



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER 2023

HARVEST



Not many of us plough the fields in Epsom, but all of us rely on people who do plough the fields and scatter the good seeds because they produce our food. At this time of year we give thanks for our precious environment, which gives us life and sustains us, and we give thanks for all those people whose labours provide the fuel which keeps us alive.

The Vicar

THIS SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER HARVEST FESTIVAL

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion

4.00pm GRAVETALK:

This is a relaxed way to chat about death, dying and funerals over tea and cake, using GraveTalk cards, with questions such as:

- If you knew this was your last day of life, what would you do?
- If you were planning your funeral, what would you include?
- What does it mean to have a 'good death'?
- Do come along and join us for good conversation and cake at the back of St Martin's.

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Harvest Festival



Our harvest celebrations reflect on God's generosity to us, so we are asking for a generous response to our harvest giving. Harvest gifts will be donated to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank, so please look at the list in

this Newsletter for the items being asked for. You can bring your gifts and leave at the back of church at any time before Sunday 1st October, or on the day.

Tuesday 3rd October

11.00am Contemplative Prayer group n Lady Chapel

All are most welcome for an hour or so of quiet and some led material. Our starting point will be Luke 6.38: *'... for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'* The same material will be used for Prayer on 'Zoom' on Thursday, October 19th, at 8 pm - please obtain the link from me. *Adrian Esdaile*

Wednesday 4th October

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Deanery Synod at St John Stoneleigh

Thursday 6th October

5.00pm Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER TRINITY 18

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Choral Mattins

**6.30pm Second Thoughts (see below) - John Padwick
(Tea and cake from 6pm)**

Building bridges with an African religious movement - and its positive results.

John writes: This is the extraordinary story of an African prophet, the pilgrimage he began in 1950 with his followers across the semi-arid country of northern Kenya, and their tragic encounter with a colonial force, which resulted in the loss of many lives and a crippling punishment meted out on the indigenous people. Fifty years later, with my colleagues in Nairobi we were able to visit the surviving followers of the prophet and rebuild relationships. Through a truly Dickensian coincidence, St Martin's Epsom had its own role in the reconciliation. Now, seventy years on, the

prophet's followers have become a quasi-church and play a significant role in the development of the community.

I worked for 40 years in Kenya with the Church Mission Society, initially as a headmaster of a secondary school, and then for over 30 years with African indigenous churches. Like the Kenyan prophet, many of these churches had left the missionary churches during the colonial period in a search for greater political, cultural and spiritual freedom. I returned to the UK in 2010, and am currently a lay minister at St Martin's, and a part-time research tutor at the Oxford Centre of Mission Studies.

Harvest is for life, not just for autumn...

Continuing our current Creation Season theme, I am thinking about how God provides us with food, and how vital the work of farmers is in this. If you like eating, you need farmers to be able to afford to work with the natural world and to produce food! A friend has just sent me information from the veg box company Riverford about a petition to get supermarkets to treat farmers more fairly. "Almost half (49%) of British fruit and veg farmers fear they will go out of business within the next 12 months. 75% report that supermarket behaviour is a leading factor. Farmers live with constant uncertainty; never knowing what they will be paid or when, how much of a crop will be bought, or whether it will be rejected altogether."

Looking after the land is long term work, work God put people in the world for. Stability is especially important to be able to shift towards more environment-friendly, sustainable farming methods. Can you help? Can you read / watch the information? Sign the petition? Pray? Buy at least some food direct from farmers? Write to your MP about the importance of keeping food farming alive?

https://getfairaboutfarming.co.uk/?utm_campaign=Brand+Campaign+21+09+2023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Master+Riverford+Customers#charter

(If you don't like clicking links in newsletters, you can find this by going to the Riverford website, choosing the 'about Riverford' tab, then clicking on 'get fair about farming'.) I'm always happy to chat about using a veg box, and to hear tips from others about fair food.

