

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2022 – Remembrance Sunday

THE VICAR WRITES...



Today we pause to honour the memory of all victims of conflict, who have fought for freedom for both their own countrymen and women, and those

from other countries. As we do so, we remember, too, those fighting this very day for freedom from tyranny. We call to mind the promise of scripture that ‘if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed.’ (John 8.36), and we give thanks for those who fought for our freedom in this life, and for spiritual freedom found in the Christian faith.

Nick Parish

THIS SUNDAY 13th November – Remembrance Sunday

- 8.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's
10.45am Remembrance at St Martin's – in church and
live-streamed
3.30pm Beacon Tea at St Martin's
6.30pm Second Thoughts (*see below*)

Wednesday 16th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Saturday 19th November

4.30pm Opera Holloway performance

NEXT SUNDAY 20th November – Safeguarding Sunday / Christ the King

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
10.00am Sung Communion at St Martin's – in church and
live streamed
6.30pm Choral Evensong

REMEMBRANCE DAY FLOWERS

This year's Remembrance Sunday Service will have a traditional parade by Scouts, ATC cadets and CCF cadets from Epsom College.

Among the many other traditions the pandemic prevented us from observing was the centenary of the laying of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Westminster Abbey. Millions of people have visited the tomb since then and everyone who enters the Abbey shares in the remembrance.

The Remembrance Sunday commemorations have always included special tributes from the Royal Family. Our late Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, laid her wedding bouquet at the tomb and for the centenary she returned to the Abbey to place a replica of that bouquet. In mourning and masked she was alone except for the Dean of Westminster, her equerry and a lone piper.

To honour the centenary His Majesty the King, as Prince of Wales, had placed a replica of the wreath laid on the coffin by his great grandfather King George V. This first wreath was of red roses and bay leaves because the now traditional Flanders poppies had yet to be adopted as a symbol.

With regret for loss of maintained knowledge of British history, I felt we could make up for this a bit this year and have the Remembrance Sunday decoration of St Martin's more telling. In this, we shall have an interpretation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the font, under a "We Will Remember Them" theme for the two world wars and the many subsequent conflicts.

The Westminster Abbey website has a well illustrated history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and is worth a visit.

Jean Wright

Music for Remembrance Sunday 2022

With the continuing conflict in Ukraine as well as in other parts of the world, our music at the 10.45am service seeks to endorse and inspire our efforts to pray for peace and reconciliation.

I'm grateful to the following musicians for their contribution this week: Georgia Morse (cello), Debra Lodge (soprano), Richard Semmens (baritone), Robert Landen (trumpet), Iain Macfarlane (organ).

Music before the service

Suite No 3 for solo cello - J S Bach

Theme from 'Schindler's List' - Eriges Ulliri

Anthems

'Steal away' - trad spiritual arr Michael Tippett

Cantique de Jean Racine - Gabriel Faure

Organ voluntary: Crown Imperial - William Walton

Michael Tippett's oratorio 'A Child of Our Time' deals with the experiences of oppressed people and carries a strongly pacifist message of ultimate understanding and reconciliation. The work's most original feature is the use of African-American spirituals. Tippett justified this innovation on the grounds that these songs of oppression possess a unique universality and appeal, providing a powerful focus to prayer and understanding. Composed at the age of 19, Faure's 'Cantique de Jean Racine' already shows hints of his later 'Requiem' with its quiet simplicity and dignity, and both works are often performed together in concerts and recordings.

Richard Dacey

Second Thoughts - Sunday, 13th November at 6.30 pm

Jonathan Lees

*'The Bible says we will always have the poor –
Does that mean we shouldn't do anything about them?'*

We will explore what should our response be to the poor in our society? As Christians should that be different to others? Is it things that we do and support that keep people in poverty? How do we challenge the status quo? Are we ingrained in patterns of behaviour that mean we cannot see their impact? Jonathan writes: 'For ten years I ran Generation Church, stepping down in 2020, and in 2012 we launched the foodbank with a lot of support. This has sadly grown and grown. Our mission is now to close the foodbank but to do that we have to explore the roots of poverty, how we live our lives, how we make decisions and how can we lift people out of poverty. These are the areas that we are grappling with on a day today basis as we try to turn the tide. Refreshments will be available beforehand.

