

St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2026
EASTER DAY



DIARY

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

- 3.00pm Lent Course From now on at St Martin's
- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
- 8.00pm Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Good Friday 3rd April

- 12–2pm Readings and Prayers for the day at St Martin's
- 2.00pm Liturgy of the Cross at St Martin's

Holy Saturday 4th April

- *6.30pm Easter Vigil at St Martin's. **Please note the new time*

Sunday 5th April Easter Day

- 8.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
- 9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen's
- 10.00am Sung Communion service at St Martin's
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

Tuesday 7th April

11.00am Contemplative Prayer Group

The next Group will be at 29, Hereford Close at 11am on Tuesday 7th April. Our starting point will be from John 20.27: *'Be not faithless, but believing'*. All will be welcome. We also have a 'zoom' session at 8 pm on Thursday 16th April. Contact me if you need details of the 'zoom' session. **Adrian Esdaile**

Wednesday 8th April

- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Saturday 11th April

2.30pm Film Showing : 'National Emergency briefing'

Sunday 12th April Easter 2

9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

11.30am Film Showing : 'National Emergency briefing'
(Followed by discussion and bring and share Lunch).

6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's
(refreshments available from 5.45pm)

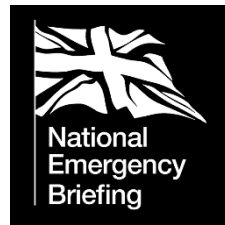
The Dean of Guildford, The Very Revd Bob Cooper 'Praying with Icons'

What is an icon, and how might these sacred images deepen our prayer life? This session explores the spiritual tradition of icons in Christian devotion, examining their theological significance and contemplative purpose. We'll discover how icons can serve as windows into the divine, offering focal points for meditation and encounter with God. Practical guidance will be shared on using icons in personal prayer, helping participants engage with this ancient practice in fresh and meaningful ways.

The Very Rev'd Bob Cooper is Dean of Guildford Cathedral, where he leads a vibrant community of worship, music, and mission. Previously Archdeacon of Sunderland, Bob has demonstrated creative ministry through innovative programming, combining cultural and spiritual engagement. Bob has a passionate commitment to deepening people's spirituality, developing contemplative practices, educational resources, and liturgical experiences that help us encounter God through both ancient traditions and fresh expressions of faith.

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. (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

Nature conservation and local government reform

We're all aware of the great efforts at St Martin's under the Eco Church initiative, but an army of volunteers is also working in the wider community to care for Epsom's extraordinarily rich green spaces and wildlife. This work now faces uncertain times due to the upheaval of local government reform. The Epsom and Ewell Times, our local news website, has recently reported on the drive to ensure nature isn't forgotten when the borough is abolished next year. To read the article please click

here: <https://epsomandewelltimes.com/epsom-and-ewell-countryside-volunteers-face-uncertain-times>

UL

Report by Mackie Holder, Barbadian Deputy High Commissioner on Facebook about the Creative Workshop led by Christina Peake at Reading Museum on Thursday 19 March

Examining Slavery to inform Memorial



A different kind of engagement for sure. The workshop at Reading Museum to inform the art memorial to those enslaved in Barbados by John Brathwaite, to be installed at St Martin of Tours Church, Epsom, to address an existing one to John Brathwaite, was educational,

stimulating and, of course, passionate.

The last of three, it was conducted by Christina Peake, a Bajan British transdisciplinary artist with an extensive research record. Among others attending were Revd Judith Mitchell, Assistant Curate, St Martin's Church, Epsom; Revd. Polly Falconer, Associate Minister, St. George's and St. Mary Magdalen, Tilehurst, Reading and Racial Justice Adviser for the Oxford Diocese; Brendan Carr, Reading Museum; community leaders and residents of Reading.



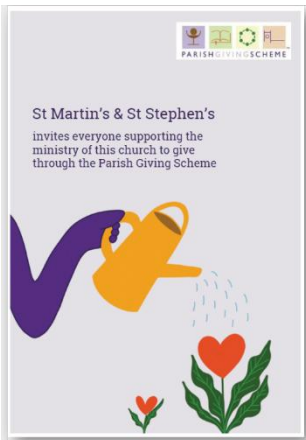
There were lively discussions around the role of the church in slavery, the lack of discussion among Barbadians born in and out of Barbados about slavery, and notions of “slavery” in Barbados in the first half of the 20th century and Emancipation – Bussa – statue was one of the images examined to inform

design.

For sure, too, there remains a need for a lot more education and discussion about this – and about the development of Barbados. But an enjoyable night looking at slavery from a different perspective.

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 have introduced the Parish Giving Scheme 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" *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.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Easter Sunday 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 7th

Our Parish Manager, Church Administrator and Facilities Officer. Those baptised in our churches, past and future, and their families, godparents and sponsors. Swail House and those who are sight impaired. The deaf and hard of hearing. Those living and working in Chantry Hurst, Chartwell Place, Church Road and Church Street.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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.

Friday 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, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and that all of us help 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 Digdens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Saturday 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.

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 – APRIL

I have written of R S Thomas, 1913-2000, before (last August) so I shall not repeat the biographical notes but will concentrate on the poem. You may, though, remember that I mentioned his taciturnity and rather forbidding aspect in his daily life. Yet his spiritual life, often present in his poetry, gives a different slant. He has belief, but is also at times consumed with doubt and frustration.

The Absence

*It is this great absence
that is like a presence, that compels
me to address it without hope
of a reply. It is a room I enter*

*from which someone has just
gone, the vestibule for the arrival
of one who has not yet come.
I modernise the anachronism*

*of my language, but he is no more here
than before. Genes and molecules
have no more power to call
him up than the incense of the Hebrews*

*at their altars. My equations fail
as my words do. What resource have I
other than the emptiness without him of my whole
being, a vacuum he may not abhor?*

Here Thomas is exploring the difficulty of prayer. Some seem to find it easy, but I don't think it is: it is not I would say a shopping list

of our wants and it sometimes seems fruitless when we do not receive what we are asking. Very often our prayers may be unselfish of course – we pray habitually for the world, for peace, for the relief of suffering, and on a personal level we pray most desperately when someone close to us is ill that they may recover fully. Then when our prayers are not answered we are tempted to give up. Maybe we are not concentrating hard enough – very often our thoughts are on what we shall cook for lunch, or the weather, or the unforgiving nature of the pew. At other times our desperation makes us keep on. Practise or dogged perseverance, it is hoped, makes perfect! Maybe the answer is not what we expect or want.

Thomas was himself a priest, and no doubt exhorted his congregations to continue with their efforts. We expect perhaps that any priest we encounter must be doubt-free, and assured of God's presence at all times, but Thomas may not be exceptional in his fears. He seems aware of God's absence, even more aware of the lack of a response and of the fact that for many Christians prayer can be hard-going. But God's apparent absence is **not** the same as believing that there is no God. God is a "presence that compels me to address it without hope of a reply". He gives an image of an empty room, the guest recently gone, or awaiting someone's arrival. Thomas ultimately says that without God he and all humanity have no other resources. In the August poem, *The Bright Field*, Thomas is talking about those moments when we feel the Holy Spirit is with us and God is near. I also gave a second poem, *Kneeling*, and in that his belief in God is revealed when he waits for God's message. To keep going when there seems to be no response is hard, and this seems to be what *The Absence* is about. Sometimes persistence in the face of disappointment is needed. So, let us pray.....

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.



Good Friday Passion Play 3rd April 2026

Epsom Market Place, 10.30am

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!



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.

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

Registered Charity No 1134149