



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 8th MARCH 2026 LENT 3

DIARY

Saturday 7th March

The Youth, Community and Parish Choirs of Ashted will be performing a concert of joyful music, including instrumental solos by talented young musicians this Saturday, 7th March. The programme will include classical, folk, jazz, pop and gospel music, and Iain Macfarlane will provide accompaniment.

The concert is at St George's Church, Barnett Wood Lane, from 3.30pm to 5pm. Tickets are available at

<https://sgsg.churchsuite.com/events/jjeni6lo>

or on the door. Entry is £6 (under 18s free) including tea, coffee, cake, biscuits and soft drinks.

All proceeds will be donated to CAP UK - Christians Against Poverty. <https://capuk.org/>

Sunday 8th March LENT 3

- 9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Choral Mattins service at St Martin's**
- 3.00pm Lent course: Overflowing faith and generosity**
- 6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's with refreshments from 5.45pm.**

Unfortunately, Kevin Greening is unable to come to Second Thoughts to talk about 'Trees', due to family circumstances. We are very grateful to Brian Gabbett for coming at the last moment to take his place. He is Joan Gabbett's brother-in-law (Patrick's brother). He did his apprenticeship at Rolls Royce and he is going to talk about the 'Spirit of Ecstasy', the development of the car that made them so famous.

Tuesday 10th March,

1.00pm Funeral of Jane Norris.

(Followed by a reception at the back of Church. All are invited to attend).

Wednesday 11th March

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Thursday 12th March

3.00pm Lent course: From now on (in Church)

7.30pm Lent Course From now on (at the Vicarage)

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

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

St John Chandler Hall, Church Road

The sale of this property has been a very long process but it has now been completed. The funds from the sale will help us to replenish our reserves which we have had to dig into to cover some recent and considerable expenses on maintenance of our buildings. Over the coming months, the PCC will undertake a thorough review of our financial situation, with the aim of devising a strategy for our churches that will most effectively advance our mission within the community.

Sarah Lutton



Wednesday 25 March 2026

7.30 pm

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

Church House car park

The Church House car park is now managed by NCP. If you have any parking queries, please contact the office at office@stmartinsepsom.org

Christmas Fair 2026

This year's Christmas Fair is on November 28th with the two previous days for setting up.

Please put this date in your diaries and help make the occasion a very happy one.

Sarah, Nancy, David and Maureen

Bishop Andrew Watson R.I.P

Following severe illness, Andrew died early last week. He had been Bishop of Guildford for 10 years, serving as a Priest in the Church of England in many roles, including Bishop of Aston, in Birmingham diocese, before coming to Guildford. He and his wife raised four children together and have a wide and significant circle of family and friends, all of whom are in mourning because of such a sudden death. Please give thanks for Andrew's life and work in your prayers and pray for his family and friends as they come to terms with what has happened. **Nick Parish**

Bishop Paul has written this prayer, which we are all invited to use this Sunday:

*Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for Andrew,
our brother and bishop:
for his faith and faithfulness to you in life and in leadership.
As we mourn his death
and commend him to your everlasting arms,
give us the same faith, hope and love,
rooted in the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus.
We pray especially for Beverly,
Hannah, Sam, Joe, Lydia and the whole family.
Comfort them with your Holy Spirit and protect them in their grief.
And bring us, at the last, with Andrew and all your children,
to that eternal joy where you live and reign in glory forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

LENT COURSES
Overflowing Faith & Generosity
Sundays 3 pm – 5 pm in the Lady Chapel
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.

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)**

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..
Nick Parish

Public Lecture: The Man Who Built Surrey's Churches: the architect Henry Woodyer Revealed

On Saturday 23 May 2026, 10.30am –12 noon at St Andrew's Church, Grafham, Guildford GU5 0LJ, architectural historian Robin Stannard explores the life and legacy of Henry Woodyer (1816–1896), the prolific Victorian Gothic Revival architect responsible for around 300 buildings, including many of Surrey's finest churches. Held at Woodyer's own church ahead of its much needed restoration, the lecture will reveal the story behind its creation and the hidden splendour of its interior decoration. Tickets: £12 advance (£15 on the door), £8 SCPT members, £5 under 25s, or three for £30 in advance. Book via www.ticketsource.co.uk (search "Woodyer"). All proceeds support the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust. Click here to book: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/surrey/st-andrews-church/public-lecture-the-man-who-built-surrey-s-churches-the-architect-henry-woodyer-revealed/2026-05-23/10:30/t-mjjevma>

Spring Concert – Saturday 14th March

Epsom Choral Society's next concert features one of the great choral masterpieces of the 19th



century, Brahms' *A German Requiem*, performed in a chamber version that brings new clarity to this work.

