

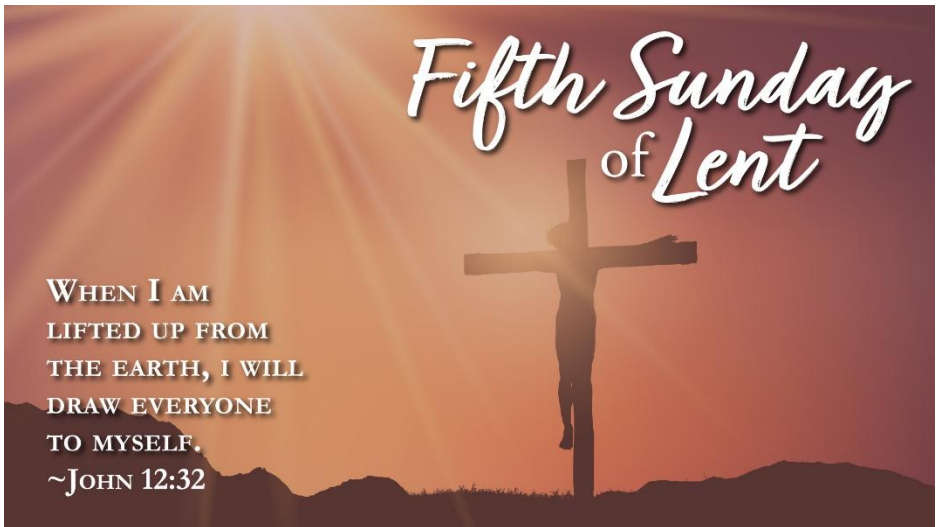
St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2026
LENT 5



DIARY

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**

Monday 23rd March

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.

Tuesday 24th March

4.00pm Time to Talk - Making sense of Genesis

Our alternate Tuesday afternoon sessions begin again with Time to Talk. Refreshments from 3.45pm.

"When God began to create heaven and earth....."

How do we understand the early chapters of the Bible - Adam and Eve, the "Fall", two very different accounts of the beginning in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2? Our series of sessions will explore different ways of interpreting biblical texts and making sense of them as part of our Christian faith today.

Do come and join us.

Wednesday 25th March

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

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

Thursday 26th March

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

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

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.

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

6.30pm Compline 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

PCC Meeting

Here is a brief summary of the updates, discussions and decisions made at the meeting on Wednesday. If you have any questions, ask a member of the PCC. ***Sarah Lutton***

Fabric matters:

- **St Stephen's:** The work to repair the west end of the church is now out to tender and there have been responses from 5 building companies. The tender process ends on 2 April when we will receive the architect's recommended options. Once a quote has been accepted a grant application will be made and the meeting agreed that money from the sale of JCH will be used to make up the shortfall in the cost so that work isn't delayed
- **Solar Panels for St Martin's:** Work should begin in the next few weeks and will take about 10-14 days
- **New lectern & lectern steps:** work is still ongoing on these
- **Leak in Church House roof:** We are in the process of getting quotes for repair work. This is likely to be a significant cost for us
- **Enclosing the Lady Chapel:** We are now ready to start a faculty application for this work.

Future Financial strategy: Now that we have received the money from the sale of John Chandler Hall discussions will be held over the next few months to decide upon how best to plan financially for our churches' futures.

Eco Updates: St Martin's is hosting two events. On 11 & 12 April we are screening 'People's Emergency Briefing', a

documentary which sets out the scale of threats to the UK's food security, health, infrastructure, economy and national security. And on 30 May we are hosting an Imagination Training Workshop - 'How to fall in love with the future'. Information on both events is on the church website.

Contested Heritage Project update: All three workshops run by Christina Peake (in St Martins, in Sutton and in Reading) have now taken place. Christina is due to present her ideas for a memorial in early May.

Safeguarding: A process is being set up for ensuring that the PCC are aware of new bookings in Church House that involve young people or vulnerable adults. (Users of Church House are required to abide to our Safeguarding policy).

Governance paper: Following discussion it was agreed that draft minutes will be circulated to PCC members as soon after the meeting as practicable, these summaries will be published after each meeting, and confirmed minutes will be published (on the website) in due course. It was also confirmed that any member of the church is entitled to observe a PCC meeting. If you would like to do that, please notify the PCC Secretary in good time.

First aiders: two members of the congregation are going to complete a training course with St John Ambulance.

The Anna Chaplaincy: A PCC member has indicated their willingness to follow up on the possibility of training with this charity which offers spiritual care for elderly people in the parish community.

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.

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

EASTER CARDS – SELLING FAST!

