



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

w/b SUNDAY April 24th 2022 Easter 2

This is traditionally known as 'low Sunday'. Why? According to the dictionary, 'because of its relative unimportance in contrast with Easter Sunday.' But the story of St Thomas is NOT unimportant. He gives hope to all sceptics about miracles and is the patron Saint of all who miss important meetings!

He is also a beacon for all who feel that if they were faced with the living Christ, would no longer need proof, because they have met the Lord, their God. I hope and pray that all of us, in our worship and fellowship, may find that experience. **Nick**

THIS WEEK

Sunday 24th April

9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

**10.00am – Morning Prayer and Baptism at St Martin's,
in church and live streamed**

**6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Martin's in church and
livestreamed**

Wednesday 27th April

10.00am – Holy Communion

Saturday 30th April

12 noon – Memorial Service

NEXT SUNDAY 1ST MAY

9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

**10.00am – Sung Communion at St Martin's,
in church and live streamed**

11.30am – APCM

**6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Martin's in church and
livestreamed**

THANK YOU

To everyone who made our Holy Week and Easter so special. A particular thank you to my colleagues who stepped in to lead worship in my Covid absence.

WELCOME

To those being baptised today, Joshua, Harriet and their family and friends, and to Rev Pippa Madgwick, who is leading the 10am service.

Group for older children

A group for children aged 8+ meets in Church House after the 10am service until about 11.45am. Please spread the word. It will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. The group is being run by Alana Harris, Kate and John Malhotra and Graeme Lodge but any more helpers would be warmly welcomed. The aim is to reflect on the theme of that morning's service through discussion and other activities.

Plants

I am again growing plants to sell. I will have the usual ones Tomatoes, Cucumbers, lobelia, Petunia, Nicotiana, Cosmos and Rudbeckia etc. They will be ready mid May and I will put another notice in the newsletter when they are ready. If you want me to reserve any let me know.

Maureen Suatt maureensuatt@virginmedia.com

Contemplative Prayer Group

The group which used to meet with Adrian Esdaile in the Lady Chapel has been in abeyance for 2 years now. We plan to resume our meetings in church on the 1st Tuesdays of the month at 11am. All are welcome for an hour or so of led contemplation and intercession.

So, on May 3RD at 11am our starting point will be John 1.50-51: *'You shall see greater things ... you shall see heaven opened.'* All are very welcome.

There is also the possibility of the group which met on Thursday evenings (2nd or 4th) at 8pm resuming – this is being discussed – please get in touch if you are likely to consider coming to it at 29 Hereford Close.

Adrian Esdaile

Second Thoughts, Sunday 8th May at 6.30pm (refreshments available beforehand)

Chris Esdaile

'REDRESS: Fighting for a world without torture'

Chris is Legal Advisor/Solicitor at REDRESS, which seeks justice and reparation for survivors of torture, works to combat impunity for governments and individuals who perpetrate it, and develops and promotes compliance with international human rights standards. Chris will explain some of REDRESS's work, both in relation to individual cases, and also their efforts to influence broader policy in the area, and explain why fighting for a world without torture is still of crucial importance.

Chris's work has always focussed on making the legal system more accessible to the most vulnerable. He has previously worked with farmworkers in South Africa, tenants in Birmingham, abused women in Chile, and victims of corporate excess in Colombia.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

Please be aware that the Revision of the Electoral Roll notice has been placed on the church notice boards. Please check your entries in the folder at the back of St Martin's (or with me by email aronson_john@hotmail.com) and let me know if I need to make any amendments (eg change of address). If you are not on the roll and wish to join please complete a form available at the back of the church and deliver it to the Parish Office.

Thanks

John Aronson

DIOCESAN MOTHERS' UNION QUIET DAY

You are warmly invited to join the Diocesan Mothers' Union Quiet Day on Wednesday 27th April 10am – 3.30pm at the Church of St. Thomas on the Bourne, Farnham.

It is open to men and women, regardless whether you are a member of the Mothers' Union or not.

