



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025**



## DIARY

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's  
(*in Church and live streamed*)
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

- 4.00pm Centering Prayer.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Standing and Finance Committee

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

- 7.30pm The Bible Course at St Martin's

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

- 9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale Village Hall
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's  
(*in Church and live streamed*)
- 6.30pm Compline at St Martin's

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

- 4.00pm Time to Talk

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

- 10.00am Holy Communion

## LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER SUNDAYS

### **7<sup>th</sup> September : Creation Sunday.**

Ark and Choir begin again at 10am, and we have a guest preacher, Rev Victoria Ashdown, who is our Mission Enabler for Community .

### **14<sup>th</sup> September: Education Sunday & 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

10am. Our guest preacher is Maggie Down,  
Co-head at St Martin's primary schools.

3pm 200<sup>th</sup> lecture on Georgian food.

4pm Parish Tea

5pm Choral Evensong – guest preacher is Bishop of Dorking

### **21st September St Matthew Day**

#### **3pm The Brathwaite Lecture**



We are delighted to welcome **Christina Peake** to talk at our fourth annual Brathwaite lecture about her experience as a transdisciplinary artist and our plans for creating a new memorial at St Martin's to commemorate those who were enslaved on the island of Barbados.

### **28<sup>th</sup> September Harvest Festival at St Martin's.**

10am Harvest Communion

## **Celebrate the apple harvest**



You are invited to join us at Church House on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 from 3 – 5 pm to enjoy the fruits of our apple tree.

There will be a sign-up sheet in church and offers of help to bake apple cake / apple pies / apple crumble would be most welcome.

***Nick & Yvonne***

## **St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lecture series: ‘Here I stand’**

With some fabulous speakers, this looks good – full details at:

### **Autumn Lecture Series 2025 - Here I Stand - St Martin-in-the-Fields**

Speakers include the Dean of Washington DC Cathedral and Rowan Williams. You can attend in person or online. Details on the website.

## STEWARDSHIP – MAKING YOUR DONATION

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:





## **PRAYER GROUPS**

**St Martin's offers these options for praying together:**

### **Evening Prayer on Zoom, weekdays 5pm-5.30pm**

This follows the Common Worship rite and is led by one of the regular members of the group.

See <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

All are warmly invited to join on an occasional or regular basis. Find us at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91650281049?pwd=dLiB4jY8FRRdtFcbGBRjaVtMJ9K2Ar.1> or, if you prefer typing details directly into

Zoom, use Meeting ID is 916 5028 1049 and passcode 960460. There is an additional zoom prayer session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 8pm.

### **Centering Prayer: Every other Tuesday, 4pm in Church (Tea & biscuits from 3.45pm)**

"Be still and know that I am God" *Psalms 46:10*. A small group of us meet to pray together in silence. We begin with something to reflect on - perhaps a biblical passage or Psalm. After our 20 minutes of silence, we might share something that we have noticed during our time together. Next meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Contemplative Prayer: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 11am in the Lady Chapel**

A time for focussing on God's presence and allowing oneself to be filled with God's grace. It's a time of stillness and quietness. We listen to the words of God or of Jesus in contemplation.

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

Please remember in your daily prayers this fortnight:

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristans and chalice assistants: Mary Holloway-Neville and chalice assistants. University of the Creative Arts, Laine Theatre Arts staff and students. Those living and working in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbroke Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Vocations to Ministry, ordained and lay. Churches Together in Epsom: Russell Holding (Chair). Our Missions: AMECA (for Malawi, Epsom based). Those living and working in Langley Close, Langley Vale Road, Links Road and Lintons Lane.

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

Our Home Communion Team and those to whom they take Communion. Our Flower-Arranging Team: Yvonne Parish. Staff at local Citizens' Advice Bureau, Age Concern and Job Centre. All those seeking their help and/or in need of work. Those living and working in Longdown Lane South, Longdown Road, Lynwood Avenue, Lynwood Road, Mannamead, Mannamead Close, Middle Close and Middle Lane.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Our Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett, John Padwick and Alexander Rennie. Our Eco Church Team: Helen Williams. Our Missions: Mission to Kenya. Those living and working in Milburn Walk, Mill Road, Millers Copse, Milton Gardens and Mospey Crescent.

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Our vision and work for Social and Racial Justice. Our Readers and Intercessors. Local schools and nursery schools. Those living and working in Oak Hill, Oakmead Green, Old Barn Road, Pikes Hill and Pine Hill.

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

All who offer welcome and hospitality and serve refreshments at our churches. Those to be married in our churches. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those living and working in Pitt Road, Portland Place, Prospect Place, Providence Place and Randolph Road.

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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.

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**

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 the 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.

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Tuesday 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.

