

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

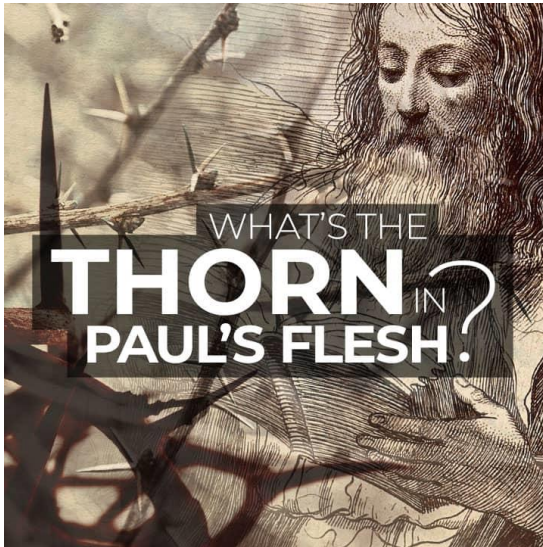
St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**



We hear about this from our readings today. Much speculation over to what it was that he was referring. Many scholars suggest it was some deformity of his writing hand – hence he once wrote ‘see what large letters I write with my own hand.’

Whatever it was, Paul came to see it as a gift from God that gave him a sense of grounding about himself

– he could not ‘boast in the flesh.’ Whilst it would be crass to suggest that all our physical challenges are sent by God to make us better people, the bravery and stoicism displayed by many people I meet, including in our congregation, do bear witness to a Christian resilience and a reliance on God that is inspiring.

***The Vicar***

## DIARY

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July Trinity 6**

**9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall**

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

**6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

**4.00pm Centering Prayer**

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

A small group of us meet every other Tuesday at 4pm, at the back of church, to pray together, in silence. 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. Any questions, please ask Lynne Scholefield

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

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

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's**

**9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's**

**10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's**

**4.30pm Second Thoughts - an earlier time, a different place!**



July's Second Thoughts will be led by Mike Mullins of Soul Rewilding. Amongst other things, Soul Rewilding aims to help us discover an older story to reconnect us to sacred nature. Nature, the wild, has always been the primary setting of the journey to the divine and soul. "The Life of Gaia - A meditative walk on the life of mother earth" will take place by the willow trees by the pond in Rosebery Park. Please arrive by 4.20pm so that we are ready to start at 4.30pm. We should finish by 6.20pm, giving us time to go back to church for tea, cake, reflection and conversation.

Mike Mullins is a leadership coach and spiritual retreat facilitator. His background is in Catholic mysticism and psychology. Mike runs retreats on a range of themes, from finding the divine in the margins of life, masculine spirituality, spirituality and personality difference, to the ineffable nature of the divine. For Mike the key to rewilding the earth, to reversing biodiversity loss and the effects of climate change, is a spiritual challenge. How do we understand, love and treat all nature as sacred, as an expression of the divine?

Please ask Revd Adrian or Helen for more details.

## Judith's Ordination

Judith was joined last Saturday in Guildford by around 25 supporters from the parish for the service at the Cathedral.



After celebrating her first Holy Communion at St Martin's on Sunday many enjoyed a bring and share lunch in Judith's honour and later in the day the bell ringers rang a quarter peal especially for her before Evening Prayer.

## **Post-Ordination Thank you**

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes, cards and presents, to those who were able to come to the Cathedral to support me and those who watched online.

I would like to give a special thank you to Maureen and Sarah for organising the Bring & Share Lunch, and to those who helped in setting it up before and after the service on Sunday. I was amazed at the wonderful variety of food that people brought. I think that everyone who was there enjoyed the opportunity to share such good food and conversation.

I would also like to give a big thank you to the bellringers who rang a quarter peal for an hour before Evening Prayer last Sunday to celebrate my ordination as priest. That was so amazing and meant a lot to me, as my father's mother's brother, along with other members of his family, was a bellringer in Rickingham, Suffolk, before the First World War (in which he was killed).

Finally, a huge thank you to Nick for all his support during these five years since I began exploring my vocation and undergoing training on the Local Ministry Programme and now continuing with the IME training during my curacy. Thank you, Nick, for your patience and kindness, and for sharing the wisdom of your 38 years in ordained ministry. I look forward to continuing to learn under your guidance and to serve with you in our parish here.

**Revd Judith**



## **St Stephen's Church**

Structural engineers, having established the damage to the frame of the front wall is due to wet rot, will soon be conducting further investigation to ascertain the extent of the damage, what repairs may be necessary and the cost of those repairs. We will make sure we keep everyone updated as we know more.

