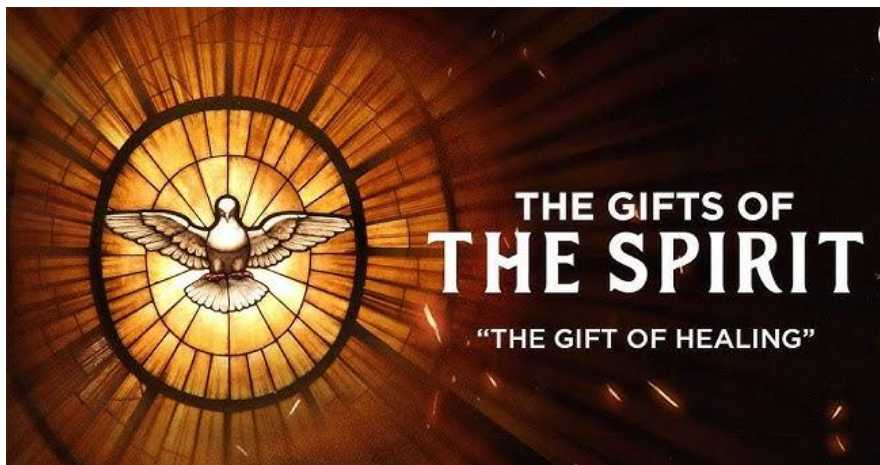




Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER 2025
ST LUKE



DIARY

Sunday 19th October St Luke

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10am Healing Holy Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

Monday 20th October – Sunday 26th October

Black History Month Exhibition at St Martin's

Tuesday 21st October

4.00pm Time to Talk (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

How do we experience 'time' and summer's end?

October is the third and last harvest - nuts, pumpkins, gourds, squash, turnips, parsnips and swede.

Samhain (pronounced "Sow-en") was a Celtic festival and falls on October 31st. It means "summer's end".

We celebrate "All Hallows/Saints" on November 1st followed by "All Souls" on November 2nd. The clocks go back, and the evenings are 'drawing in'. How might we make this time 'holy'?

7.30pm 'Overflowing Faith & Generosity'
in the Wisley Room, Church House

Wednesday 22nd October

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th October Dedication Festival

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10am Morning Prayer and baptism at St Martin's

6.30pm Compline at St Martin's

Graffiti attack on the Epsom Islamic Centre

Following this attack which happened a few days ago Nick sent a message of support from St Martin's to the Head Imam, Joynal Ahmed, expressing our solidarity with and prayers for them. He received this response: *Thank you for your email and kind words. Yes we know the majority of our community are supportive and loving towards each other. It's unfortunate a few are ruining for all of us in Epsom. It's words from people like you that are encouraging, and reminds us how great Epsom is.* Andrew, Bishop of Guildford, also issued this statement: *"I was shocked to hear about the offensive graffiti that appeared on the Epsom Islamic Centre on Tuesday morning, just as I was horrified at the murderous attack on the Manchester synagogue on the holiest day of the Jewish year."* **Sarah L**

'HERE I AM'

Black History Month Exhibition at St Martin's Monday 20 October – Sunday 26 October

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am. Send me!'"

Isaiah 6:8

We are delighted that *Here I Am*, the Diocese's travelling exhibition, created for Black History Month, is coming to St Martin's from Monday 20 October to Sunday 26 October. Inspired by Oxford Diocese's *Resolved to Serve* project, this exhibition showcases the lived experience, faith, and ministry of UKME clergy within the Diocese of Guildford.

It captures the spirit of willingness and response to God's call – especially as lived by those whose voices and presence have not always been seen or celebrated within the Church. Through written and recorded reflections, *Here I Am* seeks to honour the contributions of Black clergy, amplify diverse voices, and offer a platform for shared reflection, learning and celebration.

The exhibition features Revd Dr Moni Babatunde (associate minister at St Andrew's Cobham), Revd Dr Oluwapelumi Adeyemi (minister at St Francis' Church Guildford) and Revd Janet Williams (curate at St John's Stoke), as well as an interview from Beauty Adeson a member of the Church House team. The portraits are presented on large canvases and include a QR code so that you can scan and watch the full interviews. The interviews cover a range of topics including their path to ordination, dealing with imposter syndrome, their gifts and different perspectives, as well as an acceptance that attitudes are changing and diversity is improving in the diocese and the wider church.

