St Martin of Tours Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2026

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY



Guildford diocese is having an audit of their safeguarding procedures and practice. At 10am we will watch a short video made by Bishop Paul explaining the process and enouraging everyone to fill in the (anonymous) survey form seeking your views. You can find it here:

Church of England – Guildford - Inege Safeguarding Group

This Sunday we focus on safeguarding in our worship, how it is an expression of the love of God and the Kingdom values of compassion, nurture and justice.



This is true of many human endeavours – including our work. I have now reached retirement age (68) and after 12 years of being the Vicar of St Martin's and St Stephen's, I will be retiring on January 31st 2027. My last service will be the 10am on January 24th, which will be followed by a parish lunch to mark the occasion.

Soon the process of finding someone new will begin, and the wardens will explain all that soon. From my point of view, I am so grateful to you for being part of the journey of life and faith at Church – it really has been a privilege to be a leader and guide on that journey. The time for goodbyes is yet to come, but this Sunday is the 'offical announcement' of my retiring.

Some things do last forever. The love of God is eternal – it sustains us through this life and the next. Our journey of faith is one of experiencing that love, exploring it and deepening it in our hearts and minds. Church is the place where we can share that journey together. Be assured of my love and prayers for you as our journeys continue in different places, but in the one Church which is the body of Christ.

Nick Parish

DIARY

Sunday 15th November SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

9.30am Morning Prayer service at Langley Vale
10.00am Sung Communion service at St Martin's
6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

Tuesday 17th November at 4pm (*postponed from Nov 3rd*)

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 church. Please bring with you, in some form, your favourite saint. Do join us - refreshments from 3.45pm. ***Lynne***

Wednesday 18th November

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
7.00pm Holy Communion service at St Martin's
7.30pm PCC in the Choir vestry

Thursday 19th November

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

There are ten sessions altogether, from Genesis to Pentecost, 19 November, 3 and 17 December, 7 and 21 January and 4 and 11 February. Each session is an invitation to listen, reflect and imagine, and share our different experiences. It 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.
revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org

Sunday 22nd November CHRIST THE KING

9.30am Holy Communion service at Langley Vale
10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's
6.30pm Compline at St Martin's

Jay Holloway-Neville's retirement from work

On Sunday 22 November we will be thanking Jay for his over 20 years of service to St Martin's. We will make a presentation to him at the 10 o'clock service and there will be cake with our coffee afterwards. A card will be available to sign from this Sunday and if you wish to make a contribution towards a gift for Jay you can do so on the card machine, give cash to either Rob or Sarah or take cash into the office during the week.

Rob Jeffery & Sarah Lutton

Update on our Memorial Project

On 15 October we welcomed members of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and Churchyards), including our Archdeacon, to discuss this project in situ, together with Christina Peake, our artist. It was a positive meeting and has helped the DAC grasp our church context and to understand how the memorial will relate to the Brathwaite memorial.

The next stage is for Christina to create drafts of the artwork. She envisages an artwork of four main wooden panels and two smaller ones, telling interconnected stories of people linked to Barbados. Please continue to pray for God's blessing on this project and especially for Christina as she embarks on this important creative stage, and also for the DAC and other bodies involved in the decision-making. ***Revd Judith***

Starting January 2027
'A cup of tea, a slice of cake and a friendly face can make all the difference'.

As part of my Anna Chaplaincy ministry, I hope to start a Connection Group where people can come together to enjoy friendship, companionship and a warm welcome. Our aim is to create a safe, caring space where people can chat, make friends, share experiences and know that they are valued. To help bring this vision to life, I am looking for a small team of friendly volunteers who might be willing to offer a little of their time. Perhaps you could help by:

- ☕ Making tea and coffee.
- 🍰 Baking an occasional homemade cake.
- 😊 Welcoming people as they arrive.
- 💬 Sitting down for a chat and offering a listening ear.
- ❤️‍🩹 Simply helping to make everyone feel at home.

You don't need any special skills or experience — just a kind heart and a willingness to help.

