

St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 31st AUGUST 2025

TRINITY 11



DIARY

Sunday 31st 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** Taize service at St Martin's

Tuesday 2nd September

- 4.00pm** *Centering Prayer – Cancelled this week*

Wednesday 3rd September

- 10.00am** Holy Communion

Sunday 7th September

- 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

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER SUNDAYS

7th 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 .

14th September: Education Sunday & 200th anniversary

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

3pm 200th 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.

28th September Harvest Festival at St Martin's.

10am Harvest Communion

Summer sort out: We've taken the opportunity of a few spare hours this month to get a couple of jobs done. These have included sorting out and tidying equipment for Ark and clearing the room known as the 'old curate's office' in Church House. This will enable it to be used for temporary storage by hirers of the Hall. In church we've repositioned the library shelves from the south aisle into the old Northey Chapel to the right of the chancel where the books remain accessible. This area also provides space to sit and browse. The move has allowed for a little more 'break-out space' for children to use during services and other events.

Rob & Sarah

Celebrate the apple harvest



You are invited to join us at Church House on Sunday 12th 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.

Up on the roof

On one of those days earlier this month when it hit 30 degrees, structural engineer Penny was working up on the roof of St



Martin's. Building contractors Joe and Jake opened up sections of both the tiled and leaded parts of the nave roof to allow Penny to make a detailed inspection to ensure that we could safely install the planned solar panels. Her subsequent report was positive, so we now have all the paperwork in place to complete the application to the diocese for permission to install the panels. Sarah & Rob (who also endured the heat up on the roof that day!)



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 3rd 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 8th July.

Contemplative Prayer: 1st 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 week:

Sunday 31st

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.

Monday 1st

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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile and his family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. Our Church schools: St Martin's Infant and Junior

Schools: Children, parents, Governors, Heads, teachers and all staff. 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.

Thursday 4th

Our Lay Ministers: Clive Dougal (emeritus), Ruth Foxcroft, John Padwick and Howard Bluett. 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 6th

Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean: Rosemary Donovan who is moving to Derbyshire and whose last service in the Deanery is 14th September. Our Missions: the local Besom Network. Those living and working in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

FOODBANK REQUESTS

UHT Semi skimmed or full fat milk

Powdered milk

Jars of cooking sauces

Tinned meat – meatballs, minced beef, stewing steak etc

Long-life juice, Long-life sponge puddings

Pasta sauce

Tinned fish, Tinned fruit

Tinned sweetcorn

Tinned vegetables

Rice/ Micro Rice

Pasta

Noodles

Tinned tomatoes

Baked beans

Instant mash

Cereal (not porridge)

Weetabix

Rice pudding

Custard

Instant coffee

Tea Bags

Biscuits

Jam / Honey / Marmalade

Ketchup / Brown sauce / Mayo

Peanut butter / Chocolate spread

Shampoo / Conditioner

Deodorant, Shower gel

Sanitary Towels/Tampons

Chocolate/ sweet treats

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!

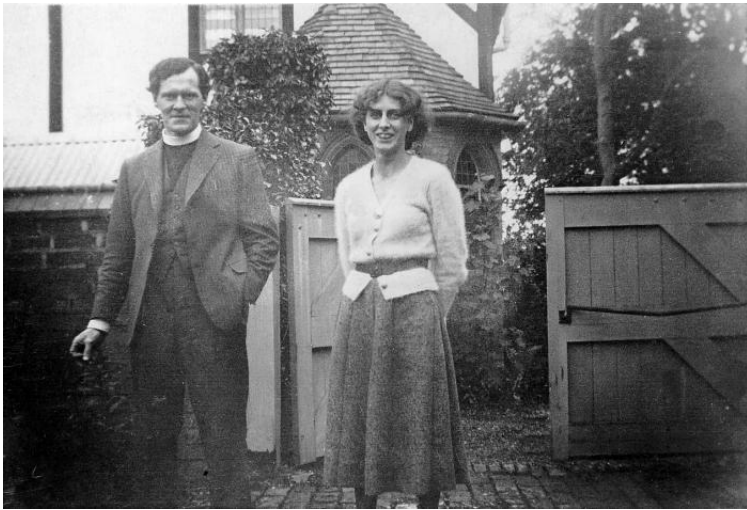
Thomas, however, was asking ‘what is life for?’ and what is our desire for more and more ‘stuff’ doing to our souls? His poetry does not seem to reflect his grimness, rather his faith, and *The Bright Field* is perhaps one of his most famous poems. He does not care for rhymes, and I feel the poem could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

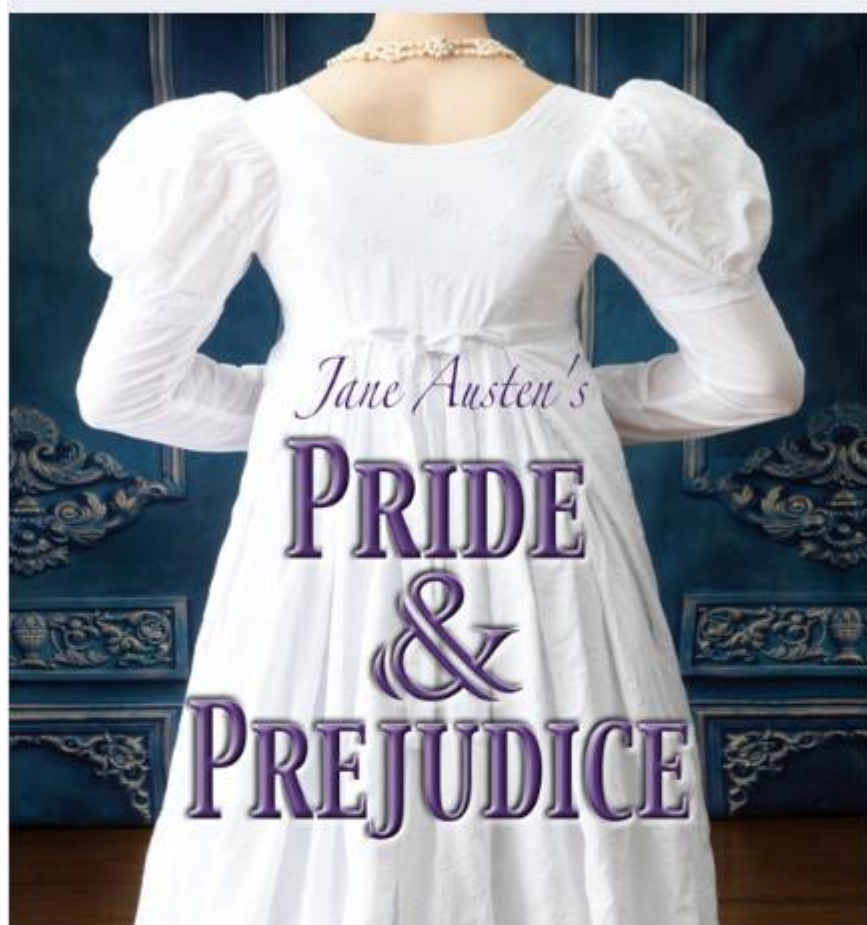
To donate, scan the QR code
or go to our website
www.stmartinsepsom.org/project200



St Martin of Tours

Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PX

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



Saturday 13 September 7.30pm



Tickets

£16 Adult

£12 Concessions

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
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



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.