



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 28th JULY 2024

Today we welcome a new member of the Christian family in baptism. An outward sign of an inward grace – like a kiss; whilst we cannot make someone love us by kissing them, we kiss as a sign of our love.

We also mark the final Sunday before the choir summer break with a special service of Sung Evensong, which is followed by a celebratory reception to which all are invited. Like baptism, our singing is an outward sign of an inward grace – a response in praise to the grace of God in Christ.

As we move into August, we shall enjoy Holy Communion at each 10am, and special evening services based around festivals and saints days of the month – the Transfiguration, Mary Sumner, St Bartholomew and St Aidan.

And our second series of ‘Six steps to the Bible’ studies starts today and continues through August, on Sunday afternoons. Our desire to learn more about our faith, to go deeper into scripture, to celebrate the great moments and people of our faith, are in themselves outward signs of the inward grace of curiosity, thirst for knowledge and urge to mark significance.

Nick Parish

DIARY

Sunday 28th July

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Morning Prayer and baptism at St Martin's

12 noon Holy Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

Tuesday 30th July

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

Take Time To Talk –

“Place me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death”

Song of Songs 8 v 6-7.

July 22nd is the feast of Mary Magdalene. Who was she and what was her role in the ministry of Jesus and the early church?

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

Tuesdays in August

Both Centering Prayer meetings and Time to Talk are taking a summer break in August. Next Tuesday will be our last meeting until September. We will reconvene with Centering Prayer on Tuesday September 3rd at 4pm.

Wishing everyone a restful and fulfilling summer holiday.

Lynne Scholefield

Wednesday 31st July

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Sunday 4th August

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Season of the Saints 1: The Transfiguration

And evening service for the feast day at St Martin's

Contemplative Prayer Group

The Group meet on Tuesday 6th August in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's and our starting point will be from Psalm 46.10 *Be still and know that I am God.* It is interesting that the Group and the Centering Prayer Group have both entirely independently chosen the same saying from Psalm 46. It is an absolutely fundamental text for contemplative purposes. All are very welcome - and also to the zoom meeting at 8 pm on Thursday 15th August.

Adrian Esdaile

Charity Concert

The concert in St Martin's on Sunday 28th July given by the Sussex Festival Choir was a joyful occasion. Joined by soloists and orchestra and conducted by Stephen Hope, the choir gave uplifting performances of choral masses by Mozart and Haydn to an audience that filled the building. The event raised an impressive £3,000 for Princess Alice and St Catherine's Hospices.

Sarah

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.

Brathwaite Memorial Lecture and Update on our Plans

Last Sunday, it was a joy to welcome Revd Dr Duncan Dormer, General Secretary of USPG, to give our third annual lecture connected to the contested heritage at St Martin's. I know that many of you enjoyed meeting him and talking with him before and after our 10 am Communion Service, and those who were able to attend the lecture in person praised the content and presentation of his talk on: USPG's **Renewal and Reconciliation: The Codrington Reparations Project**.

Our aim had been to live-stream the lecture, but unfortunately there were technical difficulties which meant that only the last 10 minutes of the talk, plus the Q&A section, were uploaded to our YouTube channel. Duncan has very kindly agreed to provide us with the transcript of his talk so that those who weren't able to attend it will be able to read it.

If you weren't at our 10 am service or watching it online, I would recommend you look at the Notices section of the YouTube video of the service, starting from 1.15.20 where Duncan introduces USPG and the Project. He also praised St Martin's for establishing the lecture series, saying that, as a church, we are 'leading a set of important conversations'. I am also pleased to give below details of the update report regarding our Contested Heritage which I presented to the PCC meeting on 12 June:

“On 2 May 2024 members of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee), including stonemason Chris Anstey, as well as Archdeacon Martin Breadmore and Revd Folli Olokose, visited St Martin’s to look at the Brathwaite Memorial in situ. They recommended that, instead of trying to fit a new stone memorial into the narrow space available, the most appropriate memorial to commemorate the enslaved would be a work of art created by an artist from the Barbadian community, and its location need not be restricted next to the memorial but could be placed wherever it is most appropriate. We are really encouraged to receive this positive recommendation from the DAC, as it gives us the opportunity to work together to create something that will truly represent the enslaved and bring them imaginatively into the sacred space of our church where previously their voice has not been heard. The DAC also recommended that our proposed information panel (including the QR code) be in the form of a permanent fixture in the church near to the memorial.