The cost of the day is £20 with a bring and share lunch. The Theme of the day is 'Welcoming Transformation' and will be led by The Revd. Haydon Wilcox, Chaplain to St. Columba's House, Woking.

Please email: haydonwilcox@mac.com for a brochure and booking form to be emailed or posted to you.

MISSION FOR THE MONTH – April

Mission Donations, Spring 2022

In the light of a public appeal by the Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network for financial support at this turbulent time, the Mission Committee has donated £500 to support the new families from the Ukraine arriving hard on the heels of refugees from Afghanistan. I'm sure we would all want to make them as welcome in our borough as possible.

We have also donated £500 to the Leprosy Mission, a charity which we have supported over many years. It is very satisfying to know that our donation at this particular time will be doubled by a generous supporter.

Laurence Impey

HOME MISSION

Christian Aid

Is an International NGO that insists that the world can and must be changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and inequality. It is a faith based agency, yet they operate on a basis of need, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, caste, gender or nationality.

They have more than 70 years of experience to address causes of poverty through integrated development and humanitarian programming, policy and advocacy work, seeking to help in every possible way at the root of the problem. *Jill Chapman*

ABROAD MISSION

Mission Aviation Fellowship. Flying for life.

At MAF we believe nothing should stop people from receiving the love of God and the essentials of life no matter how remote they are. Our vision is to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ. We use aviation and technology, because in many places those are the only ways to reach isolated people in need.

Meg Topley

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online via the Charities Aid Foundation. Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit. To make a donation Click on <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

There is also a "Donate" button on our website.

Cheques to St Martin's

If giving a cheque donation to St Martin's Church, please can it be payable to:

'The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom'

Donation Station

If you wish to give via contactless payment, please use the donation station in church. You can give a pre-set amount or choose one. You can also gift aid your donation.

Church Garden Lawn Treatment

On Wednesday April 20th the inner area of the church garden received a professional lawn treatment. This is needed because although the garden's increased use during CV may have benefitted many it has worn out the lawn during the Winter of Discontent.

In order for the treatment to do its stuff, may I ask please that for the next month visitors should enter the garden through the side entrance – by the benches. If there is a need to walk or stand on the lawn around the crescent bed, please tread on the edges of the lawned path and give the treatment a chance.

Jean Wright



Staffing Review

Since our Parish Administrator left at Christmas, and in light of our Pandemic experience, we have been working with our HR adviser on reviewing our staffing structure, so that we are better able to manage our activities. These are the changes:

1. The post of Parish Administrator is deleted.
2. A new post of **Parish Manager** has been created, and Nicky Kelly has been appointed to it.
3. The post of verger has been deleted.
4. A new post of **Facilities Officer** has been created, and Jay Holloway-Neville has been appointed to it.
5. A new post of **Administration Assistant** has been created and recruitment to this post is under way.
6. The post of Hall Manager has been deleted.
7. No changes to other posts.

These changes mean that the Facilities Officer will be on site Mon-Fri during the mornings. The Verger duties that related to worship are not covered by this post.

The Parish Manager will be in charge of all our buildings bookings, and promotion as venues.

The admin assistant will support the Parish Manager, as well as offer general admin support.



3rd EPSOM SCOUT GROUP



The 3rd Epsom (St. Martin's) Scout Group is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Initially founded by a former Churchwarden we have been continuously Scouting since 1922. As a St. Martin's sponsored Group, we are now based in the Scout Hall behind St John

Chandler Hall on Church Road (just off East Street) and we are now the oldest continuously running Scout Group in the area.

On the 24th July we are holding a celebration day for anyone who is or has been associated with the Scout Group. We are meeting for tea and coffee at 10:30am before people being able to optionally partake in a number of scouting type activities. We are ending the day with a Hog Roast supper and traditional campfire starting at 8pm. People are able to join us for the whole day or just part of it. For more information please email

100years@3rdepsom.org.uk or complete the form at

<https://www.3rdepsom.org.uk/100Anniversary.html>

Did you attend Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers with the Group when you were younger?

