



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2026

TRINITY 11



DIARY

Sunday 16th August Trinity 11

- 9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's**
- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel**

Tuesday 18th August

- 4.00pm Centering Prayer**

Wednesday 19th August

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

Sunday 23rd August Trinity 12

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

Funeral of Richard Charles Nicholson Ascough

Many members of the St Martin's family will be saddened to learn of the death of Richard Charles Nicholson Ascough, who worshipped and served at St Martin's for many years.

Richard's funeral will take place on: Monday 14th September 11.45am at Randalls Park Crematorium.

Following the service, everyone is warmly invited to join the family for refreshments and to celebrate Richard's life at:

The Star, Kingston Road, Malden Rushett, Leatherhead.

To assist with catering arrangements, if you would like to attend the wake, please let Richard's son know by contacting:

Richard Ascough Jnr (email: richard.ascough@btinternet.com,

Tel/WhatsApp: 07771 811078).

A Service of Thanksgiving celebrating Richard's life is also being held at St Mary's Church, Forthampton, near Tewkesbury, on Friday 25th September at 11.30am, following by a light buffet in the village hall.

New benches at St Martin's

Have you noticed the wonderful new additions to our churchyard? We are delighted to share that two new benches have been installed for everyone in our community to enjoy.

On the south side of the church: A bench dedicated to the Mothers' Union, celebrating their wonderful work and lasting presence in our community.



In the Memorial Garden: A bench dedicated in loving memory of John Syrad, offering a peaceful spot for quiet reflection. Whether you're looking for a moment of quiet contemplation, a peaceful place to pray, or simply a spot to rest your legs and take in the surroundings, please do come and take a seat! A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone whose generous donations made these benches possible. Your support helps make our churchyard a welcoming haven for all.



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](#)

MISSION FOCUS – August

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.

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.

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 fortnight:

Sunday 16th

Our Choir, Iain, our organist; for the appointment of a new Musical Director who will lead music outreach into the community. Our Missions: Operation Noah. Those working in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Monday 17th

Our Livestreaming Team. Our Sacristan, Mary. The University of the Creative Arts and Laine Theatre Art. All coming to begin their studies in September.. Those living and working in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbroke Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Tuesday 18th

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

Wednesday 19th

Our Home Communion Team and those to whom they take Communion. Our Flower-Arranging Team: Yvonne Parish. Staff at local CAB, Age Concern and Job Centre. All those seeking their help and/or in need of work. Those in Longdown Lane

South, Longdown Road, Lynwood Avenue, Lynwood Road, Mannamead, Mannamead Close, Middle Close and Middle Lane.

Thursday 20th

Our Deanery Synod: our reps, Howard Bluett, Alexander Rennie, John Padwick and Lynne Scholefield. Our Eco Church Team: Helen Williams. Our Missions: Mission to Kenya. Those in Milburn Walk, Mill Road, Millers Copse, Milton Gardens and Mospey Crescent.

Friday 21st

Our vision and work for Social and Racial Justice. Those who lead intercessory prayer and read Bible passages in our service. Local schools and nursery schools. Those in Oak Hill, Oakmead Green, Old Barn Road, Pikes Hill and Pine Hill.

Saturday 22nd

The welcome team and coffee team. Those to be married in our churches. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those in Pitt Road, Portland Place, Prospect Place, Providence Place and Randolph Road.

Sunday 23rd

Our Church Cleaners. Local doctors' surgeries. Those in Richmond Close, Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery Road, Sadlers Way and South Street.

Monday 24th

Those recently confirmed and preparing for future baptism and confirmation. All who visit St Martin's in the week and pass through our garden. The Church Army. Those in Spencer Close,

Squirrels Way, St George's Gardens, St James' Close, St Martin's Avenue and St Martin's Close.

Tuesday 25th

The Vale School: children, parents, the Co-Heads, staff and Governors. Scouts (especially our 3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Group), Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and their leaders. Local refuse collectors, those who deliver the mail and parcels. Those in Station Approach Stevens Close, Strand Close, Sunnybank, and The Grove.

Wednesday 26th

Our 'Second Thoughts' programme . Education and training in the Parish and future courses. Our Missions: PHAB (bringing together disabled and non-disabled). Those in The Hayes, The Oaks, The Parade, The Ridge, The Ridings, Tintagel Close and Treadwell Road.

