



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 23th MARCH 2025
LENT 3



DIARY

Sunday 23rd March LENT 3

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale Village Hall**
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's**
- 4.00pm Lent Group in the Headley Room**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's**

Tuesday 25th March The Annunciation

- 7.30pm Service to mark the international day of remembrance for victims of slavery**

Bishop Christopher Herbert, visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at the University of Surrey, will be preaching at this important service for St Martin's. We also welcome Peter Brathwaite to speak about his heritage and research. 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.



Prayer for the Annunciation:

God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh: we thank You that you visit us with Your Holy Spirit and overshadow us with Your power; strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Wednesday 26th March

10.00am Holy Communion

Please note that the 5.00pm Epsom College Choral Evensong has been postponed.

7.30pm PCC meets in the Wisley Room.

Sunday 30th March Mothering Sunday

9.30am Family Service at Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

4.00pm Lent Group in the Headley Room

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Contemplative Prayer Group

The Group meets on Tuesday 1st April at 11 am in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's for an hour of prayer. Our starting point will be Jeremiah 18.6 '*Just as clay in the hands of the potter, so are you in my hands*'. All are welcome. The same material will be used on zoom at 8 pm on Thursday 24th April at 8 pm. Please note the change of date and the link for zoom can be obtained from me.

Adrian Esdaile

Second Thoughts

For Second Thoughts on Sunday 13th April at 6.30 pm there will be a service of Sung Compline with an introduction to Holy Week. Also included will be a musical reflection from Erin on the harp.

Adrian Esdaile

RIP Stuart Taylor

Those who were at St Martin's or St Stephen's in the 1960s or 1970s will be sad to learn of the death of the Rev Stuart Taylor. He died on 24 February. A service of Thanksgiving is taking place at 2.30pm on Wednesday 26 March at All Saints Church, Long Ashton, Bristol. It will be livestreamed. The link is:

<https://youtube.com/liveRNzdOLgpA?feature=share>

St Stephen's Update

The first part of the works have been completed. During this work it was discovered that the window frames were potentially contributing to the rot, as any rainwater would have flowed through the uPVC framework into the wooden frame. So 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. Final quotes have come back much 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, and will be discussing how we move forward, and what options we have, this week. We can then talk with the congregation and community accordingly. Do look for updates to the project via the Church Newsletter and the St Stephen's Facebook Page. In the meantime, if you have further questions, please do email rob@stmartinsepsom.org.

Rob Jeffery, Chair of Fabric

Music @ St Martin's – Saturday 12 April 4.30pm

Nigel Blomiley – cello,
Viv Mclean – piano

Cello sonatas by Beethoven & Brahms

The next concert in our series features the exceptional talents of cellist Nigel Blomiley and pianist Viv Mclean. The duo performs works by two of the 'greats' of the classical era - Beethoven's Sonata No.3 in A major, and Brahms' Sonata No.1 in E minor. The music is both beautiful and profound, so if you wanted to be lifted out of the ordinary for an hour or so, come along! Free admission – donations welcomed from those who can.

Urgent Support Needed for 3rd Epsom (St. Martin's) Scouts

We are applying for a Surrey grant to upgrade our facilities, allowing us to welcome more children into Scouting. This will give them the chance to develop essential life skills, make lifelong friends, and contribute positively to our community. Beyond Scouting, our improved and accessible facilities will benefit the wider community—providing much-needed space for meetings, events, and activities. This will help us strengthen our role as a hub for engagement and inclusion.

Why your support is urgent:

We must submit our full application within a week, and strong community backing is crucial. While there are 28 days to comment on our proposal page, we need as much support as possible now to strengthen our submission.

How you can help right now:

1. Visit our proposal page:

<https://yourfundsurreyproposals.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/3rd-epsom-st-martins-scout-group-and-1st-epsom-st-martins-brownies/>

2. Vote in support of our project

3. Leave a short comment showing your backing (note we do not believe there are any similar proposals in the immediate area), perhaps saying how Scouting enriches the local community and supports the Church such as at various fairs, graveyard clearing and plays a major part at the Remembrance parade service.

4. Confirm your vote by verifying your email address

5. Share this request with your friends, family, and neighbours—and help spread the word on social media!

Every vote and comment makes a huge difference in helping us secure funding to create more opportunities for young people and the wider community.

Thank you from 3rd Epsom Scouts!

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 this. Who's next? Well

done!

Helen Williams, Eco Rep

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 23rd

Our Electoral Roll Officer: John Aronson. Our Church Cleaners. Local doctors' surgeries. Those living and working in Richmond Close, Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery Road, Sadlers Way and South Street.

Monday 24th

Those recently confirmed and their growing relationship with God. Preparation for future baptism and confirmation. All who enter St Martin's in the week and pass through our garden. Church Army (supporting and empowering those most in need in UK and Ireland). Those living and working in Spencer Close, Squirrels Way, St George's Gardens, St James' Close, St Martin's Avenue and St Martin's Close.

Tuesday 25th

The Vale School: children, parents, the Co-Heads, staff and Governors. Scouts (especially our 3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Group), Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and their leaders. Local refuse collectors, those who deliver the post and other items. Those living and working in Station Approach Stevens Close, Strand Close, Sunnybank, and The Grove.

Wednesday 26th

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.

Thursday 27th

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.

Friday 28th

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.

Saturday 29th

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.

FOOD BANK

This week we need the following:

Cooking Sauces, Tinned Fish
Powdered Milk, Long-life Milk
Tea bags, Instant Coffee, Squash
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Chocolate Spread/Honey/Jam, Crisps
Sugar (500gr), Custard
Tinned Fruit , Long life Sponge puddings
Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars

Deodorant (Male/Female), Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner
Sanitary Towels/Tampons, Shaving Foam
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**

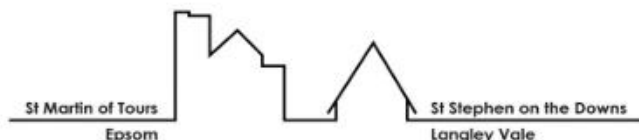
Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX



**St Stephen
on the Downs**

Rosebery Road
Langley Vale, KT18 6AF





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

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.