



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2024:
CREATION 3**



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

The firstfruits of hope grow when we act *with* Creation, living in harmony with the earth, protecting and sustaining this wonderful world God has given us as home. The firstfruits of hope flourish when we act together in peace and in collaboration with our fellow human beings, in every corner of the world, walking in Christ's footsteps with humility and love.

Revd Judith, Assistant Curate

DIARY

Sunday 15th September

9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall
10.00am Holy Communion
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 17th September

7.30pm Being With Course – Exploring Christian Faith and Life

As several people couldn't make our initial starting date for the new Being With course, we have delayed the start until this Tuesday, 17th September, so there is still time for anyone to join the group. We will meet at the back of church from 7.30 to 9pm. Please email

revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org if you'd like to come along.

Revd Judith

Wednesday 18th September

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd September

9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale Village Hall
10.00am Morning Prayer and Baptism
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 24th September

4.00pm Take Time to Talk

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

The Wisdom of the Desert - how might the teaching of the desert fathers and mothers be relevant to us today?

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***

Advance notice - Meeting for Centering Prayer on Tuesday 1st October at 4pm.

Richard Dacey

Richard, our former Music Director, writes to send his best wishes to everyone and let us know he has been appointed as organist of Compton parish church, close to his home.

St Stephen's Update

We have now been given dates from the structural engineers to come to remove the cladding from the west gable end and to carry out full investigation work. This is booked to happen within the month. ***Nick and Sarah***

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S

New Autumn Season

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. Admission by donation.

28th September - Musicians of City of London Freemen's School

Enjoy the flourishing talent of some of the school's best singers and instrumentalists.

19th October - The Epsom Male Voice Choir

The ever popular and always entertaining ensemble.

2nd November - Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet) with Ian Le Grice (organ)

From Biblical fanfares to TV tunes, this virtuoso trumpeter demonstrates the instrument's extraordinary range.

7th December - Fumi Otsuki (violin) & Gisela Meyer (piano)

This duo offer an intriguing mix of well-known and less familiar composers, among them Faure, Elgar, Grieg, Arvo Pärt and Elena Kats-Chernin.

Brathwaite Memorial Lecture Update

Revd Dr Duncan Dormer has sent us the transcript of his lecture from 21 July. I know that several of you have been keen to read this as you were unable to attend in person. We included the link to his transcript, together with the link to his PowerPoint presentation, in last week's newsletter email. (If you don't receive that and would like to receive a copy of the transcript, please let me know).

The transcript captures all the information Duncan gave us at the talk. However, it can't capture the lived experience of hearing his passion and enthusiasm for the Reparations Project. One memory that I took away from the talk is when Duncan added to his prepared script on noticing that there were drums in the church. (These drums were in place for the concert that was taking place that evening.) Duncan was talking about the restrictions on the lives of the enslaved people. Duncan pointed out that one of the ways in which the authorities exerted their power was by banning the use of drums – because the authorities considered them subversive. Drums played a huge part in the music of the enslaved people, the music which they brought with them from their homes in Africa; music which was part of their identity; which kept them together as a community, kept them connected to their past and their freedom. Seeing the drums in our church, where organ and choral music is part of our worship and part of our life, brought home the poignancy and enormity of Duncan's words.

Revd Judith

Celebrate the apple harvest



Join us at The Vicarage on
Sunday 6th October 2024
from 3 – 5 pm

to enjoy the fruits of our
apple tree.

There will be a sign-up sheet
in church and offers of help
to bake apple cake / apple
pies / apple crumble would
be most welcome.

Nick & Yvonne

Helpers for the Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair this year is being held on November
30th from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

We need as many people as possible to help even if it is
only an hour or two as it means the stall holders can have
a break. If you can possibly help, please contact Sarah,
Nancy or me so that we can keep in contact.

maurensuatt@virginmedia.com

Maureen Suatt

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 15th

Our Discipleship and Fellowship Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance. Those living and working in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

Monday 16th

Our Choir, and our vision for a new Worship Band. The growth of our Life Groups, Study Groups, WhatsApp Groups. Our Missions: Redress (justice against torture). Those living and working in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Tuesday 17th

Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristan Mary Holloway-Neville and chalice assistants. University of the Creative Arts, Laine Theatre Arts staff and students. Those living and working in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbroke Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Wednesday 18th

Vocations to Ministry, ordained and lay. Churches Together in Epsom: Russell Holding (Chair); Revd Judith (Secretary). Our Missions: AMECA (for Malawi, Epsom based). Those living and working in Langley Close, Langley Vale Road, Links Road and Lintons Lane.

