St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026
ALL SAINTS



DIARY

Sunday 1st November ALL SAINTS

9.30am Morning Prayer service at Langley Vale
10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
6.30pm All Souls Thanksgiving service at St Martin's

Tuesday 3rd November

Contemplative Prayer Group

The group will be meeting in person at 11am on Tuesday 3rd November in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's. We will also be meeting on 'zoom' at 8 pm on 19th November. Anyone is welcome to join us on these occasions. Our starting point will be Isaiah 56.1 - '*Maintain justice and do what is right.'* The link to 'zoom' can be obtained from me or from Alex. ***Adrian***

4.00pm Take Time to Talk

All Hallows Eve Saturday October 31st
All Saints / All Hallows Day Sunday November 1st
All Souls Day Monday November 2nd
What is going on over these few days?
Join us to explore this time of year in the church.
Please bring with you, in one form or another,
your favourite saint. ***Lynne***

Wednesday 4th November

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Sunday 8th November REMEMBRANCE

8.30am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
9.30am Remembrance service at Langley Vale
10.45am Remembrance service at St Martin's
6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's

Second Thoughts for the Evening of Remembrance Sunday
Sunday, 8th November at 6.30pm (Refreshments from 5.45pm)
Mary Gilbert and Chris Benson
'In Flanders Fields: Poetry of the First World War'

Mary reflects on the First World War, not merely the tragedy of it, but also on the outpouring of poetry. Brief biographies of a few of the poets and readings of selected works will reflect the range of responses to what they endured, from lyricism to anger at the waste.

Mary began worshipping at St Martin's 10 years ago, having not been a regular churchgoer for about fifty years. She was confirmed in March 2017 and is now on the Pastoral Team, occasionally takes services of Evening Prayer and writes a monthly poetry 'column' for the Newsletter.

Chris is a retired architect who worships at St John the Baptist, Old Malden, where he is an occasional preacher. His passions include renaissance music - he is a viol player and singer - and Morris dancing.

Thursday 12th November

'Being With the Bible' - 7.30pm-9.00pm in the Lady Chapel

There will be ten sessions altogether, from Genesis to Pentecost, 22 October, 29 October, 12 and 19 November, 3 and 17 December, 7 and 21 January and 4 and 11 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. Do contact me if you would like to come along and have not already told me. **revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org**

St Stephen's Church – Update on the South Elevation Repairs

We're pleased to share the planned timeline for the repair works at St Stephen's, Langley Vale. The work is being carried out by B. W. May & Son. It covers a new structural frame, new windows and doors, new cladding and internal finishes along the south side of the church.

Off-site preparation (from late October)

Most of the early work happens away from the church. The new timbers arrive at B. W. May's workshop in late October. The frame will then be made there over about four weeks.

Work starts on site – week beginning 16 November
The contractors will set up on site and put protection in place. They will then start on the plinth, the blockwork base and the damp-proof course. This will run through to the end of November.

Frame, windows and cladding – weeks beginning 30 November to 14 December
The new frame goes up first. The new windows and doors, lead flashings and shiplap cladding follow. The aim is for the building to be fully weathertight before Christmas.

Christmas break
No work is planned on site over Christmas and New Year.

Internal works – from week beginning 4 January
Work resumes with insulation, plasterboard and plastering. The plaster then needs about a week to dry. After that come the skirtings, decoration, preparation of the nave floor and new carpet throughout the nave.

Finishing
The final weeks will be spent removing the scaffolding, snagging and cleaning. We hope to have everything finished by the end of January or early February. As with any building project, the timings may change, especially with the weather over the winter months. We'll keep you updated as the work progresses.

Thank you for your patience and support while this important work is done. If you have any questions, please email Rob on wardens@stmartinsepsom.org.

Donations for the Christmas Fair
There is a box at the back of church for donations to the Christmas Fair. We need Jigsaws, Unwanted gifts, China and Glass, Jewellery, Toiletries and Chocolate for the Tombola.

Nancy, Sarah and 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



CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS
I have set up a display of Christmas cards now that the Christmas displays are beginning to appear in the shops! I will add Advent Calendars towards the beginning of November. Advent Candles and some small votive candles are already on display.

There are a wide variety of cards both in design, size and cost, in packets of 10 or 20 cards. The Advent Calenders, when I put

them out, come with their own envelopes in case you wish to post them.

Please support St Martin's when buying your Christmas supplies as any profit from the sale of these supplies goes to the church. All the cards are sourced from a variety of charities, therefore by purchasing from the church you will also be helping them as well.

Payment may be made in a variety of ways:

- Cheque: made payable to "The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom" (please either hand in to the office or place in the wall safe in church)
- Donation Station: contactless payments – please use the "Christmas Cards or Cards" button
- Cash: via the wall safe in church – marked "Cards"

I will keep all items topped up but once a design has sold out I may not be able to get any further stock. Please ask me if you are looking for something in particular or more packets than are on display.

Thank you for your custom
Mary Holloway-Neville

MISSION FOCUS – NOVEMBER

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" *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 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.

Monday 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. Ash Mews, Ashdown Road, Ashley Road, Aston Way, Avenue Road and Axwood.

Tuesday 3rd
Our Priest-in-Retirement: Adrian Esdaile and his family. Andris Abakuks, priest in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and his family. 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. Barn Close, Baron's Hurst, Beaconsfield Place, Beaconsfield Road, Beech Road and Beech Way.

