

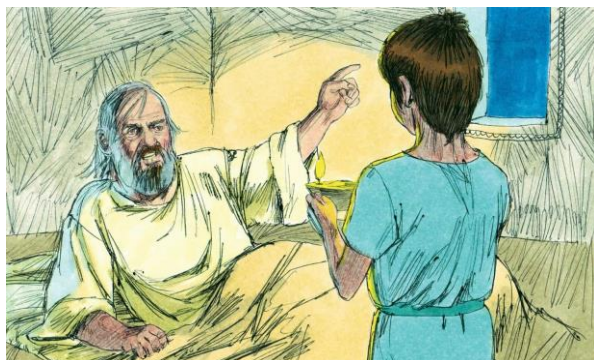


Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2024

EPIPHANY 2



The story of the calling of Samuel at a young age has much in it – a child hears God’s call, but the old man takes a while (and being woken up a few times) to understand. Maybe children are more tuned in because life hasn’t taught them yet how to be cynical, or worry about what others think of them. As Jesus said, we need to be like little children in our spirits.

The Vicar

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:

'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.

Tuesday 16th January

4.00pm Take Time To Talk – Epiphany (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in the Headley room)

Did you take your Christmas decorations down on Twelfth Night? What do you know about first footing and Hogmanay? What does it mean to go 'awassailing'? How do you understand Epiphany?

Following a short introduction to the topic we will reflect, talk, and listen, remembering that in this sort of exploration, questions are more important than answers.

Everyone is welcome to come along - just turn up. If you want to know more, please ask me.

Lynne Scholefield

Wednesday 17th January

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Standing and Finance Committee

Thursday 18th January

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 20th January

4.30pm St Martin's Concert Series:

Music Scholars of Epsom College

We're delighted to welcome yet more of the musical talent that is being nurtured at Epsom College. These young scholars, whose skills are being honed under Director of Music Paul Johnson-Hyde, will perform a range of solos and ensembles. So do come to support, to admire and to be inspired. Admission by donation.

There will be further concerts in the series, but following Richard Dacey's departure, please bear with us as it may take a while to get further concerts planned.

Sarah Lutton

Sunday 21st January EPIPHANY 3

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion (and anointing) at St Martin's

3.00pm Churches in Epsom unity service at St Joseph's
Churches Together in Epsom warmly invites you to attend the Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, hosted by St Joseph's Church, The booklet containing prayers and readings for each day of the week from 18-25 January is available on the [CTiE web site](#)

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

CHURCH OFFICE OPENING

The hours remain unchanged (9.30am-12.30pm, Mon-Fri) but the Office will only be **open to visitors and enquiries in person on Mon, Wed and Fri.** If you need to contact the Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, please email any enquiries to office@stmartinsepsom.org, or leave a note in the post box outside Church House. Thank you. ***David Eggett & Sarah Lutton***

Food Bank

Last Sunday Jill highlighted the Epsom & Ewell Food Bank as one of the charities we're supporting. It would be great if the boxes at the back of the church can be full again by the end of January. So, if you are able to, please be generous with your donations and I'll happily deliver them. ***Sarah Lutton***

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*

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 is 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 cooking sauce (not just pasta sauce)

Tinned fruit

Tinned spaghetti

Jam

Long life sponge puddings

Long life juice

UHT milk - full fat and semi

Powdered milk

Sugar (500g bags)

Cereal bars

Loo rolls

Shampoo
Shaving gel / foam
Toothpaste adult
Single Adult toothbrushes
Washing up liquid
Washing powder
Nappies 5+ and 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).

Please ensure donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol.

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

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.

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.

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.

Parish Office:

The parish office is open from 9.30am – 12.30pm every

Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Church House, Church Street, Epsom,

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.

Music @ St Martin's

YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM EPSOM COLLEGE

Saturday 20th January - 4.30pm

Epsom College is known for its exceptional musicians, who have become an annual highlight of the series. Their performance is a showcase of the solo and ensemble music that they are currently studying.

Epsom College is a place where young musicians can thrive, and the annual performance series is a testament to the talent, hard work, and dedication of these exceptional students.



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



More information at
www.stmartinsepsom.org

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, EPSOM KT17 4PX

Registered Charity No 1134149

