



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2025
HARVEST



DIARY

Sunday 28th September Harvest Festival at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10am Harvest Communion at St Martin's
(in Church and live streamed)

6.30pm Compline

Tuesday 30th September

4.00pm Centering Prayer (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm)
'Be still and know that I am God'

Psalm 46:10

A small group of us meet every other Tuesday at 4pm, at the back of church, to pray together in silence.

If you would enjoy some time for silent prayer with others, please come along.

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.

Wednesday 1st October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th October St Francis

9.30am Harvest Festival at St Stephen's

10am Holy Communion at St Martin's
(in Church and live streamed)

6.30pm Evening Prayer

HARVEST FOODBANK REQUESTS

UHT Semi skimmed or full fat milk
Powdered milk
Jars of cooking sauces
Tinned meat – meatballs, minced beef, stewing steak
Long-life juice
Long-life sponge puddings
Pasta sauce
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned vegetables
Rice/ Micro Rice, Pasta, Noodles
Tinned tomato, 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

**Please put any donations in the box at the back of Church.
Thank you.**

PCC Meeting: Thursday 25 September

This is a brief summary of our discussions and decisions:

St Stephens: Frances Suttonwood was unanimously appointed Pro-Warden at St Stephen's and was co-opted to fill a casual vacancy on the Council. Verbal updates were given on the church repairs and permission for solar panels on the Village Hall.

Safeguarding: Following new CofE requirements an updated safeguarding procedure was formally adopted and both church and non-church activities were approved. In addition, Nick and Judith were appointed as "Hub Owners" for the parish's Safeguarding Hub.

Project 200: The council decided on which of two glass companies would be asked to carry out the work of enclosing the Lady Chapel to make it a warm space. There was a review of the successful 200th Anniversary weekend of events.

Finance: The Quarterly Reports and the current Restricted Funds were reviewed. How Gift Aid is allocated to the St Stephen's congregation was discussed, as was the plan to launch the Parish Giving Scheme in the new year.

Eco Church: An update highlighted the church's pledge to Green Energy and its interest in the Net Zero Pioneers programme. Getting permission from the Diocese is in progress for the solar panels on St Martin's roof and it was also agreed to progress the work towards renewing the church heating controls.

Contested Heritage: There was unanimous agreement for Christina Peake to be contracted to deliver creative workshops and draft a proposal for a piece of artwork for St Martin's.

John Chandler Hall sale update: We should hear very shortly if revised planning permission has been given and the sale to Nuro Homes can go ahead.

Director of Music: It was reported that a new job description and job advertisement is being drawn up.

Also agreed: To renew Ruth Foxcroft's Permission to Officiate, to plan First-Aid training, to seek professional valuation of six old Bibles, to seek quotes for a chancel carpet and to find ways to increase the transparency of the PCC's work by publishing draft minutes and displaying names and photos of Council members.

Eco Fair

Our fourth Eco Fair at St Martin's on Saturday 20th September had some really positive feedback:

'It is all looking good and the Eco Fair is buzzing.'

'We very much enjoyed the Eco Fair yesterday catching up with old friends making new ones and exchanging ideas It's a wonderful location and the atmosphere is warm and welcoming.'

'people were genuinely interested and not just out to buy things.'

'as it was remote (ie you had to choose to go there) it was more meaningful than having through-traffic that does not necessarily engage.'

Church offered visitors the opportunity to write to their MP (Helen Maguire in Epsom and Ewell, Rebecca Paul in Reigate and Banstead) about the Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill, decorating postcards from Green Christian to encourage them. 18 adults and four children signed on the day with an extra nine adults and one

child at church on Sunday.



All the cake went - not surprising - I noticed some people walking in through the doors and turning sharp right, straight for the refreshments! Having things outside made the place look

'happening' and inviting: the BBQ food was very well received (with excellent chalk signs directing people to it - thanks, Tom!). We were pleased with the balance of there being things to buy, things to sign and sign up for (supporting and campaigning) and things to find out.





Eco/green/climate/environmental work doesn't stand on its own, but links and informs - and is informed by - much of what we do; responding to need, transforming unjust structures, environmental justice, racial justice, promoting flourishing. On Saturday I saw lots of people I hadn't seen before, showing that the reach of the Fair had widened. It was one of our opportunities to show that people in church care about and are active in issues which are world issues, and that we don't necessarily reflect negative headline-grabbing stories or stereotypical portrayals seen in the media.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to ALL of you who prayed, planned, suggested, kept calm (when those around, ie me, were not!) and welcomed people to our wonderful church!

For next year's fair we will be working with Epsom Methodist Church and hope to go from strength to strength!

Helen Williams, Eco Rep.

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:

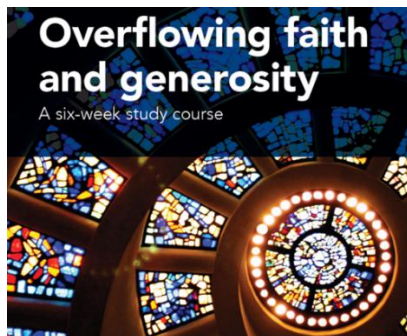
- Chocolate and Bottle tombolas
- Christmas Decorations
- Unwanted gifts and Jewellery
- Jigsaws, games and books
- Craft
- China and Glass

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.

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 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.

Monday 29th

All parents and toddlers. Users of Langley Vale Village Hall: Sean Porter, Chair of the Village Hall Committee. 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.

Tuesday 30th

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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile and his family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. 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.

Saturday 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.

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***

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

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.



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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 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

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.