Looking further ahead, St Martin’s will hold a Memorial Service to commemorate the lives of those who were enslaved on the plantations associated with John Brathwaite. This will be in conjunction with Peter Brathwaite and the wider Brathwaite family. The service will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25 March, the United Nations’ International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Bishop Paul has confirmed his support and participation in this service. This, together with our work on the new memorial, is part of St Martin’s outreach with the wider community, especially those who are personally impacted by the injustice of past enslavement.’
Please put the date in your diary. ***Revd Judith***

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

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. We would like to hear from anyone that went to the school 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

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.



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 28th

All who are bereaved and grieving, and local funeral directors. Our young people and teenagers – our vision for the future. USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Those living and working in Westgate Close, Wilmerhatch Lane and Wimborne Close.

Monday 29th

All parents and toddlers. Users of Langley Vale Village Hall: Sean Porter. Care and nursing homes in the Parish. Those in sheltered housing. Those living and working in Woodcote Close, Woodcote End, Woodcote Green Road, Woodcote Hurst, Woodcote Park Road and Woodcote Side.

Tuesday 30th

Epsom College, staff and students: Chaplain Andrew Haviland. May all who enter our churches find peace and welcome. Epsom & Ewell Foodbank (Our Missions) and the Leprosy Mission. Those living and working in Wootton Close, Worple Road, Wyeths Mews, Wyeths Road, Yeomanry Close and Yew Tree Gardens.

Wednesday 31st

May the choirs who give concerts at St Martin's and their audiences feel God's presence in our church. Those in our church family who now live elsewhere. Our borough libraries: their librarians, volunteers and those who use them. All who attend our churches and live in roads outside the Parish boundary.

Thursday 1st

Our Vicar: Nick Parish, Yvonne and their family. Our Bishops: Andrew Watson and Paul Davies. The Chaplaincy Team at Epsom & St Helier Hospitals. Those living and working in Adelphi Road, Albert Road, Alexandra Road and Andrews Close.

Friday 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.

Saturday 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile, Jean and their family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. Our Church Schools: St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools. Children, parents, Governors, Heads, teachers and all staff. 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.

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

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

Cooking Sauces
Weetabix
Long life Milk (full fat or semi skimmed)
Dried Noodles (not pot or instant)
Long Life Juice
Squash
Pulses
Instant Mash
Microwave rice
Rice
Honey
Biscuits
Long life Sponge puddings
Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise
Urgent- Male Deodorant
Urgent- Shampoo & Conditioner
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:



Epsom and Ewell Party in the Park - Saturday September 21st 2024

We would love you to be part of our Party in the Park - take a stall at our Party!. Epsom Rotary will be celebrating 100 years helping the community in the Epsom area this year. We kick off the centenary year by working with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council to run a party for all the family in Rosebery Park.

We will have a range of partners such as The Ashley Centre, The Business Improvement District, Epsom Hospital Radio and others. See our Website as we update the list of companies and charities joining in!! Our website and communications will be updated regularly so you can see the support we are getting.

We will have:

- Music performed by local bands and singers
- Dancing by local dance groups
- Family picnic area
- Food stalls (Variety of styles including Thai)
- Local Charity Stalls with cheap or free games for the children
- Epsom Hospital Radio as music hosts

If you would like to take part in this venture then please let us know. Look on our website for up to date information and booking forms at <https://epsomrotary.wixsite.com/partyinthepark>

Clive Richardson, Epsom Rotary

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.**