Meanwhile, our friends at the Village Hall are happy for us to use their facilities on a Sunday morning, so our normal pattern of worship at 9.30am each Sunday continues.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any particular concerns, or more details on what has led to the problem.

***Nick & Sarah***

## **Ukrainian Refugees still urgently need accommodation**

As you know, many people in Epsom, including members of St Martin's, came forward and offered space in their homes to those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Sadly, as the war continues, there is still an urgent need for more people to provide a safe home for those who have nowhere to live, not just for new arrivals but also for those needing to move on from their initial host family due to changes in circumstances. If you think you may be able to host someone, please contact Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network on 07432 660653 or <https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/contact-us> or come and chat to me.

**Revd Judith**

## **Bring and Share Lunch**

Somebody made a superb Ginger Cake for the lunch, would love to have the recipe sometime.

Thanks, Maureen [Maurensuatt@virginmedia.com](mailto:Maurensuatt@virginmedia.com)

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO LATE SUMMER**

Please see separately emailed brochure and publicity in Church regarding our summer study course, Six steps to the Bible (part2) and an evening service series on the theme of festivals and saints days of the month in August.

## **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 7<sup>th</sup>**

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 8<sup>th</sup>**

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 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our Director of Music: Stephen Hope. 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 10<sup>th</sup>**

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 11<sup>th</sup>**

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 12<sup>th</sup>**

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 (based in Epsom). Those living and working in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

## **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## **DATES COMING UP**

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

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

We 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 of two estates on Barbados. The estates totalled 700 acres and included a population of enslaved African men, women, and children. SPG owned and ran the estates until 1838.

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 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 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**

**Also on 21<sup>st</sup> July, at 7.15pm: Fundraising Concert**

Stephen Hope, our new Director of Music, brings his Sussex Festival Choir and the Sinfonua da Chiesa to St Martin’s in a programme of choral masterpieces:

Mozart’s Exultant Coronation Mass and Haydn’s charming Great Organ Mass. A fabulous array of soloists including Glyndebourne star Gillian Ramm and Sussex favourite Susan Legg will be one of the highlights of this performance which starts at 7.15pm.

Stephen founded this event 20 years ago to raise funds for the wonderful Hospices which receive so little funding other than from private and public donations. Amongst a galaxy of stars, Dame Felicity Lott and Sir Willard White have given their services, along

with all the orchestral players involved. This has enabled all the money raised through tickets and raffles, to be given to St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley and Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. So far, we have been privileged to raise in excess of £190,000. We welcome you all to this great evening to support these amazing institutions which give so very much to our communities with loving and flawless care.

Tickets are £20 and £15 concessions, on the door or in advance or from Stephen 07770 392067. Website: Sussex Festival Choir

### **Ride and Stride Day**

It is now less than three months until the annual sponsored Ride & Stride day on **Saturday, 14th September**. Of the monies raised 50% is returned to the nominated church and the balance distributed as grants to maintain or improve the fabric of Christian places of worship. The Trust has an unprecedented amount of money available to distribute as grants which can be up to £3,000 per church. When considering applications, the Trustees look more favourably on those who have shown support for the Ride & Stride. We would like your support on the day: this could range from providing people to visit other nearby churches and chapels, providing refreshments for your visitors, just having the doors open for visitors to look inside or merely putting a signing in sheet on the outside door. I am attaching a poster, sponsorship form, a list of Surrey churches (including some which are now in Greater London) and a Visitor Register; other information and documents can be found on the website:

<https://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org/ride-stride/>

Colin Quemby, Area Organiser.

020 8642 3720



CTIE is planning the return of the PASSION PLAY on Good Friday 2025. Anticipating the Passion play we are beginning to plan the event. Involvement of all of the congregations from all the churches in Epsom would be very welcome. If you feel you would like to be involved in the PASSION PLAY, whatever role, please contact Meg Topley.

## **FOODBANK WANTS LIST**

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

Sweetcorn (we have none)  
Cooking Sauce (tomato, curry etc), Rice  
Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit  
Long life Milk (full fat or semi skimmed)  
Dried Noodles (not pot or instant)  
Long Life Juice, Squash (we have none)  
Long life Sponge puddings  
Adult and Children's chocolate  
Biscuits, Savoury biscuits /crackers, Crisps  
Custard, Rice Pudding, Ketchup (we have none)  
Mayonnaise (we have none)  
Nappies 6+, 4 and 7, Strong shopper bags and bags for life.  
Use our supermarket donation points or bring donations to  
Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Good Company Hub, behind West  
Ewell Primary School, Ruxley Lane, Ewell . KT19 0JG.

