

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2022 – ADVENT SUNDAY



THE VICAR WRITES...

Advent Sunday is upon us. I hope many of us will be able to participate in 9.30am, 10am and/or 6.30 worship on Sunday – for 10am and 6.30pm either in person or via the internet. Advent means

‘coming/arriving’. Obviously Christmas is coming, will arrive, but about what else might we be expectant? I suggest new hope – our world is in desperate need of hope – we can say ‘we will find that in the Christ-child’ but one reflection for advent might be ‘how can I be a bringer of hope to others?’

Nick Parish

THIS SUNDAY 27th November – Advent Sunday

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
10.00am Holy Communion and Baptisms at St Martin's –
in church and live streamed
6.30pm Advent Carols

Tuesday 29th December

4pm Centering Prayer. Refreshments from 3.45pm.

Wednesday 30th December

10.00am Holy Communion

NEXT SUNDAY 4th December – Advent 2

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

Contemplative Prayer Group

We meet on Tuesday 6th December at 11 am in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's for an hour or so of led contemplative prayer. Our starting point for Advent and Christmas will be from deep in the Old Testament, Zephaniah 3.14, 20: *'Be glad and rejoice ... when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes.'* All are very welcome as we turn aside from the busy preparations for Christmas.

Adrian Esdaile

NEWS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met this week on Wednesday 23rd November in St. Martin's Church, and ratified the Minutes of the previous meeting that had been held on the 08 September

These minutes can be found at the back of the St Martin's Church and on the parish website. To find them on the website, click on the drop-down tab "Church Life" and then scroll down to Parochial Church Council and click on the 08 September meeting.

We encourage you to visit the website and explore the information that is set out there. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to Sarah, Rob or David.

Churchwardens

Second Thoughts

Sunday, December 11th at 6.30pm - refreshments available beforehand.

Martyn Holloway-Neville

'Solidarity – the start of the fall of the Iron Curtain.'

Solidarity (in its native Polish, Solidarność) was formed in 1980 as a trade union for the shipyard workers of Gdansk. It became a shining light behind the Iron Curtain of the Cold War and started its demise. Martyn planned to head for Gdansk in late July 2020 for the European Scout Jamboree but that was called-off because of the pandemic. He will share with you a remarkable tale of danger, spirit and hope.

I have been a member of this congregation for many years, and therefore do not need to say any more on that front! In the Scouting world, my trip to Poland will be my fourth international adventure – following excursions to Essex (it still counts!), Sweden and Iceland in years gone by.

The AMECA Trust

19th November 2022

Dear Nick and Congregation members,

On behalf of the Directors of AMECA, I am writing to thank you for the wonderful cheque for £500 from your Mission Giving Fund. We are so grateful for the ongoing support from the church and the Mission Committee.

You all will have been updated on events fairly recently when I was in the UK; I returned to Malawi near the end of August and I think it is fair to say that we have had the most challenging time out here since then. Most of you will be aware that Belinda Impey was out here in Malawi for a couple of months; she was joined by Laurence in November and it was great having them around. I am sure Belinda will be talking to you about her adventures over here.

Malawi has gone through a couple of devaluations of the Kwacha and goods have increased in price enormously; I am not clear how some of the Malawian can even afford to eat. Since January, we have suffered with long power outages every day for around 8 hours and to cap it all, we have huge shortages of fuel, first diesel

and now petrol. To give you some idea, yesterday we waited only 10 minutes in a queue after a tip off from a friend and we were ecstatic to fill the car up!! The petrol crisis has had a huge impact on our ability to get things done as you just can't risk going anyway except local as you don't know when you will get fuel again. All a bit tiresome, to say the least.

So, as the year comes to an end, we reflect on the continuing success of our student scholarships, the almost completed 2-year mentorship programme for the midwives and the successful completion and opening of a new High Dependency Unit at Holy Family Mission Hospital in Phalombe. I do hope that you received our fairly recent newsletter but ask Nick if you didn't.