Racial Diversity Enabler, Umair Asif says: "This exhibition is a powerful reminder of the importance of representation and seeing people who look like you in senior ministry and leadership positions. We are currently developing a vocations day in early December which will be aimed at encouraging more people from UKME/GMH backgrounds to explore their calling to ordained ministry."

Bishop Paul says in his reflection for Black History Month (<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about-us/news/exhibition-to-inspire-the-next-generation-of-black-church-leaders.php>)

'This is an opportunity to say to all our Global Majority Heritage sisters and brothers that we love them and that we couldn't

imagine the church or its mission and ministry without them. I earnestly pray that our diversity as a diocese will continue to grow that it might increasingly reflect the Kingdom of God."

Prayer for Black History Month

Compassionate God,
who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,
to see the image of God in every person
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending racism and injustice;
creating communities of human flourishing,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving 2025

The annual Memorial and Thanksgiving Service remembering those who have died will be on Sunday 2nd November at 6.30pm.



If you would like your loved one remembered, with their name read aloud at the service, please add it to the list at the back of church, or contact St Martin's at office@stmartinsepsom.org

Jim Wilson R.I.P.

Jim's funeral will be on **Tuesday, 4th November**. A family/friends cremation service at Randalls Park, Leatherhed, at 9.30am will be followed by an **11am thanksgiving and memorial service in St Martin's**, followed by a buffet lunch in Church. All invited to the 11am service. If you intend coming to the 11am service and lunch could you let the office know, so that they can estimate numbers for the funeral directors and caterers.

The North Aisle

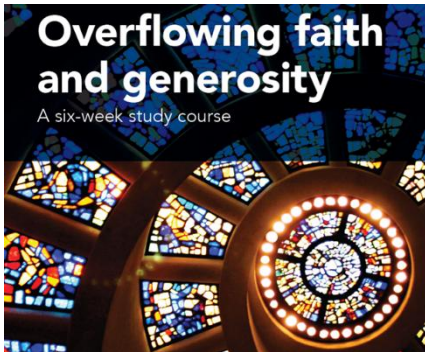
We have had to cordon off an area of the north aisle in front of the war memorial. A piece of plaster had fallen from the ceiling and there is another potential area where the plaster may be insecure. After consulting various people, including the diocesan architect and our insurers, we have been reassured that the current restrictions are sufficient to keep everyone safe. We are following the architect's recommendation for a company to carry out an initial inspection of the ceiling in that area. So, please bear with us as we try to get this sorted! ***Rob J and Sarah L***

Donations for the Christmas Fair

Please sort out those unwanted gifts, Jewellery and any items you have bought and never used and bring them to Church for the Christmas fair. ***Sarah, Nancy and Maureen***

Overflowing Faith & Generosity

A six-week study course Tuesdays @ 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?

Session 2: Charity

For those unable to attend the session:

Here is the link to the short video we watched this week

<https://vimeo.com/999572368>

- What did you think of his story?

Our Bible reading came from Matthew 25: 31-45

Here is the link to an audio recording of the Reflection:

https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fi/s79mv2lgu4ncp94bb6zk2/Monday-19_37.m4a?rlkey=0it1pqtkljfuwtutslks714x7&st=lm1h97hg&dl=0

You may like to reflect on one or more of the following:

- How did the reading and reflection make you feel? What struck you most?
- What does Jesus want from us here, and what does it say about generosity?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted to tell this story?
- How does this compare with your own ideas about what it means to be a “good person”?
- How does it compare with our wider culture’s idea of a “good person”?
- How does it compare with the Pharisees’ idea that keeping within the Jewish Law is what makes someone righteous?

revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org

Bishop of Manchester’s recent Thought for the Day and his visit to Codrington, Barbados

Those of you who have attended our annual lectures relating to our contested memorial to John Brathwaite will know about his involvement with the Codrington Estates in Barbados. In particular, those who heard Duncan Dormer (General Secretary of the United Society Partners in the Gospel) speak last year will know about USPG’s *Renewal and Reconciliation Project* which seeks “to engage critically with and act in response to USPG’s shameful links to slavery through its ownership of the Codrington Estates in Barbados” (USPG’s words, quoted from <https://uspg.org.uk/codrington-project/>).

