

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2026
LENT 1



Christ in the Wilderness
- *Ivan Kramskoy*

DIARY

Sunday 22nd February LENT 1

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

Monday 23rd February

Bishop Andrew

Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, and as a result, Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking, will take over as acting Bishop of Guildford.

A Prayer Vigil will take place in Guildford Cathedral this Monday, 23rd February from 12 noon. People are invited to go for as long as they wish to join in as they feel led – perhaps to light a candle. The vigil will end with the Cathedral Evensong.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Andrew and his family for whatever comes in the near future.

Wednesday 25th February

10.00am Holy Communion

Saturday 28 February

2pm – 5pm Creative Workshop at St Martin's
led by artist **Christina Peake**

This is part of our Racial Justice Project to Create a Memorial for the Enslaved of Barbados. During the workshop Christina will share more about her research to encourage reflective

discussion, giving us the opportunity to listen and share our stories with each other. Combined with creative activity, this will help us understand how we remember our own stories and how our different perspectives are formed. Numbers are limited so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to participate in the workshop by emailing me at revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org or speaking to me when you see me in church.

Rev Judith

Sunday 1st March LENT 2 (ST DAVID'S DAY)

- 8.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**
- 9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer service at St Martin's**

LENT COURSES

Overflowing Faith & Generosity

Sundays 3 pm – 5 pm
Starting 22 February 2026

Christ calls us to a faith that is actively generous, building up spiritual, rather than earthly, treasures. Generosity is the foundation of a lived-out faith because it seeks to mirror the generous love of God. But how does this apply to us? What does it mean to live a generous faith? Is it just money, or are there other ways to be generous? Over this six-week course we will 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.

1. *Sun 22 Feb:* Following Jesus' example
2. *Sun 1 March:* Charity
3. *Sun 8 March:* Prayer
4. *Sun 15 March:* Money
5. *Sun 22 March:* Mission and evangelism
6. *Sun 29 March:* What next?

Please let me know if you are able to come along.

revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org

'From Now On'

**THURSDAYS at 7.30pm at the Vicarage (or 3pm in Church)
FROM 5th MARCH to 2nd APRIL
(last evening meeting on Wednesday 1st)**



I will be leading a group based on the film musical, '***The Greatest Showman.***' The course explores the themes of Hope and Redemption. Come to all or one, as you can!

I will run the course at the Vicarage in the evenings (35, Burgh Heath Rd) and will also run it in the afternoons at 3pm if there are people who would prefer that.

Please could you sign up for this course using the sheet at the back of Church. Thanks.

Nick Parish

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

“I Will Give You Rest, Come”

A service will be held in St Barnabas Church on **Friday March 6 at 10am.**

All are very welcome with refreshments after the service. A good time to meet fellow Christians from all churches in Epsom and Ewell. Please try to support this venture.

A slip is available to collect at the back of church for a reminder or to post to friends who may be interested.

If you have any questions, contact Ruth Foxcroft or Elaine Snook. Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATE:
Wednesday 25 March 2026
7.30 pm**



St Martin's Annual Service to Commemorate the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

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.

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 at 29 Hereford Close

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.

There is an additional zoom Contemplative Prayer session on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8pm. Find us using the same Zoom details cited above for Evening Prayer.

MISSION FOCUS – FEBRUARY

The Medaille Trust is one of the charities that we support from St Martin's and exists to provide refuge and freedom to victims of modern slavery, supporting them as they rebuild their lives.

Today they are one of the largest providers of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK.

They work to combat modern slavery by offering safe housing, providing support for victims, raising awareness in communities and partnering with law enforcement authorities.

Do take a look at the Church notice board during February.

Thank you.

Jill Chapman (Missions)

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:



PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this fortnight:

Sunday 22nd

All who offer welcome and hospitality and serve refreshments at our churches. Those to be married. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those in Pitt Road, Portland Place, Prospect Place, Providence Place and Randolph Road.

Monday 23rd

Our Electoral Roll Officer: John Aronson. Our Church Cleaners. Local doctors' surgeries. Those in Richmond Close, Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery Road, Sadlers Way and South Street.

Tuesday 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 in Spencer Close, Squirrels Way, St George's Gardens, St James' Close, St Martin's Avenue and St Martin's Close.

Wednesday 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. Refuse collectors, postal workers, deliver drivers. Those in Station Approach Stevens Close, Strand Close, Sunnybank, and The Grove.

Thursday 26th

Our 'Second Thoughts' programme. Education and training in the Parish and future courses. Our Missions: PHAB (bringing together disabled and non-disabled to create an inclusive world). Those in The Hayes, The Oaks, The Parade, The Ridge, The Ridings, Tintagel Close and Treadwell Road.

Friday 27th

All involved in Family services. Christian Aid and the projects it supports. Local prisons and their chaplains: Downview and High Down. Those in Upper High Street, Victoria Place, Warren Hill and Waterloo Road.

Saturday 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 in Westgate Close, Wilmerhatch Lane and Wimborne Close.