You may be surprised how much a little kindness can mean to someone who feels lonely. If you would like to be part of this new venture, or would simply like to find out more, please come and have a chat with me. Together, with God's help, we can build friendships, share kindness and remind people that they are never forgotten. *"Together, we can make a difference — one cup of tea, one conversation and one friendship at a time."*

With love and blessings,

Elaine

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 – 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

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 be 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.

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS!

Sponsor a Christmas Tree at St Martin's



Aside from the obvious... few things say Christmas at St Martin's like a beautifully lit tree! This year we're asking for your help to make sure we have one.
Each tree costs between £60 and £90, and we'd love to have at least one sponsored so the church can be filled with light and colour through Advent and Christmas. You might like to give in memory of a loved one, to mark a special moment from the year, or simply to share in the joy of the season.
Contributions of any size towards a tree are very welcome too. Like many churches, we're managing on a tight budget this year, so your support makes a real difference.
How to give: use the card machine in church, or give cash to Rob. Thank you for your generosity, and for helping St Martin's shine this Christmas. ***Rob Jeffery, Churchwarden***

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, Jewelry, Toiletries and Chocolate for the Tombola.

Nancy, Sarah and Maureen

Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate!

We need lots of chocolate for the chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola. This is very popular with the children at the Fair. Please give any donations to Sarah as she will keep safe.

Christmas Tea and Carols

Sunday 13 December 2026 from 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.

This is a reminder to put the date in your diaries. There will be filled rolls, mince pies, Christmas cake, chocolate cake and other goodies, and of course tea and coffee. It will include carol singing round the grand piano. Do please support us and bring your children or grandchildren if you wish. Last Christmas about 50 people came, and we hope this year will be similarly successful. Everyone is welcome; the tea is free, though donations are welcome!



There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook

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 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. 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

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 15th
Our Discipleship, Fellowship and Evangelism Team. Our Premises and Gardens Team. The Emergency Services: Fire, Police and Ambulance. Those in Headley Road, Heathcote Road, Hereford Close, High Street and Highridge Close.

Monday 16th
Our Choir, and for a 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. Hillcrest Road, Hook Road, Hylands Close, Hylands Road, Jackson Close and Kilcorral Close.

Tuesday 17th
Our Livestreaming Team led by Rob Jeffrey. Our Sacristan Mary Holloway-Neville and chalice assistants. University of the Creative Arts, Laine Theatre Arts staff and students. Kiln Lane, Kingsdown Road, Laburnum Road, Ladbrook Road, Leighton Way and Leith Road.

Wednesday 18th
Vocations to Ministry, ordained and lay. Churches Together in Epsom: Russell Holding (Chair). Our Missions: AMECA (for Malawi, Epsom based). Langley Close, Langley Vale Road, Links Road and Lintons Lane.

Thursday 19th
Our Home Communion Team. Our Flower-Arranging Team: Yvonne Parish. Staff at local CAB, Age Concern and Job Centre. All those seeking their help and/or in need of work. Longdown Lane South, Longdown Road, Lynwood Avenue, Lynwood Road, Mannamead, Mannamead Close, Middle Close and Middle Lane.

Friday 20th
Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett, John Padwick, Alexander Rennie, Lynne Scholefield. Our Eco Church Team: Helen Williams. Our Missions: Mission to Kenya. Milburn Walk, Mill Road, Millers Copse, Milton Gardens and Mospey Crescent.

Saturday 21st
Our vision and work for Social and Racial Justice. Those who lead intercessory prayer and read Bible passage in our services. Local schools and nursery schools. Oak Hill, Oakmead Green, Old Barn Road, Pikes Hill and Pine Hill.

THE POWER OF POETRY – NOVEMBER

In this month of Remembrance, I have chosen a poem by Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928. Whilst a suitable poem for the season, 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 notes: The word 'unawares' implies that the men firing guns cause harm without 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.

*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

CHRISTMAS Fair

SAT 28TH NOVEMBER

FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM

GIFTS, MODEL RAILWAY,
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES,
CARDS, HOMEMADE CAKES & MORE!

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, CHURCH ST, EPSOM. KT17 4PX



St Martin of Tours Epsom
St Stephen on the Downs Langley Vale

Charity no. 1134149

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