

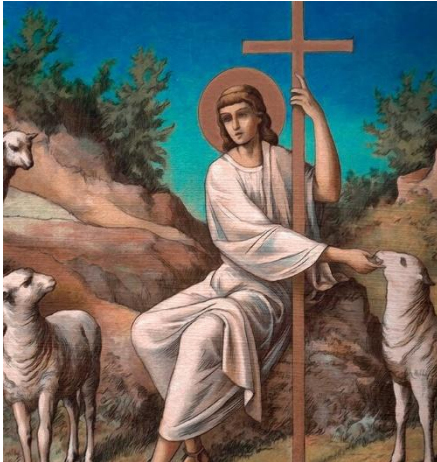
St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026
EASTER 4



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine
know me, just as the
Father knows me and I
know the Father; and I will
lay down my life for the
sheep.” - Jn 10:14-15

DIARY

Sunday 26th April Easter 4

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

Wednesday 29th April

- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Sunday 3rd May Easter 5

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

ELECTORAL ROLL CLOSURE

The Electoral Roll was closed for revision on 22nd April 2026. It will remain closed for new entries until after the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10th May 2026. The New Roll (names only) will be displayed at the back of St Martin's, but any amendments will not be made until after the APCM.

John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer

Contemplative Prayer Group

We meet in the Lady Chapel in St Martin's at 11am on Tuesday 5th May. Our starting point will be Ezekiel 37.14 - '*I will put my spirit in you and you will live.*' Note: for the summer months we will meet in Church on the 1st Tuesdays and then in the winter meet again at 29 Hereford Close. All will be very welcome.

Adrian Esdaile

Sunday 10th May in Church at 11.30am

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

(after Holy Communion has finished and coffee has been served)

Sunday 10th May, 6.30 pm with refreshments from 5.45pm

Imam Joynal Ahmad

Second Thoughts

'Days of Celebration in the Islamic Tradition'

Joynal serves as the Head Imam of Epsom Mosque and Senior Chaplain for the newly merged Group Trust, encompassing St George's, Epsom, and St Helier University Hospitals (GESH). He is also a visiting chaplain at the Royal Marsden. Joynal embarked on his spiritual journey at the age of 11, memorising the Quran at 13, and later completed a comprehensive 7-year course in Islamic sciences, including studies in Arabic and Urdu language and literature at an Islamic seminary. After his religious studies, he pursued an LL.B and LL.M, specialising in International and Comparative Commercial Law with a focus on Islamic Finance and Islamic Commercial Law. In addition, Joynal is a qualified Integrative counsellor with speciality in Islamic counselling and operates his own private practice.

He will be speaking about the two Eids Muslims celebrate - Eid ul fitr and Eid al adha and the significance behind

Joynal is the Head Imam of the Epsom and Ewell Islamic Society. The Mosque is on Hook Road.

Icons

Following the session with the Dean of Guildford on Icons, I have a set of the photographs if anyone would like to see them or make copies. In due course I may have a copy of what he had to say.

Adrian Esdaile

Ukraine Music Evening, Saturday 9th May from 6.00pm at Epsom Methodist Church

This is the 15th such event showcasing the talents of Ukrainian musicians who are currently living in the UK. The evening begins with a buffet meal and is followed by a lovely selection of music which includes a performance by a young violin prodigy. A collection at the end is for the benefit of the musicians. Our Music @ St Martin's concert by the scholars of Epsom College ends at 5.30pm on that day, so you could wander over to the Methodist Church after that to enjoy yet more music!

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>

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.

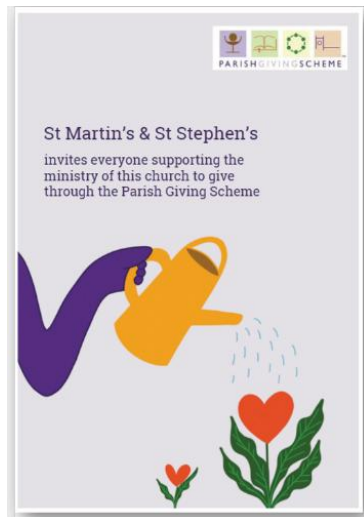
Tickets: £12 advance (£15 on the door), £8 SCPT members, £5 under 25s, or three for £30 in advance. Book

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

New date – 4th July *A silver lining...?*

The date of the workshop 'How to Fall in Love with the Future' has had to change due to circumstances outside our control. Perhaps you weren't able to attend on the initial date in May... well, we hope you will be interested in signing up for the new date of **Saturday 4th July**. All other details remain the same - it is still from **10am to 4.30pm at St Martin's Church, Epsom**.

We hope you will be able to come to this, but in any case, we hope you will tell your family, friends and neighbours to sign up to the event - maybe to come as a group. We think this workshop will be particularly encouraging for those earlier on in life (it's suitable for people aged 16+) as a way of helping find a sense of agency, direction and hope in what can be quite challenging times. It's also a good, practical follow-up to the People's Emergency Briefing which 75 people watched in church a couple of weeks ago.

We have extended the earlybird ticket offer until 30th May – please do share the link with anybody that you think would be interested in joining us -

<https://www.stmartinsepsom.org/imagine/>. The more who attend this multi-age event, the merrier!

We look forward to welcoming you!

Helen and Rob

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 In the Lady Chapel

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 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.

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 29th

All parents and toddlers. Users of Langley Vale Village Hall: Sean Porter, Chair of the Village Hall Committee. Care and nursing homes in the Parish. Those in sheltered housing. Those living and working in Woodcote Close, Woodcote End, Woodcote

Green Road, Woodcote Hurst, Woodcote Park Road and Woodcote Side.

Thursday 30th

Epsom College, staff and students: Chaplain Andrew Haviland. May all who enter our churches find peace and welcome. Epsom & Ewell Foodbank (Our Missions) and the Leprosy Mission. Those living and working in Wootton Close, Worple Road, Wyeths Mews, Wyeths Road, Yeomanry Close and Yew Tree Gardens.

Friday 1st

Our Vicar: Nick Parish, Yvonne and their family. Our Bishop: Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking and the Acting Bishop of Guildford. The Chaplaincy Team at Epsom & St Helier Hospitals. Those living and working in Adelphi Road, Albert Road, Alexandra Road and Andrews Close.

Monday 2nd

Our Curate: Judith Mitchell and her family. Our Archdeacon: Martin Breadmore and the Guildford Diocesan Staff. Our Missions: The Medaille Trust fighting against modern slavery. Those living and working in Ash Mews, Ashdown Road, Ashley Road, Aston Way, Avenue Road and Axwood.

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.

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

NEW DATE: Saturday 4th July.

10am - 4.30pm : Tickets £25 (£20 Earlybird)

For more information and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to smartinsepom.org/imagine



**SUSTAINABLE
EPSOM & EWELL**



**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX

