

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

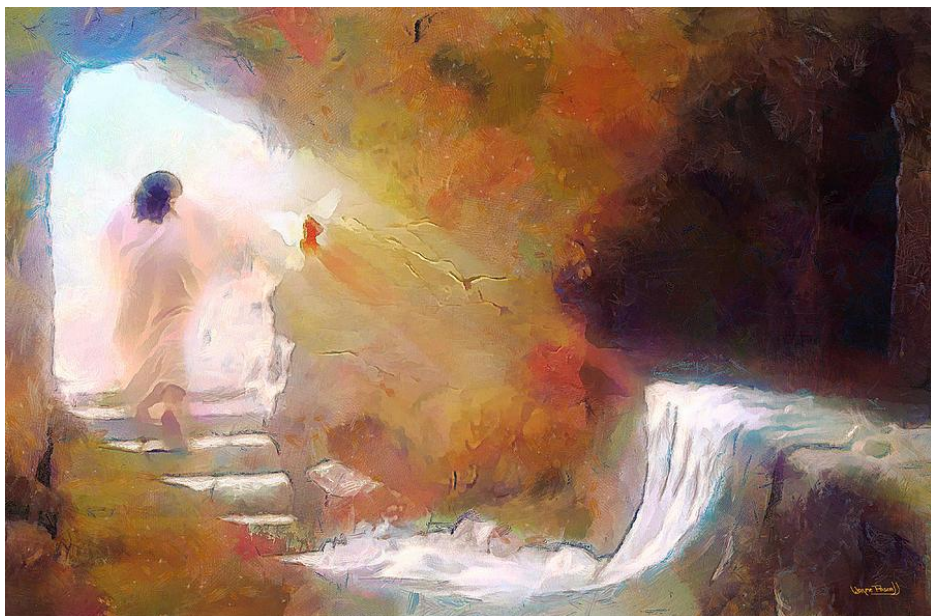
St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026**  
**EASTER 6**



## DIARY

### **Saturday 9 May 4.30pm**

#### **Music @ St Martin's: 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. Admission free - donations welcomed from those who can.

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May Easter 6**

**8.30am 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 Annual Parish Meeting**

**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.

### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

**4.00pm Centering Prayer (refreshments 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 13<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May Ascension**

**9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen’s**

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

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

## **Plants for Sale**

I have lobelia, petunias, nicotiana, cosmos and tomatoes etc. All proceeds to the Christmas Fair. To discuss collection or local delivery email [maureensuatt@virginmedia.com](mailto:maureensuatt@virginmedia.com) or call 01372 723675. **Maureen**

## **ELECTORAL ROLL CLOSURE**

The Electoral Roll was closed for revision on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026. It will remain closed for new entries until after the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

## **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.

## **CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

Bishop Paul is visiting us on **Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>**. He's coming in the afternoon to dedicate our new solar panels (on the roof of St Martin's), share in a parish tea and, at 6.30pm, lead a service that will include first communion for some of our children and confirmation for young people and adults. If you have never been confirmed (or even baptised) and would like to make these public declarations of faith and discipleship, please let one of the clergy know. There will be (for adults) a short preparation course in the run up to the service.

## **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***

## **Message from Joan Gabbett's grandchildren**

On 28 June 2026, we're running the Long Course Weekend Marathon to honour our amazing mum, Anne Field, who we lost to cancer exactly one year ago at just 54.

Our Mum lived life to the fullest and brought joy to everyone. To carry on her spirit, we're tackling this tough, hilly course to raise vital funds for Cancer Research UK, hoping to spare other families this heartbreak.

Any donation or share means the world to us. Thank you for helping us honour her. ❤️

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/wales-marathon-2026>

## **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>

## **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)

## **Guildford Diocesan Conference**

Clergy and officers of the diocese gather in Derbyshire this week for their residential (held every 3 years). We would be grateful for your prayers as we consider the direction of our ministry and mission in the coming months.

## **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  
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 10<sup>th</sup>**

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: that all of us help to create and sustain a safe welcoming inclusive space for everyone. Our Missions: The Bible Society, Spinnaker Trust and all those teaching RE locally. Those living and working in Digdens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Our Bell-ringing Team and Tower Captain Mike Bale. Our Ministry Team. All local young families. Those in Downs Avenue, Downs Hill Road, Downs Road and Downs Way.

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

Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Our Missions: Wheels for the World and the Sunnybank Trust. Those in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

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

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Didi Steck. Those living locally who are housebound and their carers. Those in Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

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

Our Mission and Evangelism Team. Our Church Finances and Our Treasurer. Our local MP Helen Maguire. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: elected members and officers. Those in Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

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

Our Discipleship and Fellowship Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance. Those in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

## Saturday 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: Redress (justice against torture). Those living and working in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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.



WINTERSHALL

*Experience the story*

## The Life of Christ

*The greatest story of all time*

16 - 20 June 2026

10am - 3.30pm

Our powerful, biblical, outdoor drama takes you back to a time when Jesus lived on earth.

See the remarkable events of Jesus' life re-enacted as you follow the actors around Wintershall's beautiful lakes and ancient woodland.



The Story of Jesus brought to life, happening on 18th – 20th June (16th and 17th of June are schools only days) at Wintershall, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LR.

Experience The Life of Christ at the Wintershall Estate in an immersive open-air production with over 100 actors. Witness key moments including the Wedding at Cana, Feeding of the 5,000, and the Last Supper. Ideal for families, faith groups, theatre lovers and schools. All performances unfold across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm. For more information and to purchase tickets [visit Wintershall's website](#)



## **Climate Change –the trouble with ‘Net-Zero’**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 7.30pm,**

**Epsom Methodist Church**

**Ashley Road KT18 5AQ**

Refreshments served before event

John Mackintosh came to talk to us 3 years ago about Climate Change, and a lot has happened since that time. Come back and listen to him talking about some of the most recent hot topics. These will include:

- how are we doing with tackling climate change, both in the UK and the rest of the world?
- where are we with renewables and electric vehicles?
- what's the reality of more drilling for oil and gas?
- and what does the future hold?

John is a Sustainability Consultant at GreenGoals Consulting and is an expert in his field.

The Eco church group at Epsom Methodist Church would like to invite you to this event.

