



**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2024**



At a time when Christian understandings of the values of life, of people and of ourselves, are in an ever-smaller minority, it is timely to read of Paul's encouragement to the Church in Corinth. Our foolishness in society, he said, is actually the wisdom of God. It is a joy to welcome Rev'd Craig Holmes, as our preacher at 10am on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Craig is responsible for vocations in Guildford diocese, helping people to work out their calling from God and how that might be expressed.

***The Vicar***

## DIARY

### **Saturday 2nd March**

#### **10.00am Lent Vigil for Climate Justice**

Christians have been holding vigil for environmental and climate justice in Lent. Please come and join us this Saturday, 2nd March, at 10am, and each Saturday finishing on the 23rd March. Bring a cushion! **Helen Williams & Lynne Scholefield**

#### **7.00pm Compline**

*'The Burdens Jesus carried on the way to the Cross' – 'The disappointments of his followers' – in the Lady Chapel. Compline will include some meditative music played by Erin Odujinrin on the harp.*



### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Lent 3**

#### **9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's**

#### **10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's**

#### Marmalade and cakes for sale

I will be selling marmalade and lemon drizzle cakes after the 10.00am service on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. All proceeds for Church funds.

**Maureen Suatt**

#### **4.00pm Lent Group in Church – 6 steps to the Bible**

The series continues, this is our third session looking at different perspectives on events, as reflected in society and scripture.

#### **6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

## **Tuesday 5th March**

### **11.00am Contemplative Prayer**

Our Lent contemplative prayer will be the words Jesus spoke in Mark 13 v 31 “My words will not pass away” and John 6 v 63 “the words I have spoken to you are spirit and life” All are welcome.

### **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.

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

### **10.00am Holy Communion**

## **Friday, March 8th**

### **10.00am Churches Together in Epsom (CTiE) Coffee, Fellowship and Prayer.**

We next meet at the [Old Moat Garden Centre Cafe, Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8PQ.](#) All are very welcome.

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

### **7.00pm Compline**

The Burdens Jesus Carried to the Cross - ‘The hopes of God’ –  
**in the Headley Room in Church House.**

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday**

**8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's**

**9.30am Choral Matins at St Stephen's**

**10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's**

**6.30pm Second Thoughts** with refreshments served from  
5.45pm

### **'From barriers to bridges – how to include people with a learning disability.'**

**Dorothy Watson** is the CEO of The Sunnybank Trust and has worked with people with a learning disability for over 15 years. The charity supports people with a learning disability across North East Surrey, supporting them to live without prejudice and have confidence, opportunities and control over their own lives. The charity provides advocacy, clubs and activities, a series of weekly radio shows as well as transition support for young adults who are starting their lives in the adult world. Dorothy will be joined by a couple of Sunnybank partners who use the charity, and will speak about the significant changes that have taken place in society for them as well as the challenges that this community face today.

### **Church House**

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February the long-planned repair and restoration work began 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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org) or on 01372 722567.

## **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.



### **Churches Together in Epsom (CTiE)**

This Good Friday at 10.30am there will be an ecumenical Service of Worship and Praise in Epsom market place, organized by CTiE. This will be followed by family crafts and outreach activities. All are invited.

If you can help in this event, such as in stewarding, crafts, manning the stall, prayer ministry, distributing hot cross buns etc. please email Jane Williams: [jane@ctie.org.uk](mailto:jane@ctie.org.uk).

If you can sing in the choir, brought together to lead the singing in this one event, please email David Williams: [admin@ctie.org.uk](mailto:admin@ctie.org.uk). Rehearsal information is on the [CTiE 'Upcoming Events' webpage](#).

# 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](http://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](mailto:revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org) for more details.

## **PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY**

Prayer is the foundation of God's kingdom and one of the most powerful tools we have. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile, Jean and their family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. Our local public houses, restaurants and shops, and the staff who work in them. The Street Pastors giving help on Friday nights in Epsom. Those living and working in Barn Close, Baron's Hurst, Beaconsfield Place, Beaconsfield Road, Beech Road and Beech Way.

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Our Lay Ministers: Clive Dougal (emeritus), Ruth Foxcroft, John Padwick, Howard Bluett, Graeme Lodge. Our Cathedral: Guildford Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter. Our Missions: The Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network. Those living and working in Birches Close, Bridge Road, Bridle End, Bridle Road and Burgh Heath Road.

