



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2025
CREATION SUNDAY



DIARY

Sunday 7th September

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall**
10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's: Creation Sunday
(in Church and live streamed)
Ark and Choir begin again at 10am, and we have a guest preacher, Rev Victoria Ashdown, who is our Mission Enabler for Community.
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Tuesday September 9th

- 4.00pm Take Time to Talk: Blessings in Christian faith and practice (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)**

Wednesday 10th September

- 10.00am Holy Communion**

Sunday 14th September

- 8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's**
9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale Village Hall
10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's:
Education Sunday & 200th anniversary
Our guest preacher is Maggie Down,
Co-head at St Martin's primary schools.
(in Church and live streamed)
3.00pm 200th lecture on Georgian food.
4.00pm Parish Tea
5.00pm Choral Evensong – our guest preacher is Bishop of Dorking

Sunday 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.

Sunday 28th September Harvest Festival at St Martin's

10am Harvest Communion

Patrick Gabbett

Those of you who remember Patrick are warmly invited to Randalls Park Crematorium on 29th September at 11.45am, and afterwards at the RAC, Woodcote Park, Wilmerhatch Lane, Epsom KT18 7EW. Please feel welcome to wear coloured clothing to the service.

Please let me know if you plan to attend, so as to have a guide on numbers, at joan.gabbett@yahoo.co.uk

Harvest at St Martin's

28 September 10.00am



Gifts of food and other essential items are for



Gifts of money are for



We support AMECA's inspirational work in Malawi delivering healthcare and supporting training through sustainable initiatives. Founder and CEO Ruthie Markus regularly visits St Martin's to keep us updated on their work.

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.

Sarah Lutton and Rob & Sarah Jeffery

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.

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 Stephen's

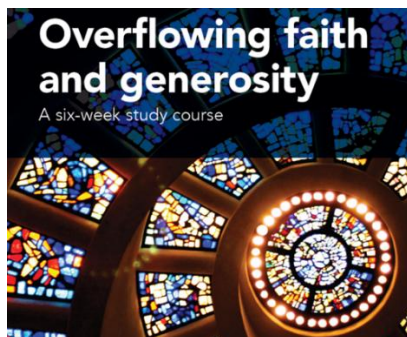
Flowers, cards and expressions of thanks greeted Janet Brooker following last Sunday morning's service. After many, many years of looking after St Stephen's and preparing the church for services, Janet has stepped down. Her job had, of course, been made somewhat more complicated over the last 15 months since the church had to close and services have had to be set up and held in the Village Hall instead.

Janet's close relationship with St Stephen's will continue and, as Frances Suttonwood takes on her duties, we wish Janet all the very best for her 'retirement'.



Overflowing Faith & Generosity

A six-week study course starting Tuesday 30 September
@ 7.30 pm in the Wisley Room, Church House



Christ calls us to a faith that is actively generous, building up spiritual rather than earthly treasures. Generosity can be the foundation of a lived-out faith because it seeks to mirror the generous love of God for the world. But how does this apply to us as 21st-century Christians? What does it mean to live a generous faith? Does it just mean money, or are there other ways to be generous?

Over this six-week course we will take some time to consider how Jesus calls his followers to be generous. Each week we will explore a different way Christians are called to be generous, discuss the theme in our group and find suggestions for what that form of generosity might look like as part of a lived-out faith.

Please let me know if you are able to come along.

revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org



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 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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 Digdens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Thursday 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.

Friday 12th

Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Through the Roof Wheelchairs for the World (Our Missions) and the Sunnybank Trust (based in Epsom). Those living and working in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

Saturday 13th

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes: 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.

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Tinned Meat - **Urgent**
Squash - **Urgent**
Weetabix - **Urgent**
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent**
Chocolate - **Urgent**
Chocolate Biscuit Bars - **Urgent**
Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent**
Shampoo - **Urgent**
Pasta/Beans with Meat - **Urgent we have none**
Sugar (500gr) - **Urgent we have none**
Tinned Fish
Cooking Sauces
Tinned Fruit
Dried Pasta in Sauce
Beans, Sweetcorn, Instant Mash
Packet Soup, Noodles
Tinned Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce
Breakfast Cereal
Instant Coffee / Tea (bags)
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Jam / Honey / Chocolate Spread/ Peanut Butter / Marmalade
Custard, Rice Pudding
Biscuits, Cereal Bars
Powdered Milk, Milk UHT
Non Dairy Milk
Male / Female Deodorant
Shaving Foam, Hair Conditioner
Washing Powder
Nappies Size 4 and 6

THE POWER OF POETRY – SEPTEMBER



T S Eliot (1888 – 1965) was an anglicised American, living much of his life in this country, and was confirmed into the Anglican Church. He wrote a variety of works, including *The Waste Land*, *Journey of the Magi* and *Murder in the Cathedral*. Many of his greatest poems dealt with the issue of faith which was of central importance to him, and he wrote four very long works, *Four Quartets*. At this point I should confess that I have read very little of any of his – generally just a few short extracts, with the exception of *Journey of the Magi* (“A cold coming we had of it, at the worst time of the year....”), and *Murder in the Cathedral*. The *Four Quartets* explore the nature of time and timelessness, and faith, and presumably chart Eliot’s own journey of faith and his search for meaning in the face of human frailties and world events.

