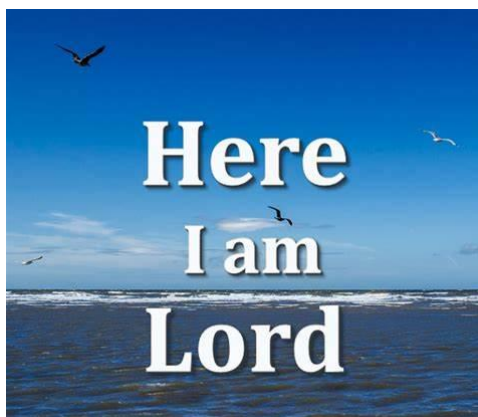




Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 2nd JUNE 2024



Our first hymn at 10am this Sunday, 'I the Lord of sea and sky' has become a firm favourite. It speaks of how the creator God is intimately involved with us, how he hears our distress, and how he calls us to be His hands and feet. 'Whom shall I send?' Tempting to point at

others, to look at the floor; but joyful to find the courage to say 'Here I am, Lord! Send me.'

Of course, we might not be sent anywhere physically, it might be in our own Church and community that we can play our part in God's response to the cry of his people.

Nick Parish

DIARY

Sunday 2nd June Trinity 1

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 4th June at 4pm

Take Time To Talk – Pentecost and Trinity

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

Whitsun or Pentecost is the church's own fire festival and marks the giving of the Holy Spirit. How do you understand the work of the Spirit in your life? John Padwick's sermon on the Trinity gave us plenty of 'food for thought'. Let's see what we made of that too.

Following a short introduction to the topics 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

7.45pm 'Being With' in Church. This is our final session.

Wednesday 5th June

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Sunday 9th June Music Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's

6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's

'**Songs of Praise**'. The hymns will be chosen and introduced by members of the congregation. All are welcome.

Contemplative Prayer

There will be **no Contemplative Prayer Group on 4th June** as that is the day the Retreat begins. However, the saying will be used in the 'zoom' meeting at 8pm on Thursday 20th June at 8pm. The saying for this month is from Ezekiel 37.5: *Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.* Details for the zoom meeting can be obtained from me. **Adrian Esdaile**

Work on the west end terrace outside St Martin's

Our stonemason is replacing the concrete steps (the central section within the handrails) in front of the main door. There is still access to the church from the terrace, but please be aware of any restrictions and take all possible care when entering and leaving the church. **Sarah Lutton**

Message from David Eggett

Dear Friends

Nancy and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the gifts that you gave us last Sunday. Nancy's flower arrangement is thriving in our sitting room, whilst I am planning how to spend the garden vouchers and the theatre

vouchers that you gave me. We are truly overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you again.

David and Nancy

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

- On 9th, we will celebrate Music Sunday in our services.
- On 12th the new PCC meets for the first time.
- On 23rd, we will mark world Refugee Sunday. At our 10am we will welcome Rev'd Rosie Hoad as our guest preacher, marking the 30th anniversary of Rosie leaving St Martin's to be ordained. She is currently Vicar of Egham Hythe.
- On the 29th, Judith will be ordained Priest at Guildford Cathedral.
- On 30th, Judith, at the 10am service, will preside at communion for the first time. We will follow this with a Bring and Share lunch – please look out for further details soon.

Keeping in Touch with our Baptism Families - A Big 'Thank You' to Sue – and are *you* able to take on this much valued service?

For twenty years +, Sue Hyde has been administering the paperwork for our baptisms, filling in the baptism certificate and signing the cards which are given out during the service, as well as sending baptism anniversary cards for five years to every child who has been baptised at St Martin's and St Stephen's. This loving service has been much appreciated by the children and their parents, reminding them that they are part of God's family and our own church family. Sadly, her failing eyesight means that Sue can no longer do this. I would like to take this

opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank Sue for her long and dedicated service. And also, to ask for a volunteer to step forward to continue this ministry. Please let me know if you are able to do so. **Rev Judith (revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org)**
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 2nd

Our Curate: Judith Mitchell and her family. Our Archdeacon: Martin Breadmore and the Guildford Diocesan Staff. Our Missions: The Medaille Trust fighting against modern slavery. Those living and working in Ash Mews, Ashdown Road, Ashley Road, Aston Way, Avenue Road and Axwood.

Monday 3rd

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.

Tuesday 4th

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.

