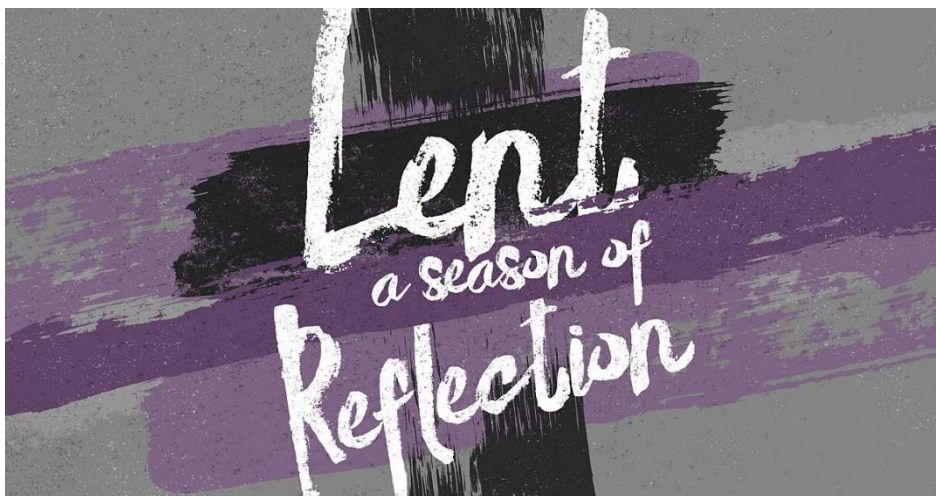


Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 9th MARCH 2025
LENT 1



DIARY

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.

Tuesday 11th March

4.00pm (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

Take Time To Talk – Lent choices

'Lent' is connected with 'lengthen' and refers to the time when the days get longer. For Christians it is a time of 'spiritual spring cleaning'. "Yet even now, says God, return to me with all your heart." Joel 2v12.

We might understand it as a time for both 'letting go', and 'taking up or 'returning to'. We will talk about what we can choose to 'let go of' and 'return to' Do come and join us. Lynne

Wednesday 12th March

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 16th March LENT 2

9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

4.00pm Lent Group in the Headley Room

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

St Stephen's Update - Rob Jeffery, Chair of Fabric Committee

The first part of the works have been completed with the removal of the existing rotten Gable End Wall. Unfortunately, during this work it was discovered that the window frames, when originally fitted, were potentially contributing to the rot within the frame, as any rainwater would have flowed through the uPVC framework into the wooden frame. Consequently, we have had to seek the professional advice of our architect, structural engineer and builder to advise us on the best design of the new framework to ensure that the wall is weatherproof for many years to come. We are still waiting for the final quotes to come back to us but have been advised that the costs are likely to be a lot higher than the original quotes and we are expecting the project to cost in the region of £100,000 to complete.

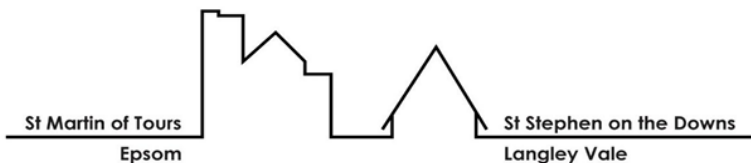
The PCC has to apply for grant funding to pay for these works as we don't have enough in our reserves to cover the costs. We are hoping that St Stephen's will be reopening in the next few months but do keep looking for updates to the project via the Church Newsletter and the St Stephen's Facebook Page. In the meantime, if you would like to donate to the costs of the repairs or have further questions please do email rob@smartinsepsom.org.

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 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

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 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 15th

Our Discipleship and Fellowship Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance. Those living and working in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

FOOD BANK

This week we need the following:

Cooking Sauces

Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti

Instant Mash, Powdered Milk, Long-life Milk

Tea bags, Instant Coffee, Squash, Long-life Juice

Ketchup/Mayonnaise

Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter/Honey

Crisps

Sugar (500gr), Custard, Tinned Fruit

Long life Sponge puddings

Savoury Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars

Deodorant (Male/Female), Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner

Adult Toothpaste, 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:



Electoral Roll 2025

This year the Parish electoral roll has to be re-done, this is your opportunity to be part of it!

What is the Electoral Roll?

It is a list of the names and addresses of all the members of the church. It allows you to be a part of and vote in the APCM. It also makes you eligible to be on the PCC and represent the views and opinions of the church congregation

Why should I sign up?

To be part of your church - having lots of people signed up the Electoral Roll allows us to show that we have a strong and vibrant community of people here at St Martin's & St Stephen's.

Key Dates

The Electoral Roll is open now for enrolment and will close on 23rd April 2025
The Roll will re-open after the APCM on the 12th May 2025

How to sign up

Check your email - if we already have your contact details we have sent the link directly to your inbox

Use the QR code to sign up to the Electoral Roll

Speak to somebody if you can't get online and we will help



**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX



**St Stephen
on the Downs**

Rosebery Road
Langley Vale, KT18 6AF





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



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

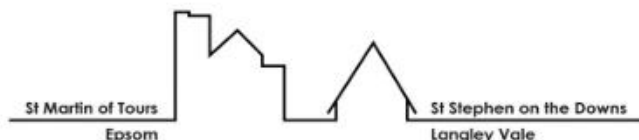
Box office: 01372 274418 | www.epsomchoral.org.uk/tickets



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



INTER-CHURCH WORSHIP NIGHT

info: saintpauls.co.uk/worship

WED 26 MAR | 8PM

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

St
PB

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.



f [stmartinsepsom](https://www.stmartinsepsom.org) • www.stmartinsepsom.org • office@stmartinsepsom.org • 01372 722 567

Registered Charity No 1134149

Epsom Good Friday



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in Epsom

April 18th 2025

Join us 10:30 am in
Rosebery Park, by
the pond, as the

Jesus Drama

unfolds: moving to
Epsom marketplace
for the final acts

All are welcome



**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.