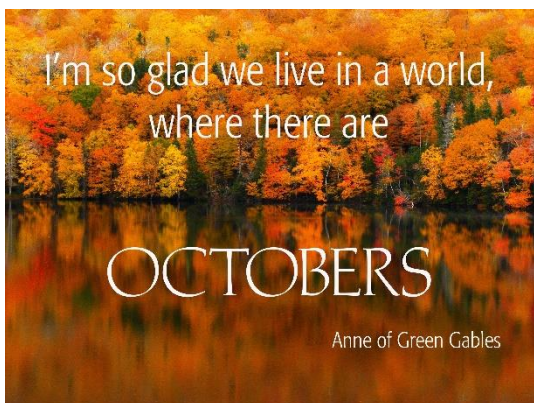




**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024**



Green Gables is in a place called Cavendish, on Prince Edward Island, Canada. The fictional Anne loved the autumn for its colourful beauty. I daresay real people feel the same. We are fortunate in that we don't have to go that far to experience the same

effect, as nature does her thing all around us, and the old is enhanced in its beauty before giving way to a fallow winter and then new life in the spring. I remember an old school hymn, 'glad that I live, am I.' Simplistic words about the seasons, but the author captures the cycle of life – 'this is the way of life, till the work be done.' Autumn (and winter) show me that all stages of the life cycle are beautiful, and regeneration is, indeed, a miracle.

Nick Parish

## DIARY

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

### Tuesday 22nd October

4.00pm Take Time To Talk – 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.' (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in Church)

We have a 'Lady Chapel' at St Martin's, and if you look carefully there are images of Mary in the stained glass and some other places - Sarah and I went for a 'Mary hunt' a couple of weeks ago. We are going to focus on Mary for our next few sessions, exploring and developing our understanding of her. Do come along and join us if you can.

*Lynne*

**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](mailto:revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org) if you would like to come along.  
*Revd Judith*

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**10.00am Holy Communion**

**7.00pm Holy communion in the Lady Chapel  
in preparation for the PCC at 7.30pm.**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**9.30am Holy Communion at  
Langley Vale Village Hall**

**10.00am Morning Prayer healing service at St Martin's**

**6.30pm Holy Communion at St Martin's**

**Funeral for Mary Yeabsley**

As some of you know, Mary Yeabsley sadly died at Princess Alice Hospice at the end of September, aged 91. Mary was a long-standing member of St Martin's and for many years was one of the team who cleaned the church once a month on a Saturday morning. Her funeral will take place at 3.30 pm on Friday 25 October, at Randalls Park Crematorium, with refreshments afterwards at the Fox & Hounds, Walton-on-the Hill.

*Revd Judith*

## **PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY**

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**

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.

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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.

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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.

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## **St Stephen's - Update**

The garden area is now secured. Scaffolding will need to be erected both inside and outside the building 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. Assuming we get estimates for remedial works in time, The PCC will discuss options for the next steps at their meeting this week. Once we know more we will consult stakeholders and, of course, you.



## **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:maurensuatt@virginmedia.com)

***Maureen Suatt***

## **Christmas Tea and Carols, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

This is a reminder to put the date in your diaries now. The Christmas Tea this year will take place on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024 from 3pm – 5pm** in the Church.

There will be sandwiches, mince pies, Christmas cake, chocolate cake etc, and of course tea and coffee. It will be followed by the singing of carols round the grand piano. Do please support us.  
*Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook*

## **FOOD BANK**

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

Rice (Microwave), Cooking Sauces  
Noodles , Packet soup  
Tinned meat  
Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise  
Long Life Milk, Instant Coffee, Powdered Milk  
Squash  
Custard, Chocolate/Sweet treats - we have none  
Long life Sponge puddings - we have none  
Jam/Honey/Chocolate Spread  
Crisps, Cereal bars, Sugar (500gr) - we have none

Deodorant (Male & Female)  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Tampons, Nappies 6+  
Toilet Roll  
Washing powder, Washing up liquid

## **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*".



## Looking for a mobility scooter?

A member of our Church has a mobility scooter for sale. It is only a couple of years old and has been lightly used. The price is flexible - £250 approx. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Phone: 01372 722567

E-mail: [office@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)

## OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS

Our mission partner for October is A Rocha UK - a Christian charity working 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 every 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:

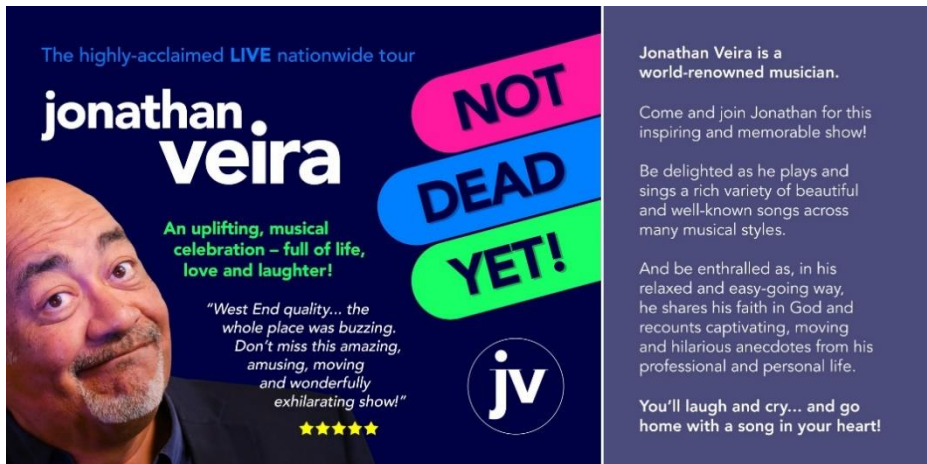
1. Click on the following link:  
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>  
OR
2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below:



## 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/](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music/)



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# jonathan veira

**NOT DEAD YET!**

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★★★★★

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)**

**Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://www.stmartinsepsom.org)**

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ministers via the office.**