### **Wednesday 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.

**Thursday 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.

**Friday 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.

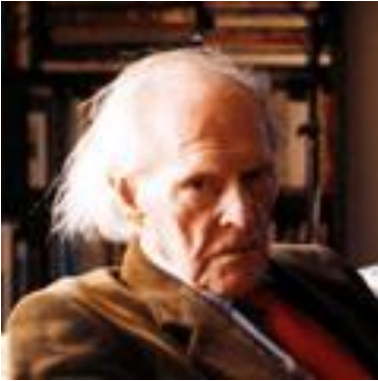
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## FOODBANK REQUESTS

Tinned Fish  
Tinned Meat  
Cooking Sauces  
Dried Pasta in Sauce  
Tinned Vegetables  
Tinned Fruit  
Sweetcorn  
Instant Mash - Urgent  
Pasta/Beans with Meat  
Microwave Rice  
Packet Soup, Rice  
Tea (bags), Instant Coffee - Urgent  
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce  
Squash, Long Life Juice - Urgent we have none  
Porridge  
Jam / Honey / Chocolate Spread/ Peanut Butter  
Marmalade- Urgent, Custard  
Rice Pudding – Urgent, Chocolate  
Sponge Pudding - Urgent  
Chocolate Biscuit Bars  
Biscuits, Savoury Biscuits  
Sugar (500gr) - Urgent  
Powdered Milk – Urgent, Non Dairy Milk  
Male / Female Deodorant  
Shaving Foam, Shampoo, Hair Conditioner  
Toilet rolls - Urgent  
Washing powder/ tablets  
Washing up Liquid - Urgent  
Nappies size 6

## THE POWER OF POETRY – AUGUST



I have chosen a Welsh poet this time, R S Thomas 1913-2000. He was an Anglican priest, but also an ardent Welsh nationalist, disliking what he saw as the Anglicisation of Wales, and supporting the group of arsonists that targeted English-owned holiday cottages (and saying what was one death, compared to the death of the whole Welsh nation). He was also a pacifist which seems

somewhat contrary to the above.

He married Mildred Eldridge, an English artist, and had one son, Gwydion (1945-2016). They had a small income and lacked modern comforts through their own choice. He learnt Welsh from the age of 30 and worked largely in a Welsh-speaking community. On retirement he and his wife moved to a small unheated cottage where the temperature was often below freezing. He became more politically active after retirement, and he rarely attended Holy Communion because of changes to the liturgy made in 1966. He couldn't bear to see the priest facing the people rather than leading the congregation towards God from the east-facing position.

Thomas had a reputation for being taciturn and difficult and photographs I have seen of him show a rather grim figure. His son said that his father's sermons often mentioned the evil of refrigerators, washing machines etc, believing that such modern appliances were a distraction from spiritual matters. This, said Gwydion, was to a congregation that did not have any of these

things “but were longing for them”. [Also, I would have thought that spending most of the day doing the washing – filling the “copper” bucket by bucket, heating the water, emptying it, rinsing by hand, putting it through the mangle, hanging it on a washing line, ironing it once dry; washing coloured and delicate items by hand – didn’t leave much time for thinking spiritual thoughts!] I expect we can all think of various gadgets that we think would be better for not existing, but Thomas does seem to have taken this to extremes!

Thomas, however, was asking ‘what is life for?’ and what is our desire for more and more ‘stuff’ doing to our souls? His poetry does not seem to reflect his grimness, rather his faith, and *The Bright Field* is perhaps one of his most famous poems. He does not care for rhymes, and I feel the poem could almost be written as prose.

*I have seen the sun break through  
to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way  
and forgotten it. But that was the  
pearl of great price, the one field that had  
treasure in it. I realise now  
that I must give all that I have  
to possess it. Life is not hurrying*

*on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

This poem is about those rare moments when we feel the Holy Spirit is with us or some connection to God's creation, though this need not be a religious feeling. Such moments could be on hearing a moving piece of music, or when we encounter a beautiful landscape, a meadow full of flowers, the sea....

The feelings engendered do not last and cannot be planned for. They are nearly always very fleeting and, for many, are moments when God seems very near. In Thomas's case the sun shining on a small field, seen and then forgotten, was such a moment. He knows now that the field was the "pearl of great price" and that such a rare experience should have been held on to as it signalled the presence of God; that we should turn aside, as Moses did for the burning bush, when such moments occur.



I have written above on his apparently far from sunny disposition. But his poetry gives a different aspect of his character. I therefore include another one of his, *Kneeling*, which gives perhaps an insight into his thoughts as priest.

