



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2026

TRINITY 14



DIARY

Sunday 6th September

- 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**

Tuesday 8th September

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

Take Time to Talk – today we are having a 'bring and share' meeting. You are invited to bring something - a book, a memory, a person, an image, a piece of music, which has made a positive difference to your journey as a Christian. We will share what we have brought and say a little bit about it. Do come and join us.

Lynne

Wednesday 9th September

- 10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**
- 7.00pm Holy Communion for the PCC**
- 7.30pm PCC meeting**

Saturday, 12th September

This is the annual 'ride and stride' event, in support of Surrey Churches. You can take part by riding, or walking, to open churches. We shall be welcoming visitors at St Martin's. Full details are here:

[Ride & Stride | Surrey Churches Preservation Trust](#)

Sunday, 13th September

8.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion service at Langley Vale

10.00am Choral Matins service at St Martin's

6.30pm Second Thoughts, in the Lady Chapel

**Nick Parish *'A theology of synchronicity' or
'How I discovered Peckham'***

An exploration of how things are connected; how we discover those connections and what they might mean in our lives. Does God guide us through human connections and coincidences? What can we learn about faith through them? Nick Parish has been a fan of all things transport since childhood, and of theology since early adulthood. Putting them together makes him happy and inspires him in his journey of faith. He has been an ordained Anglican priest for nearly 40 years.

Bishop's Prayer Network: Bishop Paul has made intentional prayer one of his three foci as Acting Bishop and has invited all those willing to pray with him and our diocese, to join his Prayer Network. This will entail receiving a prayer bulletin every two months, invitations to pray online with Bishop Paul, should you so wish, six times a year and to join him in two half-nights of prayer. Join at www.cofeguildford.org.uk/prayernetwork

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](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/prayernetwork)

Woodland Trust talk

The Eco Reps from the Epsom Deanery are hosting a talk by the Woodland Trust - I don't know exactly what they'll be talking about, but hopefully it will include some thoughts about local Woodland Trust projects. The talk will be at St Mary's, Ewell on Tuesday 8th September, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Helen Williams

Eco Fair Collaboration

St Martin's is joining forces with Epsom Methodist Church for a stall at this year's Eco Fair, on Saturday 26 September, from 10.30am to 3pm. The theme for our stall hasn't been decided yet, but one idea would be to highlight a Christian sustainability campaign, such as Christian Aid or Operation Noah, and draw the attention of people attending the Fair to the work they do. We'll need a few people to come along, spend some time at the stall, and smile at those passing by — encouraging them to stop for a chat and take a closer look! If you have an idea for something you think would be good to promote, or you'd be happy to help staff the stall, please get in touch. I'm not exactly inundated with ideas or enthusiastic stallholders at the moment...! It's a great opportunity to make St Martin's more visible in the local community — and there will be cake!

Helen Williams

'Here I Stand' at St Martin's in the Fields, London.

The autumn series of lectures, 'Here I Stand', begins this month. The lectures can be attended in person, or you can join by Zoom if you register in advance. Three of the lectures may be of particular interest to us:

Rowan Williams — *Solidarity*

Monday 14 September, 7pm

Rowan Williams explores the idea of solidarity as a constant exercise in self-scrutiny and dialogue, and what it means to affirm the right of others to be fully themselves.

David Crystal — *For Ever and Ever*

Monday 12 October, 7pm

The famous linguist David Crystal celebrates the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament.

Sam Wells — *Three Hundred Years at the Heart, On the Edge*

Monday 19 October, 7pm

Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, reflects on the history and identity of St Martin's. The church is known for proclaiming an ever-open door and welcoming everyone. But what are the fundamental commitments that lie at the heart of this community? These talks may be especially interesting to us as St Martin's is now part of the Inclusive Church Network.

Howard Bluett

Christmas Fair

It is only 12 weeks to our Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November. Please keep the date and it would be lovely if as many people as possible could help even if it is only an hour or two. If you are willing to help please either tell Sarah, Nancy or me or email me on

maureensuatt@virginmedia.com

MISSION FOCUS – SEPTEMBER

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

“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 6th

Our Pastoral Assistants, Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean, John Marrow. Our Missions: the local Besom Network. Those living in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

Monday 7th

Our Parish Manager, Church Administrator and Facilities Officer. Those baptised in our churches and their families, godparents and sponsors. Swail House and those who are sight impaired. The deaf and hard of hearing. Those in Chantry Hurst, Chartwell Place, Church Road and Church Street.

Tuesday 8th

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

Wednesday 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.

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

Friday 11th

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

Saturday 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 in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

THE POWER OF POETRY – SEPTEMBER

This month's poem is *The Listeners* by Walter de la Mare. He was born in 1873 in Charleton, Kent. He was educated at St Paul's Cathedral Choristers' School. From 1890 – 1908 he worked for the Anglo-American Oil Company, but after he published *Songs of Childhood* in 1902 he was able to spend more time writing – novels, poems, short stories etc. He died in Twickenham in 1956 and is buried in St Paul's Cathedral. I am afraid that this poem is not relevant to church, Christianity, the season, or anything else, but I found myself at a loss this month so decided on this one. Most people who are familiar with this poem seem to like it.

