

St Martin of Tours  
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs  
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2026

TRINITY



## DIARY

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May Trinity**

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

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

#### **Contemplative Prayer Group**

The Contemplative Prayer Group will not be meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 11am at St Martin's, as it is the first day of the Wychcroft Retreat to which most members are going. The meeting on 'zoom' will go ahead as usual on Thursday 18th June. The links for 'zoom' can be had from me or from Alex. The starting point for June is John 15.15 *'No longer do I call you servants ... but friends'*. **Adrian Esdaile**

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

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

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June Trinity 1**

- 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

## **Music @ St Martin's: 13 June 4.30pm – Lin Xu-Zhang, piano**

Australian-born pianist Lin Xu-Zhang is a striking and engaging young performer with a distinctive style and wide musical tastes. As one of around 50 performances in his current UK and international concert season, Lin brings to his recital in our series a characteristically eclectic programme. There is a work written just a few years ago by Stephen Hough, compositions by Chopin and Haydn and music of the 16th & 17th Century English keyboard masters Bryd and Gibbons.



Admission free - donations asked from those who can.

## **Second Thoughts**

**Sunday 14th June, 6.30 pm (refreshments from 5.45 pm)**

**Rebecca Jaillot**

### **‘John Piper – School, Faith and the Artist’s Eye’**

John Piper was both at Epsom College and a member of the congregation at St Martin’s. He was richly inspired by the Curate of the day, Dr Victor Kenna, to expand his interest in modern art. Rebecca will develop on all these aspects of John Piper’s life.

Rebecca has an extensive background in the Arts and Heritage sector. She began her career at Tate Britain, contributing to the

launch of Tate Modern. After a decade at Leighton House Museum in Kensington, she joined The Foundling Museum dedicated to Britain's first home for abandoned babies and children. For the past nine years, Rebecca has served as the Archivist at Epsom College. Alongside this role, she is training as a psychotherapist, specialising in work with teenagers and young people.

### **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 **5.30pm**, 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 short preparation courses in the run up to the service. Details to follow.

### **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>

**Another Step on the Way...  
towards Creating a Memorial to the Enslaved of Barbados**

I am delighted to update you with the news that Christina Peake, the artist we have commissioned to create a new memorial to commemorate the communities affected by past enslavement on Barbados, has submitted to us her proposal for the artwork.

This follows her engagement through creative workshops with members of our congregation, members of the African and Caribbean Heritage Association of Sutton and members of the Barbadian diaspora living in Reading, as well as an online meeting with members of those descended from John Brathwaite's nephew. The reflections following these events have fed into Christina's proposal. Printed copies of the proposal are available at the back of St Martin's for you to read but I thought it might be helpful if I also gave some background information in the newsletter.

Christina proposes to use imagery of the created world to convey the story of the people of Barbados – both the enslaved and the indigenous people of Barbados. This imagery of flora and fauna shows the relationship between the natural and the human environment. Enslavement on Barbados was the highest point of extraction of the natural world and also the highest point of extraction of human beings. European expansion brought different species to Barbados: migration of plants and of humans. That is why Christina is suggesting the use of planks of wood originating from Africa and elsewhere to form the canvas of her artwork. Of great significance is that God's created world is, and has been, an important part of the faith and spirituality of those living on the island.

Christina proposes painting and using collage to depict in a graphic style the different stories of the historical and contemporary communities affected by past enslavement. The overall feedback from the Bajan communities was that they did not wish to be identified by trauma; Christina doesn't wish to reproduce the language of trauma, but to show the moments of humanity in their lives.

Take the example in the proposal of the children eating sugar cane. The poverty of the children is clearly seen in their clothes in the original photo, yet the tradition of eating sugar cane in this way has come down the generations so that it is a pleasure shared by children today. Christina's imaginative depiction of the children removes them from their poverty. They are surrounded by Mahogany seed pods, symbolising the new life of both the Mahogany tree, as its seeds are spread far and wide but also of the children, whose seeds – their own children and grandchildren – are spread far and wide: the Barbadian diaspora. The Pride of Barbados flower extends the divine/royal motif, with its bright red flower linking ancestral blood and connection.

