



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER 2024



This week we have read of more destruction in our world – of humanity by humanity, of humanity by nature and of nature by humanity. War, hurricanes and extinctions are, sadly, features of society and the eco-system today. What hope is there for planet earth? We have faith in a God who saves, who redeems, who renews. He had done and continues to do that through His Son and His Holy Spirit. But we need to co-operate! And we need to evangelise, so that others will co-operate too. Never has the Churches mission been more urgent.

Nick Parish

DIARY

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 this summer, 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 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!

Tuesday 15th October

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 3.45.

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

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 16th October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 20th October

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at
Langley Vale Village Hall**
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's**

At 10am we will welcome Rev'd Jens Mankel as our guest preacher. Jens has a role in encouraging Church growth in our diocese, and it will be good for him to experience our worship and have a chance to talk to people. Do support this service.

At 6.30pm, we are experimenting with a shortened version of Choral Evensong, followed by refreshments together. Please feed back to the clergy and views you have following the service to help us plan ahead. Our aim is to make the service as attractive as we can.

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 need to 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. The PCC will discuss this at their meeting this week, before we embark on this next stage.

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.

VOICES, WIND AND BRASS RING TO THE RAFTERS

This Autumn, St Martin's will resonate with the sound of voices, wind and brass when Epsom Chamber Choir perform two settings of the Catholic Mass, one by romantic Bruckner and the other modernist Stravinsky, both accompanied by wind and brass ensemble. In addition, the choir will give the first performance of a commission of Psalm 19, "*The heavens declare the glory of God*" by Peter Burton and The Chameleon Arts Wind Ensemble will perform Jonathan Dove's "*Figures in the Garden*".



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.

maureensuatt@virginmedia.com

Maureen Suatt

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this fortnight:

Sunday 13th

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Didi Steck. Those living locally who are housebound and their carers. Those living and working in Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

Monday 14th

Our Mission and Evangelism Team. Our Church Finances and Our Treasurer. Our MP Helen Maguire. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: elected members and officers. Those living and working in Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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, Ladbrook Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

FOOD BANK

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

Rice (Microwave), Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauces
Noodles , Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise
Long Life Milk, Instant Coffee, Powdered Milk
Squash, Tinned Fruit, Custard

Chocolate/Sweet treats - **we have none**

Long life Sponge puddings - **we have none**

Jam/Honey/Peanut Butter/Chocolate Spread

Crisps, Cereal bars, Sugar (500gr) - **we have none**

Deodorant (Male & Female), Shampoo & Conditioner
Adult toothbrushes, Shower Gel, Sanitary Towels
Nappies 6+, Washing powder, Washing up liquid

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:



Music concert at St John's Stoneleigh

The singer and entertainer Jonathan Veira is in concert at St John's on Saturday, October 26 at 7.30pm (details attached). Jonathan is a Christian and I would describe his approach as 'gently evangelistic' so definitely a good outreach opportunity. I would appreciate your support in promoting the event to your church families. Tickets are available from the St John's website:

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music/



The highly-acclaimed **LIVE** nationwide tour

jonathan veira

An uplifting, musical celebration – full of life, love and laughter!

"West End quality... the whole place was buzzing. Don't miss this amazing, amusing, moving and wonderfully exhilarating show!"

★★★★★

NOT DEAD YET!

jv

Jonathan Veira is a world-renowned musician.

Come and join Jonathan for this inspiring and memorable show!

Be delighted as he plays and sings a rich variety of beautiful and well-known songs across many musical styles.

And be enthralled as, in his relaxed and easy-going way, he shares his faith in God and recounts captivating, moving and hilarious anecdotes from his professional and personal life.

You'll laugh and cry... and go home with a song in your heart!



EPSOM CHAMBER CHOIR

Bruckner

Mass in E minor

Stravinsky

Mass

and music by Peter Burton and Jonathan Dove

Jack Apperley conductor
Chameleon Arts Wind Ensemble

Saturday 16th November 2024 7:30pm
St Martin's Church, Epsom, KT17 4PX
£18 in advance | £20 on the day | Under 18s Free
online www.epsomchamberchoir.org.uk | telephone 020 8672 5495 | text 07940 486163



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**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.**