I am giving here two extracts, both from *Little Gidding*, the fourth and final Quartet. The first is from the beginning, the second from the end. The latter I came across in the nineties as it was a reading at the memorial service for my old headmistress. I liked it then, though I was not absolutely sure what it meant!

First though, it might be of interest to give a bit of background to the place after which this is named. Little Gidding was set up in the seventeenth century by Nicholas Ferrar (a friend of the priest and poet George Herbert). He bought a run-down manor house and turned it into a religious community, which I think comprised thirty or so members of his own family. As in a conventional religious community such as a monastery the rules were apparently strict and run on Christian principles. Among their activities was book binding, and they also practised charitable works, such as looking after the welfare of local children. Daily services were held in the chapel. King Charles I visited it, at the start of the Civil War just after the Battle of Naseby, when he was anxious about the future and, probably, terrified as well (see line 7 below). The community at Little Gidding dispersed during the Civil War but came together again later. Eliot visited Little Gidding in 1940.

But on to the first extract:

*If you came this way
Taking the route you would be likely to take
From the place you would be likely to come from,
If you came this way in May time, you would find the hedges*

White again, in May, with voluptuary sweetness.
It would be the same at the end of the journey,*

*If you came at night like a broken king,
If you came by day not knowing what you came for,
It would be the same, when you leave the rough road
And turn behind the pig-sty to the dull façade
And the tombstone.
And what you thought you came for
Is only a shell, a husk of meaning
From which the purpose breaks only when it is fulfilled
If at all.*

*Earlier lines dealt with winter weather with its cold and white snow.

The second extract:

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time
Through the unknown, remembered gate
When the last of earth left to discover
Is that which was the beginning;
At the source of the longest river
The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea.
Quick now, here, now, always –
A condition of complete simplicity
(Costing not less than everything)
And all shall be well and
All manner of things shall be well**

*When the tongues of flame are in-folded
In the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.*

*A quote from Dame Julian of Norwich

Eliot believed that humanity's misunderstanding of life, and the turning away from God results in despair and warfare (he was writing during World War II) which could be overcome if the lessons of the past were learnt. His reference to fire, presumably the fire at Pentecost when the spirit was sent to the Apostles, was emphasising the need for purification. He thought that the unity of the past, present and future would offer salvation, when "*the fire and the rose are one*". Eliot's visit to Little Gidding, a place which had been a holy community of prayer, was not a sight-seeing expedition, but was about spiritual stillness, and the transformation which could arise – a "timeless" moment when God was near.

I am not sure that I have been successful in my attempt to interpret these extracts, so read them carefully, possibly the rest of the poem also. Any insights you may have will be gratefully received!

Mary Gilbert

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:



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

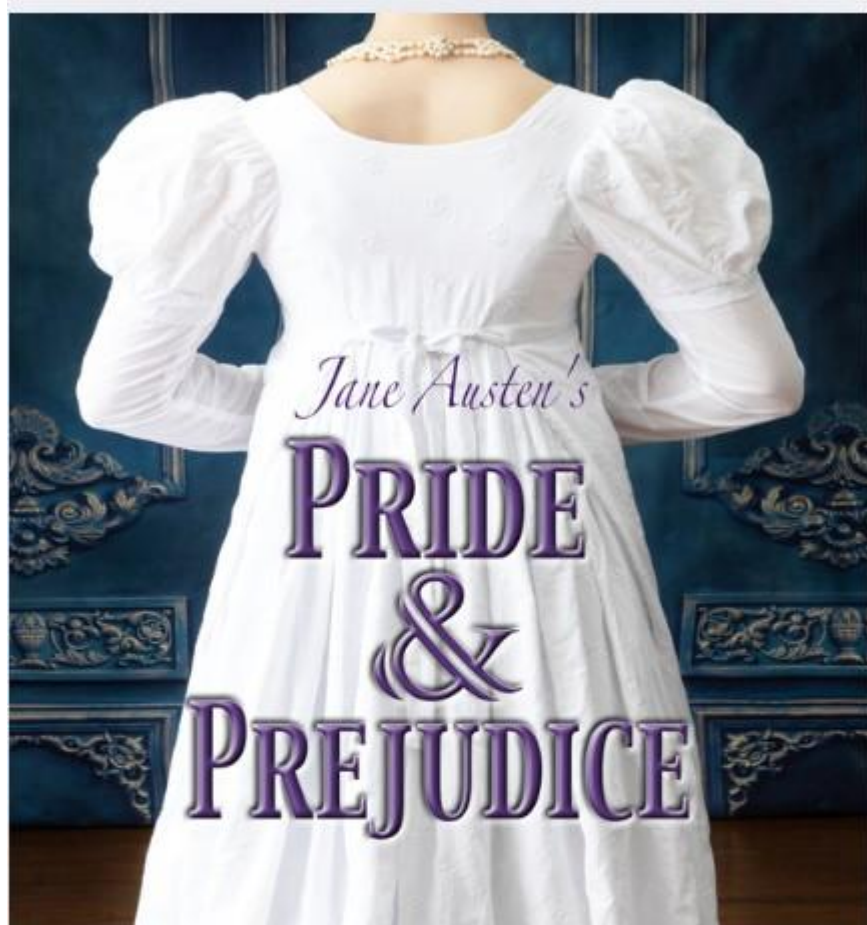
To donate, scan the QR code
or go to our website
www.stmartinsepsom.org/project200



