



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2025

ADVENT SUNDAY



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DIARY

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

Tuesday 2nd December

4.00pm Time to Talk

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in Church)

Exploring the Wisdom of the Beatitudes

Richard Rohr speaks about how challenging it is to live out Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount:

"I am told that the Sermon on the Mount—the essence of Jesus' teaching—is the least quoted Scripture in official Catholic Church documents. We must be honest and admit that most of Christianity has focused very little on what Jesus himself taught and spent most of his time doing: healing people, doing acts of justice and inclusion, embodying compassionate and nonviolent ways of living."

We are beginning a series of Time to Talk where we will explore this wisdom teaching.

Wednesday 3rd December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th December ADVENT 2

9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

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.

Scaffolding in St Martin's – Update

Work is progressing well on repairs to the ceiling plaster. New scaffolding is being set up over the dais so work can begin on further areas of the ceiling. This means that for the next two Sundays, we won't be able to use the dais or chancel. So, for services on these Sundays, the altar will be moved to the main body of the church near the crossing and seating will be in the pews. There is still access under the north aisle scaffolding to the Lady Chapel and the north door where there is step-free access into the church. Please bear with us whilst this is all happening, but if you have any questions or queries, do please ask.

Sarah, Churchwarden, Rob, Chair of Fabric Team

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](#)

Church of England Racial Justice Unit Approves Funding for St Martin's Project to Create a Memorial for the Enslaved of Barbados

I am delighted to announce the wonderful news that the Church of England's Racial Justice Triennium Funding Approval Panel met on 21 November to consider our application and approved its funding.

The letter sent to us states that, "The panel commended the timely nature of the work and were encouraged to see a proposal coming in from a parish. They recognised a thoughtful project that addressed the subject matter holistically."

As you know, our project involves the commission of Bajan artist Christina Peake to lead four three-hour creative workshops in February and March 2026, in order to engage with and listen to those affected by the Brathwaite memorial and past enslavement. Participants will come from the following groups: the congregation; the Brathwaite Family group; the Sutton-based African Caribbean Heritage Association (ACHA); and a Barbadian diaspora group, hopefully recruited through the Barbados High Commission.

The workshops will feed into the creative process and, after a period of reflection, into the final memorial which Christina will create. We hope that the memorial will be completed by August 2026, but, of course, the exact timeline will depend on fitting into the meetings' schedule of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and Churchyards) and their approval.

Rev Judith

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***

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

Midnight Mass in St Luke's Chapel, Epsom College

Following the joy and success of last year's celebration, we are delighted to once again invite you to our Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, beginning at 11.00pm in our beautifully adorned Chapel.

Whether you are part of the Epsom College community or a friend from further afield, you will be most warmly welcomed. If you are local and would like to join us, it would be wonderful to see you there.

To reserve your place, please click here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/GmMx2B40Uu>



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=dLiB4iY8FRRdtFcbGBRjaVtMJ9K2Ar.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 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile and his family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. Our Church Schools: St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools children, parents, Governors, Heads, teachers and all staff. 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.

Thursday 4th

Our Lay Ministers: 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.

Friday 5th

Our Church Warden: Sarah Lutton and for someone to join her as the second Church Warden. All users of Church House. Those suffering from drug or alcohol addiction and their families and friends. Those living and working in Burghfield, Caithness Drive and Carter's Road.

Saturday 6th

Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean: John Marrow. Our Missions: the local Besom Network. Those living and working in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit 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:

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!



St Martin
of Tours
Epsom

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 30 November 6.30pm

**A traditional service of
anthems, readings and carols
to mark the beginning
of the Advent season**



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, KT17 4PX

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

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.



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

Registered Charity No 1134149

Christmas Services

14 December, 3-5pm

Christmas Tea with carols

Cake, company and carol singing
around the tree

Christmas Eve

Family Crib Service 4pm

Perfect for all ages!

21 December, 6.30pm

A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

A traditional service of readings,
anthems & carols

Holy Communion 6pm

An early evening service as we wait to
greet the Christ Child

'Midnight' service 11pm
in the chapel at Epsom College

Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8.30am

Using the traditional liturgy of the
1662 Prayer Book

Christmas Day Praise 10am

An informal & joyful celebration
(A short Communion follows)



**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX

**St Stephen
on the Downs**

Rosebery Road
Langley Vale, KT18 6AF

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

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.