*Is there anybody there?' said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest's ferny floor:
And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller's head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;
'Is there anybody there?' he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,*

*Hearkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveller's call.
And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
'Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word,' he said.
Never the least stir made the listeners,
Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
And the sound of iron on stone,
And how the silence surged softly backward,
When the plunging hoofs were gone.*

This poem is probably the most well-known of de la Mare's output, and it often appears in anthologies for children. It has a continuous rhythm, and the letter 's' is used throughout, helping to accentuate the hush of the house. It seems possible to make up any story to account for the empty house, though not quite empty as it is inhabited by 'phantom listeners' on the stairs, lit only by the moonlight, that descend to an empty hall. The scene is a moonlit night in a forest and de la Mare makes us feel quite clearly the stillness, interrupted by the hammering on the door, the sound of the horse munching the grass, the sudden flapping of the bird, but all the while no sound from within. The traveller himself felt that someone was listening, and before giving up and riding away he

shouts a message to that listener. 'Tell them I came, and no-one answered, that I kept my word'. But the phantoms stayed silent and after the traveller left 'the silence surged backwards'.. What had happened to the occupants? Why had the traveller returned with a message? What *was* the message? Who was the traveller and where had he come from? De la Mare has certainly created a vivid atmosphere with this poem, we can feel the strangeness, the spookiness, and 'hear' the oppressive silence.

I would still like to know who, what and why, though I suppose the main point of the poem is its mystery. ***Mary Gilbert***

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.

Parish Office:
Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567
E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org
Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Instant Mash
Pasta / Cooking Sauce
Sweetcorn
Tinned Meat
Milk UHT (Semi Skimmed/Full Fat)
Dried Pasta in Sauce
Tinned Vegetables
Beans
Tinned Fish
Pulses
Packet Soup



Tinned Fruit
Sponge Pudding
Squash
Sugar
Biscuits
Custard
Shampoo
Hair Conditioner
Male / Female Deodorant
Washing Up Liquid
Adult Toothpaste and
Toothbrushes
Nappies 4, 4+, 5, 5+, 6, 6+



FREEWHEELERS
THEATRE AND MEDIA COMPANY

Us & THEM



Freewheelers Theatre & Media is delighted to invite you to the launch of Us & Them, a major new exhibition exploring how society's understanding and support of people with learning disabilities has changed over the last 150 years.



Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Freewheelers has collaborated with Surrey History Centre, King's College London, filmmaker Stefan Pollak, On the Record and photographic artist Emma Brown to ask: What has changed in the care and support of people with disabilities? What has stayed the same? What has been brought to light? What remains obscured?

Us & Them collides past and present in an immersive, co-produced photography exhibition that explores these questions through image-making, performance and acts of looking.

Using historic tintype photography techniques, fifty contemporary Freewheelers members – all artists with disabilities – have been photographed using the same technology that first captured their historical counterparts over a century ago. Each participant selected a "friend" from the archives of Surrey History Centre, home to one of the largest collections of diagnostic photographs and treatment records relating to people with learning disabilities, including many residents of the former Epsom asylum cluster.

The exhibition is free

Join us for an evening featuring:

- Exhibition viewing
- Talks from project partners and participants
- Film screenings
- Live dance performances by Freewheelers company members

Opening times are:

*5rd - 28th September, Every
Tuesday - Saturday, 9.15 -
4.50pm*

RSVP:

info@freewheelerstheatre.co.uk

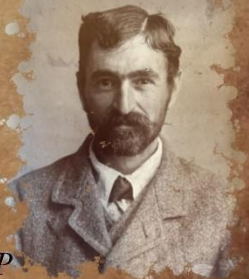
Friday 18 September 2026

6.45 – 9.00pm

Presentations begin at 7.00pm

The Horton Arts Centre

Haven Way, Epsom KT19 8NP



Celebrating Harvest at St Martin's

with
Morning Praise

**10 am
27 September**



Your gifts are for



Epsom & Ewell
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom KT17 7PX

Music @ St Martin's

FREE!

Autumn/Winter 2026

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm



Saturday 26 September

City of London Freeman's School

An opportunity to enjoy the musical talents of the young performers studying at this well-renowned local school.

Saturday 24 October

Duo b!z'art

b!z'art or bizarre? Describing themselves as 'out of the ordinary', this pair of pianists from Belgium evoke childhood with music by Bizet, Ravel & Barber.



Saturday 5 December

Iain Macfarlane - organ

As St Martin's resident organist Iain excels in demonstrating the character and range of this fine Norman & Beard instrument. He plays Bach and plenty more besides.

**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom KT17 7PX



Each concert lasts about an hour

**ADMISSION IS FREE BUT WE ASK FOR
DONATIONS TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE
OFFERING GREAT MUSIC AT ST MARTINS**



• www.stmartinsepsom.org

• office@stmartinsepsom.org

• 01372 722 567



LUMOS

An
**ANDREA
BOCELLI**

*Candlelight Opera
Experience*

EPSOM

St Martin's Church
Saturday 17th October