



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 24th MARCH 2024



DIARY

Saturday 23rd March

10-11am Lent Vigil for Climate Justice at St Martin's

This is the final vigil for climate justice. Please come and join us on Saturday at 10am. Bring a cushion!

Helen Williams, Lynne Scholefield

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Morning Prayer at St Martin's**
- 4.00pm Lent group in the Lady Chapel**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

Monday 25th March

7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 26th March

4.00pm Take Time To Talk – preparing for Easter

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in the Headley room)

This is our final meeting in Lent. Since the eighth century in the British Isles, Easter should be on the Sunday after the first full moon following the Equinox (March 21st). That full moon is on Monday 25th March. How should we be preparing?

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

7.00pm Stations of the Cross

7.30 – 9.30pm 'Being With' at St Martin's

Wednesday 27th March

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Stations of the Cross

8.00pm Holy Communion at St Martin's

Friday 29th March Good Friday

10.30am Ecumenical service in the Market Square

12 – 2pm Guided prayer and reflection at St Martin's

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at St Martin's

2.00pm Hour of Prayer at St Stephen's



Sunday 31st March Easter Day

8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

Save the Date - an invitation to our local synagogue

25 April

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.

New Director of Music

We're very pleased to announce that Stephen Hope will be our new Director of Music. He is currently DoM at St Martin's, Dorking. His first Sunday with us is planned to be 12th May. Since Richard Dacey left at Christmas, our organist Iain has been expertly guiding the choir with the support of Helen and Alyson. Both the churchwardens and the chorister are very grateful to all three for ensuring choral music continues whilst we await Stephen's arrival.

Health and Safety

As the new poster at the back of both our churches says, however careful we are, accidents happen. This is a reminder that if you do have an accident in or around our churches it must be reported to the office. It can help us ensure as far as possible that it doesn't happen again. We also ask that you report any 'near misses' or spot any potential hazards and that if you are likely to be working alone in either of the buildings, that you tell someone where you are.

The Churchwardens

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 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.

Monday 25th

The Vale School: children, parents, the Co-Heads, staff And Governors. Scouts (especially our 3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Group), Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and their leaders. Local refuse collectors, those who deliver the post and other items. Those living and working in Station Approach Stevens Close, Strand Close, Sunnybank, and The Grove.

Tuesday 26th

Our 'Second Thoughts' programme on the second Sunday at 6.30 pm. Education and training in the Parish and future courses. Our Missions: PHAB (bringing together disabled and non-disabled to create an inclusive world). Those living and working in The Hayes, The Oaks, The Parade, The Ridge, The Ridings, Tintagel Close and Treadwell Road.

Wednesday 27th

All involved in planning and leading Family services. Christian Aid and its annual collection in May and the projects it supports. Local prisons and their chaplains: Downview and High Down. Those living and working in Upper High Street, Victoria Place, Warren Hill and Waterloo Road.

Maundy Thursday, 28th

All who are bereaved and grieving, and local funeral directors.

Our young people and teenagers – our vision for the future. Our Missions: USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Those living and working in Westgate Close, Wilmerhatch Lane and Wimborne Close.

Good Friday, 29th

All parents and toddlers. Users of Langley Vale Village Hall: Sean Porter. Care and nursing homes in the Parish. Those in sheltered housing. Those living and working in Woodcote Close, Woodcote End, Woodcote Green Road, Woodcote Hurst, Woodcote Park Road and Woodcote Side.

Easter Eve, 30th

Epsom College, staff and students: Chaplain Andrew Haviland. May all who enter our churches find peace and welcome. Our Missions: Epsom & Ewell Foodbank and the Leprosy Mission. Those living and working in Wootton Close, Worples Road, Wyeths Mews, Wyeths Road, Yeomanry Close and Yew Tree Gardens.

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.



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).

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/ 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 *Helen Williams*

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

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

This week we are in great need of all items (those in red are super urgent!)

Pasta, Noodles , Rice, Cooking sauces
Tinned beans and spaghetti
Tinned vegetables, Tinned fruit
Tinned Fish, Tinned and packet soup
Tinned meat (hot dogs, stew, meatballs etc)
Tinned rice pudding , Custard
Longlife sponge puddings
Ketchup, brown sauce and mayo
Longlife milk (full fat and semi skimmed)
Jam, honey, peanut butter and chocolate spread
Jars of instant coffee
Tea bags, Small bags of sugar
Long Life Juice & Squash
Tinned potatoes , Instant mash
Biscuits
Chocolate biscuit bars (penguins etc)
Crisps
Crackers & savoury snacks
Female & male deodorant
Shaving foam
Shampoo & Conditioner
Toothbrushes & toothpaste (all ages)
Washing up liquid
Washing powder / capsules
Tampons & sanitary towels

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.

The Power of Poetry: March

Today I have chosen something a *little* more recent than the 17th 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**



Introducing a *Wild Church* for Spring 2024

St Martin's, Epsom and Christ Church Epsom Common invite you to:

Join us in exploring what a church that welcomes our other than human creatures we share our lives and community with might be like. Our first session will be on:

Saturday 20th April from 10am until
12noon at St Martin's, Epsom

We would like to encourage ways to relate to nature that develop our own contemplation of creation.

- *Creation* teaches us about our creator
- *Creation* can speak to us about how to care for life beyond ourselves, if we learn to listen
- *Creation* inspires awe. We would like to find ways to express that awe in authentic worship, music, and words



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

**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.