



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024 ADVENT SUNDAY



This art, by Virginia Wieringa, shows the Magi on their long journey west, following a star.

Viewed from across space and time, it is a romantic journey. But in its real time and location, was it? A long trek across unknown territory to an unknown destination –

possibly merely chasing a dream. They could have been afraid, anxious and full of trepidation.

But we don't know. What we can reasonably assume, however, was that despite everything else, it was a journey of hope. So, too, is our journey through Advent. Whatever fears December brings, our journey to the manger is full of hope.

DIARY

Sunday 1st December ADVENT SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion at

Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

4.00pm Advent Study Group in Church House

6.30pm Advent Carols at St Martin's

The Long Journey to Bethlehem – the stories within the story of Matthew Chapter 1

December 1st, 15th and 22nd, 4pm-6pm in the Headley Room

Come and join us on our Advent course this year.

We are exploring the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the very beginning of the New Testament and full of surprises!

Session 1 – the stories of Christmas you might not know.

Session 2 – who are the men and women mentioned in Jesus's ancestry?

Session 3 – how will the promise be fulfilled – a virgin birth, dreams and angels!

Lots to discuss, all are welcome.

John Padwick, Lynne Scholefield

Tuesday 3rd December

11am Contemplative Prayer Group

The Group will meet at 11am in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's on Tuesday 3rd December - our starting point will be ideal for the beginning of Advent. From Isaiah 55.1: '*...my word .. shall accomplish that which I purpose*'. All are welcome who would

like an hour or so of silence and led meditation and contemplation. The same material will be used on 'zoom' on Thursday evening at 8pm on December 19th - details from me.

Adrian Esdaile

4.00pm Take Time To Talk – what is your favourite inspirational song or piece of music? (postponed from November 19th). Tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church. Last time we focused on Mary's Magnificat. Worship often includes music and singing. So, we were wondering what are our 'go to' songs or pieces of music. What are yours? We're going to share our favourites - either with the actual music from YouTube or by bringing the words for a sing along! Do come and join us if you can.

Lynne

Wednesday 4th December

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm. St Luke's Chapel, Epsom College

A celebration of Advent with the Chaplaincy, Modern Languages and Music Departments from Epsom College. You are welcome to come to a special evening of music and readings from around the world celebrating the Advent season. The traditional Advent readings will be read in different languages (with English translation in the order of service) with music performed between each reading. There will be refreshments afterwards. It should be finished by 7.15pm. No need to book. It is best to arrive after 6.15pm when the school buses leave. Park around the chapel. If you would like further details, do get in touch with Canon Andrew direct on 01372 821288 or email him at the College andrew.haviland@epsomcollege.org.uk.

Saturday 7th December

4.30pm Fumi Otsuki (violin) & Gisela Meyer (piano) recital

This duo offer an intriguing mix of well-known and less familiar composers, among them Faure, Elgar, Grieg, Arvo Pärt and Elena Kats-Chernin.

Sunday 8th December ADVENT 2

8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

**9.30am Morning Prayer at
Langley Vale Village Hall**

10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's

3.00pm Christmas Beacon Tea at St Martin's

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. Due to finish at 5pm.

Monday 9th December

6pm – 8pm Evening of Lights at St Martin's

You are invited to come to the Evening of Lights at St Martin's. St Martin's will be lit by candles and Christmas tree lights. The evening offers a quiet space for remembering people close to you, and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. A hot drink (tea, coffee or hot chocolate) will be available.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook

St Stephen's Update

Work on repair to the west gable end is now planned to begin on 6th January. Our thanks also to the many who have responded to the survey on our future mission in Langley Vale. The survey closed on 24th November and the results are being analysed.

CTiE Advent Outreach Stall: Sat Dec 14: 10-12:30pm

There will be another CTiE Advent and Christmas Outreach stall outside Epsom Metro bank similar to last year's. If you could help on the stall for a 30 or 40 minute period, please do email Russell at: chair@ctie.org.uk who will draw up the stall rota. Please pray for this important event.

Thank you. David Williams admin@ctie.org.uk

10 Year Anniversary celebrations



Last Sunday Nick and Yvonne received gifts and a card to mark Nick's 10th anniversary of being Vicar of St Martin's & St Stephen's. The celebrations included a cake which we all enjoyed after the service.

From Nick : 'Thank you everyone for remembering (I hadn't!). We are very grateful for your generosity and thank you all for making our Church family so inclusive and a place we have belonged these last 10 years.

(PS Thanks, too, for not including a picture of me from 10 years ago!!)

Carols in Epsom Hospital: Weds Dec 18: 4:30-6:30pm

CTiE and the Hospital Chaplaincy have organised to sing carols around the Hospital wards. We will meet at 4.15pm outside the Chaplaincy Office, located on the left as you enter Epsom Hospital foyer from Dorking Road. Carol sheets will be provided. Come and give some Christmas peace and joy to staff and patients! Please email chair@ctie.org.uk so that we know numbers and can plan to have enough resources. David Williams

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

24th December Christmas Eve

3pm Carol Service at Langley Vale Hall

4pm Crib Service at St Martin's

6pm Christmas Communion at St Martin's

11.15pm Midnight Mass at Epsom College

Following the success of last year, we will, on Christmas Eve, be holding a service of Midnight Mass in our beautifully decorated Chapel. The service will be finished at 00.15.

