St Martin of Tours Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs Langley Vale

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

# SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2026

# CHRIST THE KING



## DIARY

**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 Choral Evensong at St Martin's**

**Jay Holloway-Neville's retirement from work**
At the 10am we will be thanking Jay for his over 20 years of service to St Martin's. We will make a presentation to him and there will be cake with our coffee afterwards.

**Wednesday 25th November**
**10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**

**Thursday 26th November**
**7.30pm Ministry Team meeting**

**Saturday 28th November**
**10.00am – 2.00pm Christmas Fair**

**Sunday 29th November ADVENT SUNDAY**
**9.30am Holy Communion service at Langley Vale**
**10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's**
**6.30pm Advent Carols at St Martin's**

**ORDINATION SERVICE**
I will be at the Cathedral today (22nd) to be part of the ordination of new deacons. I act as an Assistant Director of Ordinands – working with people who are exploring vocation to ordained ministry – hence my involvement. Please pray for those being ordained and their parishes. **Nick Parish**

# 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



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**NEW BISHOP OF GUILDFORD - AN INVITATION TO ATTEND A CONSULTATION MEETING**

As part of the process to appoint the next Bishop of Guildford, Stephen Knott, the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, and Jonathan Hellewell, the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary will be holding an online consultation on **Wednesday 25 November 7-8pm.**

Building on a survey held earlier this year, this online consultation offers an opportunity to share your perspectives directly with the Appointments Secretaries. They will be there to listen and are keen to hear a broad range of views. Participants will be invited to consider questions including:

- What fills you with hope and encouragement about the ministry and mission of the Church in the Diocese of Guildford?
- What challenges and opportunities will the next Bishop encounter?
- What gifts, qualities and experience are needed in the next Bishop of Guildford?
- How can the Diocese continue to serve and support our communities in the years ahead?

All PCC members and congregations are invited to attend.

The meeting can be accessed using this Microsoft Teams Meeting link:
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3324791719884230?p=w1KGIce19fp3U3WcUQ
Or using **Meeting ID**: 332 479 171 988 423 0 **Passcode:** ED79b8Tb




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.

The process of finding someone new has begun (see below). I am so grateful to you for being part of the journey of life and faith at St Martin's and St Stephen's – 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 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**

**SAVE THE DATE!**
**Tuesday 8th December, 7.30pm.**

Archdeacon Martin Breadmore will be coming to give a presentation to the congregation to explain the upcoming vacancy and the roadmap for the appointment process. It would be great for as many people as possible to attend as this will be a great opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have. If you have any questions, please ask us!

***Rob Jeffery & Sarah Luton, Churchwardens***
***(Wardens@stmartinsepsom.org)***

**Seminars - Introducing the Gospel of Mark**
Peter Sills, who wrote 'six steps to the Bible' (a book and study course we followed two years ago) is giving some seminars on the gospel of Mark. Details are:

Tuesday mornings from 10.30am - 12.00. The dates are as follows, together with the link to book a place.

**November 24 2026:** In the first seminar I ask: Who was Mark? When, why, where and for whom did he write? What are the keynotes of his message? Seminar 1
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HFBX

**March 16 2027:** In preparation for Holy Week, this seminar explores Mark's Passion Story, noting its distinctive features and the picture of Jesus it paints. Seminar 2
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HFBY

**May 11 2027:** The concluding seminar looks more closely at Mark's message, at its personal, social and political contexts. Seminar 3 https://www.trybooking.com/uk/HFBZ

**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

## 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.

We have one tree sponsored so far – thank you! Each tree costs between £60 and £90, 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***

**Midnight Mass 11.00pm Christmas Eve**
Once again, we will be hosting Midnight Mass in the College Chapel.
It starts at 11.00pm Christmas Eve and should be over by 12.15am Christmas Day morning.
It is such a beautiful service. You, your family, friends and members of the local community are welcome to come.
Please book here:
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/MabUhna5V6?origin=lprLink
or scan this QR code:

## 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 22nd**
All who offer welcome and hospitality and serve refreshments at our churches. Those to be married in our churches. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those living and working in Pitt Road, Portland Place, Prospect Place, Providence Place and Randolph Road.

**Monday 23rd**
For someone to volunteer to take on the position of Electoral Roll Officer. Our Church Cleaners. Local doctors' surgeries. Richmond Close, Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery Road, Sadlers Way and South Street.

**Tuesday 24th**
Those recently confirmed and their growing relationship with God. Preparation for future baptism and confirmation. All who enter St Martin's in the week and pass through our garden. Church Army (supporting and empowering those most in need in UK and Ireland). Spencer Close, Squirrels Way, St George's Gardens, St James' Close, St Martin's Avenue and St Martin's Close.

**Wednesday 25th**
The Vale School: children, parents, the Co-Heads, staff and Governors. Scouts (especially our 3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Group), Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and their leaders. Local refuse collectors, those who deliver the post and other items. Station Approach, Stevens Close, Strand Close, Sunnybank, and The Grove.

**Thursday 26th**
Our 'Second Thoughts' programme on the second Sunday at 6.30 pm. Education and training in the Parish and future courses. Our Missions: PHAB (bringing together disabled and non-disabled to create an inclusive world). The Hayes, The Oaks, The Parade, The Ridge, The Ridings, Tintagel Close and Treadwell Road.

**Friday 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.

Upper High Street, Victoria Place, Warren Hill and Waterloo Road.

**Saturday 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). Westgate Close, Wilmerhatch Lane and Wimborne Close.

## 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 blessed 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***

# 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,
Long-life Juice, Squash
Tinned Spaghetti,
Instant Coffee
Packet Soup,
Sponge Pudding
Chocolate Biscuit Bars,
Noodles
Male Deodorant, Hair Conditioner,
Washing Powder
Adult Toothbrushes, Shampoo,
Feminine hygiene products

# 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

**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**