



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 10th December 2023

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



John the Baptist is the star of our readings this week. A wild figure, who challenged people to turn away from the path of greed and ungodly living, to be baptised in water as a sign of repentance and intention to begin afresh in the way of faith. This Advent, we could all do with a 'deep dive' into our own lives and motivations, how we might change course on the way of faith.

The Vicar

THIS SUNDAY 10th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Choral Matins at St Martin's

3.00pm Beacon Tea with carols

3–4.30 pm in Church, includes 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

6.30pm Second Thoughts –

Chris Hyde will illustrate his working life walking with an extraordinary God as an ordinary architect.

Tuesday 12th December

3.45 for 4.00pm Centering Prayer: 'Be still and know that I am God' Psalm 46:10

We meet every other Tuesday to pray together, in silence, at 4pm with coffee and biscuits from 3.45 **in the Headley Room. This is an invitation to join us.** If you want, we will teach you Centering prayer, but you may already have your own practice. We begin with something to reflect on – perhaps a biblical passage or Psalm.

After our period of silence, we might share something that we have noticed during our time together. Do Join Us – All are welcome.

Any questions please ask Lynne Scholefield or Judith Mitchell – stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com

Wednesday 13th December

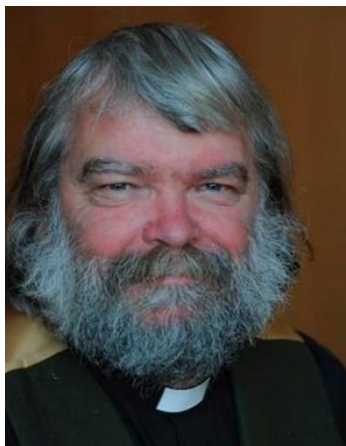
10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 14th December

5.00pm Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY 17th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



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.

Evening of Lights



candle in their memory. Hot drinks will be available.

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

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

Departure of our Director of Music

Richard Dacey is leaving us as Director of Music at Christmas. He has led the Choir at St Martin's with tremendous enthusiasm and expertise and has also ensured the continued success of the Music @ St Martin's concert series on Saturday afternoons. He is going to be sorely missed by the parish in general and, of course, the choristers in particular.

We will be making a presentation to Richard at the 10.00am Sung Communion on 17th December. If you would like to make a contribution towards a gift for him, please come and find me in church or email me: sarahlutton58@gmail.com

Christmas Jumpers for Advent 3

At Sung Communion on 17th December (3rd Sunday in Advent) St Martin's Choir will throw off their robes in favour of Christmas Jumpers in support of Save the Children. So, do please join in and come to church wearing your brightest and best festive woolly.



You can donate via: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>

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

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 7pm. If you can come and sing, please email: 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](#)

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

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



LOVE ME LOVE MY MIND—Is a Registered Charity based in Epsom which aims to promote better understanding of Mental Health and to support the wellbeing of everyone in the Community.

It is run entirely by volunteers and Funded by Grants and Donations

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.

Epsom & Ewell foodbank
part of good company

**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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PCC

At our PCC meeting this week, it was decided:

1. To sell the John Chandler Hall for residential development. The hall has been leased to a nursery for some years, but that lease expires in Spring 2024, resulting in a loss of £50,000 a year in income. Leasing again has proved unfeasible, as the hall is in poor repair, and so a sale for new homes seemed the best way forward. At the same time, we could enable the scouts to expand their facilities at the back of the site. The Hall is in a conservation zone, so the outward appearance would be maintained. Lots of considerations along the way to completion, but this is the direction of travel agreed to.
2. To go ahead with external repair works to Church House. Windows, rainwater goods, yard and frontal drainage all need attention. The monies for these works have been earmarked from a legacy received a while ago. Hopefully works can begin in 2024.
3. To automate the winding of the bell tower clock. Two people are required to make considerable physical effort currently, these being two people from the bell ringing team. Grants will be sought towards the cost.
4. To purchase a defibrillator for Church (with 50% grant funding).
5. To agree a form of words for a free-standing information notice to go by the Brathwaite memorial, explaining the links to the slave trade. PCC had already agreed to erect a memorial to those people enslaved, and this will help

visitors understand more about the relevant history of slavery and the reason for the new memorial.

6. To adopt a Parish Environmental Policy. This will be displayed in Church in due course. Helen Williams is our eco-champion and can give people more details and background information.

Other matters from the meeting:

- David Eggett will be standing down as Churchwarden from next year's APCM. The process of finding a new warden will begin in the new year, but do pray for candidates to come forward.
- The process of appointing a new Director of Music is ongoing, with interviews planned for early January.
- Our Health and Safety policy is being updated, in particular the procedure for reporting accidents. More to follow on this.
- A brochure of study, fellowship and prayer groups for 2024 is being produced.
- Finally, a reminder that all PCC and committee minutes are posted on our website, and physical copies placed in Church. I am aware that this has fallen behind this year, for which my apologies, but it will be updated very soon. **Nick Parish**

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:

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KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567

E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org

Website: 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.