

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

# SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 CONVERSION OF PAUL



***Caravaggio's Conversion of St Paul***

## DIARY

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January CONVERSION OF PAUL**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale village hall**
- 10.00am Morning Prayer at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Holy Communion at St Martin's**

### **Tuesday 28th January**

- 4.00pm Take Time To Talk – Candlemas**  
*(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)*

Candlemas is the feast of purification. An old prophet called Simeon takes the baby Jesus into his arms and says the words that are known as the Nunc Dimittis. Candlemas is about Jesus being a light to all peoples, with a candlelit procession in church and people bringing their candles to be blessed.  
Come and join us. **Lynne**

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

- 10.00am Holy Communion**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

- 9.30am Morning Prayer Langley Vale Village Hall**
- 10.00am Sung Communion at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

## **Providing Flowers in church**

As part of our worship and celebration of life and nature, we aim to have fresh flowers in St Martin's most weeks (except Lent, Advent and August). You are invited to contribute towards the cost of flowers, maybe in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion? (The recommended donation is £20). Please use the card reader in church to make your payment or give your donation to the team in the office - one of the members of the flower team will purchase and arrange the flowers for you. Speak to the person who is arranging the flowers if you have preferences for specific flowers, we will do our best to get these for you. Please put your name on the rota, on the notice board near the glass room at the back of church, against the week that you would like to pay for. Thank you.

## **St Martin's & St Stephen's website - your help please!**

If you are a 'regular' at church, I expect you don't look at our website often. However, you'll know that for any organisation, it's essential that its website is kept up-to-date. Rob does the technical side and I upload the information on upcoming services and events. I do my best to include everything that's happening, but I can't guarantee that sometimes things won't get missed-off!

So, it would be very helpful if members of the congregation can cast an eye over the website from time to time. Let Rob know if there's a technical issue and tell me if you spot error or you want to make sure I know about an event or service that needs to be advertised. Thank you! Sarah Lutton & Rob Jeffery.

Website address: <https://www.stmartinsepsom.org/> Our emails are: [rob@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:rob@stmartinsepsom.org) [wardens@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:wardens@stmartinsepsom.org)



### **(Eco) Ideas, info, action...**

There is a church Eco WhatsApp chat. I'm in a few similar groups (including a couple in other churches!) and it's so helpful to hear what others have discovered, what they are finding tricky, and what

they are involved in. If you have a smartphone and would like to be part of the sharing of questions, seeking, ideas and (some) answers about what we can do, individually and as a church, to 'tread more lightly' on God's earth, speak to me or contact me through the church office and I will add you to the group.

If you don't have a smartphone, keep an eye on the Eco Church noticeboard, and, of course, keep having those conversations about what you are discovering. ***Helen Williams, Eco Rep***

### **Salt and Light**

Every so often I get asked 'what can I do?' to help with matters eco. There is now an Eco Church display, sharing the noticeboard at the west end of church with Mission. Have a look!

As we have now achieved 'Silver' in the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, I'd like to invite you all to see what you are already doing, and get ideas for what you might like to do next, by going to the Creation Care website - <https://creationcare.org.uk/>, signing up as a household and linking yourself to St Martin of Tours. A series of easy questions helps you gauge where you are and helps us to continue the good work. The A Rocha awards are a church community thing – it's not just me filling in a

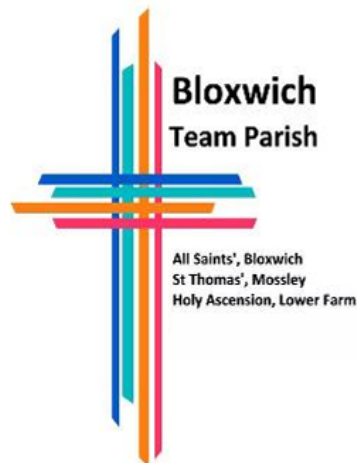
form!! We are called to be salt and light. We want to do the right thing, and to be a beacon to our community.