## THE POWER OF POETRY: JULY

This month, Rudyard Kipling: It is well-nigh impossible to do justice to Kipling's life in the space available. He was born in India in 1865, sent home aged 5 with his younger sister to board with strangers in Southsea, his parents staying in India (a black period remembered in later years with hatred), school at Westward Ho!, back to Lahore as a reporter, published *Departmental Ditties* in 1886, back to London and literary success in 1889, marriage 1892, death of elder daughter 1899, Nobel prize 1907, death (missing in action) of his son in 1915, and Kipling's own death in 1936.

He published much, including *The Jungle Books*, *Kim*, and *Just So Stories*, and lots of poetry. Two of his aunts were married to Sir Edward Burne-Jones and Sir Edward Poynter, and Stanley Baldwin was a cousin. He is often accused of being an imperialist, but there is no doubt also that he loved India, was inspired by it, and wrote about it often, though never returned after leaving in 1886. He also wrote an affecting war poem, *My Boy Jack*, which contrary to what I expected when I read it first, was not about his own son but about Jack Cornwell, the youngest sailor to perish at the battle of Jutland.

I have chosen *The Way Through the Woods*, a celebration of the triumph of nature over the man-made. It is a very haunting evocation of the quiet of the woods and you can almost smell the damp earth, feel the cool air and hear the rustle of the wood's inhabitants. Perhaps the woods represent the difficulties of a journey through life, but the main theme of the poem seems to be that ultimately our stay on earth is transitory and that given a chance nature *will* triumph. I find a sort of comfort in that concept.

*They shut the road through the woods  
Seventy years ago.  
Weather and rain have undone it again,  
And now you would never know  
There was once a road through the woods  
Before they planted the trees.  
It is underneath the coppice and heath,  
And the thin anemones.  
Only the keeper sees  
That, where the ring-dove broods,  
And the badgers roll at ease,  
There was once a road through the woods.*

*Yet if you enter the woods  
Of a summer evening late,  
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools  
Where the otter whistles his mate,  
(They fear no men in the woods,  
Because they see so few.)  
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,  
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,  
Steadily cantering through  
The misty solitudes,  
As though they perfectly knew  
The old lost road through the woods.  
But there is no road through the woods.*



I suggest that anyone who hasn't should visit 'Bateman's', Kipling's home in East Sussex, if they are able. It is well worth a visit and is not just a pleasant house in a beautiful setting, but gives a lot of information about Rudyard Kipling's life and works.

*Mary Gilbert*

## STEWARDSHIP

### **Increasing our Giving Income**

We hope to grow our giving by 10% this year. If you are a regular giver, thank you, and please could you see if you are able to increase your gift. If you are not yet a regular giver, please consider becoming one. It's easy!

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:





# Holiday at Home

3 days of summer fun!

at

Epsom Methodist Church

Mon 29th July, Wed 31st July, Fri 2nd Aug 2024

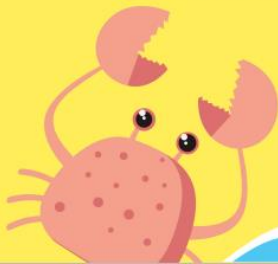
10.30am - 3.45pm

We invite you to join us on our fantasy holiday, stopping off in India, spending a day on board our cruise ship and ending our exciting adventure in Egypt!

Each day includes morning coffee, a delicious lunch, afternoon tea, crafts and entertainment.

The cost of this event is £10.00 per person per day or £25.00 for 3 days.

Please contact the EMC office on 01372 728535 or email [belonging@epsommethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:belonging@epsommethodistchurch.org.uk) if you are interested in attending.



**14<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPT.  
2024**

# **RIDE+STRIDES** for Churches

## **DISCOVER AND SUPPORT SURREY'S HISTORIC CHURCHES.**



**Join Us**

**Stretch your legs and relax your mind, visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with the family and friends!**

Ride+Stride for Churches is a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches, exploring and enjoying town and countryside in Surrey. Run by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust, the money raised helps to repair churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout our County.

Cycling/walking not for you? Join many others who decide to put on their own Ride & Stride fundraising events such as coffee mornings, tea parties and talks.

Half of the money you raise goes to your nominated church, half for grants to help maintain Surrey's churches.

Find out more and download sponsorship forms and maps at [www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org](http://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org) or email [scpt@quemby.cix.co.uk](mailto:scpt@quemby.cix.co.uk)



**Surrey Churches  
Preservation Trust**

Find out more at [www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org](http://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org)

Charity number 1063656

Supported by the  
National Churches Trust  
Charity Number 1109845



**Yours for good.**

**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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)  
Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://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.**