



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2024: CREATION 4



In this fourth week of Creationtide, as we continue to celebrate God's gifts to us of his wonderful creation, it is a joy today at St Martin's to welcome Thea and Jaxon at their baptism as they begin their journey of faith.

Revd Judith, Assistant Curate

DIARY

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***

7.30pm Being With Course – Exploring Christian Faith and Life

We will meet at the back of church from 7.30 to 9pm.
Please email revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org if you would like to come along. ***Revd Judith***

Wednesday 25th September

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th September

9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Prayer

HARVEST FESTIVAL 29th SEPTEMBER: GIVING

Gifts of food: Please begin to gather donations of food for us to take to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank. Suggested items are listed below.

Gifts of money: We will be giving financial donations to A Rocha UK. This is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. A representative from A Rocha will be speaking at the 10.00 o'clock Harvest service at St Martin's on 29th September.

This is the list of most needed items for the Foodbank:

1. Jars of cooking sauces
2. Pasta sauce
3. Tinned soup
4. Tinned meat – meatballs, minced beef, stewing steak etc
5. Tinned fish
6. Tinned fruit
7. Tinned sweetcorn

8. Tinned vegetables
9. Tinned tomatoes
10. Tinned potatoes
11. Dried Noodles (not pot or instant)
12. Rice
13. Pasta
14. Instant mash
15. Long-life juice
16. Squash
17. Pulses (dried / tinned / packaged)
18. Ketchup / Brown sauce / Mayo
19. Instant coffee
20. Tea (bags)
21. Cereal (not porridge)
22. UHT Semi skimmed or full fat milk
23. Powdered milk
24. Rice pudding
25. Custard
26. Long-life sponge puddings
27. Biscuits
28. Chocolate/ sweet treats
29. Jam / Honey / Marmalade
30. Peanut butter / Chocolate spread
31. Shampoo / Conditioner
32. Deodorant
33. Shower gel
34. Adult toothpaste

Contemplative Prayer

The next Contemplative Prayer meeting will be in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's on Tuesday 1st October at 11am. Our starting point will be Hosea 11.9: where God says: *I am the holy one in your midst.*' All are very welcome. All are also welcome on 'zoom' on Thursday 17th October at 8pm - details from Adrian or Alex Rennie.

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

St Stephen's Harvest Festival 6th October

Gifts of food items will be given to Leatherhead Start which provides support for homeless men and women including emergency short term accommodation. Items requested include breakfast cereals and tinned food.

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

**Second Thoughts, Sunday October 13th – at 6.30pm
with refreshments at 6pm**

A Scandinavian Adventure...Martyn Holloway-Neville

For three weeks in the summer of 2024, I took over 650 people to Norway and Denmark to attend Roverway 2024, a European (ish) Scouting event for 16-22 year olds. Come and hear about the 18 month journey from first selection to the event, from a manager's perspective, and the actual event itself (including an eventful post-event in Denmark), as well as see some spectacular scenery and some memories of the trip.

Martyn has been a member of St Martin's congregation for over 20 years, and this marks his fourth overseas event with Scouting (three of which have been Second Thoughts topics in the past). Martyn can usually be found trying to make Britain a better place through his work with the Civil Service, donning a Scout scarf for local Beaver Scouts, or on the side of a cricket pitch!

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.

Children's Trail

There is a Children's Trail for children aged 9 and over in the Welcome Area of the Church. Please encourage your young family to try it out.

Can you help?

The Ark is on the hunt for some toys and games for older children! If anyone is having a sort out of toys/games that are no longer needed or played with and has any of the below in good condition to suit ages 5+, we'd be very grateful to take them off your hands.

We are looking for things like:

Scalextric

Remote controlled toys

Portable table tennis

Beanbags (small for throwing or large for sitting!)

Hot wheels

Magnetic tiles

Small lego sets

Please email us at ark@stmartinsepsom.org if you can help or speak to Sarah J in church.

Thank you!

Sarah and the Ark

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***

Replacement of the Mothers' Union Bench

The plan is to purchase a new bench to replace the one at the south-west corner of the church that was recently vandalised. The new bench will be placed in the Memorial Garden where it will take the place of another bench which has reached the end of its useful life. If anyone would like to make a contribution towards the new bench, please talk to me or Nick or contact the office. ***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.



Christmas Fair – Goods and Helpers needed

Please start collecting items for the Christmas Fair. We need the following:

Bottles for the Bottle Tombola

Jigsaws and Games

Unwanted presents

Jewellery

Christmas Decorations

Craft items

Chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola

Books

Because we have limited storage in Church please keep the items until nearer the time and there will be a box at the back of the Church.

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 22nd

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.

Monday 23rd

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.

Tuesday 24th

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.

Wednesday 25th

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.

Thursday 26th

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.

Friday 27th

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.

Saturday 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.



Epsom Vineyard – new vacancies

We are expanding our paid roles at Epsom Vineyard to keep up with our ever growing congregation & busy calendar - therefore we are pleased to announce 2 new vacancies:

Part Time EV Office Administrator & Part Time EV Bookkeeper

If you are interested or know someone who might be, visit our website www.epsomvineyard.org/vacancies

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.



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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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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.**