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Our Church Wardens: David Eggett and Sarah Lutton. For a successor to David. All users of Church House. Those suffering from drug or alcohol addiction and their families and friends. Those living and working in Burghfield, Caithness Drive and Carter's Road.

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean: Rosemary Donovan. Our Missions: My Time for Young Carers. Those living and working in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**

Our Parish Manager, Church Administrator and Facilities Officer. Those baptised in our churches, past and future, and their families, godparents and sponsors. Swail House and those who are sight impaired. The deaf and hard of hearing. Those living and working in Chantry Hurst, Chartwell Place, Church Road and Church Street.

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. Our Children’s Church: The Ark – Yvonne Parish, the children, the parents and volunteers. Our Missions: The Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Those living and working in Chuters Grove, Clayton Road, College Avenue and College Road.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our Director of Music. Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Sarah Lutton and the Team. The physical, mental and emotional well-being of the people of Epsom and Langley Vale, local mental health units and Love Me Love My Mind (Our Missions). Those living and working in Copse Edge Avenue, Delaporte Close, Denham Road and Depot Road.



## **Books in Church**

The books on the tables in Church are those that have been left over from previous Christmas Fairs and we are trying to dispose of them. There is some evidence that people are adding to them. Please Don't. If you have books you don't want, either take them to a charity shop or keep them until the next Christmas Fair.

***Maureen Suatt***

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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.

## **MARCH MISSION FOCUS**

### **HOME MISSION**

The Medaille Trust—exists to provide refuge and freedom to victims of modern slavery—supporting them as they rebuild their lives. Today they are one of the largest providers of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK. In combating modern slavery by offering safe housing, providing support for victims, raising awareness in communities, and partnering with law enforcement authorities.

***Jill Chapman, Mission***

### **ABROAD MISSION**

#### **Wheels for the World - Through the Roof**

Wheels for the World is a charity program that restores and distributes refurbished wheelchairs to disabled people in developing countries who cannot afford one. The charity sends a team of physiotherapists and occupational therapists to these developing countries to ensure the wheelchairs are fitted professionally and individualized to every wheelchair recipient. Wheels for the World provides life-changing mobility and the hope of the Gospel to people impacted by disability worldwide.

***Meg Topley, 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- Rice Pudding (we have none)  
Urgent- Custard (tinned and packet we have none)  
Urgent- Honey  
Urgent- Sponge Puddings  
Urgent- Peanut Butter  
Urgent- Ketchup  
Urgent- Mayo  
Powdered Milk  
Adult Toothbrushes - (singles please)  
Chocolate Spread  
Vegetarian Tinned Food

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).

## **A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar – March**

Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the [PI@ntNet](#) app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at [arocha.org.uk/](http://arocha.org.uk/) connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/

**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](http://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.*

## LOVE ME LOVE MY MIND – CAN YOU HELP?



Registered charity no: 1177683

Allen Price, Charity Coordinator from Love Me Love My Mind, addressed the recent Churches Together in Epsom meeting on the charity's need for 2-3 new trustees and a new Treasurer.

For 18 years there has been a weekly drop-in at St Barnabas providing a hot meal and support for between 25 to 30 people affected with mental health issues. The charity has also organised the annual mental health week. However, following the sad death of Revd Sue Bull, and much reflection by the LMLMM team, the charity is now focusing on reaching out to people in different ways and will not be continuing the annual mental health week.

They need trustees to help with the governance of the charity (Safeguarding, training and education) and someone to replace their current Treasurer who has served for many years. An interest in mental health wellbeing and, most importantly, a need to care are the criteria required in a trustee. If someone has experience in fundraising, that would be a bonus. Allen spoke of the ripple effect involved in helping one person at LMLMM – friends and families are helped too.

They are turning the Monday drop-in into a Warm Space and also trialling a children's art club at Epsom Social to help children be kind to each other. Allen explained that his own illness began when he was four years old. They are also starting a meet-up on a Thursday from 6 – 8pm for anyone who is lonely, sad, etc. This will be a social haven, a safe place, for people needing some help, with volunteers walking alongside them and growing a community. Sue talked about her hope for this, two days before she died. The plan is, in due course, to expand this to seven days a week.

