



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 14th APRIL 2024

Electoral Roll



Belong



Participate



Contribute

Our annual meeting is next month, and an important part of that is reporting on our 'membership.' This number comes from our electoral roll – please check if you are unsure if you're a member, and if not, please contact the Church Office for an application form. Bureaucracy? Yes, but also a declaration of a desire to be part of our Church and Parish family, actively engaged in our common life.

Nick Parish, Vicar

DIARY

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**

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 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.. 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. 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.

Tuesday 16th April

11.00am Holy Matrimony – Vincent and Maureen Morris

4.00pm Centering Prayer

‘Be still and know that I am God’ Psalm 46:10

We meet in the Headley Room every other Tuesday to pray together, in silence, at 4pm, with tea and biscuits from 3.45.

If you would enjoy some time for silent prayer with others, please come along.

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

7.45pm - 9.15pm *Being With* in Church

Wednesday 17th April

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin’s

Saturday 20 April

10.00am Wild Church

**4.30pm Music@St Martin’s:
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.

Sunday 21st April Easter 4

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

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 for your love and friendship over the years.

Thank you, Jill.

COMMUNION RAIL

Thank you for your feedback. We have put back the rails at the front of the dais, but left the sides open – so there is provision for those who wish to kneel and those who wish to stand. The sides people will direct you as we get used to this new way of distributing communion.

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

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 14th

Our Mission and Evangelism Team. Our Church Finances and Our Treasurer. Our local MP Chris Grayling. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: elected members and officers. Those living and working in Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

Monday 15th

Our Discipleship and Fellowship Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance. Those living and working in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

Tuesday 16th

Our Choir, and our vision for a new Worship Band. The growth of our Life Groups, Study Groups, WhatsApp Groups. Our Missions: Redress (justice against torture). Those living and working in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Wednesday 17th

Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristans and chalice assistants: Mary Holloway-Neville; and Fred Etheridge at St Stephen's. University of the Creative Arts, Laine Theatre Arts staff and students. Those living and working in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbrook Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 20th

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

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.

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

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

Squash (we have none), Longlife juice (we have none)
Any deodorant (we have none), Shaving foam/gel
Powdered milk,
Tinned spaghetti (in tomato sauce)
Ketchup / Brown sauce
Shaving foam/gel, Conditioner
Sugar (500g bags), Biscuit bars (penguins and so on)

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: 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***



AMECA

www.ameca.org.uk

'An Evening with AMECA'

Ruthie Markus, CEO & Founder and Consultant Surgeon, Mr Paul Thomas, Medical Director of AMECA, speak about the charity's work in Malawi and the challenges of healthcare delivery.

TIKHALE NDI ANA OCHEPA KUTI TITHE KUWASAMALIRA, TILELE.



NDI UDINDO WA ABAMBO KUWALIMBIKITSA AMAYI ZAMALELEDWE.

With guest Right Hon. Chris Grayling MP

7pm to 9pm, Thur 30 May 2024, Ewell Hall,
7 London Rd, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

£12 per ticket includes wine and nibbles.

Contact Barb Warwick : barb.warwick@virginmedia.com



**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.**