With love, and with best wishes for happy eating,
Helen Williams

An outing to West Horsley

If you are feeling arty and would like an excuse to visit West Horsley Place (amazing enough on its own, and known for its summer opera, and starring role in 'Ghosts'), Surrey Wildlife Trust will be hosting the Surrey Hedgerow Festival there: 'the county's - and perhaps the country's - very first hedgerow-themed music and arts festival'. It's happening on 21st October and you can buy tickets (free for children, £5 for adults) for the morning or the afternoon. <https://www.westhorsleyplace.org/event/surrey-hedgerow-festival> 01483 282032.

479 bus goes past the door, and if you want to combine it with a nice walk, Horsley Station is nearby.

CHANGE TO CHURCH AVAILABILITY 23rd- 27th OCTOBER

Please note that the Church will be closed whilst recordings are taking place, from Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October inclusive. ***However, the Holy Communion service on Wednesday 25th October will take place as normal, with access through the north door.***

EERN Event : A Taste of Ukraine.

28th October 1900, Dell Centre, Ashtead.

A feast of Ukrainian food and culture delivered by Ukrainian refugees who live in our community. It will be a fun night, with entertainment from some real talented Ukrainians. Tickets are £30 each, bring your own drinks. Private tables are for 8 people or smaller groups will be sharing with other.

Tickets can be reserved via eern@goodcompany.org.uk or call 07432 660653. Money raised will support the work of Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network.

The Refugee network is also urgently looking for accommodation for Ukrainian families who are having to leave their first temporary home. Can you help?

Or do you know anyone who has spare capacity in their home?

Christmas Fair



This year's Christmas Fair is on Saturday November 25th, and we need as much help as possible. The Fair is taking part in the church, and we are setting up on Thursday and Friday 23rd/24th November so if you can help on any of these days please contact

either: Nancy Eggett, 07711 264231, email:

nancy.eggett3@gmail.com or Maureen Suatt, 01372 723675,

07456 988721 email: maureensuatt@virginmedia.com

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS

Now that the summer has passed and we are all beginning to look towards Christmas I have set up my display of cards, advent calendars and candles as well as christmas candles.

There are a wide variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. There are also a lots of Advent Calenders which come with their own envelopes in case if you wish to post them. There are also advent candles in red or cream.

The Christmas candles come in their own glass container with a variety of nativity scenes.

Payment may be made via the below:

- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the “Cards” button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church.

I will keep all items topped up but once a design has sold out, I may not be able to get any further stock. Please ask me if you are looking for something in particular.

All profits for the sale of items goes to help the church.

Thank you for your custom
Mary Holloway-Neville

Phyliss Palmer RIP

Phyl who worshipped at St Martins for over 40 years died this summer at her daughter's house in Kent, she was 101. Her ashes are to be interred in St Martin's Memorial Garden.

Mary Lalle

Mary has moved to North Wales near her son and daughter in law and is settling in well. Her address is: Rhosyn Melyn Care Hoe, Room 35, 1st Floor, Cefn Road, Wrexham, LL13 9NH.

CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

DO you have any news to share? Stories to tell? Seen any good articles to pass on? We would love to have contributions from you - please email any material to the office. Thank you.

Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer is said in St Martin's Church every Thursday at 5.00 p.m. Additionally, ***Evening Prayer on Zoom*** is held throughout the week, Monday – Friday, at 5.00 p.m. It lasts about half an hour. If you are interested in joining us please contact me for further details (link or i/d and password) on mlgilbert88@gmail.com . Alternatively you can speak to me when you see me as I am in Church most Sundays.

You will need to be able to access Zoom, and also the service provided by the Church of England. (Find: Church of England Daily Worship/Join us in a service of Daily Prayer; scroll down and click on 'Evening Prayer', making sure you have selected the correct date.)

Gilbert

Mary

Seed Trays

If you bought plants from me this Spring and still have the seed trays can you return them to the back of Church where I will collect them.