Thank you once again for your fantastic support and encouragement, it means so very much to me.

With kindest regards and God Bless you all.



Ruthie Markus
CEO & Founder, The AMECA Trust.

Beacon Teas * *Note different start times**

You are reminded that the last Beacon Tea for 2022 is imminent:

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

We shall provide sandwiches and cakes and have Christmas carols round the piano. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook

Warm Hubs in Surrey

The days are getting chilly! Please find a list of the Warm Hubs located locally:

Epsom and Ewell

Epsom Methodist Church, Roots Community Café

Address: Cafe 77 Ashley Rd, Epsom, KT18 5AQ

Opening times: Wednesday from 9am to 6pm

Epsom Library

Address: 6 Epsom Square, Epsom, KT19 8AG

Opening times:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.30am to 5.30pm

Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am to 7pm

Saturday: 9.30am to 5pm

Ewell Library

Address: Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, KT17 1UF

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm

Ruxley Church

Address: Ruxley Lane, Ewell, Epsom KT19 0AF

Opening times: Thursday from 11.30am to 2.30pm

Surrey bus services review

Surrey are consulting about the future of bus services locally - if anyone wishes to respond here is the link:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/policies-plans-consultations/roads-and-transport-consultations/future-bus-review>

Evening of Lights – 12th and 13th December

You are invited to come to one of the Evening of Lights when St Martin's will be lit with candles and the Christmas tree lights. These evenings offer a quiet space for remembering people close to you, and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. We hope to be able to offer you a hot drink (tea, coffee or hot chocolate) before you leave. The dates are

Monday 12 December	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday 13 December	6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

There will also be an Evening of Lights at St Stephen's, Langley Vale, on Wednesday 15th December 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you very much in advance from the Events Team – Alyson, Cathy, Mary and Nancy - for all the great goods provided and all the offers of help that will make/ made the Christmas Fair a success. We will let you know how much we raised as soon as possible.

Thank you from the Events Team

ADVENT CALENDARS AND CANDLES

This Sunday will be last Sunday that Advent Calendars and Advent Candles will be on sale! Please make your purchases as soon as possible so that you are not disappointed!

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.

Thank you.

Mary Holloway-Neville

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, Custard
Gravy granules, Instant coffee - 100g jars
Chocolate spread, Dog food, Crisps (multipacks)

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 - December

Home Mission

The Church Army

The Church Army - activating positive change through Faith, Words, and Action. A Mission focused community within the Anglican Church, positively affecting lives. Prayerfully— Expectant— and Generous.

Please take a look at the Mission Board and hold them in your Prayers.

Jill Chapman

Mission Abroad

Alex's Medical and Educational Clinic in Africa (AMECA). Founded in 2006 by Ruth Markus, in memory of her only child Alex. AMECA is committed to healthcare delivery, training healthcare professionals and to healthcare education in Malawi through sustainable initiatives. A maternity unit has been completed and in 2022 training undertaken by the key staff has led to more than 85% of all women being scanned during their first antenatal visit.

