



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 2nd MARCH THE 1st SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Baptism at St Martin's

A couple of photos from last Sunday's baptism service when we welcomed Liam as he began his Christian journey.



DIARY

Sunday 2nd March

9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's.

Home made marmalade and lemon drizzle cakes will be sold after the service. All proceeds go towards the Christmas fair.

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Tuesday 4th March

11.00am Contemplative Prayer Group

The group meets in the Lady Chapel on Tuesday, 4th March, at 11 am for an hour or so of silence and led meditation. All are welcome. Our starting point will be from Isaiah 41.10 - '*I am your God, I will strengthen you*'. We also meet on 'zoom' on Thursday 20th March at 8pm. Joining details from me or Alex Rennie.

Adrian Esdaile

4.00pm Centering Prayer. Tea and biscuits from 3.45pm.

'Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

A small group meet every other Tuesday, at the back of church, to pray together in silence. If you would enjoy some time for silent prayer with others, please come along.

We begin with something to reflect on (Psalm 46.10). After our 20 minutes of silence, we might share something that we have noticed during our time together. **Lynne Scholefield**

Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Holy Communion

Friday 7th March - World Day of Prayer

Everyone is warmly invited to join the World Day of Prayer special service at St Martins, at 10.30am.

Representatives from all the Churches in Epsom are expected to come and join the UK, as around the world, to celebrate a life of faith by the people of the Cook Islands. There will be refreshments after the service.

Ruth Foxcroft

Sunday 9th March LENT 1

8.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's.

4.00pm Lent Group in the Headley Room

6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's

Refreshments from 5.30pm

6.30pm The deanery confirmation service with the Bishop of Guildford is at **Cuddington Church**. Candidates from St Martin's will join others for confirmation.

Second Thoughts

Claire Gilbert 'Julian of Norwich: mother, mystic, radical, ' Julian of Norwich is an increasingly known and loved medieval mystic, whose radical visions have so much to say to us now. Claire found her to be the brightest star in an otherwise dry Oxford theology degree, and went on to write a doctorate on Julian's writing in relation to the ecological crisis.

When Claire was diagnosed with cancer, Julian became her spiritual companion through two and a half years of gruelling treatment, at the end of which Claire wrote a fictional autobiography of Julian in homage to her. In her talk Claire will present what (little) we know about the historical Julian, how she has imagined her life in her book, and how Julian's writings can speak to us today.

Dr Claire Gilbert has worked extensively in public ethics, specialising in medical ethics and environmental ethics. A theologian by background, she emphasises the spiritual dimension of ethics in her writing and lecturing. Claire was Research Fellow at the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, King's College, London, then National Policy Adviser to the Church of England on medical ethics and environmental ethics. She founded a charity, the Ethics Academy, and was a lay canon of St Paul's Cathedral where she co-founded St Paul's Institute for ethics in finance and business. Claire is founder of the Westminster Abbey Institute which she directed for ten years. She is now a full-time writer.'

This session of Second Thoughts will be livestreamed.



St Martin's Lent Reflection

'All Welcome'

This Lent, the focus of our study is *'how can we be a Church where everyone feels welcome, and that they belong?'* The theme will be explored in our preaching and in a Sunday afternoon study group. What unites us? What divides us? What issues may make it harder for someone to feel they belong in this worshipping community? The 6 week course will give you the chance to share your insights and experience, as well as looking at Bible material, Christian beliefs and Church teaching. The course uses resources from the 'Inclusive Church' movement and elsewhere.

Meeting In the **Headley Room in Church House from 4-6 pm**
(with refreshments).

Led by Dr Lynne Scholefield, Dr John Padwick and
Revd Judith Mitchell.

Sunday 9 March	Introduction. Gender.
Sunday 16 March	Wealth & Poverty
Sunday 23 March	Disabilities & Differently Gifted
Sunday 30 March	Sexuality
Sunday 6 April	Ethnicity
Sunday 13 April	Mental Health. Final Reflections

TUESDAY 25th MARCH

7.30pm A special service to mark the international day of remembrance for victims of slavery.

Our Bishop, Paul, will be preaching at this important service for St Martin's. We are in the process of commissioning a memorial to the enslaved of Barbados and elsewhere, partly in recognition that we have memorials to people who were slave owners and partly in recognition of the gospel imperative of freedom in Christ. The service will give us the chance to acknowledge the injustices of the past and re-commit ourselves to the cause of justice in the present. **Please support this service as we join with churches in many countries marking this important day.**



ST MARTIN'S 200 – 13TH & 14TH SEPTEMBER

This is our celebration weekend for the Georgian western end of St Martin's nave. These are the key events that will be happening in our wonderful building: There will be an exhibition on the history of our church throughout the weekend. Saturday is also the annual 'ride and stride' event, when people visit churches, so we hope to have lots of visitors.

Saturday 13th

7.30pm - A performance of *Pride & Prejudice* by the touring theatre company 'This is my Theatre'. Jane Austen, a citizen of Georgian England, has her own anniversary celebrations this year.

Sunday 14th

10.00am Our guest speaker will be the Co-Head of our Church school, Maggie Down.

3.00pm: As part of our 2nd Thoughts series, historian Peter Ross presents 'Dining with James and Jane: Eating at Home with the Georgians'

4.00pm Celebration Tea

5.30pm: Choral Evensong, when the preacher will be the Bishop of Dorking.

(Eco) Ideas, info, action...

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



Creation Care

Congratulations... go to Erin, Dara, Banke and Dolapo for achieving Bronze in the scheme. They did this by going online and answering some (fairly easy, though sometimes challenging, in a good way) questions about the way they care for creation in their daily lives. They are the first

household linked to St Martin's to have completed this. Who's next? Well done!