If you are local and would like to attend it would be super to see you there. Non-Epsom families and friends of the College are also welcome.

To book a place please click here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/z6p36Enp4Q> or email andrew.haviland@epsomcollege.org.uk

25th December Christmas Day

8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

10.00am Family Christmas Praise at St Martin's

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile and his family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. Our local public houses, restaurants and shops, and the staff who work in them. The Street Pastors giving help on Friday nights in Epsom. Those living and working in Barn Close, Baron's Hurst, Beaconsfield Place, Beaconsfield Road, Beech Road and Beech Way.

Wednesday 4th

Our Lay Ministers: Clive Dougal (emeritus), Ruth Foxcroft, John Padwick, Howard Bluett, Graeme Lodge. Our Cathedral: Guildford Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter. Our Missions: The Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network. Those living and working in Birches Close, Bridge Road, Bridle End, Bridle Road and Burgh Heath Road.

Thursday 5th

Our Church Warden: Sarah Lutton and for someone to join her as the second Church Warden. All users of Church House. Those suffering from drug or alcohol addiction and their families and friends. Those living and working in Burghfield, Caithness Drive and Carter's Road.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

Christmas cards and calendars

There are a wide variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. There are also a 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

FOOD BANK

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

Cooking Sauces,
Beans/Pasta with Meat
Packet Soup,

Instant Mash
Powdered Milk (we have none)
Long life Juice (we have none),
Squash
Ketchup/ Brown Sauce
Marmalade/Honey/Chocolate Spread
Sugar (500gr),
Rice Pudding
Chocolate Biscuit Bars,
Long life Sponge puddings
Crisps
Deodorant (Male/Female),
Shaving Foam
Adult Toothbrushes,
Tampons
Loo Roll - Urgent
Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder.

MISSION FOCUS

Our mission partner for November is Love Me Love My Mind. This is a small registered charity based in Epsom which aims to promote better understanding of mental health and to support the wellbeing of everyone in the community. It is run entirely by volunteers and funded by grants and donations.

The charity has just held its 17th annual Epsom Mental Health Week, and is running free art and craft activities for children at Epsom Social. Love Me Love My Mind will open its regular Monday drop-in as a Warm Welcome Space on Monday 4th

November at St Barnabas Church. The charity also has a volunteer gardening group at a local care home.

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 – DECEMBER



This month I have chosen a poem by Cecil Day Lewis, *The Christmas Rose*. Day Lewis, 1904-1972, was born in Ireland, the son of a Church of Ireland rector, but after the death of his mother when he was two years old he was brought up in London, though spent summer holidays in County Wexford. He was educated at Sherborne School and Wadham College, Oxford and later became a school master. In 1946 he became a lecturer at Cambridge and later Professor of Poetry at Oxford. In 1968 he was appointed Poet Laureate, succeeding John Masefield. From 1935 he also wrote detective novels under the pseudonym of Nicholas Blake.

*What is the flower that blooms each year
In flowerless days,
Making a little blaze
On the bleak earth, giving my heart some cheer?*

*Harsh the sky and hard the ground
When the Christmas rose is found.
Look! Its whiter star, low on earth,
Rays a vision of rebirth.*

*Who is the child that's born each year
His bedding, straw:
His grace, enough to thaw
My wintering life, and melt a world's despair?*

*Harsh the sky and hard the earth
When the Christmas child comes forth.
Look! around a stable throne
Beasts and wise men are at one.*

*What mean are we that, year on year,
We Herod-wise
In our cold wits devise
A death of innocents, a rule of fear?*

*Hushed your earth, full-starred your sky
For a new nativity:
Be born in us, relieve our plight,
Christmas child, you rose of light!*

In this poem Day Lewis is comparing a flower that blooms in winter when conditions are harsh with the birth of Jesus. The flower and the Holy Birth recur each year and the birth gives hope to individuals and the world in the darkest of times: “His grace, enough to thaw...and melt a world’s despair”. Day Lewis once embraced communism, but renounced it when he saw the terror that had arisen in Russia and elsewhere, and he alludes in the fifth verse to mankind’s ability to bring misery and fear to millions. We have seen this recently: the horror of the conflict in Gaza, the war in Ukraine and many other places, some rarely reported. We have also seen violence and the death of innocents on our own streets. And we despair. But the message of our Christian belief is one of hope, and one which we must hold on to in the darkest of times, though this is often extraordinarily difficult. This is the message of the last verse: “....relieve our plight, Christmas child, you rose of light!”

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:



Christmas Services

1st December, 6.30pm
Advent Carol Service

24 December, 4pm
Family Crib Service

22nd December, 6.30pm
Nine Lessons & Carols

24 December, 6pm
Communion Service,

24 December, 3pm
**St Stephen's Carol Service,
Langley Vale**

24 December, 11.15pm
**Midnight Mass at
St Luke's, Epsom College**

25th December - Christmas Day
8.30am - Communion Service
10am - Family Service

**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX

**St Stephen
on the Downs**

Rosebery Road
Langley Vale, KT18 6AF

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St Martin
of Tours
Epsom



L A I N E
THEATRE ARTS

Laine Theatre Arts

Christmas Concert

A celebration of traditional carols and
musical theatre songs and readings

12th December

1.10 pm

Entrance Free

**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.