



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024



A theme of the Easter season is 'Christ, the good shepherd.' Someone who cares for his flock, leads them and feeds them. Of course, a casual look at a flock of sheep on a hillside doesn't necessarily

reveal that – they often seem to be aimlessly mooching around and allowing the time to go by.

And so a Church fellowship might look to the casual observer – a random collection of people mooching about aimlessly being nice to people in a pleasant but vacuous manner.

But watch the sheep when they see the farmer arrive with feed – and when they are herded into new pasture, and it all looks purposeful, co-ordinated and dynamic.

Thus it is with the Church – the Spirit of God moves among us, we are fed by the sacraments and led into mission, and we become a dynamic and attractive group.

Nick Parish, Vicar

DIARY

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

Tuesday 23rd April

**12.00pm Service of Thanksgiving for the life of
Tony Chapman**

**4.00pm Take Time To Talk – St George's Day - a not very
English saint?**

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

The 23rd April is St George's Day but what do we know about the patron saint of England? He is honoured as a martyr in many parts of the world but what might he mean for us in England? 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

**There is no 7.45pm - 9.15pm *Being With* in Church on
Tuesday 23rd April. The next meeting is on Tuesday 30th
April.**

Wednesday 24th April

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Friday 26th April

12.00pm Internment of Ashes

Sunday 28th April Easter 5

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Morning Prayer and baptism at St Martin's

6.30pm Holy Communion 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.

CONGREGATION SURVEY, APRIL 2024

We know that many in our congregation volunteer not only at St Martin's but also outside church, giving their time and other resources to help and support organisations and charities, often in the local area. We would like to build up a picture of this and have compiled a short survey which we would like you to fill in with as much detail as you feel comfortable with. If you don't want to include your name, that's fine. Copies of the survey are being circulated with the weekly newsletter so completed forms can be emailed back to revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org

Printed copies are also available at the back of both churches for you to fill in and place in the red folders there. Thank you for taking the time to do this.

Student Accommodation Needed - short or long-term

Some of you will have met George, a Nigerian student at UCA, who attends the 10.00 am service at St Martin's. He has been staying with us almost since his arrival, while looking for cheap rented accommodation nearby. As you might expect (but George didn't know) this isn't at all easy to find. It's been a pleasure to have him around, but next month we have visitors arriving from the US, and they need the annexe where George has been staying. If you know of any possible accommodation, short-term (say for a month) or longer term, please let me know.

John Padwick

Annual Ascension Day service on Box Hill Viewpoint



Do come along, everybody is welcome to join.

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 25th April 2024 and a notice to this effect has been displayed outside both our churches since 28th 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 St Stephen's and hand it in to the Parish Office. The Roll will be closed for any new entries from 24th April 2024 until after the Parish AGM on 12th 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 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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. Church Army (supporting and empowering those most in need in UK and Ireland). 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S

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

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:

Nappies 5 and 6 plus
Tinned Fruit
Sugar (500g bags)
Noodles (not super or pot)
Male Deodorant
Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste 0-2 and 6 plus
Ketchup
Shaving foam/gel
Conditioner
Washing up Liquid
Biscuit bars (penguins and so on)
Crisps

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





The **Shrouded in Silence** project has been created by **Whistlestop Arts** to encourage conversations around the topics of death, dying and grief, which are often difficult to discuss. The project has been designed with empathy and creativity and includes a range of artworks, talks, films, podcasts and workshops taking place between February and June 2024.

The exhibition features new work from **Mary Branson, Annalees Lim, Karl Newman, and Luna Russell**. They use their diverse experiences and creative mediums to explore the Shrouded in Silence theme and encourage visitors to reflect on their own feelings. In addition, the exhibition showcases a soundscape by **Miles Russell** and the work of guest artists, community stitch and textile groups, local poets, and creative writers.

Exhibition touring to:

7 FEB - 10 MAR 2024 | Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton-on-Thames

17 APR - 26 APR 2024 | The Horton Arts Centre, Epsom

14 MAY - 20 MAY 2024 | Unit 23, St Martins Walk Shopping Centre, Dorking

12 JUN - 16 JUN 2024 | Place Farm Barn, West Horsley Place

Artists Talks and Workshops

Death Cafes (hosted and led by the Brigitte Trust)

All events are free to join - booking essential

For more information and dates visit:

whistlestoparts.org/shrouded



whistlestop
ARTS
presents

SHROUDED

in silence

Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground, Epsom Rd, West Clandon, Guildford GU4 7FN

Join us for our
CELEBRATION EVENT
at Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground

Friday 21 June 2024 | 6 pm - sunset
*free to join**

To mark the final stage of the Shrouded in Silence project an evening of celebration will be led by a celebrant with poems and artwork created during the project. The evening will also feature a new film that showcases artists, community members, and end-of-life specialists, exploring the different choices we can make when planning for the end of our lives.

The event will conclude with a group walk through the meadow, providing a chance to reflect and appreciate the beauty of nature as the sun sets.

Bring an LED candle or lantern (no naked flames).

*booking essential – RSVP whistlestoparts@gmail.com
whistlestoparts.org/shrouded



**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.**