Saturday 19th November at 4.30pm St Martin's

Singers of Opera Holloway return with a programme of famous operatic favourites. The concert will be a musical feast, featuring operatic solos and ensembles sung by local soprano – Callie Gaston, tenor – William Branston and baritone – Sam Oram. Since Opera Holloway last visited, their star singers have made their international debuts and are in demand in both the UK and overseas. The trio will perform some of opera's greatest arias, duets and trios from *Faust*, *La Bohème*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Don Giovanni* and more.

For King and Empire

The discovery of this memorial to the officers and men of the King's African Rifles in the colonial capital of Malawi (formerly known as Nyasaland) reminded me of the rarely acknowledged role of native Africans who fought for Great Britain in the First World War. Along with their British officers and NCO's more than 1,000 Malawians are honoured on 8 plaques affixed to the base of this clock tower, a significant number of whom died from disease as they fought in German East Africa (Tanganyika). It is good to know that they are remembered every 11th November at a ceremony at this memorial attended by the President.

Laurence Impey



Beacon Teas * Note different start times*

You are reminded that the last two Beacon Teas for 2022 are imminent:

13 November, **3.30 p.m.*- 5.00 p.m.**

11 December, **3.00 p.m.*- 5.00 p.m.**

At both we shall provide sandwiches and cakes, and on **11th December** we shall have Christmas carols round the piano. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook

Christmas Cards – On sale now



It is time to start thinking about Christmas! I have set up my display of Christmas cards, candles and Advent Calendars. Please buy now while I have good stocks. Once I have sold out of a particular design, I may not be able to get any more. I will also have a table at the Christmas Fair with all my remaining

stock for you to buy.

Everything will be on sale between now and Christmas especially in case you need that “extra” pack of cards!

Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to “The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom” (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the “Cards” button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church.

Every packet sold helps the church. Thank you for your custom.

Mary Holloway-Neville

CHRISTMAS FAIR – Saturday 26th November

The St Martin's Christmas Fair is back!! Please save the date in your diaries – Saturday 26 November from 11.00 am – 2.00 pm. We now need your help to ensure that the Fair is the best one yet. It is time to look out those items that you have been going to donate for ages, buy those extra bars of chocolate, that extra bottle of wine etc. There are a couple of boxes at the back of church for your kind donations.

We need the following:

Chocolate – individual bars, small boxes etc.

Books, CDs and DVDs

Boxed games and Jigsaws (complete if possible!)

Jewellery, Toiletries (new, gift sets, perfumes etc.)

Preserves, Bottles of wine

We will also be asking for cakes nearer the time!

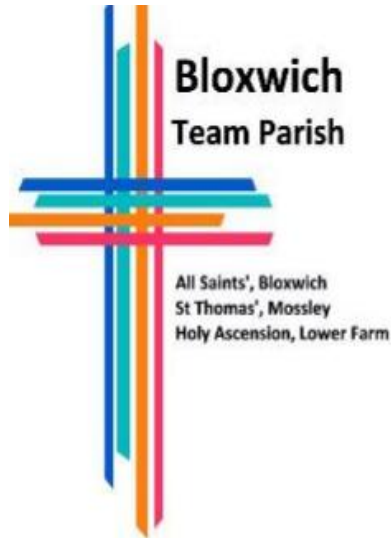
*(We **DO NOT** want bric a brac or gifts as we have no room for these stalls this year and nowhere to store such items).*

We need volunteers to help out the day before (Friday 25th November) – to help us set up and also on the day itself – either to help run a stall, provide cover for a stall holder for a short time or to help clear up at the end of the Fair. If anyone is able to help out please contact one of the Events Team with your offers.