Wednesday 5th

Our Church Warden: Sarah Lutton and for someone to join her as the second Church Warden. 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.

Thursday 6th

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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

March for Nature, London, Saturday 22nd June - join me for a church service.

This march, supported by groups including The Wildlife Trusts, The RSPB, The Climate Coalition, Chris Packham, WWF-UK, National Trust, WWT, Woodland Trust and Rewilding Britain, is aiming to be a really big gathering. It takes place in London and is a family-friendly, legal march to demand that UK politicians show strong domestic and global nature and climate leadership. There will be a strong Christian presence, including A Rocha UK, Christian Climate Action, Green Christian, Operation Noah and other groups, and these are organising a service at 11am at Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount St, Mayfair, London, W1K 3AH, which includes a children’s outdoor nature-based church. Do join me by coming to the service (and the march, if you wish) - you'll need to sign up for a free ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creation-cries-out-service-and-march-for-nature-tickets-891545124467?aff=eand> with love, Helen Williams.

Sunday 30 June - Bring & Share Lunch to celebrate Judith's ordination

There will be a sheet at the back of church to add your name to if you're coming to the lunch. There will also be a list of items of food and drink, so please tick something that you can bring for sharing.

Maureen & Sarah

Save the Date:

Sunday 21 July 3pm, (*refreshments from 2.30pm*).

**Lecture: 'Renewal and Reconciliation:
The Codrington Reparations Project'**



We are delighted to welcome Revd Dr Duncan Dormor to give our third annual Brathwaite Memorial Lecture. Duncan is the General Secretary of USPG (the United Society Partners in the Gospel) formerly known as SPG (the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts).

In 1710, SPG received a bequest from Sir Christopher Codrington for two estates in Barbados. The estates totalled 700 acres and included a population of enslaved African men, women, and children. From then until 1838 SPG owned and ran the estates.

One of those involved in the running of the estates was John Brathwaite who later acquired the freehold of a house in Epsom and lived there with his niece Mary Ashley (hence Ashley House, Ashley Road and the Ashley Centre). John Brathwaite is buried in a vault at St Martin's and, as we know, his memorial has been the subject of much pain and controversy over the past few years.

Between the years 1712 – 1838, the Codrington Estate was managed as a plantation business. Although conditions improved towards the end of this period, the use of the whip 'in the field' was not abolished until September 1829. (U)SPG's stewardship of the Codrington Estate ended in 1983.

Last September when USPG announced The Codrington Reparations Project, Duncan gave the following statement: "USPG is deeply ashamed of our past links to slavery. We recognise that it is not simply enough to repent in thought and word, but we must act, working in partnership with Codrington

whose descendants are still deeply impacted by the generational trauma that came from the Codrington Plantations”.

USPG explains further on their website:

Though USPG has long been engaging critically with its past including a substantial amount of research into Codrington, we are aware that it is not enough just to offer an unreserved apology. It must be more than mere thoughts and words. As an organisation that is committed to championing justice, we seek to honour the command in 1 John 1: 6-7 and move now towards honest reparative action.

"If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:6-7

The project is planned to last 10-15 years and will include four areas of work in collaboration with the descendants of the enslaved: community development and engagement; historical research and education; burial places and memorialisation, and family research. USPG has pledged 18M Barbadian dollars – equivalent to approximately £7M – to be spent in Barbados to support this work. The Codrington Trust suggested the sum of money for the project and USPG accepted it, without dispute.

The Most Revd Howard Gregory, Primate of the Church in the Province of the West Indies said:

“It is our hope that, through this reparations project, there will be serious reckoning with the history of the relationship between The Codrington Trust and USPG, but also a process of renewal and reconciliation that will be healing of the pain of the past.”

Please come along to hear about this important project and encourage your friends and others to come too. There will be time for questions and discussion afterwards.

Revd Judith

ST MARTINS MUSIC AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

For those who come to St Martin’s for worship, music is provided by the choir, the organ and, as often happens at Evening Prayer and occasionally other services, it comes from music websites.

However, beyond music for worship, St Martin’s is frequently filled with music on other occasions. Our big and beautiful building with its wonderful acoustics is an essential venue for key local community groups. Epsom and Ashted Choral societies and Epsom Chamber Choir each hold up to four concerts a year in St Martin’s. Local schools also use the building for their end of term celebrations.