The *German Requiem* was originally scored for symphony orchestra and Brahms also wrote a version for piano duet which is often performed, but Epsom Choral Society will perform the work in a relatively new arrangement by [Iain Farrington](#), scored for just flute, oboe, clarinet, violin, viola, cello and piano. This arrangement preserves much of Brahms' orchestral texture retaining much of the original orchestration. We will be joined by the English Sinfonietta Chamber Ensemble and two outstanding soloists, [Elizabeth Findon](#) (soprano) and [Dominic Sedgwick](#) (baritone), both widely admired for their concert and operatic performances, and the whole will be conducted by [Julian Collings](#).

The programme also includes two contrasting choral works by Josef Rheinberger: the serene and much-loved motet *Abendlied*, and his *Mass in E flat*, a work for double choir written in just a few days 10 years after Brahms wrote his Requiem. It is considered to be Rheinberger's finest work.

There are some flyers and a poster in the church.

Tickets are available via our website on

www.epsomchoral.org.uk/tickets

Nina Kaye, Epsom Choral Society

Report of the Creative Workshop led by Christina Peake on Saturday 28 February, part of St Martin's Project to Create a Memorial for the Enslaved of Barbados

A wonderful afternoon of listening and sharing led to the creation of ten individual artworks by members of the congregation, each representing a personal story shared, giving us practical experience of the different aspects and emotions, and the visual language involved when we create a memorial to someone or something.

As Nick said in his sermon at the 10 am service the next day, Vision is a synonym of Faith. Vision leads to bringing into being things that do not exist. As Christians, we seek to bring into being that which makes things better, that which heals and that which makes things whole. This is our Vision for the new memorial we have asked Christina Peake to create for us, as she brings into our parish church the lives and stories of those who were enslaved on Barbados.

During the first part of the workshop, we divided into groups, each of which reflected on one of the following questions about Barbados and the period of enslavement:

- What do we know of this period in the Caribbean/globally?
- What was the role of the Church during this time and what has it been since?
- How can/does faith inform adversity?

We then reflected on what is the language of divinity used in a memorial, looking at pictures of certain memorials and marking

them where we recognised the use of visual motifs.

Each participant had been asked to bring along an object or photograph or ephemera of a place, experience or person that represents a memory/story of how faith/beliefs/values/sacred experience had informed a time of adversity in their life. In the second half of the workshop, each shared with one other person the story behind the item they had brought. Then their partner created a small artwork, based on stained glass, to remember the story shared with them. At the end of the afternoon each pair gave a brief summary of the stories behind the artworks and reflected on what they thought should be included in a memorial. Each pair then decided whether to take home the artwork *they* had made to remind them of *their partner's* story or to take home the artwork *their partner* had made of *their* story.

Although we knew the plan for the workshop, none of us had any idea of how the afternoon would evolve and what would be achieved. But each participant came with curiosity and was willing to take the risk to share something of themselves to help the memorial project move forward. It was a blessing that we were able to come together in church, in God's presence, where we could also be inspired by the stained-glass windows and, appropriately, be near the Brathwaite Memorial.

Not only did each participant create a beautiful memorial of their partner's story, but they were able to listen well to that story and gain insight into the challenges faced by another. The workshop demonstrated how someone's understanding and empathy for another increases through the shared experience of listening and putting into words their own story. The afternoon was emotionally

moving for all of us and it was poignant to witness the quiet concentration and determination each showed while creating their individual artwork.

I hope that all of our church family here in our parish of St Martin's with St Stephen's will be able to reflect on what it means for us corporately to be part of a project which is bringing a new physical creation into our parish church. If you weren't able to be at church on Sunday to hear Nick's sermon about our God 'who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist', do please watch it on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubeVZqfF4Lo&t=1542s>

where his sermon begins at 25.35.

Rev Judith



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 – MARCH

This month we are highlighting the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank which we continue to support from St Martin's. The number of people using the Foodbank has nearly doubled in the last few years to support over 10,000 people – as living costs rise the need increases for those on or below the poverty line. Please continue to help to your best ability. Thank you.

Jill Chapman, Mission

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 week:

Sunday 8th

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. Our Children’s Church: The Ark – Sarah Jeffery, the children, the parents and volunteers. The Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Those living and working in Chuters Grove, Clayton Road, College Avenue and College Road.