As we continue to reflect on our contested heritage and work towards the creation of a new memorial to the enslaved, you may be interested to hear the Bishop of Manchester's *Thought for the Day* which aired on Radio 4 on Monday 13 October
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0m8b00p>

For those who can't easily access the internet, here is a transcript of what the Right Rev Dr David Walker, Bishop of Manchester said:

“Good morning. On a day when events in Israel and Gaza dominate the headlines, I'll be boarding a flight from London to Barbados, heading for Codrington College, the site where the Anglican Mission Agency I now chair inherited and ran a sugar plantation with enslaved labour for over 100 years. The burial places of those whose often short and brutal lives ended at Codrington were noted neither on plans nor on the ground. We think, however, in these last few weeks we may have found some of them, ironically like King Richard III, beneath the car park. Finding a mark in the graves is one small part of a much wider programme. Our aim is to recognise and respond to the legacy of enslavement in ways that will build a better future for the descendants of those who produced the sugar that returned so much wealth to Britain three centuries ago. At the heart of it lies the task of learning to tell history, not simply from the perspective of the rich and powerful, but from the actual experiences of ordinary people. Black History Month, which reaches its midpoint this week, adds a particular energy to that task. At the height of the American Civil War, Confederate envoys based in Liverpool sought to bring Britain into the conflict on the side of the south,

arguing that the UK's primary interest lay in protecting the cotton trade. Famously, Manchester's weavers refused to handle the slavery-produced cotton they supplied, even at the cost of their own employment. The US President himself wrote a letter of thanks, and today his statue stands in the city centre, in a spot appropriately named Lincoln Square.

Telling the story of slavery is for me not just an exercise in history, but also a theological imperative. The Christian gospel compels me to recognize the intrinsic worth of every individual. Christ died, not just for the sake of a fortunate few, but for the whole of humanity. When the story of what's happened in Gaza and Israel these last two years finds its way into the history books, I believe it must not just be the story of clashing ideologies and geopolitical forces, but centre on the experiences of those massacred by terrorists, or held as hostage, or starved, or killed in bombed-out buildings, and of all who survived but bear the scars. Alongside this, recovering the memory of enslaved people buried beneath a Barbadian car park long ago, may seem less compelling. But it is by remembering and re-telling all the stories of human beings at the heart of them that I hope a journey to a better future in Barbados, the Middle East, and for all of us, can be made.”

revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org

EPSOM CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENTS FAURÉ REQUIEM

On 15th November, 7.30pm, Epsom Chamber Choir's French-inspired concert has the iconic **Fauré Requiem** as its centerpiece, accompanied by a lesser known and intimate orchestration for **organ, violin, 'cello and harp**. Other, shorter,

acappella works will complete the programme, including music by Messiaen, Poulenc, Villette and Whitacre. Booking at <https://www.epsomchamberchoir.org.uk/>

CALLING POTENTIAL AND QUALIFIED FIRST AIDERS

Have you got a current First Aid certificate, or are you interested in getting one? We are looking to get suitably qualified First Aiders to join our new rota for Sunday Morning Services.

If you are not qualified and are interested in getting trained, we can help. Please email martyn.hollowayneville@sky.com

John Flower and Martyn HN



Following the extensive renovations at Chilomoni Health Centre earlier in the year, AMECA has spent some time in the UK to plan our activities for the remainder of the year and into 2026. We bring you some brief updates on activities in Malawi and in the UK during the past few months. On behalf of AMECA's Directors in the UK and in Malawi, our deepest gratitude to all the sponsors who have supported and continue to support our work.

Ruthie Markus, CEO

Please click on this link for an AMECA [October 2025 Update](#)



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.

