



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2025 **EDUCATION SUNDAY**



This Sunday at 3pm we are delighted to welcome artist Christina Peake to give our fourth annual Brathwaite lecture. Christina will talk about her experience as an artist whose art works are inspired by engaging with interested parties through creative workshops. In this way, our planned new memorial to commemorate the enslaved of Barbados

will involve engaging with and listening to small groups of people most affected by the Brathwaite memorial.

At the talk Christina will also share her reflections on her recent trip to Barbados and the themes that will feed into her art work. Do come along to find out more about this important project for St Martin's or, if you live too far away, watch it on the livestream or later.

Last week we celebrated our church's past 200 years. This Sunday is our opportunity to look to the future.

DIARY

Sunday 21st September: St Matthew's Day

9.30am Morning Prayer at Langley Vale Village Hall

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's: St Matthew's Day
(in Church and live streamed)

Marmalade

I shall be selling marmalade, jam and lemon drizzle cakes after the 10.00 o'clock service. All receipts to the Christmas Fair.

Maureen

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. There will be refreshments afterwards.

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Tuesday 23rd September

4.00pm Time to Talk (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm)
The Equinox, and Michaelmas

Wednesday 24th September

10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 25th September

7.00pm Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

7.30pm PCC meeting

Sunday 28th September Harvest Festival at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10am Harvest Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Compline

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

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

Our 200th Anniversary Celebrations

Thank you to all those who supported our 200th Anniversary celebrations last weekend, by coming to the events, by supporting financially and by helping to make it all happen!

There are a few special thanks to give: to Linda Bristow who created the excellent history exhibition at the west end. It will



be on display for a couple more weeks, so do look at it if you haven't yet. Linda also found the historian Peter Ross who gave his fascinating talk on Sunday afternoon about Georgian food.



Thanks to Maureen and her gang who provided refreshments on Sunday (Georgian recipe biscuits included - thanks Helen!). To the 'front of house' team for the Pride & Prejudice theatre performance on Saturday. To Rob for tech support and his work on advertising the weekend, and to Iain for ferreting out music by English Georgian composers for our Choral Evensong when we welcomed Paul, Bishop of Dorking as our preacher.

Benches

Two old benches, the Mothers' Union bench that was on the northside path and a curved bench in the Memorial Garden, had both become beyond repair. Two new benches, one dedicated to former verger John Syrad and the other to the Mothers' Union have now arrived. The cost has been substantially covered by generous donations, for which we are very grateful. The benches are temporarily resting inside St Martin's prior to being moved to their outside positions.

Sarah Lutton

Christmas Fair 2025

The Christmas Fair this year is being held in Church November 29th 10am to 2pm.

This is a very social occasion and is an opportunity for us to get to know each other and to meet visitors to the Fair. It is important therefore that as many people as possible agree to help on the day and in the days before setting up.

We also need you to start collecting goods for us to sell. The following are the stalls we are hoping to have:

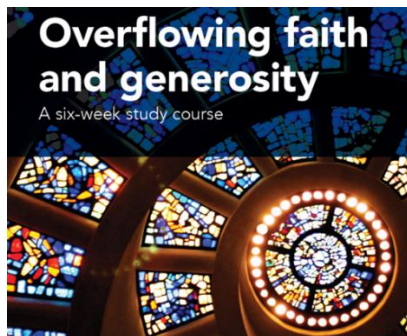
- Chocolate and Bottle tombolas
- Christmas Decorations
- Unwanted gifts and Jewellery
- Jigsaws, games and books
- Craft
- China and Glass

Please don't bring the items to Church until the beginning of November as we don't have anywhere to store them

Sarah, Nancy and Maureen

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 21st

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.

Monday 22nd

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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network

The network is committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our area. In the decade since they were founded they have grown to meet the needs of an increasing number of refugees. They provide vital services to those new to the country, such as English lessons, help finding work & education, assistance in accessing services, benefits & healthcare, as well as a social network and one-to-one support. See the boards at the back of church or <https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/> for further details. ***Alexander Rennie, Mission & Outreach***

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Dried Pasta in Sauce - **Urgent**
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent**
Chocolate - **Urgent**
Chocolate Biscuit Bars - **Urgent**
Cereal Bars - **Urgent**
Sugar (500gr) - **Urgent**
Shampoo - **Urgent**
Hair Conditioner - **Urgent**
Tampons- **Urgent**
Male deodorant - **Urgent**
Cooking Sauces
Pasta/Beans with Meat
Tinned Fruit

Beans
Tinned Meat
Tinned Fish
Sweetcorn
Instant Mash
Packet Soup
Noodles
Tinned Tomatoes
Pasta Sauce
Tea (bags)
Instant Coffee
Breakfast Cereal
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Jam / Honey / Chocolate Spread/ Peanut Butter / Marmalade
Custard
Rice Pudding
Squash
Long Life Juice
Biscuits, Savoury Biscuits
Powdered Milk
Milk UHT
Non Dairy Milk
Female Deodorant
Shaving Foam
0-2 and 6+ Kids' Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Washing up Liquid
Nappies Size 4 and 6 ONLY

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

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Keep living the life you want

FREE
Event

Helping you understand what support is available and what to plan for

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

2:30pm – 4:30pm

**Kingswood Village Hall, Waterhouse Lane,
Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 6EB**

Book your place by visiting

ageuk.org.uk/surrey/planningforyourfuture
or calling 01483 446627 (text 07593 139560
for the deaf or hard of hearing)

- Talk and Q&A Session
- Information about options and support
- Technology to keep you independent
- Information for unpaid carers





Bees – more than honey! pollinators on which we all depend

The Epsom Beekeepers Association (established over 70 years ago) will talk to us about the year in the life of a beekeeper, as well as the vital contribution bees make to our lives. There will be honey available to buy in support of the EBKA teaching apiary.

**Wednesday September 24th 7.30pm,
Epsom Methodist Church
Ashley Road KT18 5AQ**

Refreshments served before event

The Eco-church groups in Epsom would like to invite you to this event.



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.

Sunday 5th October Harvest Festival Family service

9.30 am

At

Langley Vale Village Hall

Tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards

Non perishable foods please .



Toiletries. Shampoo,
Shower gel,
Toothpaste etc.

All donations going to Leatherhead Start

Music @ St Martin's

Autumn/Winter 2025

FREE!

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm



Saturday 11 October

Epsom & Ewell Silver Band

*The ever-popular and always
entertaining ensemble*

Saturday 8 November

The Matthew Cooper Jazz Quintet

*These outstanding young musicians
bring a programme of new and
original jazz compositions*



Saturday 6 December

Fantasia Viols & Voices

*This locally based group present music by
the master of the late English Renaissance
Orlando Gibbons*


**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.



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

Registered Charity No 1134149

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 Sunnybank 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

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.