

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 28th JANUARY 2024

CANDLEMAS



This beautiful image, by Chris Koelle, portrays the prophet Anna, holding the infant Jesus in the temple. The contrast of old age and newly born is a moving one – the stark reality of the circle of life and death can be painful, and yet the hope for the future in the picture is something beyond our mortality, something eternal in which all of us are bound in God's plan.

Nick Parish (The Vicar)

DIARY

Sunday 28th January CANDLEMAS

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's
10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
6.30pm Holy Communion at St Martin's

Monday 29th January

7.30pm 59a Burgh Heath Rd: Pilgrim Course: The Creeds

The Pilgrim group meets on Monday evenings and will be exploring the Creeds in the weeks before Easter. Please contact Graeme on graemelodge@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in joining this group.

Tuesday 30th January

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

The last in our series of discussions around the winter season and its festivals.

February 2nd is Brigid's day, Candlemas and Imbolc. The different strands of this this day, and its eve the night before, have woven together in a way that is now hard to separate. In a month that is still dark and cold, one of the themes is light and people would bring candles to church to be blessed. What resonates for you in this time?

Following a short introduction to the topic we will reflect, talk, tell stories 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 31st January
10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 1st February
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 4th February EPIPHANY 5
9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Churches Together in Epsom: Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend the CTiE AGM and Council meeting, to be held at Epsom Baptist Church Parish Hall on Wednesday February 7th at 19:55. [Please click here for the meetings' Agenda](#). Refreshments and Fellowship from 19:30.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

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

MUSIC AT ST MARTIN'S

17th February 4.30pm - Iain Macfarlane. As our 'resident' organist, Iain is best placed to get the most out of the superb Norman & Beard instrument which he knows so well. His programme includes Bach's Prelude and Fugue BWV543 (known as the 'Great A minor') a sonata by Josef Rheinberger, who was a contemporary of Brahms, and music by Charles Villiers Stanford who died 100 years ago this spring. Admission by donation

Future Music @ St Martin's dates for your diary:

20 April – Red House Rhythm and Blues Duo.

The Revds Chris Hollingshurst and Danny Wignall, when not busy with their roles working for the Guildford Diocese, form a highly respected and entertaining musical duo.

25 May - Georgia Morse Piano Quartet.

We welcome cellist Georgia back to the series, this time with fellow musicians for a concert of chamber music.

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to our Church

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

The Epsom & Ewell Food Bank as one of the local charities we support. The boxes at the back of the church are filling up nicely but it would be great that by this Sunday they are overflowing with donated goods. So, if you are able to, please bring along any of the much-needed items on the list and I'll deliver them during the week.

Sarah Lutton

FOOD BANK

This week we need:

Tinned meat
Longlife Juice (we have none)
Squash (we have none)
Sugar 500g bags (we have none)
Dog Food (we have none)
Tinned veg
Tinned Fruit
Powdered milk
Chocolate biscuit bars such as penguins etc
Shampoo / conditioner
Deodorant both male and female
Washing Powder- Non Bio
Single Toothbrushes adult
Washing up liquid
Nappies 5+
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).

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

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

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*

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Following the annual meeting in May, we shall need a new Churchwarden (to replace David) and a new adult safeguarding officer (to replace Howard). Please prayerfully consider if these are roles that you might be called to.

There are also many other roles, practical and administrative, that keep our Church community going, so if you feel you can be part of that, then do talk to me about what you could offer.

Thank you

Nick Parish

A prayer for service:

Jesus, fill me with the love and gratitude for Your church. Cause this gratitude that You're working within me to produce an intentional investment of prayer and time into Your people. May love for the church will produce servanthood among Your people. Amen

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.

COMMUNITY



nsdas

For life free of abuse, fear & oppression
North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service

NORTH SURREY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

Serving Epsom and Ewell, Elmbridge, Spelthorne

www.nsdas.org.uk

HOW CAN WE HELP?

We are here to listen, believe and support you. We are a safe place to talk through your experiences, your needs and your options.

Email: nsdas@caew.org.uk

Phone: 01932 260690

In an emergency always dial 999

We are open: Monday to Friday 9.30 – 16.00

We have a 24-hour answerphone which operates outside office hours and also during office hours should we be unable to answer the telephone. If the phone is unanswered, please leave a short clear message with safe contact details and we will ring you back.

We know that no situation is the same and everyone is at a different stage in their journey, so wherever you are, we can provide emotional support and, if you are not ready to leave, we can give practical advice around safety at home.

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.