



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 5th JULY 2026

TRINITY 5



In recent weeks, we have joined the 'Inclusive Church Network, and we have the theme of inclusion in our 10am Sung Communion service on Sunday. Christ reached across social and cultural barriers in His ministry, preaching grace for all. We want to reflect that in our Churches. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in being a safe and inclusive community of faith for everyone.

DIARY

Sunday 5th July Trinity 5

9.30am Morning Prayer service at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's



Music @ St Martin's

An extra helping!

Sarah Small Viola da Gamba

With Helen Williams – Viola da Gamba

Sunday 5th July

5.30pm

Tea from 4.30, and the concert is followed
by Evening Prayer

Monday 6th July

7.00pm Local churches prayer and fellowship evening.

Bishop Paul leads a deanery event, with refreshments, fellowship and prayer, at St Paul's Church, Howell Hill. All of us are invited to join with our friends in neighbouring churches to share and pray together.

Tuesday 7th July

11.00am Contemplative Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Our starting point will be from Haggai 1.8: '*.. Build the house that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured.*' There will also be 'zoom' session on Thursday, 16th July at 8pm. The link to that can be had from me or from Alex Rennie. All will be very welcome. **Adrian**

Wednesday 8th July

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's



Music @ St Martin's

**Saturday 11 July
4.30pm**

Double Duos

A unique ensemble
performing arrangements of
show music from the
1920s-1950s

Sunday 12th July Trinity 6

- 9.30am Pet service at St Stephen's**
10.00am Choral Mattins service at St Martin's
6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's
(refreshments from 5.45 pm)

The Odujinrin family

“Family Perspective on a Cross-Denominational Christian Gathering: Reflections from Spring Harvest”

Spring Harvest is a unique annual event that brings together Christians from a wide range of denominations for worship, teaching, and fellowship. In this talk, the Odujinrins will share their experiences attending recent Spring Harvest gatherings, offering insights into what it's like to engage with such a diverse faith community from a family perspective. They will reflect on the richness of worship styles, the opportunities for spiritual growth, and the practical aspects of attending as a family—including how the event has enriched their faith and deepened their awareness of the unity that exists across different Christian traditions.

The Odujinrin family are longstanding members of St Martin's of Tours Church, Epsom. Dad has been involved in children's work and, together with their children (aged 15 and 12), sings in the choir and contributes to leading worship through music. Mum adds her own distinctive contribution through bell ringing. Deeply engaged in the life of the church, the family loves sharing their experiences of faith in action. Their reflections promise to offer encouragement and practical insights for families considering attending similar events that celebrate the beauty of worshipping together across denominations.

Tuesday 14 July

4pm - Time to Talk. Our topic is Hildegard of Bingen. Do come and join us. **Lynne**



CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Bishop Paul is visiting us on **Sunday July 19th**. The event begins at **4pm**, as he dedicates our new solar panels, and some new bell ropes. This will be followed by a parish tea and, at **5.30pm**, the Bishop will lead a service of confirmation for young people and adults. This will be a great occasion to celebrate our eco-Church progress, our wonderful bell ringing team, our children and young people, those confirming their faith and each other.

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](#)

St Stephen's Update:

It is with great excitement that we can announce that we have secured a quotation for the repair of the front of St Stephen's church. The PCC formally agreed to appoint B W May & Son to complete the work and we will soon know when they will be able to start. Thank you to everybody that has kept this process in their thoughts and prayers. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on rob@stmartinsepsom.org. **Rob Jeffery - Churchwarden & Chair of the fabric committee**

Holy Communion Team

Holy Communion is a precious gift from God and Jesus our Lord. It makes it possible for us to meet Him in the Spirit in a very real way, to give Him the honour due to His name and receive His love and His forgiveness. This tangible experience of His generous love comforts and strengthens us in all our circumstances.



A small team from the congregation has been available to take the consecrated bread and wine kept safe after a service to those whose circumstances make it impossible to get to church any more.

This ministry is a great privilege and a blessing to those who deliver it too.

If you would like to join the team please talk to Mary Gilbert, or Elaine Snook.

We visit people in pairs so you will not be “straight in at the deep end” but have an experienced partner until you feel ready to take the lead. Joining the rota will not demand a lot of your time.

We really need new members now, as age and summer holidays are reducing the team’s availability for our regular commitment to the Beaumont Care Home on alternate Thursday mornings. Thank you.

TS Eliot’s Murder in the Cathedral - Advance notice

This autumn, David Suchet is taking the role of Thomas Becket in the Orchard Theatre’s production of TS Eliot’s play ‘Murder in the Cathedral’. It will take place in St John the Divine in Richmond from 12th October - 7th November 2026.

PRAYER GROUPS

Evening Prayer on Zoom, weekdays 5-5.30pm

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 group meets to pray together in silence. We begin with something to reflect on - a biblical passage or Psalm. After our 20 minutes of silence, we share something that we have noticed during our time together.