Talk to friends about the steps you are taking, congratulate them on what they have done. Working together on shared aims builds momentum, helping us - as individuals, as a church and as part of the local community - make huge shifts that hadn't seemed possible before. Let Creation Care be your New Year's kickstart in the 'eco' part of your life – let's see what it leads to!

***Helen Williams, Eco Rep***

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Bloxwich  
WS3 2HR

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01922 476 598



18<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear friends,

Epiphany greetings from the Black Country!

Can you believe I've been here three years already! I've moved beyond that feeling of everything being new and exciting – I'm in a season of ministry where I have a realistic sense of what we can aim for and within what timescale.

We had a busy Christmas, with Christingle, crib services and carol services in our three churches. On Christmas Eve All Saints welcomed almost 100 worshippers to our midnight mass. The central heating broke down that afternoon but I needn't have worried because there were enough bodies to keep the place warm!

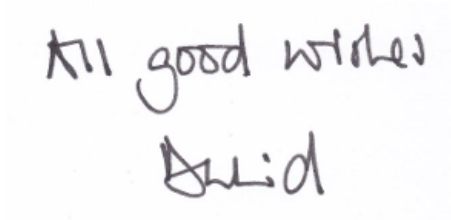
A high point last year was when our Church of England primary school was rated 'Good' by OFSTED – which after being in special measures only a few years ago is a great turnaround.

Here at All Saints we baptised 17 youngsters and wed nine couples – which makes us sound like we are a thriving and youthful church! Unfortunately, and in common with many other churches, we find it difficult to maintain relationships with couples and families after the big day. Our funeral ministry is a good source of connection – we held 60 funerals last year and two well-attended memorial services for bereaved families, one in Lent and one on All Souls' Day.

In addition to my parish work, I am a volunteer chaplain at HMP Oakwood near Wolverhampton. I volunteer in the chaplaincy team once a week, meeting and talking to prisoners, hosting Bible study and celebrating Communion.

On a personal note, Nancy and I are enjoying being close to beautiful scenery in Shropshire and central Wales and being a bit closer to family too.

I hope all is well at St Martin's and you are going from strength to strength! I'm looking forward to visiting one weekend and sharing again with you in Sunday worship.



All good wishes  
David

**David Candlin**

Team Rector, Bloxwich

All Saints, Holy Ascension, St Thomas

01922 476 598

[david@bloxwichparish.org.uk](mailto:david@bloxwichparish.org.uk)

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

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

### **Sunday 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.

### **Monday 27<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup>**

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.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>**

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.

## FOOD BANK

**This week we need the following:**

Cooking Sauces - **Urgent**

Beans/Pasta with Meat - **Urgent**

Noodles

Instant Mash

Squash - **Urgent**

Long life Juice - **Urgent we have none**

Powdered Milk - **Urgent we have none**

Instant Coffee - **Urgent we have none**

Long life Milk

Ketchup/Mayonnaise

Jam/Honey/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter

Sugar (500gr) - **Urgent**

Custard

Tinned Fruit - **Urgent we have none**

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

Deodorant (Male/Female)

Children's Toothpaste

Loo Rolls

Shaving Foam

Shampoo - **Urgent**

Hair Conditioner - **Urgent we have none**

Tampons

Nappies size 6&7

Washing Up Liquid

Washing Powder

Strong shopper bags and bags for life

## THE POWER OF POETRY – JANUARY

Robert Frost (1874-1963) was born in the USA and lived mainly in New England. He was a very popular poet and if the USA had had a poet laureate Frost would probably have been it! The poem I have chosen is *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.

*Whose woods these are I think I know,  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake,  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.*

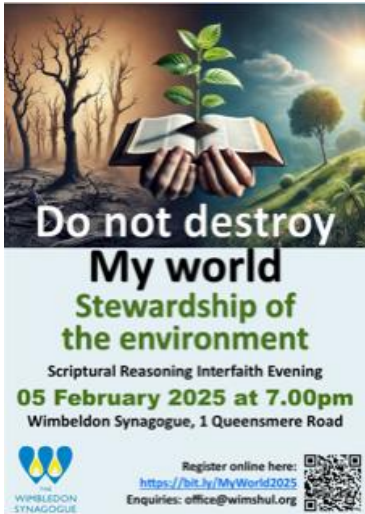
His language is simple and in this poem the words and rhythm give a feeling of the hush of a snowy wood, "... *the sweep of easy wind and downy flake*": The metre is an easily recognised AABA; BBCB, CCDC, DDDD.

