



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER 2024



Psalm 8 features in our services today. A Psalm of praise to a God who is revered throughout the earth. A casual observer could be forgiven for pointing out that we don't display much evidence of that –

war, climate crisis, poverty. It is truly an act of faith to hold to Psalm 8 today. Yet we must, for we carry a gospel of hope. Pray in earnest for the turning of hearts, for the embracing of the values of the Kingdom of God.

Nick Parish

DIARY

Sunday 6th October

- 9.30am Morning Prayer (Harvest)
Langley Vale Village Hall
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
- 3.00pm Apple harvest celebration at the Vicarage
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

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.

Marmalade and cake

I will be selling marmalade, jam and lemon drizzle cakes after the 10am service on Sunday October 6th. All proceeds will go towards the Christmas Fair. *Maureen*

Celebrate the apple harvest

Join us at The Vicarage on **from 3 – 5 pm** to enjoy the fruits of our apple tree. You be most welcome.

Nick & Yvonne

Tuesday 8th October

4.00pm Take Time To Talk (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

More from the Desert Mothers and Fathers as they sought to live their lives in faithful ways that would rub off on the people around them.

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 9th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th October

8.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Holy Communion at

Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's

6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's

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!

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.

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

St Stephen's - Update

Detailed survey work began on Monday 23rd September to discover the extent of the damage caused by wet rot in the west gable end. Such is the extent of the damage that the whole garden area has had to be secured. Scaffolding will be erected to enable the engineers to remove the glass from the front of the building and put up a false wall to secure the remaining structure. This should enable a complete survey to be completed. We do have an initial report, which has also gone to the diocese, so we can begin explorations of the way forward, pending a final verdict on works needed, costs, etc.

Home Communion Team

We want to enlarge our home communion team – taking communion from Church to people at home or in care homes. (We were unable to take communion to residents of Beaumont House recently, as current team members were unavailable). It would be great to enlarge the team.

This ministry is hugely rewarding to those who do the visiting and a great comfort to those who receive communion in this way. People are reminded that they are not forgotten by the church, which is keen that they continue to share in our communion fellowship. Not all of them are former members of our own congregation but all are now “of this parish” and we love to include them and get to know them a little for they always have been members of our own family and part of the one body of Christ.

On two Thursday mornings each month we conduct a short service at the Beaumont, sharing with them the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. We do the same at Linden House once a month, and would like to visit Leighton House more frequently as well.

If you are interested in joining our team please speak to Mary Gilbert or the clergy after the service, or via e-mail. We will train you for the role, and arrange any safeguarding clearances needed for someone taking on this ministry.

Nick Parish

Deanery Synod

We need one more lay representative to fill our places on the Deanery Synod. Howard Bluett and John Padwick are our current reps. Synod is a serious business, but not hard work and not overly bureaucratic. Meetings are quite relaxed and friendly; there are three meetings each year, held in a different church each time.

What is Deanery Synod? The Deanery Synod is part of the government of the Church of England. They were set up in 1970 for representatives of the various congregations to meet and exchange ideas they have found helpful to the whole mission of the church in worship, pastoral and social activities and evangelism. They are linked to the Diocesan Synod and General Synod so their collective views can be made known in the debates about the church's government, its laws, doctrine and forms of worship. They consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred back by the General Synod, sounding parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so.

Interested? We have a vacancy! Please speak to John or one of the clergy to explore further. (Synod members are automatically members of PCC).

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

Harvest Donations

Your gifts of food and other goodies were very gratefully received by the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank. Your gifts of money will go to A Rocha UK.

Remember, the Foodbank urgently needs donations all year round. You can leave items in the box at the back of church at anytime and I'm happy to deliver them to the Foodbank's depot.

Sarah

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S

New Autumn Season

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. Admission by donation.

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 6th

Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook.
Our Area Dean: Rosemary Donovan. Our Missions: My Time for Young Carers. Those living and working in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

Monday 7th

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.

Tuesday 8th

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members.
Our Children’s Church: The Ark – Sarah Jeffrey, 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.

Wednesday 9th

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.

Thursday 10th

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.

Friday 11th

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.

Saturday 12th

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.

FOOD BANK

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

Jars of cooking sauces, Pasta sauce
Tinned soup,
Tinned meat – meatballs, minced beef, stewing steak etc
Tinned fish, fruit, sweetcorn
Tinned vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes
Dried Noodles (not pot or instant)
Rice, Pasta, Instant mash
Long-life juice, Squash
Pulses (dried / tinned / packaged)
Ketchup / Brown sauce / Mayo
Instant coffee, Tea (bags)
Cereal (not porridge)
UHT Semi skimmed or full fat milk
Powdered milk, Rice pudding, Custard
Long-life sponge puddings
Biscuits, Chocolate/ sweet treats
Jam / Honey / Marmalade
Peanut butter / Chocolate spread
Shampoo / Conditioner

Deodorant, Shower gel
Adult toothpaste

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.

OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS

Our mission partner for October is:



A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to equip Christians and churches to protect and restore the environment – for God, nature and all people. We aim to inspire individuals and families, equip churches and church

leaders, build partnerships and manage land for nature and people.

In the face of accelerating climate change and species loss, we need more than ever to take action to protect and care for nature today.

We are working with:

- **Churches:** through our **Eco Church** programme
- **Environmental leaders** through our interdenominational convening work
- **Families and individuals** through our **Wild Christian** programme, supporting people to enjoy, nurture and defend nature in their own homes and communities, and through campaigning.
- **Christian land managers** through our **Partners in Action** network. This network includes our own two nature reserves.

Our vision - the world we want to see:

- A world of stable climate and abundant nature, where oceans, rivers, air and soil are free of human pollution.
- Where human society lives in balance with the rest of nature and protects the Earth's natural systems which sustain all life
- Where all people and communities have access to healthy nature locally

- Where the Church worldwide understands the biblical mandate to care for all of God's creation as a core part of its mission and manifests this how it treats its land, buildings, investments and other assets.
- Where Christians play their full role, in collaboration with others, to protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of life on Earth, and to restore and maintain the health of our planet's life sustaining systems
- And where, through Churches and Christians adopting a right relationship with the rest of Creation, others are drawn to a closer, life-giving relationship with our Creator God.

THE POWER OF POETRY – OCTOBER

I have always enjoyed the poetry of Thomas Hardy, especially *The Darkling Thrush* with its message of hope, and the one which follows here: *Afterwards*. Thomas Hardy, born and bred a countryman of humble stock, once thought of becoming a clergyman. However, although assiduous in his church attendance, his faith faded and he abandoned this idea, and became an architect. He is possibly more famous for his novels, among them *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, and *Jude the Obscure*. All, but especially *Jude*, involve the effects of malign fate and underline Hardy's agnosticism. To say that the last of these works is particularly grim is perhaps an understatement, and its reception at the time of publication led to his abandonment of novels and his concentration on poetry.

He was at heart a man of the countryside, in tune with the seasons, the plants, and the animals that were all about him in his childhood in Dorset. *Afterwards* (pub. 1917) reflects his deep and abiding love for rural life. In the first verse we have late spring, and the simile of May "...flapping its glad green leaves like wings.."; in verse 2, dusk and a hawk alighting nearby; verse 3, a warm but dark night with a hedgehog scuffling across the grass; verse 4, and winter with a clear sky full of stars; and in the last verse the sound of a bell (Hardy's funeral bell) heard in the gloom and sometimes fading when the wind blows from a different direction. It is a sort of elegy and was indeed read at his

funeral in 1927. Note that he mentions not his achievements as a novelist or a poet, but what perhaps mattered most to him.

*When the Present has latched its postern behind my
tremulous stay,
and the May month flaps its glad green leaves like wings,
delicate-filmed as new-spun silk, will the neighbours say,
'He was a man who used to notice such things'.*

*If it be in the dusk when, like an eyelid's soundless blink,
the dewfall-hawk comes crossing the shades to alight
upon the wind-warped upland thorn, a gazer may think,
'To him this must have been a familiar sight'.*

*If I pass during some nocturnal blackness, mothy and warm,
when the hedgehog travels furtively over the lawn,
one may say, 'He strove that such innocent creatures come
to no harm,
but he could do little for them and now he is gone'.*

*If, when hearing that I have been stilled at last, they stand
at the door,
watching the full-starred heavens that winter sees,
will this thought rise on those who will meet my face no
more,
'He was one who had an eye for such mysteries'?*

*And will any say when my bell of quittance is heard in the
gloom,
and a crossing breeze cuts a pause in its outrollings,
till they rise again, as they were a new bell's boom,
'He hears it not now, but used to notice such things'?*

He was observant of the world around him, and if we were all brought up to use our eyes and ears, and to appreciate and love what we are seeing, the world might be a better and more beautiful place.

William Blake is another – and very different – poet who was also observant and who saw the hand of God in everything. I expect we have all come across Blake's words "*To see a World in a Grain of Sand, And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, And Eternity in an hour*", in which he draws attention to the significance of God's creation. Hardy's poem is not religious in any obvious sense but it relates to our concerns for our planet, God's planet, and what we are trying to do via Eco Church. Enjoy it.

Mary Gilbert

STEWARDSHIP

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

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.**