter

Craft Workshop for children, at St Martin's on Maundy Thursday (5th April) as part of the Group Ministry Holy Week programme. This has been a really successful joint activity in previous years, but has not been held for two years because we could not find a coordinator. If you feel you could volunteer for this role, please talk to myself or the Churchwardens. Full briefing about the role is available.

Simon Talbott.

CHORISTER OF THE MONTH - Now the treble line in the choir is growing, we have re-introduced the Chorister of the Month. This is awarded to the treble who has been outstanding in any number of ways - especially good singing, being helpful, attendance etc - and entitles the winner to wear the Green Ribbon for a month. In January, it is awarded to James Macfarlane for outstanding work in December. Well done, James!

Jubilee Fair May 26th - 1)GARDENERS - We are having a plant stall at the Jubilee Fair - will all you gardeners please plant some extra seeds this year so that we have a large selection of plants to sell. **2)MARMALADE MAKERS** - Can you make a few extra jars of marmalade this year for sale at the Jubilee Fair. Thanks! **Maureen Suatt**

The next PCC

The next meeting is on 30th January. Please remember the PCC members in your prayers as they prepare for this meeting.

**Epsom Book Fair
16-18 February at
Epsom Methodist
Church – please
see flyers at the
back of Church for
more details.**

Giving to St Martin's -

There are a number of ways you can donate money to St. Martin's church. Now there is another way and that is by **Text** on your mobile phone. You can donate from £1 to £10. An example is if you wished to donate say £1, just Text '**MART19 £1**' and send to **70070**. You will then get confirmation that your donation has been received. **David Holmes**

NEXT PARISH LUNCH

*The "Winter Warmer" Parish Lunch will be at 12.15pm on Sunday, February 5th to follow the All-Age Communion Service at 10.30am. Our Parish Lunches have become very popular events because everyone is warmly welcome. So please use the "sign-up" clipboard at the back of Church to say that you will be there. As usual, contributions towards salads and puddings (for 6) will be much appreciated. Many thanks. **Glenys Scadden***

Sighted Volunteers: We are looking for sighted help to label our audio library books ~ it means speaking clearly into a 'Penfriend', a device which records onto a speech-chip label. Many visually impaired people cannot read Braille and this labelling system allows independent access to the books. Please contact Carole (*choir*) at Swail House ~ Tel: Epsom 749788 ~ Thank you.

There will be a concert at St Martin's on Saturday 3rd March at 7.30 pm by the **International Harp Ensemble**. This Surrey based harp orchestra of over 20 young musicians will perform from their diverse repertoire of classical, Celtic and modern music, demonstrating that you can play anything on the harp. The Ensemble recently performed in Guildford Cathedral as part of the Epworth Choir Christmas Concert, and were complimented "Very few of us had seen so many harps all together and the Ensemble played brilliantly and looked stunning. You were certainly the highlight of the concert". Why not come and hear the "Magic of a Thousand Strings" yourself. **Tickets will be available via the website www.internationalharpensemble.co.uk or on the door.** **Tickets: Adults £10, Students and under 18, £5.**



Second thoughts - The programme for 'Second thoughts' has been put together for 2012 and is available at the back of the Church for you to take a copy. The presentations on the 4th Sunday evening of each month at St Martin's vary enormously. All will be welcome. The next one will be on 26th February - 'The Language and Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer' will be the subject for this 350th anniversary year of the 1662 Prayer Book. **Adrian Esdaile**

LOVING LIKE JESUS II - Following the well-attended inaugural meeting in July, this Diocesan gathering to explore Multi-faith presence and engagement in Surrey and Hampshire will reconvene on Sunday 28th January, 9.30am to 1pm, at St Andrew's, Goldsworth Park Centre, Woking.

Workshops/Sessions will include:

- **How not to make obvious cultural mistakes**
- **Relating to Muslims**
- **Sharing lives and Scripture appropriately with women.**

Everyone is warmly welcome to join in this second gathering and, as before, lifts can be arranged. Please see the leaflet at the back of Church for full details of the programme or speak with Alastair Watson for more information. Telephone 0208 3932960 or mail alastair_watson@btinternet.com

Surrey Police have recently recovered a Blue Mini Disc player with headphones from the scene of a crime, believed to be discarded by the offender who was later caught and detained. We need to identify the owner of this property, which contains a music disc relative to the church and/or church worship and discover how they came to lose possession of it. If you have any information or believe this may be yours, please contact Investigator Jo Murray at Epsom CID by dialling 101 and asking for extension 36569 or emailing 13094@surrey.pnn.police.uk

APCM Activity Reports – It is nearing that time again – the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is set for Sunday 22nd April at 11.15am in Church. In preparation for the Report, I will need contributions toward the Activity Report and to this end please find a letter to all group leaders giving further details. The deadline for submissions is 25th February 2012. Thank you, Romana Nelson, Parish Administrator



Tea and Chat – please join us for a tea, cake and a chat – all welcome, bring your friends and neighbours. Wednesday, 1st Feb at 2.30pm, Wisley Room, Church House

Dogs in Church - After much consideration, Simon and the wardens have decided that Dogs will be allowed in church, accompanied by their owners and controlled in such a way as to not be intrusive to worshippers. Dogs will not be allowed to go up to the rail and if their owner does so, must be left with a capable person. During civic services or any other 'special services', Dogs will not be allowed. Simon would be happy to hold an annual pet service if requested by pet owners. **Glenys Scadden**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 29 Jan	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	5.45pm	Tea and Cake, followed by Songs of Praise, Volunteers' Thanksgiving Service
Mon 30 Jan	7.45pm	PCC Meeting – Church House
	8.00pm	Bell ringing practice
Wed 1 Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion
	2.30pm	Tea and Chat
Thur 2 Feb	10.00am	Mother and Toddler Group
Fri 3 Feb	7.15pm	Choir practice
	8.00pm	Social Badminton Club in Church House
Sun 5 Feb	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	All-Age Communion – note later start
	12.15pm	Parish Lunch – all welcome
Mon 6 Feb	8.00pm	Bell ringing practice
Wed 8 Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thurs 9 Feb	10.00am	Mother and Toddler Group
Fri 10 Feb	7.15pm	Choir practice
	8.00pm	Social Badminton Club in Church House
Sun 12 Feb	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	11.30am	Holy Communion
	1.30pm	Baptism of Samuel Fairchild
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Mon 13 Feb	8.00pm	Bell ringing practice
Tues 14 Feb	11.00am	Contemplative Prayer Group
Wed 15 Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thur 16 Feb	10.00am	Mother and Toddler Group
Fri 17 Feb	7.15pm	Choir practice
	8.00pm	Social Badminton Club – Church House

**Clergy Team - The Rev'd Simon Talbott – (Epsom 743336);
The Rev'd Canon Adrian Esdaile (Epsom 723770)
The Rev'd Lynn Alsop, Assistant Curate – 07881745004**

Weddings & Baptism Applications: Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

ST STEPHEN-ON-THE-DOWNS Every Sunday there is a service of **Holy Communion at 9.30am**. The children from Happy Club take part in every service. *On the **3rd Sunday** of each month: **Family Communion Service**. Do come and join us. you will receive a warm welcome.

Please join us for Morning Prayer at 9.15am & Evening Prayer at 5.00pm, Mon to Friday. In February, Wednesday Evening Prayer is at Christ Church.

Parish Office: Church House, Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567 e-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com web: www.stmartinsepsom.org