St Martin of Tours

Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PX

📞 [stmartinsepsom](http://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



ST JOHN'S SEASON OF MUSIC & COMEDY



A CONCERT OF SONGS AND ARIAS WITH GARETH TRESEDER & ELEANOR MEYNELL

Saturday 27th September, 7:30pm – £5.00

(wine and soft drinks available for a donation).

Experience the soaring voice of acclaimed Welsh tenor Gareth Tresseder, together with the talented pianist and soprano, Eleanor Meynell in an unforgettable evening of popular, classical and sacred music. Gareth is a celebrated soloist and composer who has performed at the Royal Albert Hall and Carnegie Hall, as well as alongside the Monteverdi Choir for the Coronation of King Charles in Westminster Abbey. Eleanor is renowned for her elegant chamber music and solo performances, including appearances on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. Don't miss this rare chance to hear these two talented performers live — an inspiring performance awaits!

SEPTEMBER



WHODUNNIT? AN EVENING OF MYSTERY & SUSPENSE!

Saturday 1st November, 7:00pm (doors at 6.30pm) – £10 per person

Teams of 6-8 (wine and soft drinks available for a donation).

Raffle with great prizes!

Step into a thrilling evening of intrigue and suspense with our Whodunnit Mystery Event! Immerse yourself in a world of secrets, suspects, and shocking twists as you work to uncover the culprit in a gripping live-action thriller. Perfect for sleuths of all ages, this interactive experience will keep you guessing until the very end. Gather your friends, follow the clues, and see if you can solve the case before time runs out. Mystery awaits—are you ready?

Jointly hosted with SARA. Proceeds for the evening will be donated to Sunnysbank Trust and St John's Church.

NB: This event is not bookable online. Pre-book your team via email to office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk and pay on the night or beforehand in person at the church.

NOVEMBER



COMEDY NIGHT WITH PAUL KERENSA

Saturday 29th November, 7:30pm – £10 per person

(wine and soft drinks available for a donation). Raffle with great prizes!

Get ready for an unforgettable night of laughter with Paul Kerensa—award-winning comedian, top TV comedy writer (Miranda, Not Going Out), and bestselling author. With razor-sharp wit and brilliantly crafted stories, Paul brings the perfect mix of clever humour and charming stage presence. Whether performing stand-up, hosting, or speaking at live events and festivals, he captivates every crowd. Also known for his hit podcast The British Broadcasting Century, Paul is the ultimate entertainer who always leaves audiences laughing—and wanting more!

NOVEMBER



ROCK CHOIR

Thursday 11th December, 6:30pm

£5.00 (plus charitable appeal to support RUSH Academy Kenya)

Rock Choir is back! Join us outside for carols and mulled wine around the Christmas tree, then head into the church at 7.15pm for a vibrant concert full of powerful harmonies, uplifting music, and an incredible atmosphere. Don't miss out on this feel-good musical celebration, and an opportunity to support disadvantaged children in Kenya.

DECEMBER

To purchase tickets, or more information on the Season of Music & Comedy, please visit our website

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music

St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ. Telephone: 07468 096 350

MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN



***Led by Dr Martin Brunet,
GP at Binscombe Medical Practice***

Saturday 11th October 2025

10 am – 12.30 pm

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

***at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA***

During the morning's session Dr Brunet, will cover the following topics when considering chronic pain:

- What is the nature of pain?
- Why don't we always heal?
- How does being in chronic pain affect us?
- The vicious cycle of pain and the fear of pain
- How can we find hope, and healing, once pain has set in?

The session will be free of charge, but there will be an opportunity to give a voluntary donation, towards the Farncombe Community Garden - see the link to the garden facebook on

<https://www.facebook.com/farncombcommunitygarden>

**Please reserve a place, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by Friday 26th September**

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.