Meg Topley

EPSOM CHORAL SOCIETY

Centenary Year Concert

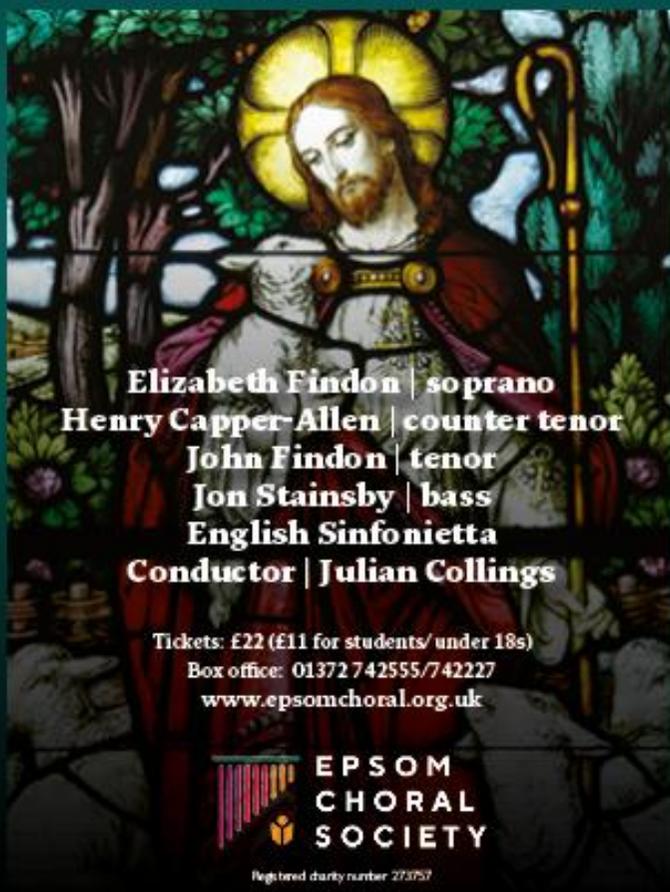
HANDEL'S MESSIAH

on

Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 7.30pm

at Epsom Playhouse

Ashley Avenue, Epsom KT18 5AL



Elizabeth Findon | soprano
Henry Capper-Allen | counter tenor
John Findon | tenor
Jon Stainsby | bass
English Sinfonietta
Conductor | Julian Collings

Tickets: £22 (£11 for students/under 18s)

Box office: 01372 742555/742227

www.epsomchoral.org.uk



EPSOM
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Registered charity number 273757



Epsom Rotary Christmas Collections

Santa is back and will be visiting Epsom again this Christmas! Epsom Rotary Club and Tilly the Train will be helping Santa collect money for local charities. If you have been good, Santa may have something for you in his sack! All children in the areas below will need to keep ears pinned back for Christmas carols and eyes open to see Tilly lit up like a Christmas tree. Just see whether Santa has a gift for you.



Santa will be knocking on doors on	
Monday 5th Dec.	Wells Estate
Tuesday 6th Dec.	College Ward
Wednesday 7th Dec.	Livingstone/Horton
Monday 12th Dec.	Langley Vale
Tuesday 13th Dec.	Hookfield
Monday 19th Dec.	Mospsey Crescent
Tuesday 20th Dec.	Woodcote

Santa will start his visits at 5.30 pm
Watch him on his round at sleightracker.co.uk

Epsom Rotary is collecting for local good causes in Epsom and Ewell and we'd be grateful for your support.

You can see who we help on our web site epsomrotary.uk. Gifts can be made on-line or by text at any time, and by card or cash on the collection night.



If you are a wiz with your mobile then use the QR code to make a donation

Just go to justgiving.com/campaign/tilly22 and give us a few pounds and we will help local charities to survive in these difficult times or Text TILLY to 70450 to donate £5



Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

Sign up for Walk the Wey

and help the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our diocese

Sponsored walk 7th January 2023

Bishop Andrew and Bishop Jo are inviting you to Walk the Wey to Guildford to help the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our diocese. The last walk raised £4,300 for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund, which provides funds for parish projects that help the disadvantaged and vulnerable. They would love your help this year so that the Fund can support more community projects.

Bishop Andrew and Bishop Jo will be walking the Wey Navigation tow path on Saturday 7th January with walk options of 6 or 12 miles starting either in Godalming, West Byfleet or Send.

During the past year the Fund has provided funds to help, among others, St Martin's, Old Dean, Camberley launch a community breakfast scheme in an area of high deprivation, keep Andy's Café at St Andrew's, Goldworth Park serving the community while it recovered from lockdown and set up a support group for new mothers at St Mark's, Great Tattenhams.

To find out more about the walk and how to donate to the Fund please [click on this link](#). To register an interest in taking part contact claire.isherwood@cofeguildford.org.uk giving your name, parish, mobile number and likely starting point.

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:

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