

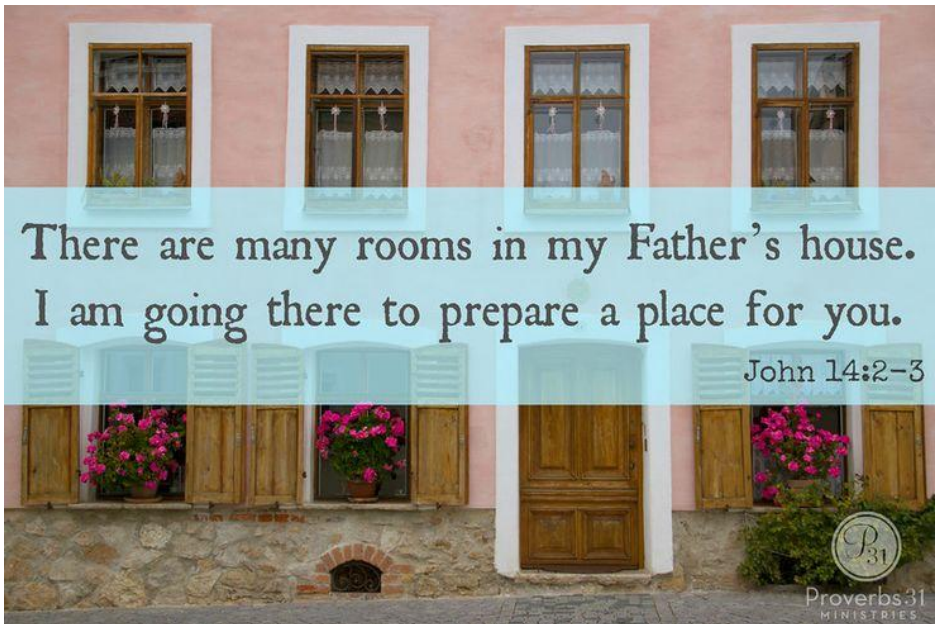
St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 3rd MAY 2026
EASTER 5



DIARY

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

Tuesday 5th May

11.00am 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

Wednesday 6th May

- 10.00am** Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Saturday 9th May

Music @ St Martin's: Saturday 9 May 4.30 - Epsom College

Music Scholars The May concert in our series provides an important platform for the talented musicians of Epsom College to show and develop their performance skills. The ability of these students is never less than impressive so do come to enjoy a wonderfully varied programme ranging from pieces for the organ to the euphonium! Admission free - donations welcomed from those who can.

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!

Sunday 10th May Easter 6

- 08.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**
- 9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Choral Mattins service at St Martin's**
- 11.30am APCM meeting at St Martin's** - copies of the finances will be available from this Sunday.
- 6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's**
(refreshments from 5.45pm)
Imam Joynal Ahmad

'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.

St Stephen's update

Working alongside our architects, we are in the final stages of securing a contractor. This stage is proving more complex than anticipated, as finding a joiner with the specific expertise required for the front window frames has become a challenge for several candidates. Despite this, the architect expects to be in a position to recommend a preferred contractor to the PCC within the next few weeks. Please do keep the project in your prayers over the coming months.

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

Plants for Sale

I have lobelia, petunias, nicotiana, cosmos and tomatoes etc.

All proceeds to the Christmas Fair. To discuss collection or local delievery email maureensuatt@virginmedia.com or call 01372 723675.

Maureen



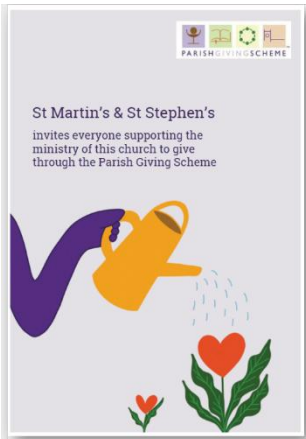
Churches Together in Epsom, May 12th meeting

You are warmly invited to the [next CTiE Meeting](#), to be held at St Martin's Church, at 7:55pm on Tuesday May 12 2026. [Click here for the meeting Agenda](#), which contains important items for prayer and discussion. Refreshments and Fellowship from 19:30.

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



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

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>

Fall in Love with the Future - Imagination Training

****CANCELLED****

Rob Hopkins is no longer able to lead the session on 4th July, and as this event was so central to his unique expertise, we have, sadly, made the difficult decision to cancel. You can find out more about his approach in his inspiring books and - if it's your thing - online talks.

Rob and Helen

Epsom Eco Fair 2026

This year the fair is being hosted by Epsom Methodist Church on 26th September. More details will follow - however, if there's something sustainable/green/eco you or a group of you would like to show around what we've been doing at St Martin's, or a campaign you'd like to highlight, there will be a stall for you! (I'm helping organise it, so it's a bit difficult to be in one place all day!)

Helen

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, St Martin’s**

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 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile and his family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. Our Church Schools: St Martin’s Infant and Junior Schools: Children, parents, Governors, Heads, teachers and all staff. Our local public houses, restaurants and shops, and the staff who work in them. The Street Pastors giving help on Friday nights in Epsom. Those living and working in Barn Close, Baron’s Hurst, Beaconsfield Place, Beaconsfield Road, Beech Road and Beech Way.