Thursday 27th

Christian Aid and the projects it supports. Local prisons and their chaplains: Downview and High Down. Those in Upper High Street, Victoria Place, Warren Hill and Waterloo Road.

Friday 28th

All who are bereaved and grieving, and local funeral directors. Our young people – our vision for the future. USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Those in Westgate Close, Wilmerhatch Lane and Wimborne Close.

Saturday 29th

All parents and toddlers. Langley Vale Village Hall: Tom Pope, Chair of their Committee. Care and nursing homes in the Parish. Those in sheltered housing. Those in Woodcote Close, End, Green Road, Hurst, Park Road and Side.

The Power of Poetry: August 2026

August is a holiday month so I decided to take a holiday, at least of nostalgia, with John Betjeman. He is very much a poet of place and I have chosen *Trebetherick*, (Cornwall).

*We used to picnic where the thrift
Grew deep and tufted to the edge;
We saw the yellow foam-flakes drift
In trembling sponges on the ledge
Below us, till the wind would lift
Them up the cliff and o'er the hedge.*

*Sand in the sandwiches, wasps in the tea,
Sun on our bathing-dresses heavy with the wet,
Squelch of the bladder-wrack waiting for the sea
Fleas round the tamarisk, an early cigarette.*

*From where the coastguard houses stood
One used to see, below the hill,
The lichened branches of a wood
In summer silver-cool and still;
And there the Shade of Evil could
Stretch out at us from Shilla Mill.*

*Thick with sloe and blackberries, uneven in the light,
Lonely ran the hedge, the heavy meadow was remote,
The oldest part of Cornwall was the wood as black as night,*

And the pheasant and the rabbit lay torn open at the throat.

*But when a storm was at its height
And feathery slate was black in rain,
And tamarisks were hung with light
And golden sand was brown again,
Spring tide and blizzard would unite
And sea came flooding up the lane.*

*Waves full of treasure then were roaring up the beach,
Ropes round our mackintoshes, waders warm and dry,
We waited for the wreckage to come swirling into reach,
Ralph, Vasey, Alastair, Biddy, John and I.*

*Then roller into roller curled
And thundered down the rocky bay,
And we were in a water-world
Of rain and blizzard, sea and spray,
And one against the other hurled
We struggled round to Greenaway.*

*Blessed be St Enedoc, blessed be the wave,
Blessed be the springy turf, we pray, pray to thee,
Ask for our children all the happy days you gave
To Ralph, Vasey, Alastair, Biddy, John and me.*

I cannot say I experienced a holiday quite like this, but certain aspects – particularly in the first verse – remind me of holidays of my youth: the thrift growing on the cliffs (though in my case the cliffs were near Freshwater on the Isle of Wight), the sand – which did indeed get into sandwiches, making me wonder if they really were named after Lord Sandwich and not after the gritty picnic – the tamarisks, and the wasps (an inevitable feature of August). Of course, not all days in Cornwall are sunny and calm, and much of

this poem is much darker, from the end of the first stanza onwards. Despite this the exhilaration of the storm and the rough seas is, for Betjeman, a thing to look back on with happiness, and he invokes St Enedoc and prays that the next generation of children may look back upon similar days.

Betjeman is equally adept at describing other types of scenery and places, the grimness of some midland and northern towns, the suburbs, the downland near Lambourne and Newbury where racehorses are trained, East Anglia, and so on. But his love for Cornwall probably transcends the rest. Here he is buried, in the graveyard of the small church of St Enedoc mentioned at the end of this poem, reached by a footpath across the golf links, and from where there is a beautiful view of the sea. I commend it to anyone who visits Cornwall. His poetry I think is deceptively simple. There is great skill in writing verse of this standard. Simple language can easily become trite. There is nothing trite about Betjeman's verse.

Mary Gilbert

Parish Office:

**For the month of August 2026, the parish office is open from
10am – 12 noon 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.

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Beans
Instant Mash
Sweetcorn
Tinned Meat
Breakfast Cereal
Pasta/Cooking Sauce
Milk
Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Fruit
Pasta/Beans with Meat
Custard
Noodles

Squash
Sponge Pudding
Crisps
Biscuits
Coffee

Shampoo
Hair Conditioner
Male/ Female Deodorant
Washing Powder
Washing Up Liquid
Shower Gel
Adult Toothpaste
Tampons



 Epsom & Ewell
Foodbank
Together with Trussell