

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

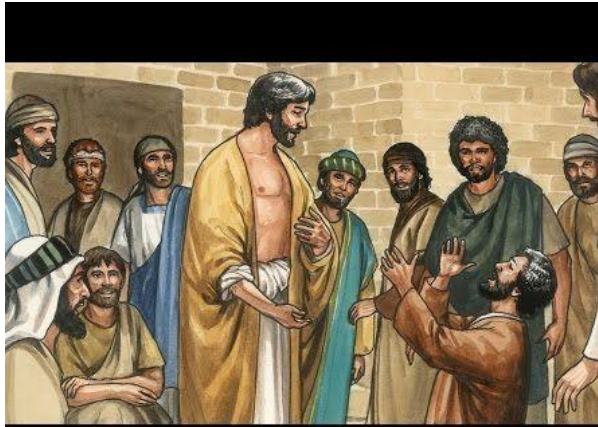
St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2024



Thomas hadn't seen the risen Lord before – and he didn't believe the others that he had come back from the dead. But then he saw him, and was challenged to get his proof by touching his cross induced wounds. He didn't touch them, as he was awed by the offer, and filled with faith. Sometimes we all need a similar experience to renew our faith. Where do you find a sense of awe about Christianity?

Nick Parish, Vicar

DIARY

Sunday 7th April Easter 2

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

Tuesday 9th April

There is no Being With meeting on Tuesday 9th April. The next meeting is on Tuesday 16th April from 7.45pm - 9.15pm in Church.

Wednesday 10th April

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

Friday 12th April

- 9.00am Ministry Team**

Sunday 14th April Easter 3

- 8.30am Holy Communion**
- 9.30am Holy Communion St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Choral Matins**
- 6.30pm Second Thoughts (with refreshments from 5.45pm)**
'Why schools ministry'? - Lisa Bell, Spinnaker Trust

COMMUNION RAIL

Since lockdown, we have removed the rails to avoid people being in close proximity when receiving communion. My sense is that it is now the time is right to replace them and return to kneeling / standing around the rail. Do you have a view? Please let me know your views – either in person or on email (vicar@stmartinsepsom.org). Thank you.

Second thoughts

Lisa writes:

‘Spinnaker promotes wonder and learning in primary school children. Its mission is to inspire engagement with, and exploration of, the Christian faith. Working alongside schools and churches, we ensure that we stay relevant through the shifting priorities in society and education, whilst our mission has remained unchanged since 1986.

During the talk I will look at why Spinnaker believe that Schools ministry is so important; what we are trying to achieve by ministering in schools, and how the local church can be involved in this important mission field’.

Lisa Bell is the youth and children's worker at Epsom Baptist, where she contributes to the spiritual growth and development of young minds. Born in the UK, Lisa's journey took an exciting turn as she lived in South Africa for three decades, immersing herself in diverse cultures and communities. With over 25 years of experience in schools ministry, Lisa brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities that young people face today. Her commitment to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment is evident in her role as the Spinnaker Epsom hub leader, where she leads and coordinates various activities and programmes.

Lisa holds a Bachelor of Theology (BTH) degree. Additionally, she has earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), underscoring her dedication to effective teaching and mentorship.

Message from Jill Chapman

My husband, Tony Chapman, passed away peacefully on 4th March. His celebration and thanksgiving for his life service will be held at St Martin's on Tuesday 23rd April at 12 noon. If you are able to come, please can you wear a touch of colour.

On Friday 26th April there will be a short Interment of his Ashes service at 12 noon in the memorial gardens at St Martin's.

On Sunday 28th April at coffee time, I will bring a 'thank you' cake from Tony and I for your love and friendship over the years.
Thank you, Jill.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

The Electoral Roll is due to be revised on 25 April 2024 and a notice to this effect has been displayed outside both our churches since 28 March 2024. Please check that your name is entered in the current Roll (at the back of St Martin's), or with me by email (aronson_john@hotmail.com). If you are on the Roll and there have been changes to your address or contact details please inform me or the Parish Office. Your full details can be checked in the office. If you are not a member and would like to join please complete an application form available at the back of St Martin's and hand it in to the Parish Office. The Roll will be closed for any new entries from 24 April 2024 until after the Parish AGM on 12 May 2024.

John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer.

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 7th

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.

Monday 8th

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

Tuesday 9th

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.