Christina's proposal is an exciting and imaginative way to portray the themes that have arisen from the workshops; about the impact of enslavement on those who were enslaved; their descendants, and on all of us. The proposed artwork will encourage everyone who sees it to engage with the subject and reflect on the underlying themes of God's creation of the natural world, humanity, justice, love and community. By focussing on the positive moments in the lives of the enslaved and their descendants – the moments of care, love, respite, sanctuary, protest, courage, strength, fun and adventure – we are reminded

of the Resurrection, Christ bringing new life out of humanity's sin, cruelty and suffering.

Please read the proposal and contact me if you have any comments. The proposal has been sent to PCC members for consideration, and also to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (for the Care of Churches and Churchyards) for their feedback. Please pray for all those involved in the decision-making and for God's blessing as we continue to progress this important project for our parish.

***Revd Judith***

### **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**

If you are on our mailing list you will have received details of how effective and simple this scheme is. Making it simple to donate regularly by direct debit. If you haven't yet done it. Do follow this link to set up your regular giving:

[The Parish Giving Scheme Website](#)

## 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: 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup>**

May the choirs who give concerts at St Martin's and their audiences feel God's presence in our church. Those in our church family who now live elsewhere. Our borough libraries: their librarians, volunteers and those who use them. All who attend our churches and live in roads outside the Parish boundary.

### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Our Vicar: Nick Parish, Yvonne and their family. Bishop Paul, Bishop of Dorking and 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.

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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.

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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.

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Our Church Wardens: Sarah Lutton and Rob Jeffery. 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.

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>**

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.

## **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**

Non Dairy Milk - **Urgent we have none**  
Chocolate - **Urgent we have none**  
Sponge Pudding - **Urgent we have none**  
Sugar - **Urgent we have none**  
Milk UHT – **Urgent**  
Instant Coffee – **Urgent**  
Tinned Potatoes- **Urgent**  
Custard – **Urgent**  
Long Life Juice – **Urgent**  
Tinned Carrots, Sweetcorn, Cooking Sauce

Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Meat, Instant Mash  
Pasta Sauce, Noodles, Tinned Fish  
Microwave Rice, Pasta/Beans with Meat  
Dried Pasta in Sauce  
Tinned Fruit, Breakfast Cereal  
Powdered Milk, Biscuits  
Squash/Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter/Marmalade  
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce  
Male/ Female Deodorant  
Shower Gel, Shampoo  
Adult Toothpaste and Toothbrushes  
Washing Powder, Shaving Foam  
Hair Conditioner, Washing Up Liquid  
Toilet Rolls  
Nappies Size 5, 5+, 6 and 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.



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## **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.



# The Souls of the HORTON 9000 and the EPSOM CLUSTER are calling for their stories to be told ... *will we listen?*

Join us for a powerful evening of history and human connection as two eminent experts bring together archives, photography, and contemporary art, giving voice to thousands of souls from Surrey's hidden psychiatric hospitals in a fundraiser for the Grange Centre, Bookham.



**This is  
more than  
a talk.**

**It's an encounter  
with lives once  
overlooked —  
and a chance  
to see them anew.**

the  
**Grange**  
at Bookham

**Julian Pooley** (Surrey History Centre) explores the internationally significant archives of Surrey's psychiatric hospitals through personal case notes and rare photographic portraits

- Why did Surrey become home to so many of these institutions?
- How were their records rescued when the hospitals closed?
- How do these stories shape our understanding today?

Julian's work underpins the **Us & Them Project** —created with The Freewheelers Theatre Company, Leatherhead, pairing contemporary participants with historic patients. Photographer **Emma Brown's** striking portraits echo the historic wet plate collodion originals of the 1850s.

**Professor Alana Harris** (King's College London) presents **Synthetic Weaves**—a collaboration with artist **Dr Eric Fong**, dressmaker **Valerie Moon**, and members of **The Grange Centre**. The molecular structures of modern pharmaceuticals and the lace collars made and worn by women in the asylums have inspired reinterpretations by clients at the Grange Centre to make artwork which restores identity, dignity and voice to the forgotten.



All proceeds support the vital work of the Grange Centre, empowering adults with learning disabilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives.



**Thursday  
June 25<sup>th</sup>:**  
7:00pm for 7:30pm



Ashted Peace  
Memorial Hall,  
Woodfield Lane,  
Ashted, Surrey  
KT21 2BE



Tickets available  
via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/souls-of-the-horton-9000-epsom-hospitals-hidden-lives-revealed-tickets-1988399933728?aff=oddtcreator>



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