Please hold LMLMM in your prayers and spread the news of the need for new trustees and a new Treasurer. If you are able to help, please contact Allen: [allen.price@btinternet.com](mailto:allen.price@btinternet.com); 07592 542530.

**Revd Judith**

## The Power of Poetry: March

Today I have chosen something a *little* more recent than the 17<sup>th</sup> century (last month's). I also wanted to choose something relevant to Spring. Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) was arguably one of the most important poets of the Victorian age. His poetry is informed by his love of nature and his deep religious beliefs, which for a time embraced asceticism. He was born into a High-Anglican family but became estranged from them when he converted to Catholicism – this was the time of the Oxford Movement. His family had anticipated that he would become an Anglican priest, but instead he became a Jesuit. So,

*Spring:*

*Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and ring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy pear tree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?  
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning  
In Eden garden. Have, get, before it cloy,  
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,  
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,  
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.*

The first verse seems a relatively straightforward description of aspects of spring. The second dwells on the idea that spiritual reflection rests sometimes in a single moment or occasion. Spring may be a cruel month and a breathtakingly beautiful one,

and it is probably true to say that we all have experienced that moment when we notice, after a grey and unfriendly winter, the clarity of the light, the bright lime green of leaves, the increased activity of birds and their song, and the earliest flowers and blossoms. The poet makes great use of alliteration – “weeds in wheels”, “long and lovely and lush”, “fair their fling”, “this juice and joy” etc. – and his love and knowledge of nature and his power of observation is evident. I especially like the simile of the thrush’s eggs looking like “little low heavens”.



The poem reminds us of course, of the beauties of the earth, before the heedlessness of mankind marred it. And also, of God’s gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, come to us on Earth. I find the language rather complex, whereas February’s poem by George Herbert seemed to me to echo everyday speech, despite Herbert’s being the earlier poem by a couple of centuries. **Mary Gilbert**



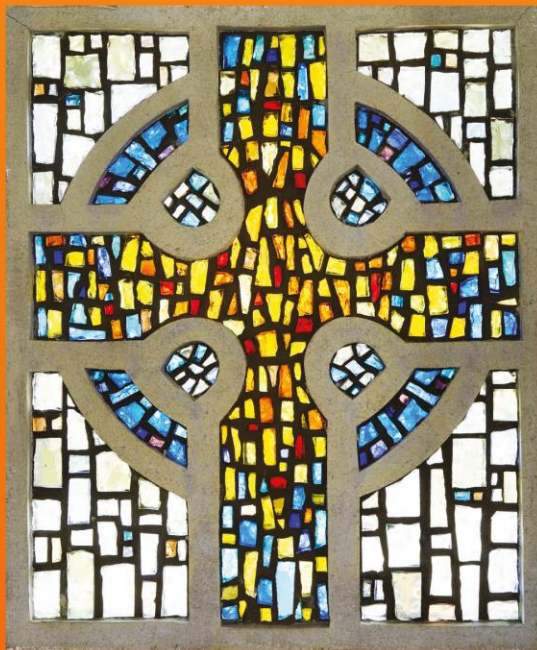
EPSOM CHORAL SOCIETY

# SPRING CONCERT

ENGLISH MUSIC FOR LENT

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm**

St Martin's Parish Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX



**Stainer** | The Crucifixion

**Elgar** | The Spirit of the Lord

**Finzi** | Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice

**Howells** | Like as the Hart

**Ireland** | Greater Love Hath No Man

**Julian Collings** | conductor

**John Findon** | tenor

**Jon Stainsby** | bass

**Peter Jaekel** | organ

Tickets: £20 in advance, £22 on the door (Under 18s free)

Box office: 01372 727078 (Ticket price includes free programme and free glass of wine) | [www.epsomchoral.org.uk](http://www.epsomchoral.org.uk)



Registered charity number 273757



# 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

**Submitting an item for the newsletter:**  
Please ensure that all items are emailed to the office marked  
‘For Newsletter’ in the title the by  
12pm on Wednesday, to be included in the newsletter  
for that week.  
Thank you.

**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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)  
Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org) or leave a note in the postbox  
outside Church House. Thank you.*

***David Eggett & Sarah Lutton***