Monday 4th

Our Lay Ministers: Ruth Foxcroft and John Padwick. Our Cathedral: Guildford Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter. Our Missions: The Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network. Those living and working in Birches Close, Bridge Road, Bridle End, Bridle Road and Burgh Heath Road.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 6th

Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean: John Marrow. Our Missions: My Time for Young Carers. Those living and working in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

Thursday 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.

Friday 8th

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. Our Children's Church: The Ark – Sarah Jeffery, the children, the

parents and volunteers. Our Missions: The Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Those living and working in Chuters Grove, Clayton Road, College Avenue and College Road.

Saturday 9th

Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Meg Topley and the Team. The physical, mental and emotional well-being of all in our parish, 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.

MISSION FOCUS – MAY



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***

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 – MAY

Spring is now well sprung. How we were looking forward to it and how well rewarded we have been. The days lengthened and the extra light led us to the extraordinary light of the resurrection. All brought hope for us and for everyone for new life came into the world. Everywhere we have seen buds and blossom bursting forth with fresh leaves unfurling, clean green against the blue sky. In our ears the cheeping of chickens and the ducklings and goslings on our waters and birdsong too. Sunday May 3rd is International Dawn Chorus Day. Will you have open windows at 4.30am or be out on the downs, or another favourite place? Later or maybe in the days before Maypoles will be out and children and the Morris dancing everywhere. A world full of innocence indeed as the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote in his poem about Spring.

Spring

*Nothing is so beautiful as spring —
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring*

*The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. — Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.*

At the age of 13 I was introduced to his work by my English master, one of those outstanding teachers who fills you with a love of the subject that never leaves you. Hopkins had a great feeling for words and was not only inventive in his combining of them he was also the father of a new rhythm in poetry not just Sprung Rhythm but a style in which the natural strong beat of the freer English verse was reinforced by alliteration, assonance, internal rhyme and half rhyme.

He was a Jesuit priest with a wide range of interests His mystical insight is combined with deep humanity and thoughts of the Creator are quickly brought to the fore as he contemplates everything he sees around him, people, places and events.

In the poem I have chosen Hopkins' joy is evident, as is his skill with that rhythm driving the poem forward as he writes of the abundant life, a foretaste of that promised.

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring. I agree. Nancy and I had a terrific experience this year as it all unfolded so rapidly when we arrived in the USA. One day trees were barren and earth rather bare. By the end of the week it was transformed with buds and blossom. And of course there were weeds – just flowers in the wrong place. I have never dared plant a bed of dandelions! And the skies were so blue.

The glory of nature can really be transporting. Even if you feel you have no time to stand and stare it will bring you up short. This can be a truly religious experience whether you think of God or not, making you wonder what is beyond. While it is not unusual to be appreciative of beauty in the natural world people are at times deeply moved – awestruck. They may even be conscious of a presence near or around them, and a reassuring one at that, akin to our feeling that God is in heaven and all is right with the world (as is said directly in Robert Browning's poem Pippa Passes) or the feeling of Mother Julian that all will be well and all manner of thing shall be well. We tend to keep quiet about these mystical experiences whatever triggers them but they should be told and shared so the whole church might benefit. As J V Taylor the theologian said (who was not so long ago Bishop of Winchester) these moments too are sacraments, effective means of grace. Nature is here adding depth to the knowledge we already have of God from Scripture and our Prayer book, rather than presenting a theology of its own.

Hopkins understands that all this is precarious and ends with that appeal that we may catch it before it is gone, for this is the best of the world to which Jesus, the maid's Child chose to come to save.

Howard Bluett

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.

Major Parish Churches - place, people, building



Join the Centre for the Study for Christianity and Culture (CSCC) at the University of York, Cathedrals and Church Buildings Department of the Church of England, and Major Churches Network for a one day consultation bringing together those serving Major Parish Churches for discussion, learning and mutual support.

Thursday 11 June 2026

St John's Church

Iffley Rd, Oxford OX4 1EH

10.30 am - 5.00 pm

For further details and booking information, use the QR code or [visit our Eventbrite page](#)



Places are limited to 2 per church; please visit the Eventbrite page for further details.



The Centre for the Study of
Christianity & Culture



Vocal Workshop at Saint Colomba's House

Booking link:

[You Can Sing... But Can You Swing? Vocal Workshop Tickets, Thursday 30 July 2026, 10am–4pm | Eventbrite](#)



You Can Sing... But Can You Swing?!

Vocal Workshop

Thursday 30th July, 10am - 4pm

£60 - Lunch Included



Internationally acclaimed vocalist, composer and conductor Joanna Forbes L'Estrange will be returning to her home town of Woking to lead one of her popular 'You can sing... but can you swing?' workshops.

Joanna's illustrious career began with seven years at the helm of the multi-grammy award winning vocal group The Swingle Singers - she'll be sharing all her top tips in this finger-clicking, fun day, guaranteed to bring a smile to your face!

Led by: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Now Even Easier to Join Us!

you can quickly and securely book your place through Eventbrite by scanning the QR code or clicking the 'Book Now' button when viewing an event on our website.

