



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 12th JULY 2026

TRINITY 6



DIARY

Sunday 12th July Trinity 6

- 8.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
- 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 an annual event that brings together Christians from a range of denominations for worship, teaching, and fellowship. The Odujinrins will share their experiences attending recent 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 Odujinrins are members of St Martin's. 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 14th July

3.45 for 4.00pm Take Time To Talk –

‘A feather on the breath of God’

The music and spirituality of Hildegard of Bingen.

Do come and join us.

Lynne

7.30pm Standing & Finance Committee

Wednesday 15th July

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin’s

11.00am Ministry Team

Thursday 16th July

John Piper at Epsom College

Following Rebecca Jaillott's presentation at Second Thoughts on John Piper, a visit had been arranged to see the material at Epsom College. The date is Thursday 16th July at 10am - meeting at the main entrance at Reception. Please let Adrian Esdaile know if you would like to come.

Sunday 19th July Trinity 6

9.30am Holy Communion service at St Stephen’s

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin’s

4.00pm Dedication of solar panels & bell ropes

4.30pm Parish Tea

5.30pm Confirmation service at St Martin’s

Bishop Paul is visiting us from 4pm, as he dedicates our new solar panels, and some new bell ropes. This will be followed by a parish tea and then the Bishop will lead a service of confirmation. Come and celebrate our eco-Church, our wonderful bell ringers, those confirming their faith and each other.

St Stephen's repair work update

We had a meeting last week with the builders, BW May, and the architects. The plan is for site survey work to start the week beginning 13th July. Fabrication of the timbers will take up to 12 weeks and the construction work about 4 weeks. This means that completion is hoped to be by early November. Please hold this important and long-awaited project in your prayers.

Rob Jeffery & Sarah Lutton

Update on my Discernment Journey

You will all be aware, from my semi-regular updates in the Notices, that I went to a Stage 2 Discernment Panel on 10th and 11th June. The experience was enjoyable, interesting and challenging, and I have definitely grown as a result. I have now received the results of the panel, and I will *not* be proceeding to college this year. The advisers felt that I required more development in a range of areas - but have definitively said that I *can* return to Stage 2 in the future, should I wish to.

As you can imagine, this has come as something of a shock to all of us. I will be spending the next few months reflecting on the process so far, the feedback I've received and whether or not to return to the process in 2027. If a second attempt is the path, I will likely be looking to a spring/summer 2028 Stage 2 at the earliest. Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and support. I will continue to share details of the journey as it progresses from here.

Martyn H-N

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.

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

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” *Psalm 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.

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 12th

Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Through the Roof Wheelchairs for the World (Our Missions) and the Sunnybank Trust (based in Epsom). Those living and working in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

Monday 13th

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

Tuesday 14th

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

Wednesday 15th

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

Thursday 16th

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: Operation Noah. Those living and working in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Friday 17th

Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristan Mary Holloway-Neville and chalice assistants. University of the Creative Arts, Laine Theatre Arts staff and students. Those living and working in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbrook Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Saturday 18th

Vocations to Ministry, ordained and lay. Churches Together in Epsom: Russell Holding (Chair). Our Missions: AMECA (for Malawi, Epsom based). Those living and working in Langley Close, Langley Vale Road, Links Road and Lintons Lane.

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 sieze 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

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Cereal Bars - **Urgent we have none**
Savoury Biscuits - **Urgent we have none**
Crisps - **Urgent we have none**
Sanitary Pads - **Urgent we have none**
Tinned Spaghetti – **Urgent**
Tinned Fish – **Urgent**, Tinned Potatoes – **Urgent**
Pulses – **Urgent**, Tinned Meat – **Urgent**
Pasta Sauce – **Urgent**, Tinned Tomatoes – **Urgent**
Tinned Vegetables – **Urgent**, Microwave Rice – **Urgent**
Biscuits – **Urgent**, Custard – **Urgent**
Washing Up Liquid – **Urgent**, Shower Gel – **Urgent**
Shampoo – **Urgent**, Male/ Female Deodorant - **Urgent**
Pasta/Beans with Meat, Tinned Fruit
Beans, Cooking Sauce, Instant Mash
Sweetcorn, Noodles, Dried Pasta in Sauce
Packet Soup, Sponge Pudding, Rice Pudding, Sugar
Powdered Milk, Breakfast Cereal
Tea (bags), Squash, Instant Coffee, Porridge
Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter/Marmalade
Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce
Tampons, Hair Conditioner
Washing Powder, Adult Toothbrushes
Shaving Foam, Toilet Rolls
Children Toothpaste and Toothbrushes 0
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.

Can you help the
SURREY CHURCHES
PRESERVATION TRUST?

RIDE & STRIDE
Saturday 12 September 2026
**PRESERVING
Our Heritage
FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS**

www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org

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



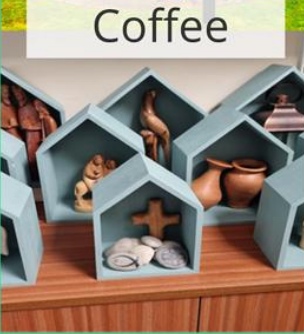
Coffee

WHEN?

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST
11AM - 3PM

CONTACT US NOW

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