Lastly we have a poster that will begin appearing all over the place! If anyone is happy to take a poster and display it in their window we would be very grateful. There will be a pile of posters available from next week.

Thank you very much from the Events Team **Alyson Aronson, Cathy Morris, Mary Holloway-Neville and Nancy Bluett.**

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8th November 2022

Dear Friends

Life in Bloxwich

Wow, I've been in post a year now! Time to reflect. We had over a dozen weddings in the summer, and there is a steady stream of parents bringing forward their children for baptism. There is also a regular funeral ministry – all evidence that local folk turn to the parish church at important moments. Talking of significant moments, we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a very jolly party in the church hall (the first big event in the hall after extensive work to repair water damage from a burst pipe). We also gave a place of peace for people to mourn the death of the Queen and held a commemoration service the evening before the state funeral.

Our finances are still perilous. We are on course to meet about 70% of our contribution to the diocese this year – better than the 40% last year – but the diocese doesn't write off the deficit so we are gradually getting deeper into arrears. Our mission at this time includes hot meals in a warm space for local people facing rising food and heating costs, and a warm welcome for those who are lonely. There are rough sleepers in the town centre who we get to know and there's often a ring on the rectory doorbell for hot coffee or a sandwich. Please pray particularly for Tom and for Lee, two of the regular homeless, that the council comes good and finds them accommodation.

“Embrace change and allow the Holy Spirit to surprise us” I have a strong ministry team, with three ordained colleagues and three lay ministers. Our Sunday congregations are small (less than 30 in each church) but we are looking for ways to strengthen and grow. We take seriously our task of telling people in Bloxwich about Jesus. Along the way, we need to attend to a few cultural issues in each of the three churches that may be getting in the way of growth and we must also take difficult decisions about the future of our buildings.

It was lovely to come back for John Norrington's funeral in August and see so many friends once more – albeit briefly. We look back fondly at our time in the parish. Nancy is well and she's now working at St Matthew's in Walsall. Please continue to pray for us, for All Saints and for the people of Bloxwich!

Yours

David

David Candlin Team Rector, Bloxwich All Saints, Holy Ascension, St Thomas

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 either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below



There is also a "[Donate](#)" button on our website.



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.

FOODBANK NEEDS We urgently need:

Sugar - 500g bags
Long life sponge puddings
Custard
Tinned meat
Long life juice
Tinned pasta with meat
Instant mash
Ketchup
Crisps (multipacks)
Nappies Size 6+

We would also appreciate any bags for life/very strong bags.

Please, no more of these items: washing up liquid, pasta, pulses, non-dairy milk, peanut butter, baby wash.

Please use our supermarket donation points or bring donations directly to us at Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Good Company Hub, behind West Ewell Primary School, Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG We are open for donations Monday - Friday, 9am-2pm.

Please ensure donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol.

Many thanks for all your support.

MISSION OF THE MONTH – October 2022

HOME MISSION

The Church Homeless Trust

One in every 200 people are Homeless in England a very high percentage of these are young. The Homeless Trust raises funds to help everyone in need regardless of their gender, sexuality, race or religion, working in conjunction with Churches and Communities. Their grants of up to £250 are awarded to individual homeless people to help them take the next step forward. They fund the courses, clubs, skills and projects required to help them gain the skills, self esteem and confidence they need going forward.

Jill Chapman

MISSION ABROAD

Mission Aviation Fellowship

MAF is an international Christian organisation whose purpose is to bring help, hope and healing through aviation to people living in isolation and poverty. Every six minutes an MFA aircraft takes off or lands somewhere in the world. MAF transports people in the world who live in remote villages and assist missions, churches, aid development agencies and others working to transform the lives of communities that are cut off from the outside world.

Meg Topley

Submitting an item for the newsletter:

Please ensure that all items are emailed to the office by close of play on Wednesday, to be included in the newsletter for that week. Thank you.

Parish Office:

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E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Please contact clergy and lay ministers via the office.