There is a good selection of reasonably priced cards now available at the back of church to celebrate Easter Sunday on April 5th. Please support the church by buying your cards from St Martins. Thank you.

Mary Holloway-Neville

From Now On

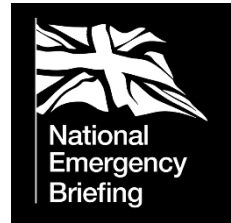
**THURSDAYS at 3pm in Church and 7.30pm at the Vicarage
(last evening meeting on Wednesday 1st)**

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

People's Emergency Briefing

Some of you may have heard about the National Emergency Briefing held in London last November, when a number of experts held a high-level briefing, calling for the Government to make sure the public is informed, prepared and protected, in the light of the current risks from climate change. This three-hour event is being summarized in a 45 minute film, which will be shown at St Martin's on 11th and 12th April. Both events are free (no charge). This is a nationally significant initiative. After the 45 minute film there will be a discussion of 45 mins -1 hour.



The event on 11th April is being advertised to the public, and we are asking people to sign up so that we have an idea of numbers. This event is at 2.30pm for 3pm, and will finish by 4.45pm. Please let me know if you are attending. One way of doing this is by following this link - <https://stmartinsepsom.churchsuite.com/events/enz7krst>, or looking under 'Church Life' and 'Calendar' on the church website and going to 11th April.

The event on 12th will be after coffee after the 10am service, at 11.30am for 11.45am. This will be followed by discussion and bring-and-share lunch. There will be a list at the back of church for you to sign up and suggest what you will be bringing. We look forward to seeing you at one of the events. Please spread the word amongst your friends and neighbours, too.

Helen Williams, Eco Rep

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>



Parish Giving Scheme

We introduced the Parish Giving Scheme on Sunday at the morning service in St Martin's and if you are on our mailing list you will have received details of how effective and simple this scheme is to donate regularly by direct debit.

Follow this link to set up your regular giving:

[The Parish Giving Scheme Website](#) If you have any questions do please contact rob@stmartinsepsom.org or Sarah - wardens@stmartinsepsom.org

FALL IN LOVE WITH THE FUTURE

One-day workshop, 30th May 2026

10am – 4.30pm

St Martin's Church, Epsom KT17 4PX

£25 (Early bird £20)

After a recommendation from Lynne to read 'From What Is to What If', Rob Hopkins is coming to Epsom to lead a dynamic and hands-on workshop, which will guide us in how to 'fall in love with the future'. In a day of inspiring, playful and imaginative activities Rob will steer us towards imagining and discovering the thriving town of the future – Epsom, Ewell and further afield - we'd all love to live in.

This isn't your standard workshop – it will take you out of the 'daily grind' and beyond familiar workday discussions. The event is open to anyone: members of local sustainability groups, teachers/lecturers, town councils, local businesses. It's a day for people from all parts of the local community – the more 'cross-pollination' the better, so we do hope that you will come along and be part of it.

More details, and how to book, can be found at

<https://www.stmartinsepsom.org/imagine/>

Best wishes,

Helen, Eco Rep

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



Epsom & Ewell
Foodbank

Together with Trussell

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 fortnight:

Sunday 22nd

All who offer welcome and hospitality and serve refreshments at our churches. Those to be married in our churches. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those living and working 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 living and working 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 living and working 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. 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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.

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 living and working in Westgate Close, Wilmerhatch Lane and Wimborne Close.

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 Fish - **Urgent**
Rice Pudding - **Urgent**
Tinned Fruit - **Urgent**
Instant Coffee - **Urgent**
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent**
Male/Female Deodorant - **Urgent**
Powdered Milk - **Urgent we have none**
Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent we have none**
Custard - **Urgent we have none**
Hair Conditioner - **Urgent we have none**
Tinned Meat
Noodles, Sweetcorn
Packet Soup, Instant Mash
Tinned Spaghetti, Microwave Rice
Dried Pasta in Sauce
Tinned Peas
Pasta Sauce, Cooking Sauce
Milk UHT, Tea (bags), Biscuits
Squash, Sugar
Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter/Marmalade
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder
Shampoo, Shaving Foam, Shower Gel
Children Toothpaste ONLY 0-2
Children Toothbrushes ONLY 0-2 and 6+
Adult Toothpaste
Toilet Rolls
Nappies Size 5, 6 & 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.





National
Emergency
Briefing

People's Emergency Briefing

Epsom



Film screening and discussion

St Martin's Church, Epsom KT17 4PX
Saturday 11th April 2026
2.30pm for 3pm

www.nebriefing.org

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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