MISSION FOCUS – OCTOBER



The mission partner in our prayers this month is Love Me Love My Mind, an Epsom and Ewell mental health charity founded and run by Rev Sue Bull until her untimely death in 2022.

Sue wrote that the charity's desire was "to break down stigmas about mental distress; to build strong community; and to help make the Borough the best place for mental health and the best place for mental health care". LMLMM remains highly active throughout the year and our mission focus coincides with Epsom Mental Health Week, which lasts from October 4-11.

This is an annual event in which our own Jim Wilson would participate. For a programme of this year's events, please click on LMLMM's website:

<https://www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk/>

David Stamp

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 19th

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.

Monday 20th

Our Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett, Alexander Rennie and John Padwick. 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

THE POWER OF POETRY – OCTOBER

This month's choice is quite seasonal, but it is also lengthy so I haven't written much in the way of commentary. It is a light offering from John Betjeman: *The Church Mouse*. We have recently celebrated harvest, though this is a festival probably best suited to a country village. Tins and packets of food do not have the same visual appeal as a sheaf of corn, or home grown fruit and

vegetables. Still, we *do* have mice (or did have earlier in the year when they caused chaos in the biscuit cupboard – but don't panic, they have been dealt with, and the biscuits are now safely in tins. Plastic containers evidently offer no defence against the teeth of rodents!).

I spoke about Betjeman in August 2024 when the chosen poem was *Hymn*, so to save space I won't offer any biographical notes this time. All I shall say is that the last few lines are ironic. We don't know anyone like that of course.

*Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw,
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.*

*I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(it screened our special preacher's seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear our organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.*

*A low church mouse who thinks that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong.
While I, who starve the whole year through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except that at this time of year
Not once inside the church appear.*

*Within the human world I know
Such goings-on could not be so.
For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray.
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's house.
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.*

Mary Gilbert

FOODBANK REQUESTS

This week we need the following:

Chocolate - **Urgent**
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent**
Cereal Bars - **Urgent**
Custard- **Urgent**
Instant Coffee- **Urgent**
Long Life Juice- **Urgent**
Male/Female deodorant - **Urgent**
Packet Soup - **Urgent**
Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent**
Honey - **Urgent**
Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauce, Sweetcorn, Noodles
Pasta/Beans with Meat, Microwave Rice
Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish
Baked Beans, Instant Mash
Dried Pasta in Sauce
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Tea (bags)
Jam/ Chocolate Spread/ Peanut Butter / Marmalade
Sugar (500gr), Rice Pudding, Biscuits
Powdered Milk, Milk UHT, Non Dairy Milk
Squash
Shaving Foam, Shower Gel
Adult Toothpaste, Shampoo, Hair Conditioner
Washing up Liquid

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:





ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAIR

November 29th
10 am – 2pm

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

Join us for a fun-filled church fair featuring a
cake stall, tombola, unique gifts, children's
activities, and a delicious BBQ feast.

Bring family and friends for a memorable day -
everyone's welcome!

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

EPSOM CHORAL SOCIETY

Join **Epsom Choral Society** for a special evening of music on **Saturday 22nd November** at **St Martin's Church, Epsom**, as we perform **Dvořák's *Stabat Mater***. This beautiful choral work is filled with deep emotion, moving from moments of quiet reflection to dramatic intensity, and has become one of the composer's most beloved sacred masterpieces.

We are thrilled to be joined by four outstanding soloists: [Lisa Swayne \(soprano\)](#), [Judy Louie Brown \(mezzo\)](#), [John Findon \(tenor\)](#), and [Niall Anderson \(bass\)](#). Accompanied by the excellent **English Sinfonietta** and conducted by our Musical Director, [Julian Collings](#), this promises to be an evening of beauty, power, and poignancy.

Tickets are priced at just **£20**, with **half-price discount for under-25s**. Every ticket includes a **free glass of wine** and a **complimentary programme**, the perfect opportunity to enjoy a memorable night of world-class music in the centre of Epsom.

We will also arrange for some flyers and a poster to be left in the church.

Tickets are available via the website on www.epsomchoral.org.uk/tickets

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.