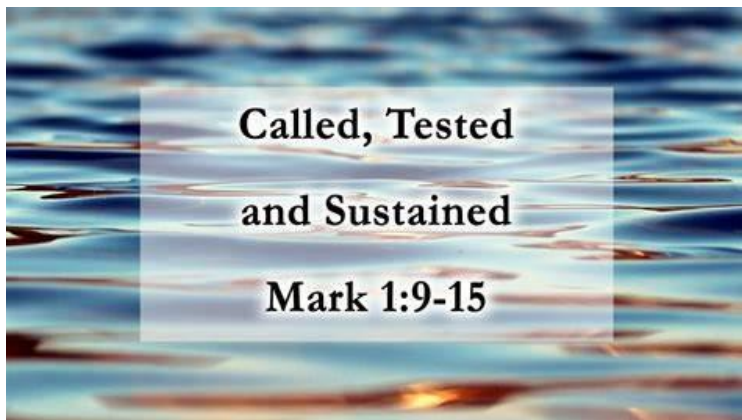




Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2024



Christ is sent into the wilderness by the Spirit as soon as he had been baptised. Having been called, he is tested with temptations, but is sustained in his ordeal by the Spirit. It sets a pattern for all of us who feel called to some form of service. Essential to beginning the journey is having trust in both our sense of calling and that we will be sustained when tested.

It's also a delight to welcome Canon Dr Peter Sills as guest preacher at 10am – the author of our Lent study book, 'Six steps to the Bible.'

Nick Parish (The Vicar).

DIARY

Saturday 17th February

4.30pm – Recital: 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.

Sunday 18th February LENT 1

- 9.30am** **Morning Prayer at St Stephen's**
10.00am **Holy Communion at St Martin's**
 Guest preacher: Canon Dr. Peter Sills
- 4.00pm** **Six Steps to the Bible Lent Course**
 In the Lady Chapel
- 6.30pm** **Choral Evensong at St Martin's**

Church House:

On **Monday 19th February** the long-planned repair and restoration work will begin on Church House. The work will continue for about 10 weeks. Access to Church House will be restricted during working hours on weekdays, so if you need to communicate with the office, **please don't visit in person**. Instead, contact the office at office@stmartinsepsom.org or on 01372 722567.

Tuesday 20th February

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 – stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com

Wednesday 21st February

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm PCC

Sunday 25th February Lent 2

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Morning Prayer

4.00pm Six steps to the Bible

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Margaret MacLean R.I.P.

Margaret, who had been a long time member of our Church family until moving to Yorkshire with family, died last Tuesday. She was a member of the Mother's Union, a regular at the midweek service and fellowship and much loved by all who knew her. If anyone would like family details to send a card, please talk to Mary Gilbert. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Prayer is the foundation of God's kingdom and a powerful tool. It underpins everything we do. We can work as hard as we are able, generating lots of activity and exerting much effort in our discipleship and mission, but without prayer much is in vain. The gift of prayer is that all of us, however limited we may be physically, or in the time we have available, can play our part.

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 18th

Vocations to Ministry, ordained and lay. Churches Together in Epsom: Russell Holding (Chair); Revd Judith (Secretary). Our Missions: AMECA (for Malawi, Epsom based). Those living and working in Langley Close, Langley Vale Road, Links Road and Lintons Lane.

Monday 19th

Our Home Communion Team and those to whom they take Communion. Our Flower-Arranging Team: Yvonne Parish. Staff at local Citizens' Advice Bureau, Age Concern and Job Centre. All those seeking their help and/or in need of work. Those living and working in Longdown Lane South, Longdown Road, Lynwood Avenue, Lynwood Road, Mannamead, Mannamead Close, Middle Close and Middle Lane.

Tuesday 20th

Our Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett. Our Eco Church Team: Helen Williams. Our Missions: Church Homeless Charity. Those living and working in Milburn Walk, Mill Road, Millers Copse, Milton Gardens and Mospey Crescent.

Wednesday 21st

Our vision and work for Social and Racial Justice. Our Readers and Intercessors. Local schools and nursery schools. Those living and working in Oak Hill, Oakmead Green, Old Barn Road, Pikes Hill and Pine Hill.

Thursday 22nd

All who offer welcome and hospitality and serve refreshments at our churches. Those to be married in our churches. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those living and working in Pitt Road, Portland Place, Prospect Place, Providence Place and Randolph Road.

Friday 23rd

Our Electoral Roll Officer: John Aronson. Our Church Cleaners. Local doctors' surgeries. Those living and working in Richmond Close, Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery Road, Sadlers Way and South Street.