Please note that we will not be meeting on 7th July 2026

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 5th

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.

Monday 6th

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.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 8th

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. Our Children's Church: The Ark – Sarah Jeffery, the children, the parents and volunteers. The Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Those living and working in Chuters Grove, Clayton Road, College Avenue and College Road.

Thursday 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 in Copse Edge Avenue, Delaporte Close, Denham Road and Depot Road.

Friday 10th

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

Saturday 11th

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.

MISSION FOCUS – JULY



Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. Please see the boards at the back of Church for more information and for details on how to support Mercy Ships.

THE POWER OF POETRY – JULY

This month I am venturing into the world of William Blake, not an easy poet. I have chosen *The Tyger* which was included in the Cambridge Book of Poetry for Children, a book given to me at Christmas when I was eight. The poetry included a few simple rhymes, but then progressed via Wordsworth's *Daffodils*, *Home Thoughts from Abroad* by Robert Browning, an extract from Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome*, Byron's *Destruction of Sennacherib* and *The Glory that was Greece*, and so on. Quite a few dealt with death. I must say I remember liking only a very small handful, though I must have looked at it quite often, judging by its condition. The rest were either too miserable or quite beyond my comprehension. And *The Tyger* was one of the latter. (I preferred *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson, given to me when I was six – *The friendly cow, all red and white...* was a favourite!)

William Blake was not just a poet; he was also an engraver and painter. He was born in 1747 into a dissenter family of tradesmen, living in London. Blake was also a Visionary. He was a rather difficult man, apparently indifferent to his parents and all his many siblings, apart from one. (Another brother was named by him 'The Evil one', though there is no evidence to support this contention.) His parents were ordinary, pleasant people but throughout Blake's life he found it easy to take offence. He first saw visions when he was only eight, and these visions continued for the rest of his life. Where other people saw London as a dark, dirty and gloomy city, Blake saw angels, and the Prophet Ezekiel under a tree. He was threatened with a beating by his father who thought he was lying, though this was not carried out. Yet Blake bore this as a grievance

ever after and hardened his dislike of both parents. There was evidence that his mother in particular was proud of her son and hung his engravings in her room. Peter Ackroyd in his excellent biography of Blake said that "there was a sense in that in all his contrariness and extreme sensitivity, he remained a child." He married, happily, but had no children. He died in 1827.

*Tyger, Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?*

*In what distant deeps or skies,
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?*

*And what shoulder, and what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? And what dread feet?*

*What the hammer? What the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? What dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?*

*When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?*

The poem has a regular and even beat, which may be why it was often, I gather, given to children to learn by heart. *The Lamb* referred to in verse 5 was another poem by Blake, a companion to this one and a contrast: the lamb has “clothing, woolly, bright”, a tender voice, and is meek and mild. The tiger has “fearful symmetry”, burning eyes, a tough, sinewy heart, and is altogether a terrifying beast. Even more disturbing is the line “Did he smile his work to see?”. I think I was right to give the poem a miss when I was eight.

There have been many explanations of *The Tyger*, but the main one seems to be the *Theodicy* argument in which the attempt is made to justify the claim that God is good, loving and all powerful, despite there being so much evil and suffering which seems to indicate the contrary. Over to the theological experts to explain this.....

Mary Gilbert

... ok – Augustine thought that evil was the result of human free will, thus demonstrating that God’s love does not control us. Anyone else? **Nick Parish**

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Powdered Milk - **Urgent we have none**
Long Life Juice - **Urgent we have none**
Chocolate - **Urgent we have none**
Cereal Bars - **Urgent we have none**
Pulses - **Urgent we have none**
Pasta/Beans with Meat - **Urgent we have none**
Washing Up Liquid - **Urgent we have none**
Washing Powder - **Urgent we have none**
Sugar – **Urgent**, Biscuits – **Urgent**
Squash – **Urgent**, Tinned Meat – **Urgent**
Pasta Sauce – **Urgent**, Sponge Pudding – **Urgent**
Tinned Vegetables – **Urgent**
Microwave Rice – **Urgent**
Custard – **Urgent**, Rice Pudding – **Urgent**
Male/ Female Deodorant – **Urgent**
Adult Toothbrushes – **Urgent**
Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Beans
Cooking Sauce, Instant Mash
Tinned Fish, Tinned Potatoes
Sweetcorn, Noodles
Tinned Spaghetti, Dried Pasta in Sauce
Shower Gel, Adult Toothpaste
Shampoo, Tampons, Hair Conditioner
Sanitary Pads, Shaving Foam, Toilet Rolls
Nappies Size 4, 4+, 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,