Thursday 19th

Our Home Communion Team and those to whom they take Communion. Our Flower-Arranging Team: Yvonne Parish. Staff at local Citizens' Advice Bureau, Age Concern and Job Centre. All those seeking their help and/or in need of work. Those living and working in Longdown Lane South, Longdown Road, Lynwood Avenue, Lynwood Road, Mannamead, Mannamead Close, Middle Close and Middle Lane.

Friday 20th

Our Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett and John Padwick. Our Eco Church Team: Helen Williams. Our Missions: A Rocha. Those living and working in Milburn Walk, Mill Road, Millers Copse, Milton Gardens and Mospey Crescent.

Saturday 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.

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

This week we need the following items:

Tinned Soup, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat – all **Urgent**

Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Spaghetti

Cooking Sauces

Pulses, Instant Mash, Rice

Breakfast Cereal

Tea (bags)

Long-life Sponge Pudding - **Urgent (we have none)**

Peanut Butter, Custard

Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent**

Long life Sponge puddings - **Urgent**

Squash - **Urgent**

Ketchup/Mayo/Brown Sauce

Deodorant (Male & Female) - **Urgent**

Shampoo - **Urgent**

Nappies 6+

Washing up Liquid - **Urgent**

Washing Powder - **Urgent**

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.

SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network

The network is committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our area. In the decade since it was founded it has grown to meet the needs of an increasing number of refugees. The network provides vital services to those new to the country, such as English lessons, help finding work & education, assistance in accessing services, benefits & healthcare, as well as a social network and one-to-one support. See the boards at the back of church or <https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/> for further details. ***Alexander Rennie, Mission & Outreach***

THE POWER OF POETRY – SEPTEMBER

September, the end of summer and the purple Michaelmas daisies in flower. It is a month I feel an affinity for. My parents were married in it, I was born in it, and my school's birthday was celebrated at Michaelmas, on the 29th, the feast of St Michael and all Angels who was our patron saint. We had a large sculpture of him, high up on a wall, indeed erupting from the wall ready to repel all evil. St Michael seems something of an anomaly. Most saints were earth-bound human beings who lived, did good works, played a part in the furtherance of Christianity, and often suffered. But St Michael, together with St Raphael and St Gabriel, was an Archangel, leader of the heavenly host, a holy angel, so possibly it comes from the derivation of "saint" - in Latin I believe "sanctus" means holy. But I could (easily) be wrong.

Michael is mentioned in Daniel, Jude and Revelation. In the latter we are told that war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought a dragon, a metaphor for the forces of evil. The dragon was vanquished by Michael and hurled to earth. And, at last I hear you say, we come to this month's poem, *St Michael and all Angels* by Malcolm Guite, a priest and a poet in Cambridge. Malcolm Guite has written a poem for all major feasts in the liturgical year and they are published in his book *Sounding the Seasons* which I highly recommend.

The book includes one or two series of poems, and a series on the O Antiphons was recorded by members of the Ministry Team for last year's Advent Season (available on line as short videos). But most of the poems, including this one, stand alone. Here it is:

*Michaelmas gales assail the waning year,
And Michael's scale is true, his blade is bright,
He strips dead leaves, and leaves the living clear
To flourish in the touch and reach of light.
Archangel bring your balance, help me turn
Upon this turning world with you and dance
In the Great Dance. Draw near, help me discern,
And trace the hidden grace in change and chance,
Angel of fire, love's fierce radiance,
Drive through the deep until the steep waves part;
Undo the dragon's sinuous influence
And pierce the clotted darkness in my heart.
Unchain the child you find there, break the spell
And overthrow the tyrannies of hell.*

Malcolm Guite is master of the sonnet form, a form notably employed by Shakespeare. Guite explains that its virtues include "brevity, clarity, concentration, and a capacity for paradox, for expressing, juxtaposing and containing contradictions, all of which are required if we are to approach the paradox and mystery that is at the heart of the Christian faith".

The sonnet comprises 14 lines and each sonnet takes about a minute to read. In this one the dragon is Satan overcome, and the scales and blade allude to the fact that St Michael is often depicted with a sword and a set of scales which represent truth and discernment both of which are needed in this world to enable us to choose between good and evil. I hope you like this poem, and I hope you may be encouraged to read more of Malcolm Guite's poems which are really worth reading.

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:





Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust representative will be talking all things trees, from their role in our environment and the challenges they currently face.

We will also learn about the background on the Woodland Trust, as well as information on our local Langley Vale Wood.

There will be time for Q&A at the end.

Wednesday September 25th 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.



em
epsom mental health week
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Epsom Mental Health Week

Saturday 5th to 12th October 2024

www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk

Love me
Love my mind

Follow us @
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lmmepsom



Epsom Mental Health Week is organised by Love Me Love My Mind, a charity dedicated to promoting understanding about mental health issues. Registered charity no: 1177683

**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.**