Helen Williams, Eco Rep

New Electoral Roll 2025

The Church of England says that every six years we have to start afresh with our Electoral Roll and that falls this year. So this spring it's important that everyone who is eligible completes an Electoral Roll form. Why is the Electoral Roll important? We need to show as accurate a number as possible of the people who regularly worship at our churches. If the number on a church's roll falls below 100 then the Diocese may start to look at the sustainability of that church.

What's the benefit of being on the roll? You can have a stake in the decision making of the parish and the wider church, such as electing PCC members, voting at the annual meeting and being a member of the Deanery Synod.

Who can be on the Electoral Roll? Simply put, whether you live in or out of the parish and have been a regular worshipper for at least six months then you should be on the Roll. **This includes those who regularly worship with us online.**

Notices about the new Roll will be displayed and application forms will be available from the middle of March until 23 April. If you have any questions then please ask John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer, Sarah Lutton, Churchwarden or any of the clergy.

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 wardens@stmartinsepsom.org

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 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..

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

FOOD BANK

This week we need the following:

Cooking Sauces, Tinned Vegetables , Tinned Spaghetti
Instant Mash, Noodles
Powdered Milk, Long-life Milk
Squash, Long-life Juice
Ketchup/Mayonnaise
Jam/Marmalade/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter/Honey
Sugar (500gr), Custard, Tinned Fruit
Long life Sponge puddings, Savoury Biscuits
Chocolate Biscuit Bars
Deodorant (Male/Female), Shaving Foam
Shampoo & Conditioner, Nappies size 6+
Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder
Strong shopper bags and bags for life

THE POWER OF POETRY – MARCH

It was with a poem by George Herbert, priest and poet, that I began this monthly series of poems just over a year ago in February 2024 and, as a favourite of mine, here he is again. Herbert considered prayer to be very important – public prayer particularly – and was very concerned that prayer should be given equal weight with the sermon. His was a time when puritanism was on the rise and sermons were both popular and lengthy. Herbert said that sermons were often too long and should be no longer than an hour so I can only guess at the average length in the seventeenth century. I think if Nick were to preach for an hour or more there could well be a riot. (But then they didn't have TV so maybe a sermon was considered great entertainment!) Herbert preferred *public* prayer to private devotions, public prayer being socially stronger and warmer. At one point in Herbert's life he was much involved with the restoration of a church in Leighton Bromswold and insisted that the church contain two pulpits, of identical design and height. One was for sermons, and the other for prayer.

In the poem which follows, *Prayer 1*, Herbert lists the qualities of prayer:

*Prayer, the church's banquet, angels' age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth,
Engine against the Almighty, sinner's tower,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;*

*Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.*

The poem is a list of 26 metaphors, some with links to the scriptures. They are not all obvious. The first line for instance refers to Holy Communion and eternity (angels as we know live forever), the next line refers to Genesis when God breathes life into Adam, and when we die this gift – the breath of life – returns to God. Reference is next made to the complex emotions we put into prayer, and then prayer as part of our journey to God. When in prayer we are sounding the depths of heaven as sailors sound the depth of water. Later there is reference to Creation which took six days but prayer can transform in an hour. As a tune may be transposed into another key, so an hour of prayer may be transposed into something pleasing to God. In line 5 there seems to be a comparison of prayer to battle with reference to a siege tower which could be used to climb to God, and this may be a reflection of Herbert's own battle, when his desire for worldly success fought against his growing desire to dedicate himself to God's service. There is a change of tone in line 9 ("Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss") hinting that prayer is not so fearful. In line 13 "the soul's blood" is saying that as blood is needed to keep the body alive, so the soul needs prayer in order to flourish. I won't explain every line, but notice the use of reversal – the breath of God in man and man breathing life back to God in prayer, the plummet (plumb line) going downwards to earth in its usual way, but also going up towards the heavens. I like the end,

“something understood”: what we understand is often partial and moves beyond our grasp, it can be intangible, fleeting, sometimes exasperating when for a moment we felt we had the key to the meaning of but then it has gone again.

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:



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

Service for Epsom

St Martin's Church,
Church Street, KT17 4PX

10.30am

All are welcome

Refreshments will be served after the service

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

EPSOM CHORAL SOCIETY

HAYDN & MOZART

Saturday 15 March 2025 at 7:30pm

St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX

Haydn | Nelson Mass

Haydn | *Inसानae et vanae curae*

Mozart | *Ave verum*

Mozart | *Solemn Vespers (including Laudate Dominum)*

Eleanor Pennell-Briggs | soprano

Beth Moxon | mezzo soprano

Paul Hopwood | tenor

Gavin Horsley | bass

English Sinfonietta

Julian Collings | conductor

Tickets: £20 (Under 25s half price)

Ticket price includes free programme and glass of wine

Box office: 01372 274418 | www.epsomchoral.org.uk/tickets



EPSOM
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Registered charity number 273757





Commemoration of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade



We Remember... We Repent... We Repair

Tuesday 25 March 2025, 7.30pm

St Martin's Church, Church St, Epsom, KT17 4PX

With refreshments after the service

www.stmartinsepsom.org

Registered Charity No. 1134149

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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Claire Gilbert

Julian of Norwich: mother, mystic, radical

Julian of Norwich was a medieval mystic whose radical visions have echoes in our own time. Dr Claire Gilbert, who has written an award-winning fictional autobiography of this fascinating historical figure will talk about what we know about Julian and how her writings can speak to us today.

This event will be livestreamed.

SUNDAY 9 MARCH 6.30PM

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, EPSOM KT17 4PX





INTER-CHURCH WORSHIP NIGHT

info: saintpauls.co.uk/worship

WED 26 MAR | 8PM

ST PAUL'S, 15 NORTHEY AVE, SM2 7HS

St
PB

**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.