



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2026

TRINITY / HARVEST



DIARY

Sunday 27th September Trinity 17 / Harvest

9.30am Holy Communion service at Langley Vale
10.00am Harvest Celebration – Morning Praise at St Martin's
6.30pm Compline service at St Martin's

Tuesday 29th September

There will be NO MEETING this week. On 13th October there will be Centering Prayer, at 4pm as usual. Refreshments from 3.45pm at the back of church.
Everybody welcome!

Lynne

Wednesday 30th September

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Sunday 4th October St Francis

9.30am Harvest service at Langley Vale
10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
6.30pm Evening Prayer service at St Martin's

Contemplative Prayer Group

We meet in the Lady Chapel on Tuesday 6th October at 11 am. Our starting point will be Matthew 18.20 *'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them'*. Then later in the month we meet on zoom on Thursday 15th October at 8 pm. All are very welcome for either or both these occasions. The link for 'zoom' can be had from me or from Alex.

Adrian Esdaile

Second Thoughts - 11th October

‘Familiar objects round the church – how well do we really know them?’

Linda Bristow, who leads Church Recording in Surrey, explores our church’s fine Reredos, the roles of Elizabeth Evelyn and Sir Robert Coke and shares other fascinating discoveries she’s made. Her team completed the mammoth task of recording St Martin’s last year in time for the 200th anniversary of our Georgian nave. Linda’s link with St Martin’s goes back many years to her son’s christening and helping to run the Sunday Club. She joined The Arts Society Epsom in 2009 when it was called National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (NADFAS) and over the years, took on the roles of Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Chair.

St Stephen’s Update

In mid-July, we held a kick-off meeting with the contractor handling the Phase 1 building works. Since then, the contractors have been awaiting the delivery of a key part of the structural framework, which is scheduled to arrive this month. Once all the parts are delivered, they will manufacture the new window frames before coming on-site to complete the replacement of the windows, doors, and wall. We should get confirmation of the start date later this month and will update you as soon as the final timeline is confirmed. Once these works are complete, a team of gardeners will attend to the church grounds, focusing on trimming back the trees and shrubs that have overgrown during the closure. A huge thanks to Frances for all her hard work setting up the services every Sunday in the Village Hall. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to us via email at wardens@stmartinsepsom.org.

Goods needed for the Christmas Fair

Please start collecting items for the Christmas Fair. We will put a box out at the back of Church at the end of October. We need the following:

Jigsaw & Games	Toiletries & Unwanted Gifts
Jewellery	Indoor Plants
China and Glass	Craft Items
Chocolate for the	Tombola

Sarah, Nancy & Maureen

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 – 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



Christmas Services – feedback needed!

In recent years, on Christmas Eve we have had an early evening communion service and Epsom College Chapel has hosted a late evening one ('midnight mass'). I have had a couple of requests for a late evening service at St Martin's as well. So, I'm wanting to gauge opinion. If you would support a late evening service could you email me? vicar@stmartinsepsom.org Thanks, Nick.

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 27th

All involved in planning and leading Family services. Christian Aid and its annual collection in May and the projects it supports. Local prisons and their chaplains: Downview and High Down. Those living and working in Upper High Street, Victoria Place, Warren Hill and Waterloo Road.

Monday 28th

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

Tuesday 29th

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

Wednesday 30th

Epsom College, staff and students: Chaplain Andrew Haviland. May all who enter our churches find peace and welcome. Epsom & Ewell Foodbank (Our Missions) and the Leprosy Mission. Those living and working in Wootton Close, Worple Road, Wyeths Mews, Wyeths Road, Yeomanry Close and Yew Tree Gardens.

Thursday 1st

Our Vicar: Nick Parish, Yvonne and their family. Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking and Acting Bishop of Guildford. The Chaplaincy Team at Epsom & St Helier Hospitals. Those living and working in Adelphi Road, Albert Road, Alexandra Road and Andrews Close.

Friday 2nd

Our Curate: Judith Mitchell and her family. Our Archdeacon: Martin Breadmore and the Guildford Diocesan Staff. Our Missions: The Medaille Trust fighting against modern slavery. Those living and working in Ash Mews, Ashdown Road, Ashley Road, Aston Way, Avenue Road and Axwood.

Saturday 3rd

Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Lutheran Church. Our Church Schools: St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools: Children, parents, Governors, Heads, teachers and all staff. Our local public houses, restaurants and shops, and the staff who work in them. The Street Pastors giving help on Friday nights in Epsom. Those living and working in Barn Close, Baron's Hurst, Beaconsfield Place, Beaconsfield Road, Beech Road and Beech Way.

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

Harvest wishlist

We would be grateful for your donations, which help to keep our foodbank centres and pantries stocked for those in our community experiencing financial hardship.



Jars of cooking sauces

Pasta sauce

Baked beans

Pulses

Tinned meat

Tinned fish

Tinned fruit

Tinned vegetables

Tinned sweetcorn

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned potatoes

Rice pudding

Custard

Rice / Micro rice

Instant mash

Long-life juice

Instant coffee

Tea (bags)

Ketchup/Brown sauce/Mayo

Cereal (not porridge)

UHT semi skimmed or full fat milk

Powdered milk

Dried Noodles

Long-life sponge puddings

Chocolate / Biscuits

Jam /Honey /Marmalade

Peanut butter / Chocolate spread

Squash

Shampoo/Conditioner

Deodorant

Shower gel

Sanitary Towels/Tampons

Click [here](#) for details of our donation points

If you are organising a delivery directly to our hub (Good Company Hub, Ruxley Lane KT19 0JG), please let us know by contacting us on foodbank@goodcompany.org.uk.

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

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





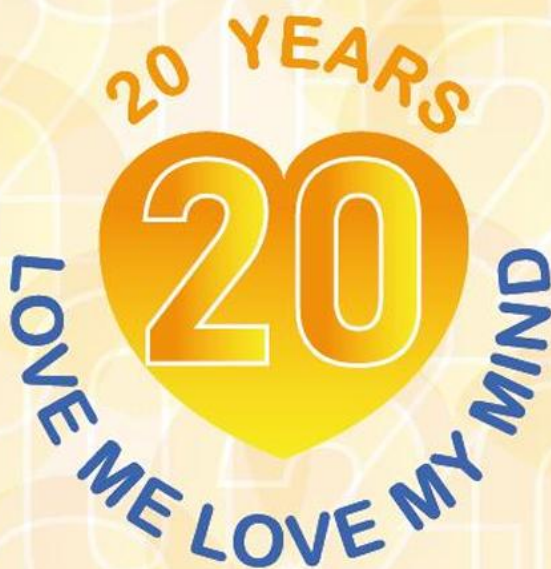
LUMOS

An
**ANDREA
BOCELLI**

*Candlelight Opera
Experience*

EPSOM

St Martin's Church
Saturday 17th October



Epsom Mental Health Week
Sat 3rd - Sun 11th October 2026

www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk



Working Towards a
Mentally Healthier
Community

Follow us @

[lovemelovemymind](https://www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk)

[lmlmepsom](https://www.lovemelovemymind.org.uk)



Epsom Mental Health Week is organised by Love Me Love My Mind, a charity dedicated to promoting understanding about mental health issues. Registered charity no: 117768