I first came across the poetry of Robert Frost in 1963. His poems formed part of a selection (with Auden, Hardy, Betjeman, and several others long gone from my memory) which formed part of the O level for English Literature. I remember this was among them, though I remember nothing of any analysis. On the face of it the poem is a straightforward and evocative description of a journey at the darkest time of the year, in winter when snow is falling, but it has been interpreted by some as a metaphor for life's journey. The last verse in particular can be read in this way. You can imagine that the poet/narrator is tired, and having stopped is tempted not to go on. But he has "*promises to keep*" – commitments – and must plod on to the end. The last line "*And miles to go before I sleep*" perhaps invokes the sleep of death and its repetition somehow emphasises his weariness. There is probably no definitive answer to any deeper meaning however, and as with much poetry there can be a variety of interpretations. See what you think.

This completes a full year of the monthly poems in the Newsletter. To continue or not continue – that is the question. Do many of you read them? I am happy to continue for a while, but if anyone would like to write an occasional replacement, let me know. It cannot be too long (some of mine were slightly over the limit) and ideally should fit, with any analysis or information on the writer, on two or two-and-a-half pages of the Newsletter. (If we are very nice to Nick and the office staff they may permit 3 pages, but it depends of course on what else has to be included in the Newsletter). The poem should be relevant to the season generally, the church season, something pertaining to the Christian religion, the church, or something which conveys spiritual truths. If you don't wish to write any comments you can merely *suggest* a poem by your favourite poet and *if* I am able I will write something about it (but

send me a copy as I have limited poetry books). I look forward to lots of responses! Anything you type should be in Arial 12pt. I have, incidentally, already written February's contribution.

**Mary Gilbert**



**Scriptural Reasoning:  
"Do not destroy My world" – 5<sup>th</sup>  
February 2025 at 7pm**

Join Us for an Inspiring Multi-Faith  
Evening of Scriptural Reasoning

"Do Not Destroy My World" -  
Stewardship of the Environment  
Date: Wednesday, 5th February 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM for a 7:30 PM start  
Location: Wimbledon Parkside  
(Address provided upon registration).  
Discover the beauty of learning  
together across

faiths! Scriptural reasoning brings people of diverse traditions into conversation by exploring sacred texts in an open and respectful environment. This evening, we'll reflect on the call to care for our shared planet, drawing wisdom from multiple faith traditions.

Whether you're passionate about interfaith dialogue, environmental stewardship, or simply curious to learn, this event promises meaningful connections and inspiring insights. Register online here: <https://bit.ly/MyWorld2025>

For more information contact us at [office@wimshul.org](mailto:office@wimshul.org).

We can't wait to welcome you!

## 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 @ St Martin's

## Spring Recital Series

**FREE!**



**Saturday 11th January, 4.30pm**

*Peter Gould & Martin Hall - Organ Recital*

*A varied programme of organ works. Peter & Martin are both highly experienced church and concert musicians.*



**Saturday 8th February, 4.30pm**

*Mark & Iva Butler - Violin duo*

*Iva Butler, a violinist passionate about period performance collaborates with her husband Mark Butler, a member of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields*



**Saturday 1st March, 4.30pm**

*Epsom College Chamber Choir & Orchestra*

*Epsom college music scholars return to give their annual concert at St Martin's - always an exciting programme with a whole host of talented young musicians*



**Wednesday 26th March, 5pm**

*Epsom College Lower School*

*Chapel Choir Choral Evensong*

*An opportunity to hear the Epsom College Lower School Chapel Choir lead the worship in this Midweek Evensong*

### St Martin of Tours

Church Street  
Epsom, KT17 4PX

Admission to the recitals is free but we ask for donations to enable us to continue offering great music at St Martin's

You can also use our QR code to support the series at any time.



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Registered Charity No 1134149

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