*Moments of great calm,  
kneeling before an altar  
of wood in a stone church  
in summer, waiting for the God  
to speak; the air a staircase  
for silence; the sun's light  
ringing me, as though I acted  
a great role. And the audiences  
still; all that close throng  
of spirits waiting, as I,  
for the message.  
Prompt me, God;  
but not yet. When I speak,  
though it be you who speak  
through me, something is lost.  
The meaning is in the waiting.*

**Mary Gilbert**

# Project 200

Enabling St Martin's to embrace the future

## Two ways to support us

**Short term:** Make a donation beginning with a '2' to help us upgrade and enclose the Lady Chapel, so we can create a warm space without heating the whole building



**Longer term:** How might St Martin's look in the future? Share your ideas with us for how our historic building can continue to witness to God in the years to come

To donate, scan the QR code  
or go to our website  
[www.stmartinsepsom.org/project200](http://www.stmartinsepsom.org/project200)

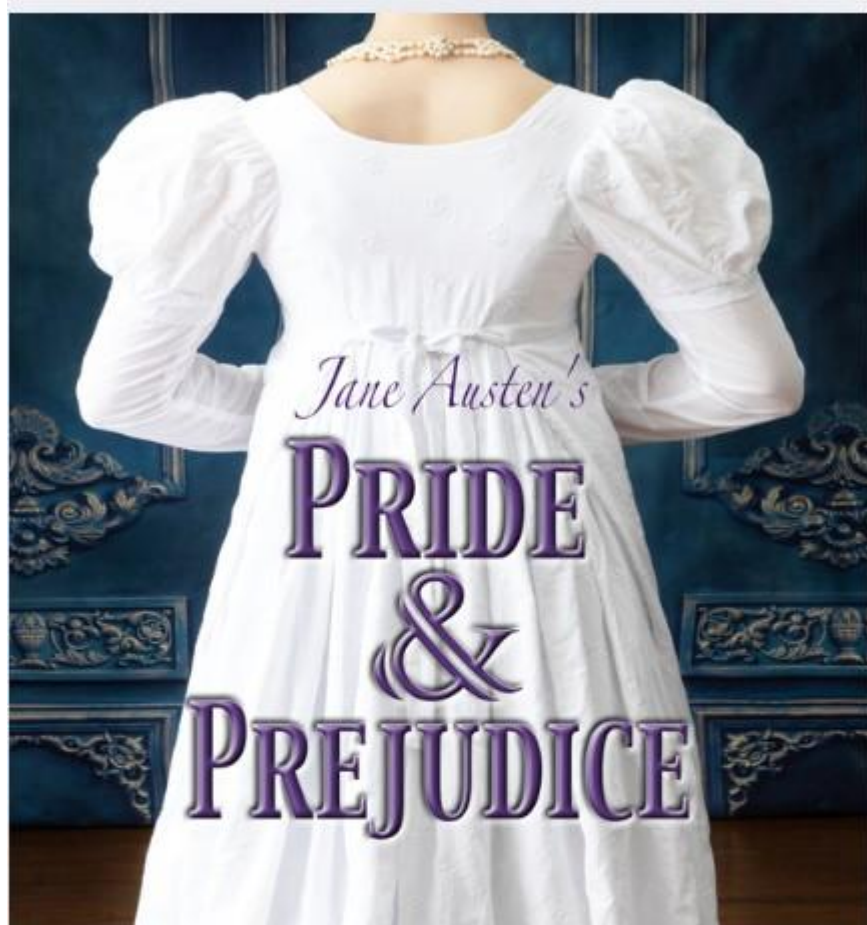


**St Martin of Tours**

Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PX

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





**Saturday 13 September 7.30pm**



**Tickets**

**£16 Adult**

**£12 Concessions**

**[thisismytheatre.com](http://thisismytheatre.com)**

**07732 253311**

**St Martin  
of Tours**

Church Street  
Epsom, KT17 4PX

**THIS MY  
THEATRE**

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# PRIDE & PREJUDICE

Written by Jane Austen

Directed by Sarah Slator

Assistant Direction by Chloe Bond

Adapted by Ethan Taylor

Music by Simon Stallard

**"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."**

**This Summer, critically acclaimed theatre company This Is My Theatre brings Jane Austen's classic tale to life in a stunning one-act adaptation to celebrate the author's 250th anniversary year.**



Epsom's largest historical building

## **St Martin's Church**

is marking its own anniversary - the 200th of its Georgian nave. Together with this theatre production, other events over a weekend of celebration include a talk on Georgian food (uniting Jane Austen with clergyman James Woodforde), an exhibition and special services.

For more information  
[www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://www.stmartinsepsom.org)  
01372 722 567

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



# Eco Fair

## 2025

**Saturday 20 September, 10.30am-2.30pm**

**St Martin of Tours Church,  
Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PX**

**Free to attend  
All welcome**

**Homebaked  
cakes tea and  
coffee**

***Discover a wide range of local green groups,  
businesses and campaigns, including:***

Try out electric bike options with  
**Energise Bikes**

Bring containers for plastic-free purchases from **Honey and  
Bamboo**

Learn about topics such as **reducing your carbon footprint,  
biodiversity, home energy efficiency, and how to care for trees  
and our local wildlife.**

**Discover ways to reduce your environmental impact,  
find opportunities to get involved,  
and help us build a greener community.**

***Refreshments available, remember to bring your reusable cup!***



For more information visit:  
**[www.SustainableEpsomEwell.co.uk](http://www.SustainableEpsomEwell.co.uk)**



**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.**