



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2026

TRINITY 15

Church Growth Conference 2026

Thursday 8 October
Welcome Church, Woking

Keynote speakers:
Ruth Bushyager
Gavin Calver

ChurchGrowth2026.Eventbrite.co.uk

Diocese of Guildford

DIARY

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 welcome visitors at St Martin's.

Full details are here:

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

Sunday, 13th September TRINITY 15

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 interested in all things transport since childhood, and in 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.

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](#)

Tuesday 15th September

4.00pm Centering Prayer (*tea and biscuits from 3.45pm*)

‘Be still and know that I am God’ Psalm 46:10

A small group of us meet every other Tuesday at 4pm, at the back of church, to pray together in silence. If you would enjoy some time for silent prayer with others, please come along. 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.

Wednesday 16th September

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin’s

Sunday 20th September TRINITY 16

9.30am Morning Prayer service at Langley Vale

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin’s

6.30pm Open Evensong service at St Martin’s

An invitation to join the choir to sing Choral Evensong:

Sunday 20th September, 6.30pm

Enthusiastic singers are invited to join our regular choristers in the stalls for the first Choral Evensong of the new term.

The 5.15pm rehearsal finishes in time for tea and cake before the service at 6.30pm. The music Iain has chosen includes:

Responses by Radcliffe, Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in Bb and Harris' anthem 'Fear not, O land'. Music and robes will be provided.

If you want to know a little more, please ask Iain or one of the choristers.

Jean Urquhart's Funeral

Sadly, Jean, a longstanding member of St Martin's and St Stephen's church family, died on 22 August at the age of 90. Her funeral will take place at St Martin's on Thursday 24 September at 11.30am followed by burial at Epsom Cemetery at 1pm.

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

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

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network

The network is committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our area. In the decade since they were founded they have grown to meet the needs of an increasing number of refugees. They provide vital services to those new to the country, such as English lessons, help finding work & education, assistance in accessing services, benefits & healthcare, as well as a social network and one-to-one support. See the boards in church or <https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/> for further details.



Alexander Rennie, Mission Committee

Computer Help Wanted

The person who has looked after my computer for many years is retiring, so I'm looking for someone to take over. Ideally, I'd like someone who could visit every few months to check everything is up to date and help with any queries, as well as being available by phone or email if I need help in between. I'm happy to pay by the hour. If anyone can recommend someone reliable who offers this kind of friendly, ongoing computer support, I'd be very grateful. Please contact Joan at joan.gabbett@yahoo.co.uk or 07952 357523.

Joan Gabbett

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” *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 week:

Sunday 13th

Our Church Development Plan, for renewal and growth. The Bible Reading Fellowship. Those who are housebound and their

carers. Those in Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

Monday 14th

Our Mission Team. Our Church Finances and our Treasurer, Steve. Our MP, Helen Maguire. The Borough Council: elected members and officers. Those in Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

Tuesday 15th

Our Discipleship, Fellowship and Evangelism Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services who serve us. Those in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

Wednesday 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 in Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Thursday 17th

Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristan, Mary Holloway-Neville, and chalice assistants. The university of the Creative Arts and Laine Theatre Arts. Those in Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbroke Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Friday 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.

Saturday 19th

Our Home Communion Team and those to whom they take Communion. Our Flower-Arranging Team: Yvonne Parish. Staff at local Citizens' Advice Bureau, Age Concern and Job Centre. All 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.

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,
Harkening 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+

 Epsom & Ewell
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

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



An invitation from **St Martin's Epsom**

to join our choir to sing
CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday 20 September

Reheasal 5.15pm

followed by tea & cake

Service at 6.30pm

The music:

Radcliffe's responses

Stanford's Magnificat & Nunc Dimitis in Bb
Harris' anthem 'Fear not, O Land'

Music & robes supplied



SUSTAINABLE *EPSOM & EWELL*



your independent, volunteer-led, local green group



2026 Eco Fair line-up

Saturday 26th September 10.30am to 3.00 pm

EPSOM METHODIST CHURCH

**11-13 Ashley Road
EPSOM KT18 5AQ**

- Epsom and Ewell Repair Cafe** (Repair don't replace)
- Grow Cook Enjoy** (Growing healthy food and making local honey)
- Honey and Bamboo** (Zero waste refill shop)
- Surrey Bat Group** (Giving bats a better chance)
- Surrey Dormouse Group** (Helping dormice in Surrey)
- Surrey Wildflowering Project** (Wildlife friendly areas and street verges)
- Plantlife** (A local voice for wild plants and fungi)
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Climate Change Officer** (Surrey Community Energy, HEAT, Surrey Climate Commission)
- Epsom and Ewell Countryside Management** (Managing our local green spaces)
- Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board** (Planting and protecting our trees- guided tree walks on the day)
- Elms over Epsom** (Bringing back elms to our Borough)
- Epsom Common Association** (Protecting our local greenspace)
- Plant based eating information** (including children's activities)
- Climate Action Network Epsom including**
- Library of Things** (Borrow don't buy)
- Food Bank Collection**
- Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group** (Protecting and preserving native reptiles and amphibians)
- Care4Baskets** (Crafting plastic waste into baskets and handmade goods)
- Ni-ka Deluxe** (Handmade skin care products using natural ingredients)
- Kerry's Cards** (Handmade cards with re-used stamps)

and

FOOD AND DRINK

CHILDRENS GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

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
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SURREY STANDS WITH UKRAINE AND THE EPSOM & EWELL REFUGEE NETWORK

present

A UKRAINE MUSIC EVENING

organised by Epsom Music and supported by the Menuhin School

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026 | 6PM-9PM



GASPAR KELEMEN
violin



ARINA KOROLETSKA
opera

FEATURING

Pei Lin Oisin Pu
piano

Oksana Hermanchuk
piano

Kori Sheldunov
violin

EPSOM METHODIST CHURCH

11 Ashley Road, Epsom KT18 5AQ

FREE EVENT

Exit collection for the musicians

REFRESHMENTS & SOCIAL

Please bring some finger food to share

Contact: epsommusicsoc@gmail.com



Epsom & Ewell
Refugee Network
part of good company

EPSOMMUSIC





LUMOS

An
**ANDREA
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*Candlelight Opera
Experience*

EPSOM

St Martin's Church
Saturday 17th October