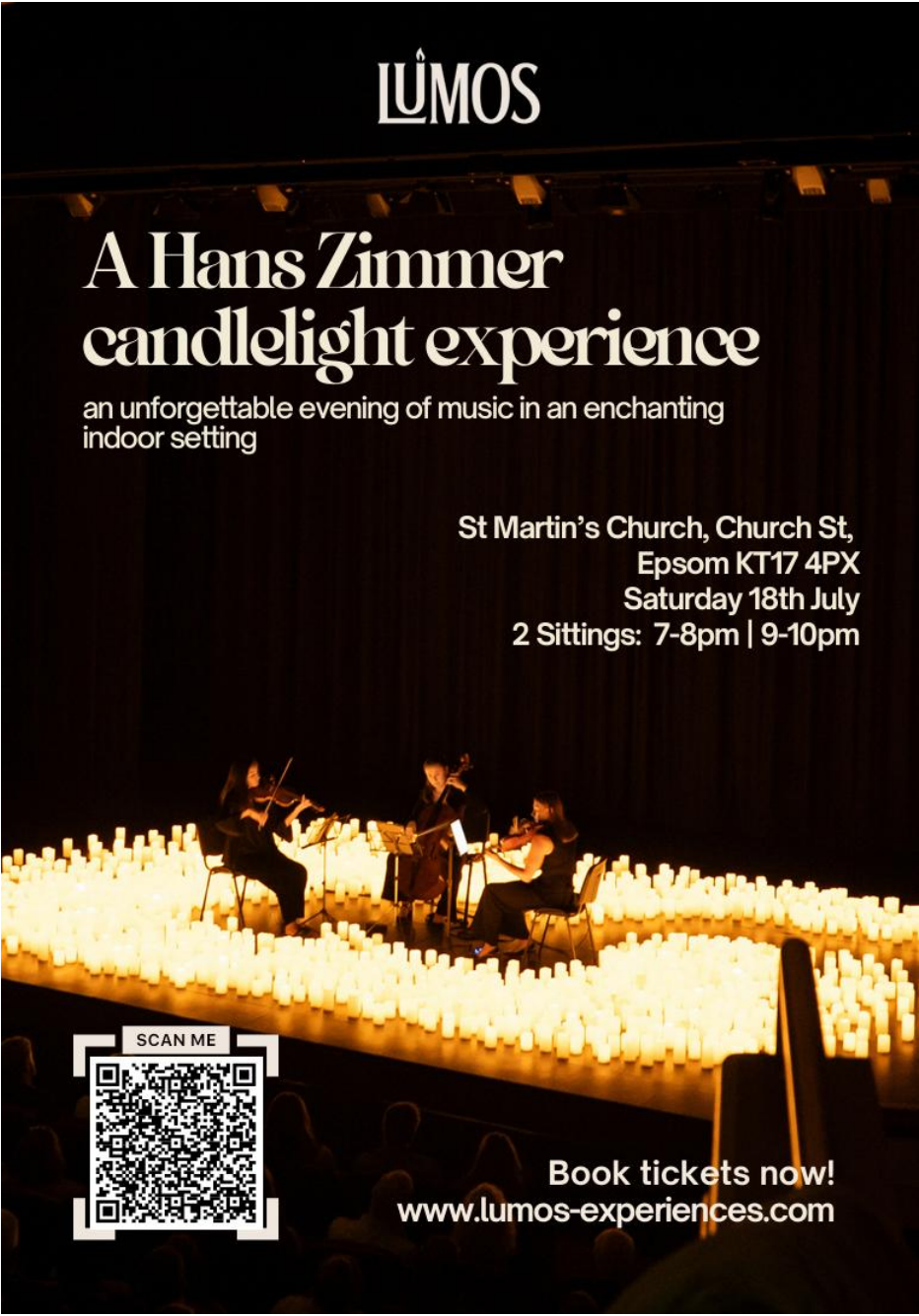
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567

E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org

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.



LUMOS

A Hans Zimmer candlelight experience

an unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting
indoor setting

St Martin's Church, Church St,
Epsom KT17 4PX
Saturday 18th July
2 Sitzings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm



Book tickets now!
www.lumos-experiences.com



Confirmation

Service

led by

The Bishop of Guildford

Sunday 19 July

**4.00 The Bishop will bless our
new solar panels and
bell ropes from the tower**

4.30 Tea & cake

**5.30 Service of Baptism
and Confirmation**

**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX

Saint
Columba's
House



OPEN DAY AT ST COLUMBA'S



Tours

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS!

Join us this summer for a special Open Day at St Columba's House, one of Woking's most peaceful and welcoming spaces. Feel free to drop in and say 'hi'.



Activities

THINGS TO DO:

- ✓ explore the house and gardens
- ✓ complimentary refreshments
- ✓ take a guided tour of the building
- ✓ walk the garden labyrinth
- ✓ visit the art exhibition
- ✓ spend a quiet moment in our Oratory



Coffee

WHEN?

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST
11AM - 3PM

CONTACT US NOW



01483 766498



admin@stcolumbashouse.org.uk



www.stcolumbashouse.org.uk



Maybury Hill, Woking, Surrey GU22 8AB



St Columba's House is wholly owned by St Peter's Charity, a registered charity in England and Wales number 1177879 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 11142467