

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2025



'On Sunday 16 November 2025, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to raise awareness about safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people. This initiative invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places'.

DIARY

Sunday 16th November Safeguarding Sunday

9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen's10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Tuesday 18th November

4.00pm Time to Talk

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)
"Blessed are you..." the beginning of a series
of conversations about the Beatitudes
based on Matthew 5

Wednesday 19th November

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd Christ the King

9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen's Holy Communion service at St Martin's

6.30pm Compline at St Martin's

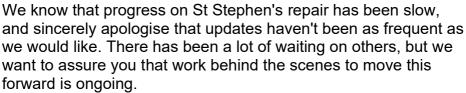
Please note there is no 10am Holy Communion service on Wednesday 26th November.

The North Aisle

Scaffolding is now erected and hopefully the plastering can be repaired imminently. Thanks for your pateince.

Rob J and Sarah L

Important Update: St Stephen's Church 🛠



We've had a productive conversation with the architect this week and as a result, to overcome current material sourcing challenges faced by the initial contractor, we have asked her to seek quotations from two additional building firms, aiming to secure these by Christmas. We anticipate appointing the contractor in the first part of 2026.

This entire project will be completed in two distinct phases: Phase one is focused on getting the wall secured and the church building safely re-opened.

Phase two will then allow us to extend and develop the internal facilities within the church for broader community use.

Securing a confirmed quotation is the next key step, as this will allow us to immediately begin applying for grant funding to support the project's financing.

Thank you for your patience; we remain committed to seeing this project through and are excited about the possibilities for Stephen's in the future!

Clive Dougal RIP

Clive was a Lay Reader at St Martin's and he and his wife Anne were regular members of the congregation. He died on 20 October at The Red House Nursing Home in Ashtead which he and Anne moved into a couple of years ago. His funeral service will be in Church, and a date will be announced as soon as it is known.

Charlie Marsh RIP

Charlie was the husband of Maggie Marsh, who served here as one of the clergy team and is a friend of many in our Church family. Charlie passed away after a long illness last week.

Charlie and Maggie had been married for 55 years – please pray for Maggie and her family in their loss.

Christmas Fair Donations

Please leave all your donations in the box at the back of Church. We especially need more chocolate and bottles

Sarah, Nancy and Maureen

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

PCC Meeting (November 12, 2025) - Summary

The focus of every PCC meeting is on how we can best ensure the continued maintenance and growth of our parish and our mission. At our meeting on Wednesday these were the key resolutions and decisions:

Two resolutions were passed unanimously

- Lady Chapel (Project 200): To accept the quotation from Precision Glass for installing glass windows and thermal curtains in the Lady Chapel. We will now petition for a faculty (permission from the Diocese) to complete this work so we can create a warmer, more welcoming space.
- 2. **Parish Giving Scheme:** To join this scheme which is recognised as a simple and effective system for encouraging regular giving. More details on how to take part in this scheme will be launched to the congregation in early 2026.

Updates on Fabric and Maintenance matters

- Solar Panel Project: The faculty application is currently in its public consultation phase, and two grant applications have been submitted.
- St Stephen's Works: The architect is now seeking quotations from two additional building firms due to material sourcing issues with the first contractor. Quotations are expected by Christmas 2025, with a contractor appointment in early 2026.
- Church House Leak: A leak in the Headley room, traced to the slate roof, is being addressed, and a quotation is being sought for repairs.

- St Martin's Ceiling: Scaffolding is scheduled to go up on November 13th to fully assess the extent of the ceiling issue.
- Chancel Carpet: The recommendation by the Standing and Finance committee not to replace the chancel carpet at this time was accepted.

Church Development and Resources

- Director of Music Role: The meeting unanimously approved the draft job description and resolved to advertise the role in early 2026. The position will be funded for the next three years using a legacy donation from Cecil Wiltshire.
- John Chandler Hall: The sale process continues, with Nuro Homes having until February 2026 to purchase the building.
- Unconscious Bias Training: A training morning is scheduled for Saturday, November 15th.

