

DIARY

Sunday 27th 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

Tuesday 29th October

- 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 30th October

- 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd November ALL SAINTS

- 9.30am Holy Communion at
Langley Vale Village Hall
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
- 6.30pm Annual Memorial Service at St Martin's

If you would like people remembered at this service, please send names to the office during the week. Thank you.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 29th

All parents and toddlers. Users of Langley Vale Village Hall: Sean Porter. Care and nursing homes in the Parish. Those in sheltered housing. Those living and working in Woodcote Close, Woodcote End, Woodcote Green Road, Woodcote Hurst, Woodcote Park Road and Woodcote Side.

Wednesday 30th

Epsom College, staff and students: Chaplain Andrew Haviland. May all who enter our churches find peace and welcome. Epsom & Ewell Foodbank (Our Missions) and the Leprosy Mission. Those living and working in Wootton Close, Worple Road, Wyeths Mews, Wyeths Road, Yeomanry Close and Yew Tree Gardens.

Thursday 31st

May the choirs who give concerts at St Martin's and their audiences feel God's presence in our church. Those in our church family who now live elsewhere. Our borough libraries: their librarians, volunteers and those who use them. All who attend our churches and live in roads outside the Parish boundary.

Friday 1st

Our Vicar: Nick Parish, Yvonne and their family. Our Bishops: Andrew Watson and Paul Davies. The Chaplaincy Team at Epsom & St Helier Hospitals. Those living and working in Adelphi Road, Albert Road, Alexandra Road and Andrews Close.

Saturday 2nd

Our Curate: Judith Mitchell and her family. Our Archdeacon: Martin Breadmore and the Guildford Diocesan Staff. Our Missions: The Medaille Trust fighting against modern slavery. Those living and working in Ash Mews, Ashdown Road, Ashley Road, Aston Way, Avenue Road and Axwood.

St Stephen's - Update

At PCC, we heard the latest reports and estimates from the engineers. We discussed possible ways forward and the next stage is to talk to our members at St Stephen's and the Langley Vale community, to update you and seek your ideas and views. Meanwhile, the site is safe as long as people respect the 'exclusion zone' to ensure no one will be in the area of any collapse of the front end of the building.



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

Christmas Tea and Carols, 8th December 2024

This is a reminder to put the date in your diaries now. The Christmas Tea this year will take place on **Sunday 8th 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.

Tombolas at the Christmas Fair

Please start collecting items for our tombolas.

We need bottles of every sort (soft drinks, oil, wine, sauces etc) and lots of chocolate.

Maureen, Nancy and Sarah



Christmas cards and calendars

Now that autumn is here and we are beginning to look towards Christmas I have set up my display of cards, advent calendars and candles.

There are a wide variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. There are also a lots of Advent Calendars which come with their own envelopes in case if you wish to post them.

The Christmas candles come in their own container with a variety of nativity scenes.

Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to “The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom” (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the “Cards” button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church.

I will keep all items topped up but once a design has sold out I may not be able to get any further stock. Please ask me if you are looking for something in particular.

All profits for the sale of items goes to help the church.

Thank you for your custom.

Mary Holloway-Neville

Coffee Helpers

I am about to compile the coffee Rota for 2025 and it would be lovely to have some new volunteers. At the moment we each serve the coffee about every 6 weeks and it is a good way to get to know other members of the congregation. If you would be willing to join us please speak to me or Sarah Lutton.

Maureen Suatt

FOOD BANK

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

Rice (Microwave), Cooking Sauces, Packet Soup

Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes

Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise

Long Life Milk, Instant Coffee, Powdered Milk

Squash, Long life Juice

Custard, Chocolate/Sweet treats

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

Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread

Crisps, Cereal bars

Sugar (500gr)

Deodorant (Male & Female), Adult Toothbrushes

Tampons, Loo Roll

Washing Powder, Washing Up Liquid

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S

New Autumn Season

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. Admission by donation.

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*".

Remembrance in Troubled Times

Saturday 9 November 2024, 7.30pm, St Martin's Church

Fauré *Requiem* | Haydn's *Nelson Mass* & *Little Organ Mass*

We live in a fragile world with war and conflict afflicting the globe from Europe to Africa and the Middle East. As we approach Remembrance Day, Ashtead Choral Society presents a concert which features in its first half Haydn's tempestuous Nelson Mass, recalling past troubled times of an 18th century Europe dealing with the rampant Napoleon. The second half of the concert moves into the early 20th century with Fauré's deeply moving Requiem dedicated to those individuals who have given their lives to protect our values and way of life which remain under threat.

Ashtead Choral Society has a keen focus on community collaboration and this concert is presented in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2024. After the interval the ACS will welcome the, Barbara Warwick, Chair of Epsom & Ewell Royal British Legion, who will read the Kohima Epitaph before the Last Post sounds, leading us into Fauré's reflective and poignant Requiem with the Kent Sinfonia. Last year, Epsom & Ewell donated over £60,000 to the Poppy Appeal and a retiring collection will aim to help the Royal British Legion exceed that amount in 2024. This is set to be a very special evening, at a very special time, in remembrance of very special people.

Booking may be made here: [Upcoming Performances of Ashtead Choral Society](#) | www.ashteadchoralsociety.org.uk

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 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.