

St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2025

CHRIST THE KING



An AI generated image of a stained glass window of Christ the King

DIARY

Sunday 23rd Christ the King

- 9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen's
- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
- 6.30pm Compline at St Martin's

Wednesday 26th November.

- 10.00am Holy Communion
(Please note that this service had been previously cancelled)

Saturday 29th November

- 10.00am **CHRISTMAS FAIR** (see below)

Sunday 30th November ADVENT SUNDAY

- 9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen's
- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
- 6.30pm Advent Carols at St Martin's

The North Aisle

Scaffolding is now erected and plastering repair has commenced. The job will last a while, as a larger area than first thought needs attention. Thanks for your patience. **Rob J and Sarah L**

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 Ashted which he and Anne moved into a couple of years ago. His funeral service will be in Church at 11am on Tuesday 2 December.

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](#)

Donations For the Christmas Fair

Please bring your donations for the Christmas Fair, there is now only one week to go and we need more bottles and chocolate for the tombolas. And don't forget to bring all the cakes you have made on either Friday 28th or Saturday morning 29th.

Sarah, Nancy and Maureen

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

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 lots of Advent Calendars which come with their own envelopes in case 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
9th – 12th 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" *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 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

Saturday 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.

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:

Instant Mash - **Urgent**
Squash - **Urgent**
Long Life Juice - **Urgent**
Chocolate - **Urgent**
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent**
Sugar - **Urgent**
Crisps - **Urgent**
Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent**
Instant Coffee - **Urgent**
Washing Powder - **Urgent**
Washing up Liquid - **Urgent**
Hair Conditioner - **Urgent**
Male/Female Deodorant - **Urgent**

Pasta/Beans with Meat
Tinned Meat, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Vegetables
Dried Pasta in Sauce, Cooking Sauce

Milk UHT, Powdered Milk
Honey
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Hot Chocolate, Porridge
Custard, Rice Pudding

Shaving Foam, Adult Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Toilet Rolls, Nappies Size 6 ONLY

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



All are welcome to our
CHRISTMAS TEA
WITH CAROLS



St Martin's Church
Sunday 14th December

3pm - 5pm

Free - donations welcome



**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom, KT11 4PX

**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.**