



**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2024**



This is Codrington College, Barbados. It is here that the mission agency USPG was born. It is also here that slave labour was used to build and to farm the plantation. Today, USPG is embarking on

a programme of work in Barbados, in partnership with the descendents of the enslaved to acknowledge their slavery link, and to seek to make a positive difference in the present. We can hear about the project from the General Secretary, Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormer at our annual Brathwaite lecture at 3pm today.

Jesus had much to say about freedom, and the story of the Israelites really began with their slavery in Egypt. Our faith tells us that God sets us free – spiritually, certainly, but also as people, who have a dignity in Christ. We all have a part to play in honouring that dignity, and restoring it where it has been lost – even if that happened in the past. **Nick Parish**

## DIARY

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

3.00pm 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Brathwaite lecture:

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

**Rev'd Dr. Duncan Dormer, General Secretary  
of USPG (the United Society of Partners in the Gospel)**

In 1710, (U)SPG received a bequest from Sir Christopher Codrington of two estates on Barbados, which included enslaved African people. SPG owned and ran the estates until 1838, managing it as a plantation business.

Last September USPG announced The Codrington Reparations Project. Duncan wrote: *"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: *'...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'*.

The project is planned to last 10-15 years and will cover, in collaboration with the descendants of the enslaved: community: development and engagement;; historical research and education; burial places and memorialisation; 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.”*

We have a link with this at St Martin’s, through our memorial to John Brathwaite, who was involved in the restoration of the estate and the mission college during his time as a plantation owner nearby. 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**

### **July 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm Concert in aid of local hospices**

Stephen Hope, our 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

## **Tuesday 23rd 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 3.45pm. 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

## **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

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

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

**9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's**

**10.00am Morning Prayer and baptism at St Martin's**

**6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's**

### **Funeral for the late Michael Rogerson**

We have been informed by Fr David Fisher (All Saints, Carshalton) that Michael Rogerson's requiem mass will take place there on July 30th at 1pm. St Martin's parishioners are welcome to attend.

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

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. 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. **Judith**

### **Do you have a redundant garden bench?**

One of the elderly benches in the corner of the memorial garden is broken and although it could be patched up it wouldn't last very much longer. It would be good if we can replace it. So, as a starting point, we wondered if anyone has a (reasonably sound)

garden bench that's not being used and could be offered? Let me, Nick or Rob know. Thanks. **Sarah**

### **St Stephen's Church**

We are waiting to hear from the structural engineers when they will come to complete their investigations of the damage to the building. We will make sure we keep everyone updated as soon as we know more.

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***

### **DATES COMING UP**

#### **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 3720k

## **St. Martin's Schools - 50 year celebration**

St Martin's school is celebrating its 50th year next academic year (September 2024 - July 2025).



We would like to hear from anyone that went to the school as a child or has any memories associated with the school. Perhaps you, or someone you know, attended the school when it first opened? We would be interested in any stories or anecdotes individuals have. If they

would like to share these with the school, we invite individuals to contact the school via email using the following address:

[kbarrow@stmartinsepsom.school](mailto:kbarrow@stmartinsepsom.school)

Many thanks in anticipation, **St. Martin's Schools, Epsom**



CTIE is planning the return of the PASSION PLAY on Good Friday 2025. 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, and / or come along to the meeting at Epsom Methodist Church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July from 3-4pm.

## **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 21<sup>st</sup>**

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 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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 24<sup>th</sup>**

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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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 26<sup>th</sup>**

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 27<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## **FOODBANK WANTS LIST**

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

Urgent-Weetabix  
Urgent- Tinned Vegetables  
Urgent-Long life Milk (full fat or semi skimmed)  
Urgent-Dried Noodles (not pot or instant)  
Urgent- Long Life Juice  
Urgent- Squash  
Pulses  
Instant Mash  
Microwave rice  
Sweetcorn  
Rice  
Honey  
Biscuits  
Long life Sponge puddings  
Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise  
Urgent- Male Deodorant  
Urgent- Shampoo  
Urgent- Washing Powder  
Shower Gel  
Washing up Liquid  
Nappies 4, 6 & 6+  
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 by Mary Gilbert

This month, Rudyard Kipling: It is well-nigh impossible to do justice to Kipling's life in the space available. Born in India in 1865, sent home, aged 5, with his younger sister, to board with strangers in Southsea. His parents stayed in India (a period remembered in later years with hatred). Then 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 that he loved India, was inspired by it, and wrote about it often, though never returning after leaving in 1886. He 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've chosen *The Way Through the Woods*, a celebration of the triumph of nature over the man-made. It is a haunting evocation of the quiet of the woods - 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.

# 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:



**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.**