Maureen Suatt

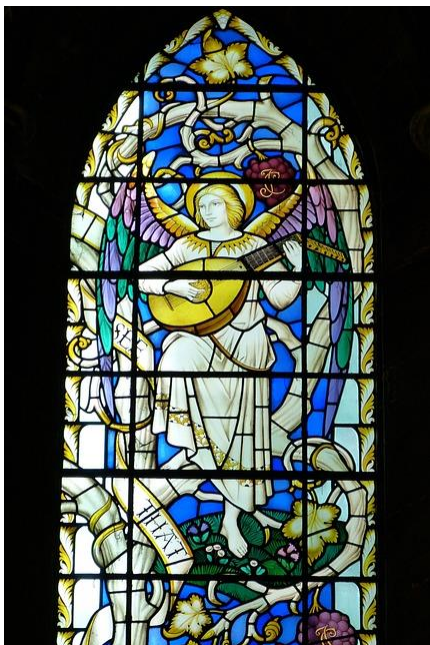
Coffee Rota

We are looking for some more volunteers for the coffee Rota on Sundays.

At the moment it means we do it about every 7 weeks, but the more people on the Rota the less often we are on duty.

If you are interested either speak to me or one of the churchwardens.

Maureen Suatt



Music at St Martin's – Choir members

Choir rehearsals resumed on Friday 1st September. We are especially looking for more sopranos and altos. Rehearsals on Friday nights 8.00pm-9.30pm are open to anyone who'd like to join us for the evening. A warm, friendly welcome is guaranteed. Contact Richard Dacey for more information:

office@stmartinsepsom.org

News from Richard Dacey

Richard has announced that he is retiring from his post as Director of Music. His departure will be a great loss for St Martin's as he has done a remarkable job over the years in developing and leading the musical life of our church. He will continue in his role until Christmas, but we have already begun the work of finding a replacement and to ensure as best we can that St Martin's music can continue to flourish.

David and Sarah, Churchwardens

Autumn Music Recitals

It's time to update your diaries with details of our forthcoming autumn concerts at St Martin's. We've a range of great music to enjoy with a wide variety of composers and musical styles. We're especially excited to welcome back international piano duo Nettle and Markham who will present a programme of Saint-Saëns works for two-pianos on Saturday 14th October prior to recording them in St Martin's later. Our admission by donation policy aims to keep all concerts affordable, so please share this information with family and friends to help maintain and grow our audience. We look forward to seeing you in October.

MISSION OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER

Home Mission

The Church Homeless Trust

One in every 200 people in England are homeless. A very high percentage are young. The Homeless Trust raises funds to help everyone in need regardless of their gender, sexuality, race or religion. The Trust works in conjunction with churches and communities, helping them to move forward with grants and courses to make a new start in life.

Abroad Mission

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 and supporting the training of care professionals through sustainable initiatives. Malawi suffered from a paucity of effectively managed healthcare facilities, equipment and healthcare professionals.

We as a church have welcomed Ruth several times to update the congregation speaking on the progress of all the health clinics and training of health care professionals in Malawi.

Jill Chapman and Meg Topley – Mission

Update on Mission Giving

The time is coming up for the Mission Committee to decide on the annual allocations/donations to be given out on behalf of St. Martin's, which is 10% of received money from the congregation. On the display boards at the back of church are notices with the full list of our allocations - where our money goes. And each month 2 different displays are on HOME and ABROAD Mission projects/causes with more details. We also ask you to include these in your prayers and focus on them. This information is also given out in the notices in church and in the weekly newsletter emailed and available on the website.

Shortly we will be meeting to bring our research together to decide on which allocations would be appropriate/most effective in the right places, depending on our budget.

If you have any thoughts, preferences, points for discussion that you would like to bring to the committee, can you please let us know soon.

Jill Chapman and Meg Topley – Mission



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

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.



