



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2024

EPIPHANY



The three astronomers, or Magi, followed the star to find the infant Jesus. They were outsiders, from a different country. Were they royalty? The Bible doesn't say, but they definitely represent how those outside the 'community of faith' often recognise Christ when those 'inside' don't. Most of us have had our revelation of Christ, perhaps we need a revelation of his appeal to those on the outside?

The Vicar

Sunday 7th January EPIPHANY

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at Stephen's**
- 10.00am Sung Communion at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

Tuesday 9th January

- 11.15am Funeral of Joan Leist**

Wednesday 10th January

- 10.00am Holy Communion**

Thursday 11th January

- 5.00pm Evening Prayer**

Sunday 14th January EPIPHANY 2

- 8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's**
- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's**

LIVESTREAMING OVER CHRISTMAS

The Church suffered a power failure on the morning of Christmas Eve, which wasn't rectified until the afternoon of Christmas Day. As well as having to relocate services to the hall, this meant we were unable to stream the services online. This was extremely unfortunate, and our sincere apologies to those affected. We will do all we can to ensure our system is robust as possible to minimise disruption, but on this occasion the fault was a failure of supply that needed UK Power to replace a part, and there was nothing we could do until that was replaced.

Second Thoughts

Sunday 14th January, 6.30pm

'Prison. A waste of time?' Jean Watson

The media and statistics paint a dismal picture of what goes on in prison. To be a Minister of Justice or Minister of Prisons can be a poison chalice. To be Inspector of Prisons is not a job for the faint hearted. For most of the electorate, spending money on those convicted of a criminal act is not a vote winner.

But all is not bad. Behind the walls and barbed wire there is much good work going on by officers walking the landings 'on the front line', courageous Governors and staff and by a myriad of charities and organisations who have the welfare of prisoners at heart. The prison service would be in a worse state without them.

Prison Fellowship is one such organisation. Based on prayer it supports the work of prison chaplaincies, with pastoral support, Bible Studies, projects helping prisoners to stay connected with their families and helping prisoners to take responsibility for the damage caused by their crime. This particular initiative is known as The Sycamore Tree Project and deals with the harm caused by crime to victims, families and communities and aims to bring about reconciliation. This is known as Restorative Justice.

I am a member of Prison Fellowship and have been a volunteer delivering the Sycamore Tree project in several London Prisons. I have also been a member of the Chaplaincy Teams at HMP's Downview and High Down.

I have been a teacher of Religious Studies in local schools including Nonsuch High School and Glyn School where I spent many happy years.

Joan Leist's Funeral

As some of you may be aware, Joan Leist, longstanding member of our congregation, died at the age of 102 at the end of November. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 9 January at 11.15 am at St Martin's followed by committal at Northeast Surrey Crematorium at 12.40 pm.

Revd Judith

Margaret Beckwith RIP

For those of you who remember Margaret, she'd been suffering from dementia for the past 6 years and was in a nursing home. She passed peacefully away on 28 December, aged 96, her daughter Catherine with her. We first met Margaret when we came back to the UK from overseas in 1976, and she and her husband John could not have been more welcoming, loaning us all manner of crockery and furniture until such time as our own arrived. We remained firm friends from then on. When we first met Margaret and John, John went to St Barnabas and Margaret to the United Reformed Church, but shortly afterwards they decided to go to church together, to St Martin's, which they continued to do until they moved to Totnes around 1992 to be near their married daughter Catherine. Whilst at St Martin's, Margaret hosted Bible Study Groups and also helped out at the church fairs. Our condolences to Catherine and husband Matthew, their son Tim and daughter Rachel, and to David and wife Liz and their son Harri.

Joan Gabbett

Tools with a Mission

For the weekend of the 6th - 7th January 10am - 4pm ONLY the Methodist Church will be collecting old hand tools that may be lurking in your cupboards or sheds and that could be given to TOOLS WITH A MISSION. (WWW.TWAM.UK) These will be refurbished and sent out to Africa.

This is a 'one-off' collection and it's important that NO tools are left in the lobby or taken to the office and NO electrical tools please.

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar - JANUARY

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator. Further ideas can be found at arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email:

arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

Helen Williams



You are invited to Coffee, Fellowship and Prayer. We next meet on Friday, January 12th, from 10-11am at the [Old Moat Garden Centre Cafe, Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8PQ](#). All are very welcome.

JANUARY MISSION FOCUS

HOME MISSION

Epsom and Ewell Foodbank

Opened in 2012 and fed more than 2,600 in 2017 and the need has been growing ever since. They are working to stop hunger in our area working together with the Community, Churches, Agencies, Businesses and Schools.

ABROAD MISSION

The Leprosy Mission

Leprosy thought to be the World's oldest Disease is still common in Countries where poverty is rife.

It can lead to isolation and rejection from families and communities, despite being entirely curable.

There are ¼ million new cases of Leprosy recorded each year. Treatment is vital to prevent disabilities that have devastating effects.

The Mission works to defeat leprosy and transform lives.

Please pray for them and take a look at the Display boards at the back of Church.

Jill Chapman, Mission



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).



New year is a good time to reflect on our stewardship. If you are not a regular giver, please consider making a regular donation to the work of the Church. And provided you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your contributions.

Thank you.

FOOD BANK This week we need:

Jars of pasta sauce, Jars of cooking sauce
Tinned fruit, Tinned fish, Tinned meat, Tinned spaghetti
Tea bags
Honey, Long life sponge puddings, Custard
Longlife juice
Ketchup
Loo rolls, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner
Shaving gel / foam, Toothpaste adult
Nappies 5+, 6

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)

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. This ensures your donations go to help people who use our services wherever they are.

Donations can also be made if you prefer by texting any amount between £1 and £20 followed by your chosen amount to 70450. If you wish to donate a larger amount please e-mail us.

foodbank@goodcompany.org.uk

Explore the meaning of life **together**

Being With: *a course exploring Christian faith and life, developed by St Martin-in-the-Fields (being-with.org).*

If you are looking for an opportunity to discover more about Christianity – or to take another look, having been away for a while – you may like to join a group starting in March 2024 called **Being With**. This offers a chance to explore what Christianity is really about over ten sessions in a respectful and thoughtful setting. No special knowledge or religious language needed. Just what you have learned in life so far.

Being With is about sharing stories about our lives and hearing the stories of others. These stories are the small things that mean a lot to us and they can also be the most challenging and life-changing moments of our lives. **Being With** invites you to discover faith in the context of discovering friendship.

Starts Tuesday 12 March 7.30 – 9 pm at St Martin’s Church.
Ten sessions: 12, 19, 26 March. 2, 16, 30 April. 7, 14, 21, 28 May.

Contact revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org for more details.

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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.