

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2026
MOTHERING SUNDAY



DIARY

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
- 3.00pm Lent course in Lady Chapel
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

Wednesday 18th March

- 10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
- 11.00am Ministry Team meeting
- 7.00pm Holy Communion
- 7.30pm PCC meeting

Thursday 19th March

- 3.00pm Lent course: From now on (in Church)
- 7.30pm Lent Course From now on (at the Vicarage)

Sunday 22nd March Lent 5

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

The Funeral of the late Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford: This will be taking place on Monday 23 March at 12 noon in Guildford Cathedral. Most of the seats in the Cathedral will be pre-allocated, so if you wish to watch the service live it is being streamed at St. Paul's Church Howell Hill in Ewell.

Wednesday 25 March

7.30 pm St Martin's

Annual Service to Commemorate the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Saturday 28th March

4.30pm Music @ St Martin's:

Peter Lutton shows off both our fine pipe organ and grand piano with a wide-ranging choice of music. In a programme lasting just an hour he shares his love of organ music by Bach, Handel and Duruflé and piano music by Mozart, Schubert, Respighi and Joplin. Admission free, donations requested from those who can.

Mothering Sunday and Easter Cards

There is a good selection of reasonably priced cards now available at the back of church to celebrate these upcoming two events: Mothering Sunday on March 15th and Easter Sunday on April 5th. Please support the church by buying your cards from St Martins. Thank you.



Mary Holloway-Neville

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

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

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.

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 3pm in Church and 7.30pm at the Vicarage
(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>

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=ubeVZgfF4Lo&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" *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 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

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 15th

Our Discipleship and Fellowship Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance. Those living and working in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

Monday 16th

Our Choir, and for a new Musical Director who will lead outreach into the community through the gift of music. 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 20th

Our Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett, John Padwick and Alexander Rennie. 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.

Saturday 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.

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:



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.

 EPSOM CHAMBER CHOIR

J S Bach
Magnificat
Alec Roth
A Time to Dance



Jack Apperley conductor
accompanied by the period instruments of
Affinity Chamber Orchestra

Saturday 21st March 2026 7:30pm
St Martin's Church, Epsom, KT17 4PX
£18 in advance | £21 on the day | Under 21s Free
online www.epsomchamberchoir.org.uk | box office 07520 656397



Supported by Con lino
 **The Humphrey Richardson Taylor**
Charitable Trust www.hrtaylortrust.org.uk

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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