THE POWER OF POETRY – FEBRUARY

The feast of Candlemas was celebrated on 2nd February. In mediaeval times it marked the end of the Christmas Season - when Christ was presented in the Temple to Simeon and to Anna. From Simeon's words of joy and thankfulness comes the canticle *Nunc Dimittis*, 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation'. On a secular level, for our forebears it was a day of festival, people would go to church bringing their candles for blessing and there would be candlelit processions in honour of the feast. Given our rather depressing weather in much of January I feel it would be

nice to rediscover Candlemas and make more of it. It was also when the decorations of Christmas came down, rather than our much earlier 6th January (Epiphany), and this is described in a very short 17th century poem by Robert Herrick. Sorry the poem is so short, and the commentary long!

Ceremony Upon Candlemas Eve

*Down with the rosemary, and so
Down with the bays and mistletoe,
Down with the holly, ivy, all
Wherewith ye dress'd the Christmas hall;
That so the superstitious find
No one least branch there left behind;
For look, how many leaves there be
Neglected there, maids, trust to me,
So many goblins you shall see.
(I am not sure about the goblins...!)*



Robert Herrick was born in Cheapside in 1591 to Julia Stone and Nicholas Herrick, a goldsmith. He was their seventh child. His father died when he was one year old. It is probable that he was educated at Merchant Taylor's School with his cousins – sons of Robert Herrick, his uncle. He was apprenticed to another uncle, Sir William Herrick, also a goldsmith, but after six years he gained admittance to St John's College, Cambridge, later moving to Trinity Hall. In 1625 he was ordained into the Church of England and became Vicar of Dean Prior in Devon in 1629. He was ejected from his vicarage during the Civil War and returned to London where he wrote poetry and was supported by friends. After the Restoration of the Monarchy (Charles II) in 1660 he again became Vicar of

Dean Prior in 1662, dying in 1674. He wrote much poetry though it seems that it was not popular at the time, too lyrical and straightforward perhaps. At the time the metaphysical poets (e.g. John Donne, Andrew Marvell) were more fashionable, though for modern readers they are more complex to understand. He was re-discovered at the start of the 19th century. He wrote *Fair Daffodils we weep to see...*, and the poem that begins *Gather ye rosebuds while you may*. Swinburne described Robert Herrick as the “greatest [English] song writer ever born” which I assume is reference to his lyrical quality.

Mary Gilbert

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Tinned Meat – **Urgent**
Microwave Rice – **Urgent**
Tinned Fish – **Urgent**
Tinned Carrots – **Urgent**
Instant Coffee – **Urgent**
Washing Up Liquid – **Urgent**
Toilet Rolls – **Urgent**
Male/Female Deodorant – **Urgent**
Sweetcorn - **Urgent we have none**
Squash - **Urgent we have none**
Sugar - **Urgent we have none**
Powdered Milk - **Urgent we have none**
Long Life Juice - **Urgent we have none**
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent we have none**
Noodles, Pasta Sauce
Packet Soup, Cooking Sauce
Tinned Fruit, Milk UHT, Tea (bags)

Biscuits, Rice Pudding, Custard
Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter/Marmalade
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Washing Powder, Shaving Foam, Shower Gel
Children toothpaste and toothbrushes Shampoo
Hair conditioner 3+

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

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.

Eco Church at EMC welcomes our next speaker, William Ward,
Chair and Co-Founder of

Epsom and Ewell Climate Action Network



Wednesday March 25th 7.30pm, Epsom Methodist Church Ashley Road KT18 5AQ

Come and find out who they are, the FREE community services that they offer, and how to reduce your home energy bills and access FREE home insulation products and grants.

Refreshments served before event

The Eco Church group at Epsom Methodist Church would like to invite you to this event.



FALL IN LOVE WITH THE FUTURE

Rob Hopkins Author of
From What is to What if



How to Fall in Love
with the Future
A Time Traveller's Guide to Changing the World

A one day workshop led by author of 'From What is to What if' Rob Hopkins will guide us to think about how we can build a community of the future

Saturday 30th May, 10am - 4.30pm

Tickets £25 (£20 Earlybird)

For more information and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to smartinsepsom.org/imagine



SUSTAINABLE
EPSOM & EWELL



St Martin
of Tours

Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX

Music @ St Martin's

Spring 2026

Saturday afternoons at 4.30

FREE!



Saturday 31 January
Mariia Zhornikova - piano
*plays Debussy, Granados and works by
her fellow Ukrainians*

Saturday 21 February
Redhouse Rhythm & Blues
*Entertaining and popular duo Chris
Hollingshurst & Danny Wignal return
to our series*



Saturday 28 March
Hammers & Pipes
*Peter Lutton shares his enjoyment of
playing our fine piano and organ*

Saturday 18 April
Women of English Song
*Soprano Christine Cunnold and pianist
Richard Harker explore some of the best
music of female composers*



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

Registered Charity No 1134149