



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2024



DIARY

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
(NB NO 6.30pm service)**

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

Tuesday 10th December

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 3.45pm.

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.

Wednesday 11th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 12th December

1.10pm Laine School carol concert

Sunday 15th December ADVENT 3

9.30am Morning Prayer at

Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

4.00pm Advent Study Course

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Continuing on Sunday 15th and 22nd December
The Long Journey to Bethlehem
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 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

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.

Director of Music: The resignation of Stephen Hope was announced recently in church. Stephen joined us in May and in his short time with us made significant contributions to the music of St Martin's. We wish Stephen all the best for his future music making.

We are very grateful to our organist, Iain Macfarlane, who has kindly agreed to hold the reigns for the time being with the support of other musicians on an occasional basis.

Nick & Sarah

Christmas Fair

We would like to thank everybody who contributed to the success of the Christmas Fair. We hope those who came on Saturday had a happy and enjoyable day. ***Sarah, Nancy and Maureen***

Found

While clearing up at the end of the Christmas Fair I found a small orange paper carrier containing Christmas decorations purchased at the fair. If these are yours, I have put them on the shelf with the birthday cards at the back of Church. ***Maureen***

Christmas Fair Cake Stall

To those of you who baked cakes, some of whom are anonymous to me, and Frances and Fiona my helpers, my grateful thanks for making the cake stall such a success. Hope to receive your contributions and help again next year! ***Joan***

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



Christmas Jumpers - Sunday 15th December

Cast aside sartorial good taste, wear your Christmas jumper to church and

support Save the Children. You can donate here:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>

Thank you!

Sarah

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

Ukrainian Social and Music Evening, Saturday 21 December, Epsom Methodist Church, 5pm-7.15pm.

This event marks the 10th in an enterprising series organised by the Epsom Methodist Church to support and showcase refugee Ukrainian musicians. The evening begins with a finger buffet (bring and share) at 5 o'clock and is followed at 6 o'clock by performances which include a pianist, an opera singer, violinist, brass ensemble and choir. A collection is taken at the end. If you've booked a ticket for Epsom Choral Society's Christmas Concert at St Martin's the same evening, this event will finish in time to attend both!

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

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

Remembrance Day Poppy Crosses *by Martin Bradley*

A few years ago I was tidying up the church garden 'shed' and came across the previous year's poppy crosses in a cardboard box.

I then discussed with Jean Wright that myself and some friends were going to the Western Front for a few days over Armistice, (attending Armistice services and visiting CWGC cemeteries is something we have been doing since 2015), and could I take the

Poppy Crosses to put against any 'Unknown Soldiers' headstones. Jean immediately agreed to this and we continue what is now a tradition that after their display in the front bed of the Remembrance garden I carefully remove them, clean them as well as possible, (with rain they get mud splattered), let them dry in the shed and they are then packed ready for the next year to then spend the rest of their time in front of a headstone in France or Belgium.



This year I made it my task to find the graves of the young men, both 21 years old when killed in WW1, whose graveside crosses are on the wall of the church WW1 Memorial. Happily, after doing some research I found the cemetery that each of them is laid to rest in.

Lieutenant Humphrey Halgrim Grundtuig, 11th Leicester Regiment, is at Grevillers British Cemetery near Bapaume, France. His family home was Maidstone House off Chalk Lane.

2nd Lieutenant Charles John Woodward Alderton, 7th Battalion Gordon Highlanders, is at Metz-En-Couture Communal Cemetery Extension, near Cambrai, France. His family home was 'Thorndale', South Street.

A Poppy Cross was left beside them as you can see from the photos.



The CWGC removes any wreaths that are left in the cemeteries after around 3 months, but there appears not to be any cut off time for the crosses so they could be left in position for some years.

I hope this has been informative. It was good to be able to match the resting place of these 2 St Martin's soldiers, with their grave side crosses adorning the walls of the church.

Martin Bradley, gardener, St Martin's Remembrance garden.

Sponsor sought for a Ukrainian refugee

Olga is 28 years old, a trained hairdresser with administration experience. She is currently housed in temporary accommodation in Poland after abandoning her home in Kharkiv (Kharkov) when the city became a battle zone.

Her sister and brother-in-law are here in Epsom and would dearly like her to join them. Can anyone help by offering a room on a temporary basis? The Homes for Ukraine scheme pays hosts a monthly allowance in recognition of their kindness, but asks for a minimum commitment of six months.

Whilst living here, Olga would be fully supported by the Ukrainian Hub in Epsom and financially supported by the Government until such time as she finds employment. Details of the scheme can be found at [Homes for Ukraine: record your interest - GOV.UK](#)

In the first instance you might like to talk to me, at lj.impey@gmail.com, otherwise Olga's sister Luba on 07469 276247, or friends Julia and Grahame on 07450 169394.

Email: gubanova1987qwer@gmail.com.

Olga's Facebook page is www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001745371447

Thank you for troubling to consider this request. Any response, however tentative, would mean so much to Olga's family.

Laurence Impey

Buying well

Did you know that St Martin's has an Eco Policy? The policy was agreed by the PCC and gives guidelines and encouragement to make decisions to make our footprint on earth as light as we can. The Church Office now has a subscription to 'Ethical Consumer' to help guide purchasing choices. Ethical Consumer has done the legwork in grading products and companies according to criteria including environment, people, animals, politics, product sustainability and company ethos, which helps cut through some of the greenwashing we can all fall for. It's a bit like a green 'Which?'. While we can't necessarily go for the most ethical options, we can choose the least worst possible we are able to, and will be informed about some of the story behind what we're consuming.

You, too, can subscribe - <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/>. How about buying a subscription for your household for Christmas? It will be one of the most enlightening presents you give or receive, I'm sure!

Helen Williams, Eco Rep

Doing well, as a church and as individuals

You may have seen our Bronze Eco Church certificate at the back of church. We are currently 'Going for Silver' and hope to be ready by the end of January. As part of this, we are encourage to look at our impact as a church and at our own personal impact and influence on the world around us. Many of us are doing a lot already... are there things we are missing? Are there larger steps we could take? Creation Care is a lovely, simple resource to help you see where you are, developed and managed by St Paul's, Dorking. If you find yourself worn by advent preparations, have a look to see how you are caring for creation -

<https://creationcare.org.uk/> . If you don't have internet access, let

me know, and I may be able to help. In the New Year, I'll be encouraging us all to have a look at the scheme - a sort of 'fresh year, fresh look' at how we are doing, individually and collectively. We're all caring together...! *Helen Williams, Eco Rep*

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 8th

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

Monday 9th

Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Meg Topley 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.

Tuesday 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 Digidens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

Christmas cards and calendars

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

Tinned Meat
Tinned Vegetables
Cooking Sauces
Beans/Pasta with Meat **(we have none)**
Packet Soup **(we have none)**
Noodles
Instant Mash
Powdered Milk **(we have none)**
Long life Juice
Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise **(we have none)**
Honey/Chocolate Spread
Sugar (500gr) **(we have none)**
Rice Pudding
Custard
Chocolate Biscuit Bars
Savoury Biscuits
Long life Sponge puddings

Deodorant (Male/Female)
Hair Conditioner
Children's Toothpaste
Adult Toothbrushes
Shaving Foam
Sanitary Towels/Tampons
Loo Roll
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:

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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
12 noon 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.