Ongoing Matters

- Eco Update: Subcommittees were asked to review circulated documents and provide actionable points for the next PCC meeting.
- Health and Safety: An action was raised for RJ to report a member of the public's fall on council-owned steps to the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.

Our Church Development Plan

Asked by the Diocese to prioritize our plans for growth, these are our top 3:



Growing children & families

Develop Ark and help Ark families become part of our family



Spiritual growth

Develop a curiosity about our faith



Grow our community outreach

Build on our musical tradition & on our racial justice work

All parishes are asked to produce a Development Plan and ours was approved by the Archdeacon in the summer. In addition to the 3 priorities above our plan also includes:

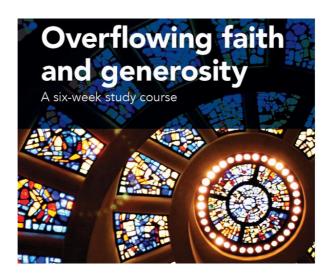
- 4: Identify how best we can improve our buildings
- 5: Increase regular giving
- 6: Improve and increase our visibility in the community.

You can find the plan with full details by clicking on the link:

Church Development Plan

Overflowing Faith & Generosity

A six-week study course Tuesdays @ 7.30 pm in the Wisley Room, Church House Created by the Diocese of Oxford



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 6: What next?

For those unable to attend the session:

Here is the link to the short video we watched this week https://vimeo.com/999551412

What did you think of what he said?

Our Bible reading came from 1 John 3: 16-24

Here is the link to an audio recording of the Reflection: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/0krh6fivkwxfeqsez2wzr/Wednesday-

16 55.m4a?rlkey=b0r3zp48u3lhxolvr7chncil4&st=opxs5tmk&dl=0

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

- How did the reading and reflection make you feel?
- What will you change in your life to be more generous?
- How can you further commit your life to the fellowship of the church?
- What could your church community do to better live this week's principles?

revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org



Floral Displays at St Martin's for Remembrance Sunday. How lucky we are to have so many gifted people in our congregation. Thank you to everyone involved.



EVENING OF LIGHTS, MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2025

This will be held from 6.00 pm - 8 pm in St Martin's Church when the church will be lit by candles and the Christmas tree lights.

This is *not* a service, nor is it a community event, but aims to provide a peaceful place in which individuals may come to remember someone they have lost. A hot drink – tea, coffee or hot chocolate – will be available at the back of the church.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook

Christmas Tea and Carols, 14 December 2025

This is a reminder to put the date in your diaries now. The Christmas Tea this year will take place on Sunday 14 December 2025 from 3.00 – 5.00 p.m. in the Church.

There will be filled rolls, mince pies, Christmas cake,



chocolate cake etc, and of course tea and coffee. It will be followed by the singing of carols round the grand piano. Do please support us, and bring your children or grandchildren if you wish.

Last Christmas we had record numbers, so please do come and make the occasion even more of a success. Everyone is welcome; the tea is free, though donations are welcome!

In order to enable us to cater more effectively it would be helpful if you would sign up on the list at the back of the church if you think you might be coming. This won't be binding of course but it would be useful! Thank you. *Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook*



CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS

While I have had Christmas cards on display for a few weeks, now that we are getting closer to Advent I have added Advent

Calendars, Advent Candles and some small votive candles to the display. There are a wide variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. There are also a lots of Advent Calenders which come with their own envelopes in case if you wish to post them.

Please support St Martin's when buying your Christmas supplies as any profit from the sale of these supplies goes to the church. All the cards are sourced from a variety of charities, therefore you will be helping them as well.

Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to "The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom" (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments please use the "Christmas Cards or Cards" button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church marked "Cards"

I will keep all items topped up but once a design has sold out I may not be able to get any further stock. Please ask me if you are looking for something in particular or more packets than are on display. Thank you for your custom. Mary Holloway-Neville



'O Come, O come Emmanuel! Who are YOU expecting?'

Four sessions to talk about Advent and the One for whom we are waiting.

Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th December and Tuesday 23rd December.

11am each week, repeated at 7.30pm (the evening sessions will finish with compline in the Lady Chapel).

