

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

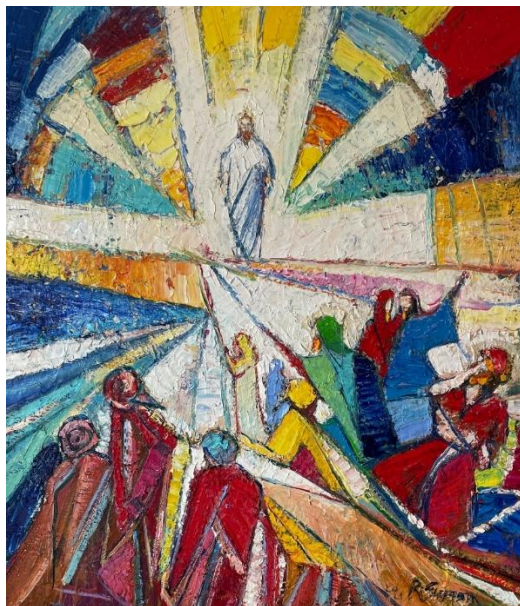
St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026**  
**EASTER 2**



## DIARY

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

**2.30pm Film Showing : 'National Emergency briefing'**

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**4.00pm Centering Prayer** (tea and biscuits from 3.45pm)

‘Be still and know that I am God’

Psalm 46:10

A small group of us meet every other Tuesday at 4pm, at the back of church, to pray together in silence.

If you would enjoy some time for silent prayer with others, please come along.

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.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin’s**

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April Easter 3**

**9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen’s**

**10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin’s**

**6.30pm Choral Evensong service at St Martin’s**

### **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***

### **Women of English Song - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 4.30pm**

This is the next concert in our Music @ St Martin's series. Soprano Christine Cunnold and pianist Richard Harker explore some of the best music for voice written by the likes of Clara Schumann, Ethel Smyth, Madeline Dring and Judith Weir. Admission free - donations ask for from those who can.

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION**

The Electoral Roll is due to be revised on 23 April 2026 and a notice to this effect has been displayed outside both our churches since 10 March 2026. Please check that your name is entered in the current Roll (at the back of St Martin's), or with me by email (aronson\_john@hotmail.com). If you are on the Roll and there have been changes to your address or contact details please inform me or the Parish Office. Your full details can be checked in the office. If you are not a member and would like to join please complete an application form available at the back of St Martin's and hand it in to the Parish Office. The Roll will be closed for any new entries from 22 April 2026 until after the Parish AGM on 10 May 2026.

***John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer.***

## **Going green with our church flowers**

It's easy to think that we're automatically being green when we decorate the church with flowers, but awareness is growing that there are some very un-eco-friendly options regarding the choice of flowers and how we use them. Some flowers rack up the airmiles to reach the UK, some are grown in developing countries using land and water that would better be used for crop production. There's also oasis, a green foam which has long been the friend of flower arrangers but which is far from being green because its disposal is problematic.

So, spurred on by Helen, our eco-rep and by Yvonne attending a seminar on sustainable church flowers, the flower team have taken a close look at the eco-friendly things we are already doing and where we can improve. Sometimes the eco-option is a little more challenging and takes more creative thinking to make

arrangements work, but the team made a really good start with our Easter flower decorations. We chose only seasonal flowers, avoided the use of oasis and used greenery either from our gardens or from the churchyard.

Our future plans include the aim to grow more flowers for cutting in the church yard, learning how to use wool instead of oasis and to seek further advice from the Diocesan advocate on sustainable church flowers. We're also going to regularly ask the congregation for donations from their own gardens or allotments for flowers and greenery, particularly at times such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

We'd also love to grow our flower team. No experience needed, just enthusiasm to have go! Speak to Yvonne or myself (who began as a real rookie at flower arranging!). **Sarah Lutton**

### **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>

**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.

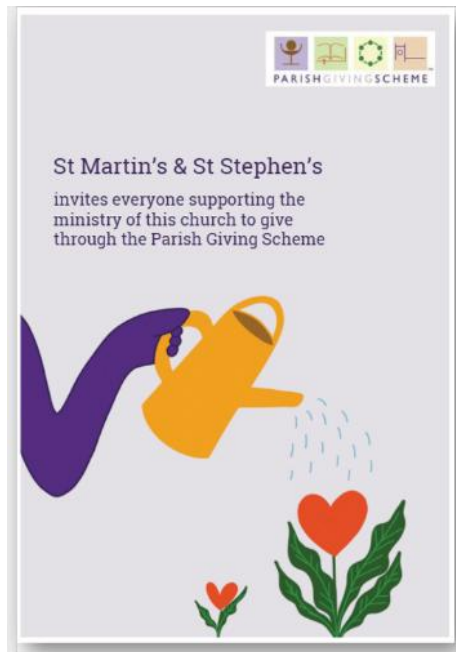
Tickets: £12 advance (£15 on the door), £8 SCPT members, £5 under 25s, or three for £30 in advance. Book

via [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://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](mailto:rob@stmartinsepsom.org) or Sarah - [wardens@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:wardens@stmartinsepsom.org)



# FALL IN LOVE WITH THE FUTURE

**One-day workshop, 30<sup>th</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes: 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.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

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.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>**

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.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**

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.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## 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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)**

**Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://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.



National  
Emergency  
Briefing

# People's Emergency Briefing

**Epsom**



Film screening and discussion

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

[www.nebriefing.org](http://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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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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