Then there is our own series of concerts – Music @ St Martin’s – on Saturday afternoons. The performers range from students from our local schools to international artists. A performance at St Martin’s can be an important stepping stone for those in the early stages of their careers. We ask our audiences only for a donation, so not having the money to buy a ticket isn’t a barrier to

experiencing some wonderful music. We aim only to break even with these concerts.

Our last concert in this current season of Music @ St Martin's is on 22 June, featuring trios for piano, violin and cello by Beethoven and John Ireland. Our new season launches in September with some of the talented musicians from City Freeman's school.

On 21 July St Martin's will host a charity concert organised by our new Director of Music to raise money for St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley and Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. Mozart's Coronation Mass is among the works being performed by Sussex Festival Choir and the Sinfonia da Chiesa.

Income from those who hire our church for a music event is, of course, an important revenue stream for us. But what mustn't be overlooked is the number of local people who come through our doors because of these concerts. If the music they hear here touches their hearts, then what else they might experience or be touched by whilst in our church?

THE POWER OF POETRY: JUNE

Henry Vaughan, 1622-95, was a physician who lived, like George Herbert (see February's poem), in the tumultuous years of the 17th century, Unlike Herbert though, Vaughan lived through the Civil War, the execution of King Charles I, and the Restoration in 1662. His contemporaries thought little of his poems. But, to quote from *A History of English Literature* by Emile Legouis and Louis Cazamian, some "are pure gold". Vaughan's own country, Wales,

inspired in him a love for nature. After a serious illness his poetry was mainly religious.

This poem is about his longing to understand the meaning of death and where those he loved are. His thoughts of those are “fair and bright” in contrast to his initial sadness. In the fourth verse he speaks of hope, humility and God, and later acknowledges that it is God who has let him remember so clearly the time when those he mourns were alive, and he states his longing to be in Heaven too. Many of us have probably had similar thoughts when feeling bereft and alone.

*They are all gone into the world of light!
And I alone sit ling'ring here;
Their very memory is fair and bright,
And my sad thoughts doth clear.*

*It glows and glitters in my cloudy breast
Like stars upon some gloomy grove,
Or those faint beams in which this hill is drest,
After the sun's remove.
I see them walking in an air of glory
Whose light doth trample on my days:
My days, which are at best but dull and hoary,
Mere glimmering and decays.*

*O holy Hope! And high Humility.
High as the heavens above!
These are your walks, and you have show'd them me
To kindle my cold love.*

*Dear, beautiful Death! The jewel of the just,
Shining nowhere, but in the dark;
What mysteries do lie beyond thy dust
Could man outlook that mark!*

*He that hath found some fledged bird's nest, may know
At first sight, if the bird be flown;
But what fair well or grove he sings in now
That is to him unknown.*

*And yet as angels in some brighter dreams
Call to the soul, when man doth sleep:
So some strange thoughts transcend our wonted themes
And into glory peep.*

*If a star were confin'd into a tomb,
Her captive flames must needs burn there;
But when the hand that lock'd her up, gives room,
She'll shine through all the sphere.*

*O Father of eternal life, and all
Created glories under thee!
Resume thy spirit from this world of thrall
Into true liberty.*

*Either disperse these mists which blot and fill
My perspective still as they pass,
Or else remove me hence unto that hill,
Where I shall need no glass.*

Mary Gilbert

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

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

Jars of cooking sauce
Instant Mash
Long life Sponge puddings
Custard
Packet soup
Chocolate spread
Chocolate bars
Crisps
Gluten free items
Toilet rolls
Shaving Foam
Washing powder or pods
Baby toiletries (shampoo, body wash etc)

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.

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.



MISSION FOCUS – JUNE



Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

Information about our collaboration with Mercy Ships will be featured on the Missions Abroad noticeboard in Church for June 2024 beginning on Saturday 1st June. St Martins Church has supported Mercy Ships ever since Dr Michelle White first attended the ship in 2012 to begin her 5 year assignment.

Mission & Outreach



Managing Biodiversity in Epsom Common

Come and listen to Stewart Cocker, Countryside Manager for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council who will be talking to us about how Epsom Common is managed, protected, and enhanced. There will be time for Q&A at the end.

Wednesday June 26th 7.30pm,
Epsom Methodist Church
Ashley Road KT18 5AQ
Refreshments served before event

The Eco-church groups in Epsom would like to invite you to this event.



**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.