3. You can give cash in church
(use the collection plate provided).

Please would you be kind enough to review your giving, and consider whether you are able to increase it? As with everything else, our costs are rising, and as we set budgets for the coming

months, it would be wonderful if to see our giving income rising too. Thank you for all your generosity to our Church. **Nick**

FOOD BANK

This week, we need the following items:

Noodles- Urgent (we have none)
Sugar 1kg and 500g - Urgent (we have none)
Sponge Puddings - Urgent
Cereal - Urgent
Pasta Sauce, Cooking Sauce
Soup - Tinned and Packet
Tinned Sweetcorn, Tinned Fruit
Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayo
Pulses
Biscuits, Honey, Jam
Chocolate treats for adults and children- Urgent
Custard, Rice Pudding
Toilet rolls - Urgent
Deodorant male and female
Shampoo, Conditioner
Shaving Gel/Foam- Urgent, Shower Gel- Urgent

Bags for Life / Very strong bags- we are very low

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 (closed on Bank Holidays)

We always welcome donations and promise to use them to provide help to people in need. Donations will be shared across

[Epsom & Ewell Foodbank](#) and [Epsom Pantry](#). .
We are unable to accept refrigerated or frozen items.

music@StMartin's

AUTUMN CONCERTS 2023

SAT 23 SEP AT 4.30PM

CITY OF LONDON FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

Talented musicians from the City of London Freeman's School open our autumn series with a varied programme of solo and ensemble music for voices and instruments.



SAT 14 OCT at 4.30pm

NETTLE AND MARKHAM PIANO DUO



International piano duo, Nettle and Markham present an exciting concert on their Pleyel Double Piano, prior to their recording of the virtuoso two-piano works of Saint-Saens. Don't miss this opportunity to hear major works of the French duo repertoire, as originally conceived on this very rare, authentic instrument.

SAT 25 NOV at 4.30pm

IAIN MACFARLANE -organ

St Martin's organist, Iain Macfarlane presents a programme of music old and very new with something seasonal and local too, including pieces by J S Bach and Epsom composer, Felton Rapley.



More information at www.stmartinsepsom.org

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, EPSOM KT17 4PX

Registered Charity No 1134149

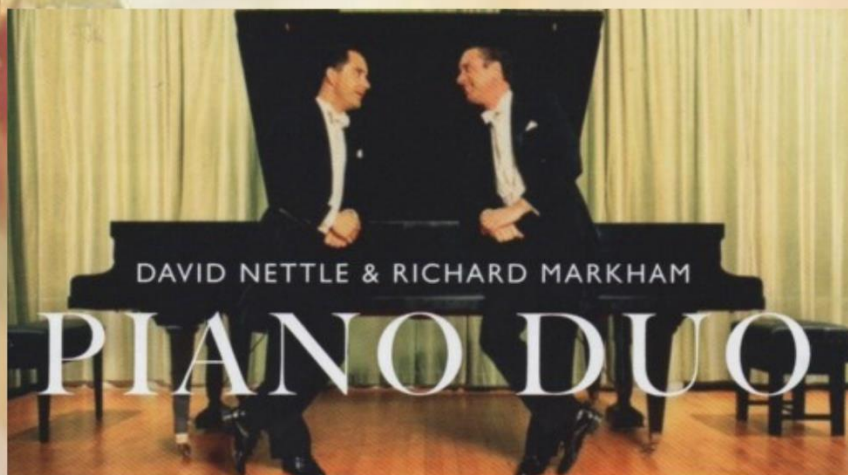
Admission to the concerts is by donation. You can also use our QR code to support the series at any time.



Music@StMartin's

AUTUMN CONCERTS 2023

SAT 14 OCT AT 4.30PM



David Nettle and Richard Markham present a thrilling concert on their 9' 8" Pleyel Double Piano, prior to their recording of the virtuoso two-piano works of Saint-Saëns in St Martin's Church. Don't miss this opportunity to hear major works of the French duo repertoire as originally conceived on this very rare, authentic instrument.

More information at www.stmartinsepsom.org

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, EPSOM KT17 4PX

Registered Charity No 1134149

Admission to the concerts is free.

Suggested donation for this concert £15

Submitting an item for the newsletter:

Please ensure that all items are emailed to the office by 12 pm 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

Please contact clergy and lay ministers via the office.