Wednesday 10th

St Stephen's Church: its life, worship and mission to Langley Vale. Safeguarding in our churches: creating and sustaining a safe welcoming inclusive space for everyone. The Bible Society, Spinnaker Trust (Our Missions) and all those teaching RE locally. Those living and working in Digdens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Thursday 11th

Our Bell-ringing Team and Tower Captain Mike Bale. Our Ministry Team. All local young families. Those living and working in Downs Avenue, Downs Hill Road, Downs Road and Downs Way.

Friday 12th

Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Wheels for the World (Our Missions) and the Sunnybank Trust. Those living and working in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

Saturday 13th

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Didi Steck. Those living locally who are housebound and their carers. Those living and working in Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S

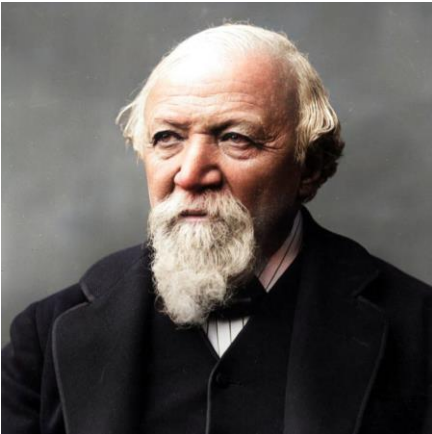
Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. Future dates for your diary:

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.

The Power of Poetry: April



This month I have chosen *Home Thoughts from Abroad* by Robert Browning, which seemed apt for April. It is also straightforwardly descriptive and easy to understand.

*O to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England – now!*

*And after April, when May follows,
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows,
Hark, where my blossom'd pear tree in the hedge
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover
Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent spray's edge –
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew
The buttercups, the little children's dower
– Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!*

Browning was one of the most renowned poets of the Victorian age, and is also remembered for his marriage to Elizabeth Barratt-Browning, in defiance of her father. This poem was in a poetry book that I was given when I was about nine – and I liked it so much I committed it to memory – I always liked poems etc that mentioned flowers, or birds (my favourite hymn at primary school was *Morning has broken*). Browning's poem is easy to appreciate since we don't need to wrestle with metaphors, or metaphysical language, or with theological complexities.

Browning and his wife lived in Italy until Elizabeth died, when he returned to England, and he was evidently a little homesick for England when he wrote this lyrical account of an English spring (rain doesn't seem to feature). I am not sure he would recognise much of England now with so many losses in the countryside – the mighty elms long gone, many more houses and roads, fewer birds, and even where there are birds it is more difficult to hear them in places where we are serenaded by the sound of traffic. His poem gives an idyllic picture, and it also reminds us of climate change: spring this year was somewhat earlier (and damper) than usual – I noticed some trees in blossom soon after Christmas, and the birds have been singing since January. This poem reminds us to use our eyes and ears when we are out and about.

Mary Gilbert

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.



APRIL MISSION FOCUS



The Spinnaker Trust

We prepare, deliver, and distribute resources for Collective Worship and RE lessons, supporting schools and equipping school workers.

Spinnaker promotes Wonder and Learning in primary school children to fulfil its mission of inspiring engagement with, and exploration of the Christian faith. Working alongside schools and churches, they ensure that they stay relevant through the shifting priorities in society and education, whilst their mission remains unchanged since 1986.

Team members love what they do, they love the schools they visit, and they love inspiring children. With wisdom and sensitivity to each school's cultural ethos, assemblies and lessons are delivered with humility and inclusiveness, as they explore the stories in the Bible and how they can help our everyday lives. Spinnaker create space for school children to think through for themselves some of the big questions about God, whether He is there and what He is like. St Martin's is very grateful for Spinnaker's presence in our local schools!

Constantly inspired by their mission, the Spinnaker creative team produce a stream of engaging Worship Assemblies and RE lessons accessible to all, whether delivered in person by a Spinnaker team member, teacher, or via our videos and other digital content. Anyone can visit their website at <https://www.spinnaker.org.uk> to access their extensive range of resources for free!

Please do have a look at the mission board at the back of the pews in church for more details and I would encourage you to keep Spinnaker's work, especially at our local schools, in your prayers this month. ***Sarah Jeffery, Mission and Outreach***

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

Say no to the mow. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals. Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in Churches Count on Nature (8-16 June 2024) at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchescount-on-nature-faqs/.

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

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

This week we are in great need of all the following items:

Urgent- Squash (we have none)
Urgent - Long life Juice (we have none)
Urgent- Female Deodorant (we have none)
Urgent- Shaving Foam (we have none)
Urgent- Powdered Milk
Male Deodorant
Tinned Spaghetti (in tomato sauce)
Vegetarian tinned foods (Mac and cheese etc)
Conditioner
Nappies size 4

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.



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.