Monday 9th

Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Meg Topley and the Team. The physical, mental and emotional well-being of the people of Epsom and Langley Vale, local mental health units and Love Me Love My Mind (Our Missions). Those living and working in Copse Edge Avenue, Delaporte Close, Denham Road and Depot Road.

Tuesday 10th

St Stephen’s Church: its life, worship and mission to Langley Vale. Safeguarding in our churches: our Parish Safeguarding Officers Revd Judith and Peter Christie, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and that all of us work to create and sustain a safe welcoming inclusive space for everyone. The Bible Society, Spinnaker Trust (Our Missions) and all those teaching RE locally. Those living and working in Digidens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Wednesday 11th

Our Bell-ringing Team and Tower Captain Mike Bale. Our Ministry Team. All local young families. Those living and working in Downs Avenue, Downs Hill Road, Downs Road and Downs Way.

Thursday 12th

Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Through the Roof: Wheelchairs for the World (Our Missions) and the Sunnybank Trust (based in Epsom). Those living and working in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

Friday 13th

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Didi Steck. Those living locally who are housebound and their carers. Those living and working in Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

Saturday 14th

Our Mission and Evangelism Team. Our Church Finances and Our Treasurer. Our MP Helen Maguire. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: elected members and officers. Those living and working in Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

THE POWER OF POETRY – MARCH



This month, a rural interlude – *On a Lane in Spring*, by John Clare, 1793-1864.

*A Little Lane, the brook runs close beside
And spangles in the sunshine while the fish glide swiftly by
And hedges leafing with the green spring tide
From out their greenery the old birds fly
And chirp and whistle in the morning sun
The pilewort glitters 'neath the pale blue sky.
The little robin has its nest begun
And grass green linnets round the bushes fly
How Mild the Spring Comes in; the daisy buds
Lift up their golden blossoms to the sky
How lovely are the pingles and the woods
Here a beetle runs; and there a fly
Rests on the Arum leaf in bottle green
And all the Spring in this Sweet lane is seen*

Clare was born into a peasant family in the small village of Helpston, Northamptonshire. His parents were illiterate but he had some schooling, attending the village school for a few months each year until he was twelve.

He grew up with great love and understanding for nature, rural life, the rhythms of the seasons, and understood the oral tradition. He then attended night school. He loved to read, one of his favourite books being Isaac Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. James Thompson's poem *The Seasons* also inspired him and he was soon writing his own poetry. His first collection of verse was published in 1820: *Poems Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery* which was very well received enabling Clare to visit London, and which resulted in him acquiring several benefactors. Other volumes followed: *The Village Minstrel and Other Poems*, and a few years later on *The Shepherd's Calendar* (1827). Many other poems followed, though they remained unpublished until after his death.

Clare had begun to experience mental problems. The saddest thing was that he had to be committed to a Mental institution. He missed his family so ran away from the first, taking four days to reach his home (walking). And then he was confined to the Northampton Lunatic Asylum for the rest of his life, experiencing hallucinations and confusion. It must, I think, have been torture for him. He was so much a poet of the open air and rural life.

You may have noticed the absence of punctuation in the poem above. I was tempted to add a few commas and full stops, but then read that he said apropos of the rules of grammar "do I write intelligible I am generally understood tho I do not use that awkward

squad of pointings called commas colons semicolons etc". I think the occasional semicolon must have been added by the editor of the version I copied. He is now accepted as a great poet, not least for his observations on what life was like in the countryside of the nineteenth century for people born in the lower walks of life.

Mary Gilbert

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Tinned Meat – **Urgent**, Instant Coffee – **Urgent**
Sponge Pudding – **Urgent** Long Life Juice – **Urgent**
Squash – **Urgent**, Sugar – **Urgent**
Rice Pudding – **Urgent**, Biscuits – **Urgent**
Washing Up Liquid – **Urgent**
Washing Powder – **Urgent**
Powdered Milk - **Urgent we have none**
Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent we have none**
Custard - **Urgent we have none**
Noodles, Sweetcorn
Packet Soup, Instant Mash
Tinned Carrots, Tinned Fruit
Pasta Sauce, Cooking Sauce
Milk UHT, Tea (bags), Crisps
Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread/Peanut
Butter/Marmalade/Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Male/Female Deodorant
Shaving Foam, Shower Gel
Hair Conditioner, Children toothpaste ONLY 0-2
Children toothbrushes ONLY 0-2 and 6+
Toilet Rolls, Nappies Size 5 & 6

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.

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