Saturday 24th

Those recently confirmed and their growing relationship with God. Preparation for future baptism and confirmation. All who enter St Martin's in the week and pass through our garden. Our Missions: Church Army. Those living and working in Spencer Close, Squirrels Way, St George's Gardens, St James' Close, St Martin's Avenue and St Martin's Close.

Save the Date - an invitation to our local synagogue

25 April 2024, 6.30 for 7.00 pm

Wimbledon Synagogue

Queensmere Road SW19 5QD

They say, "We would like to invite you to a 'model' Pesach (Passover)

To include an explanation, exploration and a traditional Pesach meal."

Please tell Lynne Scholefield if you would like to go.

Christmas is coming...

Yes, it's not even spring yet, but bear with us. When we used the church for last year's Christmas Fair instead of Church House, it worked really well and there was a lovely festive atmosphere. A date for this year's Fair in the church, Saturday 30th November, is in the diary. However, we need someone to co-ordinate the event. Is this something you can do? If so, speak to the churchwardens, Sarah or David.

A note from Jane Norris

Thank you for all the cards and messages of support during my time in hospital. It is much appreciated.

MUSIC AT ST MARTIN'S

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S - Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm
Future 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.

11 May: Schubert Mass in G performed by students of Epsom College.

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.

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FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS

HOME MISSION



My-TIME - Young Carers in Epsom and Ewell

Young Carers are often forgotten people as they are not obvious in Society. They can be anyone, from a very young age who supports someone in their own family in multiple roles. In their isolated situations they need support in

order to cope.

My Time for Young Carers is a charity-relying on enough volunteers to provide activities outside of the home, to mix with others and to take part in fun activities. It is for young Carers between the ages of 7—16 who live locally.

ABROAD MISSION



The Bible Society

The Society is working to circulate the Scriptures across the world, in the church and through the culture. The

strategy of the Bible Society centres on Bible availability, accessibility and credibility- what it calls the 'lifecycle' of the Bible.

Jill Chapman, Mission

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 is 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

Foodbank Wants list

Urgent-Cooking Sauces
Urgent-Sponge Puddings (we have none)
Urgent- Deodorant both male and female
Urgent- Tea
Urgent- Instant Coffee
Urgent- Instant Mash
Urgent- Powdered Milk
Urgent- Long Life Milk
Urgent- Kids toothbrushes and Toothpaste ages 0-2 and 6-8
Urgent- Shampoo and Conditioner
Custard
Mayonnaise
Chocolate Spread
Peanut Butter
Crisps
Vegetarian Tinned Food
Shampoo
Shaving Foam
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.

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

Go green for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, ecofriendly living? Explore some of these changes at arocha.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

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 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.

The Power of Poetry: February

THE POWER OF POETRY



This is a poem by the 17th century priest and poet George Herbert, *Love (III)*, and is one of his more well-known ones.

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lacked anything.*

*“A guest”, I answered, “worthy to be here”:
Love said, “You shall be he.”
“I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on thee.”
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
“Who made the eyes but I?
“Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.”
“And know you not,” says love, “who bore the blame?”
“My dear, then I will serve.”
“You must sit down,” says love, “and taste my meat”.
So I did sit and eat.*

This poem of just three verses encapsulates the nub of what Christian belief means. 'Love', we realise, is God, but by using 'Love' Herbert demonstrates that love is at the heart of the message of the Bible, especially the New Testament, and that God loves us and forgives us all our wrongdoings. The guest feels he is unworthy to enter the house of God and is 'guilty of dust and sin', as are we all, 'dust' leading us back to the fall of Adam in Genesis ("dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return"). In Genesis again, there is an allusion to God's Creation ('who made the eyes but I?'). Then we come to Christ's redemption of us ('.... know you not.... who bore the blame?').

Finally, in the last line ('So I did sit and eat') we are reminded of the heavenly banquet we are promised in Luke chapter 12, and also the sacrament of the Eucharist which we celebrate regularly. The poem is a masterpiece, using simple, mainly short, words and copies the rhythms of everyday speech. I hope you enjoy it and are tempted to read more of George Herbert's work and about his life. [There is an excellent biography about him called *Music at Midnight* by John Drury, probably out of print, but second-hand copies are available.]

Mary Gilbert



Mother's Day Service

A family service for all

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH
LANGLEY VALE
SUNDAY 10TH MARCH
9.30AM

Refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards

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.

Church Office Opening

The hours remain unchanged (9.30-12.30, Mon-Fri) but the Office will only be open to visitors and enquiries in person on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you need to contact the Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, please telephone (01372 722567), email office@stmartinsepsom.org or leave a note in the postbox outside Church House. Thank you.

David Eggett & Sarah Lutton