Wednesday 4th
Our Lay Ministers: Ruth Foxcroft and John Padwick. Our Cathedral: Guildford Cathedral, the Dean and Chapter. Our

Missions: The Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network. Birches Close, Bridge Road, Bridle End, Bridle Road and Burgh Heath Road.

Thursday 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. Burghfield, Caithness Drive and Carter's Road.

Friday 6th
Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean: John Marrow. Our Missions: the local Besom Network. Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

Saturday 7th
Our Parish Manager, Church Administrator and Facilities Officer. Those baptised in our churches, past and future, and their families, godparents and sponsors. Swail House and those who are sight impaired. The deaf and hard of hearing. Chantry Hurst, Chartwell Place, Church Road and Church Street.

THE POWER OF POETRY – NOVEMBER

In this month of Remembrance, I have chosen a poem by Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928. It is, in a way, a suitable poem for the season, but it is not a familiar one. In fact I came upon it purely by chance in July* so ear-marked it for November before I forgot. I have used poems by Hardy before and I have always liked them. But the following is different from most of the ones I am familiar with.

Thomas Hardy wrote it in 1914, a few months *before* the First World War and it is prophetic with a sense of approaching doom.

It is spoken as if by one of the dead buried in the church, and, although the idea of the skeletons in the church sitting up has its amusing side, it is also a little creepy and its message is bleak, despite the humour. The skeletons awake and think Judgment Day has arrived. Their rest has been interrupted by the living: guns thundering, dogs howling, the mouse dropping crumbs, and so on. God calls to the skeletons to resume their rest as it is merely gunnery practice, that nothing has changed, that everyone is fighting wars, and everyone has gone mad.

More than a hundred years after World War 1, and eighty after World War 2, and seemingly nothing *has* changed, and it is difficult when we look about us to find anything to raise our hopes from the image of imminent destruction in a world which gives every sign of having gone mad.

Channel Firing

That night your great guns, unawares,
Shook all our coffins as we lay,
And broke the chancel window-squares,
We thought it was the Judgment-day

And sat upright. While drearisome
Arose the howl of wakened hounds:
The mouse let fall the altar-crumb,
The worms drew back into the mounds,

The glebe cow drooled. Till God called, "No;
It's gunnery practice out at sea
Just as before you went below;
The world is as it used to be:

"All nations striving strong to make
Red war yet redder. Mad as hatters
They do no more for Christés sake
Than you who are helpless in such matters.

"That this is not the judgment-hour
For some of them's a blessèd thing,
For if it were they'd have to scour
Hell's floor for so much threatening....

"Ha, ha. It will be warmer when
I blow the trumpet (if indeed
I ever do; for you are men,
And rest eternal sorely need)."

So down we lay again. "I wonder,
Will the world ever saner be,"
Said one, "than when He sent us under
In our indifferent century!"

And many a skeleton shook his head.
"Instead of preaching forty year,"
My neighbour Parson Thirdly said,
"I wish I had stuck to pipes and beer."

Again the guns disturbed the hour,
Roaring their readiness to avenge,
As far inland as Stourton Tower,
And Camelot, and starlit Stonehenge.

A few brief notes: The word 'unawares' (first line) implies that the men firing guns cause harm without even realising it. The reference in verse 4 to 'Red war yet redder' refers to the Book of Revelation, where one of the horsemen of the Apocalypse is described as red. 'Mad as hatters' is an expression still in use, its origin in the making of felt for hats, a process which involved mercury. Over time mercury accumulated in the hatters' brains and caused them to develop dementia.

For some conventional war poems – one or two familiar, others less so – you may be interested in the **2nd Thoughts** programme for **8th November**. It will begin with an introduction about an aspect of WW1 and will be followed by a brief biography of a few war poets with readings of an example of their poetry.

*This was included in a half-hour video from *"The Salisbury Organist"* on YouTube. I am addicted to these videos and highly recommend them. The one I refer to here is called *Lawrence of Arabia in Dorset.* As well as this poem (read beautifully) the video shows a stunning church at Moreton, Dorset, which I have visited twice in 2016 and 2019, and where T E Lawrence is buried. The church has sublime engraved glass windows by Lawrence Whistler, and the video includes historical and biographical details, including a glimpse of Clouds Hill (T E Lawrence's cottage), and also includes, as all of these videos do, some music.

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 NEEDED LIST

Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Custard
Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise
Jam/Honey/Marmalade/Peanut Butter/Chocolate Spread
Porridge,
Milk UHT (Semi-Skimmed or Whole)
Rice Pudding, Cooking Sauce
Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Potatoes, Rice
Tea (bags), Sugar, Longlife Juice, Squash
Tinned Spaghetti, Instant Coffee
Packet Soup, Sponge Pudding
Chocolate Biscuit Bars
Noodles
Male Deodorant, Hair Conditioner
Washing Powder
Adult Toothbrushes
Shampoo, Tampons


Remembrance
Sunday
8th November
10.45 am
A traditional choral service
including
the 2-minute silence and the
laying of poppies on the
War Memorial
St Martin
of Tours
Church Street
Epsom, KT17 4PX
stmartinsepsom • office@stmartinsepsom.org • www.stmartinsepsom.org • 01372 722 547

Music @ St Martin's

FREE!

Autumn/Winter 2026

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm

Saturday 26 September

City of London Freemen'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