



**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

### **ADVENT SUNDAY**



Today, on this first Sunday of Advent, we light one candle – a candle that takes us back to the beginning of our journey which started in darkness until God said 'Let there be light', and there was light, and God saw that the light was good. This candle is the great light dawning for the people walking in darkness. It is the true light, which lightens everyone, coming into the world. As we wake each day in this season of expectation, may every one of us find time to reflect on the true meaning of this light that shines in the darkness that the darkness cannot put out.

***Revd Judith***

## **THIS SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY**

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Advent Carols**

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

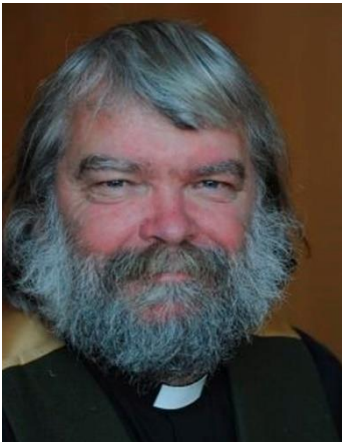
- 10.00am Holy Communion**

## **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

- 5.00pm Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel**
- 7.30pm PCC meeting**

## **NEXT SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Choral Matins at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Second Thoughts –**  
Chris Hyde will illustrate his working life walking with an extraordinary God as an ordinary architect.



## **ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

**Based on Malcolm Guite's set of poems based on the 'O Antiphons', members of the Ministry Team have recorded reflections for the Advent season. These will be placed on both our YouTube channel and Facebook page. These will appear weekly and will be available to watch throughout the season.**

## **Christmas Fair**

Thank you to everybody who helped and came to the Christmas Fair. There was a very happy atmosphere and we were able to raise almost £3000 to go towards the Church. We hope everybody enjoyed it as much as we did.

***Nancy and Maureen***

Thank you to all who donated cakes and biscuits to the cake stall for the Christmas Fair. They were most gratefully received. We sold out, which was brilliant. Also many thanks to Frances and Fiona Stamp who both contributed, and gave sterling help over the whole period.

***Joan Gabbett***

## **Volunteers needed for Epsom Methodist Church Christmas Day Transport**

EMC need people who could transport people coming to their Christmas Day meal at their church. They need drivers who can bring participants to the meal at midday, and take them home again at 4 pm (with no requirement to stay between). If anyone is able to help, please contact Paul and Janet Warren at [pwarren@lineone.net](mailto:pwarren@lineone.net)

## **Christmas Beacon Tea with Carols**

The Christmas Tea will take place on Sunday 10 December at 3– 4.30 pm in church and will include carols round the piano. We shall have cakes, including Christmas cake; mince pies; sandwiches; tea and coffee. Do come! The tea is free but donations are welcome.

***Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook***

## Evening of Lights



You are invited to the **Evening of Lights** at **St Martin's** or **St Stephen's**, Langley Vale. St Martin's will be lit by candles and Christmas tree lights. The evening offers a quiet space for remembering people close to you, and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. Hot drinks will be available.

**St Martin's: Monday 11 December 6 pm – 8 pm**

**St Stephen's: Wednesday 13 December 6 pm – 8 pm**

***Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook***

**Carols in Epsom Hospital: Friday 22 December: 7 – 9 pm**

Churches Together in Epsom and the Hospital Chaplaincy together plan to sing carols around the hospital wards. We will meet at the main hospital entrance on Dorking Road at 7 pm. If you can come and sing, please

email: [handleyhammond@gmail.com](mailto:handleyhammond@gmail.com).

### **Are you impacted by dementia?**

Understanding Dementia Better' is free, online training for family and friends supporting someone with dementia.

This informal session is really practical, offering you strategies, hints, tips and guidance. Click on the link below for more information:kk

[Understanding Dementia Better Training | Dementia Adventure](#)

## **Christmas cards and advent calendars**

For sale in church - a variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. Also, Advent Calendars (which come with their own envelopes in case you wish to post them); 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:

- 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.

***Mary Holloway-Neville***

## **DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS**

### **Home Mission**

In 1957 a young disabled man asked for “opportunity, not pity for disabled people” and they should be given the chance to share in a programme of exciting opportunities on equal terms with non-disabled people. This led to the foundation of PHAB.

Phab grew to provide the services they provide today ; a network of Phab clubs, Clubs on school sites, Holiday projects, and Advocacy partners.

### **Abroad Mission**

Mission Aviation Fellowship

MAF uses light aircraft and technology to reach isolated places and as the only way to reach isolated people in need. MAF believe nothing should stop people from the love of God and the essentials of life . Their vision is to see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ’s name.

***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 Parish***

## FOOD BANK

Thank you to all our wonderful, faithful supporters. Your kindness and generosity are always so appreciated by us, and those we meet in our centres.

We are collecting Christmas goodie bag items, any donation is gratefully received.

**Please donate  
by 8th December**

**Can you help us fill our Christmas goodie bags?**

- ❖ Christmas Cake ❖ Christmas Selection Boxes
- ❖ Savoury Christmas Snacks ❖ Yule Logs
- ❖ Chocolate Chocolate Tubs ❖ Christmas Biscuits
- ❖ Mince Pies \* ❖ Custard ❖ Tinned Ham
- ❖ Packet Stuffing ❖ Christmas Sweets
- ❖ Yorkshire Pudding Mix

*\*We can't give out any items containing alcohol*

Registered charity number 1197493

**This week we need:**

Any items from the list above plus  
Washing up liquid  
Household cleaning products  
Hair conditioner  
Tampons  
Sanitary Towels  
Crisps  
Long Life Juice  
Squash

**We are also in great need of bags for life/ strong  
shopper bags.**

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 Bank Holidays)

Many thanks for all your support - we really do appreciate it!

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about donating food.

Do let us know if you book a supermarket delivery direct to us so we can tell our warehouse team when to expect it.

*We are unable to accept refrigerated or frozen items.*



**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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)**

**Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://www.stmartinsepsom.org)**

**If you would like to be added to our mailing list so that you receive the newsletter and orders of service weekly, please email the parish office.**

**Please contact clergy and lay ministers via the office.**