



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER 2026

ST FRANCIS



JUBILEE YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS

1226–2026

The 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi in 2026 marks a global celebration of his life, legacy, and spiritual teachings. Francis, born around 1181 in Assisi, Italy,

renounced his wealthy upbringing to embrace a life of poverty, charity, and devotion to God. He founded the Franciscan Order in 1209, emphasizing care for the poor, reverence for nature, and peace-making. He died on October 4, 1226. Communities worldwide are participating through pilgrimages, virtual events, creative workshops, and educational programmes exploring Franciscan spirituality. The celebrations aim to foster fraternity, peace, and ecological awareness, continuing St. Francis's legacy into the 21st century.

DIARY

Sunday 4th October St Francis

9.30am Harvest Celebration at Langley Vale

**10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's,
with the Ark Sunday School.**

6.30pm Evening Prayer service at St Martin's

Tuesday 6th October

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 8pm. All are very welcome for either or both these occasions. The link for 'zoom' can be had from me or from Alex.

Adrian Esdaile

Wednesday 7th October

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Thursday 8th October

'Being With the Bible' - a new life/study group starting

Thursday 8 October 7.30 - 9pm

We are starting a new 'Being With' group on Thursday 8 October at 7.30 pm, meeting in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's. There will be ten sessions altogether, from Genesis to Pentecost, on 8, 22, 29 October, 12 and 19 November, 3 and 17 December, 7 and 21 January and 4 February. However, we realise that participants may not be able to come to every session. 'Being With' uses a different approach to exploring our Christian faith. Each session

is an invitation to listen, reflect and imagine, and share our different experiences. Each session also includes a talk which seeks to offer a different perspective on a well-known Bible passage. Our first session will look at sibling relationships in Genesis 4.8-10. Please let me know if you are able to come along.

Revd Judith

Sunday 11th October Trinity 19

8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion at Langley Vale

10.00am Choral Mattins service at St Martin's

6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's

'Familiar objects round the church – how well do we really know them?' Speaker: Linda Bristow

Linda, 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.

Diocesan Black History Month Service 3 pm on Sunday 25 October at Guildford Cathedral

All are welcome to this service celebrating black history, faith and culture, and reflecting on racial justice, welcome and belonging in the Church. During the service I will be giving a short talk on our new memorial project at St Martin's. It would be great if others from St Martin's are able to come along. **Rev Judith**

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](#)

Congratulations to Megan who was confirmed by Bishop Paul at St Mary the Virgin, Cuddington, last Sunday, supported by daughter Isabella and Rev Judith.



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
Jewellery
China and Glass
Chocolate for the

Toiletries & Unwanted Gifts
Indoor Plants
Craft Items
Tombola

Sarah, Nancy & Maureen

Christmas Services – feedback needed!

Thanks for your feedback. I've had a range of responses. It has become clear that we won't be able to provide a full Sung Communion for midnight, and it seems best that those who would like that go to the Midnight Mass at Epsom College Chapel, which will have a choir and the necessary people to make the service happen. We will have our earlier evening sung service as people have responded saying how much they have valued that, as they no longer are able to make the late night.

The timing of that, and our full Christmas programme, is yet to be decided – we will publish the details soon. Thanks again for responding, it has really helped. **Nick Parish**

MISSION FOCUS – OCTOBER

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



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 4th

Our Lay Ministers: Ruth Foxcroft and John Padwick. Guildford Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter. Our Missions: The Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network. Those in Birches Close, Bridge Road, Bridle End, Bridle Road and Burgh Heath Road.

Monday 5th

Our Church Wardens: Sarah Lutton and Rob Jeffery. All users of Church House. Those suffering from drug or alcohol addiction and their families and friends. Those in Burghfield, Caithness Drive and Carter's Road.

Tuesday 6th

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

Wednesday 7th

Our Parish Manager, Nicky Kelly, Church Administrator Lois Cain and Facilities Officer Jay Holloway-Neville. All baptised in our churches, their families, godparents and sponsors. Swail House and those who are sight and/or hearing impaired. Those in Chantry Hurst, Chartwell Place, Church Road and Church Street.

Thursday 8th

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. 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.

Friday 9th

Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Meg Topley and the Team. The physical, mental and emotional well-being of the people of Epsom and Langley Vale, local mental health units and

Love Me Love My Mind (Our Missions). Those in Copse Edge Avenue, Delaporte Close, Denham Road and Depot Road.

Saturday 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 who teach RE. Those in Digdens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

THE POWER OF POETRY – OCTOBER

For this month I have chosen *Let Evening Come*, by the American poet Jane Kenyon (1947 - 1995). She was born, and spent her early life, in Michigan, and later married another poet, Donald Hall, who often used her as a subject of his poetry. She then moved to his ancestral home in Wilmot, New Hampshire. As well as writing poetry Kenyon was also a translator of Russian.

*Let the light of late afternoon
shine through chinks in the barn, moving
up the bales as the sun moves down.*

*Let the cricket take up chafing
as a woman takes up her needles
and her yarn. Let evening come.*

*Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned
in long grass. Let the stars appear
and the moon disclose her silver horn.*

*Let the fox go back to its sandy den.
Let the wind die down. Let the shed
go black inside. Let evening come.*

*To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop
in the oats, to air in the lung
let evening come.*

*Let it come as it will and don't
be afraid. God does not leave us
comfortless, so let evening come.*

The poem – and I believe all her poetry, though I am not familiar with much of it – is rather spare, but full of emotion and spiritual grace, although I detect a hint of melancholy in this poem. It is not, as is plainly evident, a poem which employs rhyme but it uses simple language and is highly evocative in its descriptions revealing her observational skill. It also seems accepting of whatever life brings. Apparently Kenyon suffered from severe clinical depression for much of her life, and it may be this affliction which lent to her writing the understanding and compassion that is evident. The following is a verse from one of her poems which describes her illness:

*Often I go to bed as soon after dinner
as seems adult
(I mean I try to wait for dark);*

*in order to push away
from the massive pain in sleep's
frail wicker coracle.*

She died quite young of leukaemia, and I wonder if she already knew her days were limited when she wrote *Let Evening Come*. The last verse, where she acknowledges that God would not leave anyone comfortless, does appear to hint at this. **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**

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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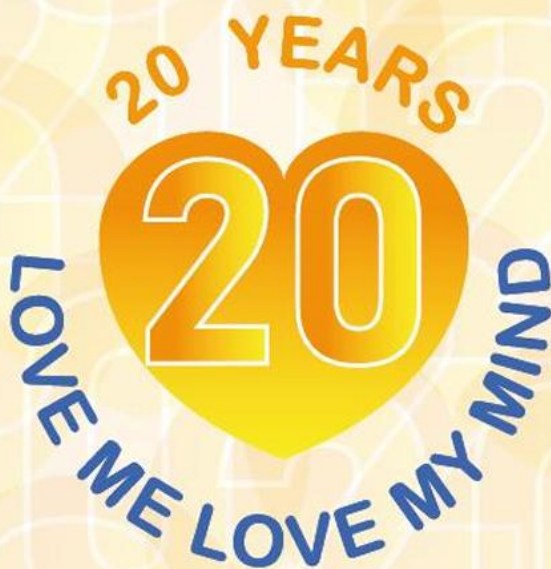
LUMOS

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