Did your children go there?

Did you volunteer as a leader there?

Do you have any other connections?

We would also be grateful for any memories or photos of your Group and its members.

Please get in touch.

Richard Ascough

Group Scout Leader

3rd Epsom (St. Martin's) Scout Group

Summary of matters discussed at the PCC Meeting, 31st March 2022

Please note: The minutes of the meeting have yet to be agreed at the next PCC meeting. They will then be published in full.

1. Health and Safety: We have responded to the diocesan request to review covid protection measures. We are acting in accordance with current guidelines.
2. Safeguarding: Retraining needed by some individuals. They have been informed.
3. Matters arising from the last PCC minutes:
John Aronson is stepping down from his role as Adults' Safeguarding Officer. This vacancy needs to be filled.
The steps to the car park have been repaired. The County Council has still to be approached for a contribution to the expense.
The reintroduction of the Communion chalice will be delayed until infection rates fall significantly.
4. Correspondence:
£300 will be donated to the Guildford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Restoration Fund.
A communique will be prepared to explain to all members of the church the decision to spend £1000 of church funds on historical research relating to the Brathwaite memorial and slavery.
5. Finance: Thanks to John Syrad's generous legacy and one-off government grants, a deficit of only £9,346 was recorded for 2021. These will not recur in 2022; a deficit of around £60,000 is expected.
6. Stewardship: There was support for the idea of a monthly or quarterly report to the congregation on the state of the church's finances. A more detailed breakdown of expenditure might encourage giving to cover specific needs.
7. Permission to Officiate: Howard Bluett's relicensing as an LLM approved.

8. APCM: Revised date of May 1st confirmed. 11.30am in Church House.

9. Racial Justice Focus Group: Peter Brathwaite's talk was summarised. Ideas for a liturgical and educational response to the church's connection with historic slavery were outlined.

10. Fabric:

The architect's inspection found no significant problems in either St Martin's church or St Stephen's church.

Negotiations are under way for a potential new tenant for St John Chandler Hall.

Negotiations are continuing regarding the renewal of the Langley Vale Village Hall lease.

Proposals to install a dishwasher under the servery were confirmed.

11. Living in Love and Faith: A proposal relating to the ongoing debate within the CofE with regard to same-sex marriage in church will be put to the next PCC. The weekly newsletter will ask for responses from the congregation on this subject before the PCC next meets.

12. Church House: Discussion of the plan for improvement was deferred. Bookings of rooms look set to increase.

13. Staffing Review: An HR company has been appointed and is ready to start work.

14. Eco-Church: The diocese has requested us to look at our eco-footprint. Helen Williams accepted the role of Environmental Sustainability Officer.

15. Vacancy for Church Warden: John Flower was thanked for his service over the past years.

FOOD BANK

Thank you to those who arranged supermarket deliveries directly to us last week, we really appreciate getting donations we need this way.

We have completely run out of:

Hair conditioner
Shaving foam
Chocolate treats for adults

We urgently need:

Powdered milk
Long-life sponge puddings
Custard
Rice pudding
Instant mash
Tinned fruit
Ketchup
Long-life UHT milk (semi-skimmed and full fat only)
Washing up liquid
Shampoo
Adult toothpaste
Deodorant – all kinds

Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked: Pulses, pasta, noodles, sweetcorn, rice, beans, porridge, and hot chocolate.

Booking a supermarket delivery? Let us know when to expect it. You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG

Donation drop off times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm. We are closed on Bank Holidays.

* Please make sure all donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol*

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Fayre
Saturday 11th June



We are planning a Summer Fayre, to be held outside, weather permitting! Enjoy summer themed stalls, games, cream teas, companionship and the weather!

Events Team

CONTACT US

Parish Office:

***Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567***

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

**Opening hours are
9.30am to 12.30pm**

Please contact clergy and lay ministers via the office.