Full details soon, but for now please note the dates. Note also, we hope to broadcast the evening sessions on zoom.

Howard Bluett, one of our Lay Ministers, will lead the course.

FOLLOW UP TO '6 Steps to the Bible.'

You may remember we ran this course during Advent and the new year a couple of years ago. The author, Peter Sills, has developed a retreat based on the course. If anyone would be interested in this, called 'Stepping into the Bible', then two opportunities are planned for the new year:

1. At Ashburnham Place, near Battle.

10th – 13th February

Booking:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stepping-into-the-bible-tickets-1345429639269?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=

2. Rydal Hall, Rydal, Cumbria

 $9^{th} - 12^{th}$ March.

See Peter's website for further details, and booking for Rydal Hall:

www.peter-sills.co.uk/retreats



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" *Psalm 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 16th

Our Choir, and our vision for a new Worship Band. The growth of our Life Groups, Study Groups, WhatsApp Groups. Our Missions: Operation Noah. Those living and working in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Monday 17th

Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristan Mary Holloway-Neville and chalice assistants. University of the Creative Arts, Laine Theatre Arts staff and students. Those living and working in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbrook Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Tuesday 18th

Vocations to Ministry, ordained and lay. Churches Together in Epsom: Russell Holding (Chair). Our Missions: AMECA (for Malawi, Epsom based). Those living and working in Langley Close, Langley Vale Road, Links Road and Lintons Lane.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

THE POWER OF POETRY - NOVEMBER



Rudyard Kipling wrote this poem in the autumn of 1916 after the great naval encounters of WW1 in the North Sea, particularly the Battle of Jutland, in which many lives were lost but few bodies recovered.

Kipling himself knew the pain of losing a child. His first daughter Josephine (the 'Best Beloved' of *The Just So Stories*) had died of pneumonia at the age of three, and in September 1915, his son John, who was never called Jack, was killed at the Battle of Loos, fighting as an officer in the Irish Guards, just a month after his eighteenth birthday. It was not until 1992 that John Kipling's grave was identified, confirmed in 2016 by the War Graves Commission.

Kipling wrote of his son as Dan in *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *Rewards and Fairies*. It was for John that he wrote the poem *If* describing the qualities which he hoped his son would show when he grew up. After learning of German atrocities in Belgium and the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the poet was convinced of the moral case for fighting the war and was keen that his only son should play his part.

"Have you news of my boy Jack?"

Not this tide,

"When do you think that he'll come back?"

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Has anyone else had word of him?"

Not this tide,

For what is sunk will hardly swim,

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

"Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?"

None this tide,

Nor any tide,

Except that he did not shame his kind –

Not even with that wind blowing and that tide.

Then hold your head up all the more,
This tide,
And every tide,
Because he was the son you bore,
And gave to that wind blowing and that tide!

This poem was written about the death of Jack Cornwell, the youngest sailor at the Battle of Jutland. It is plainly about mourning and regret, and the importance of sacrifice. We hear an anxious mother, whose son has been lost in the North Sea, watching the coast and hoping that his body might be washed ashore and that she might find the closure that she seeks. The other speaker offers little in the way of immediate comfort but instead urges her to be proud of her son's sacrifice.

John Roll Pickering

FOODBANK REQUESTS

This week we need the following:

Washing up Liquid – **Urgent**, Sponge Pudding - **Urgent**Honey – **Urgent**, Non Dairy Milk - **Urgent**Pasta/Beans with Meat - **Urgent**Tinned Meat, Instant Mash
Cooking Sauces (e.g., Curry Sauce, Sweet and Sour, etc.)
Long Life Juice, Squash
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Hot Chocolate, Sugar
Shaving Foam, Hair Conditioner
Male/Female deodorant
Washing Powder, Kids Toothpaste

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:

- Click on the following link: <u>https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377</u>

 OR
- 2. Use your smart phone and scan the QR code below:





Mysic @ St Martin's

Autumn/Winter 2025

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 • www.stmartinsepsom.org • office@stmartinsepsom.org • 01372 722 567

Registered Charity No 1134149



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: <u>www.stmartinsepsom.org</u>

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.