



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 5th MAY 2024



The beautiful month of May – growth gathering pace, days lengthening, nature exploding in colour.... and the Parish Annual Meeting. Please come along – after the 10am service on Sunday 12th May. **The Vicar**

DIARY

Sunday 5th May Easter 6

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
6.30pm Evening Prayer at St Martin's

Visiting Organist for this Sunday.

This Sunday 5th May, as Iain Macfarlane is away, we welcome organist D'Arcy Trinkwon, who will play for the 10.00 Sung Communion.

Baked goods and plants for sale

I will be selling marmalade, jam and lemon drizzle cakes after the 10.00am service on Sunday 5th May.

Additionally, I am growing plants to sell; they will be ready by the end of May. There will be lobelia, cosmos, tomatoes, cucumbers etc. All proceeds to go to the Christmas Fair. **Maureen Suatt**

Tuesday 7th May

11.00am Contemplative Prayer Group

We meet in the Lady Chapel at St Martin's for an hour or so of Contemplative Prayer. All are very welcome. Our starting point will be Matthew 28.20: '*Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.*'

4.00pm Take Time To Talk – "Sumer is icumen in"

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in the Headley room)

May 1st is full of festivities which traditionally mark the start of summer and there are many traditions and rituals, myths and legends. How could we celebrate this beautiful time of the year? Following a short introduction to the topic we will reflect, talk, and listen, remembering that in this sort of exploration, questions are more important than answers. Everyone is welcome to come along - just turn up. If you want to know more, please ask me. **Lynne Scholefield**

7.45pm 'Being With' in Church

Wednesday 8th May

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Thursday 9th May ASCENSION DAY

6.30am Dawn service at Box Hill viewpoint



Saturday 11th May

4.30pm Recital: Schubert Mass in G. This charming and youthful work is performed by some of the talented musicians from Epsom College. Accompanying the College's Chamber Choir is the String Orchestra and organ played by the College's Organ Scholar.

Sunday 12th May Easter 6

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's
followed by the Annual Church meeting.

6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's

New Musical Director

Stephen Hope joins us for his first Sunday as Director of Music on Sunday 12th May. Please say hello and welcome if you get the chance.

Second Thoughts - May 12th

Informed Prayer: Prayerful Action

Carole Bourne Carole was Assistant Curate at St Martin's from 2002 - 2005. She has worked with other women most of her adult life, from "consciousness raising groups" in the 1970s, to WATCH, promoting the ordination of women as priests and bishops, and movements aimed at protecting and enhancing girls' and women's access to all forms of education, from primary to adult. In 2012 Carole retired from her parish and was asked whether she would join the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer as the Anglican representative.

In September 2022, Carole became Chair of what is now the World Day of Prayer. She will reflect on the rewards and challenges of working for WDP and breaking the stereotype of WDP as “*the old ladies organisation.*”

Work on the west end terrace outside St Martin's

During May, stonemason Chris Ansty will be working to replace the concrete steps (the central section within the handrails) in front of the main (west) door. Chris will also be repairing other specific areas of the terrace. There will still be access to the church from the terrace, but please be aware of any restrictions and take all possible care when entering and leaving the church.

Sarah Lutton

APCM - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is on **Sunday 12 May** following the 10am service. The purpose of this meeting is to report on all the activities at St Martin's and St Stephen's during 2023 (it was a busy year!), to report on changes to the electoral roll and to show how we are doing on the financial front. It is also the time when we elect new members to the PCC and to the deanery synod.

The meeting is open to all and we hope that as many of you as possible will be there to contribute with your ideas, to ask questions and to support those who are nominated to fill any of our vacancies.

Current Vacancies: There are a number of vacancies we are seeking nominations for, so please consider carefully and pray about whether you can serve in any of these roles or can suggest

someone else who might. If you want to know more, speak to Nick, the church wardens or any current PCC members. The vacancies are:

- 1x Churchwarden
- 3x PCC members for 3 years
- 1x PCC member for 2 years
- 2x Deanery Synod reps

Nomination forms will be available at the back of church or from the Office. The only restriction on joining the PCC is that you must have been on the Electoral Roll for at least six months.

Sarah Lutton

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar - May

Say no to the mow. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals.

Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in Churches Count on Nature (8-16 June 2024) at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchescount-on-nature-faqs/.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian

Photos needed

The children from Ark are making a collage of photos of all the members of our church family. Please can you bring a recent photo of you to donate to the collage?

Photos may be trimmed to fit the overall picture and will not be returned.

Alternatively, we can take your photo at the end of the service and print it for us in the collage. Thank you. ***Yvonne Parish***

Governor vacancy at St Martin's Schools – Volunteer role

We want to hear from people who are interested in the education of children and giving back something to the local community. St Martin's Church of England Schools are looking for committed volunteers to join the Local Governing Body as Foundation Governors. The schools are members of Enlighten Learning Trust Multi Academy Trust, and the Local Governing Body fulfils the governance functions of supporting, challenging and holding school leaders to account for education standards. Our Foundation Governors play a vital role in preserving and developing the Christian character and ethos of the schools.

Governors are subject to clearance through DBS and adopt the ELT Governor Code of Conduct. As well as having St Martin's values at the heart of everything they do, Governors need to engage in relevant governor training, including safeguarding training. St Martin's Schools are committed to championing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and would like to be more representative of our community. We welcome interest from

individuals regardless of background and identity who are able to support the maintenance of the Christian ethos at St Martin's.

Being a Governor is very worthwhile and rewarding, particularly in the changing world of education. To register your interest, please contact St Martin's Church Epsom - Nick Parish at vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

Please copy your email to the Clerk to the Governors

tjones@stmartinsepsom.school

for an application form and information about the appointment process.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Prayer is the foundation of God's kingdom and one of the most powerful tools we have. It underpins everything we do. We can work as hard as we are able, generating lots of activity and exerting much effort in our discipleship and mission, but without prayer much is in vain. The gift of prayer is that all of us, however limited we may be physically, or in the time we have available, can play our part.

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 5th

Our Church Wardens: David Eggett and Sarah Lutton. For a successor to David. All users of Church House. Those suffering from drug or alcohol addiction and their families and friends. Those living and working in Burghfield, Caithness Drive and Carter's Road.

Monday 6th

Our Pastoral Assistants: Mary Gilbert and Elaine Snook. Our Area Dean: Rosemary Donovan. Our Missions: My Time for Young Carers. Those living and working in Cedar Close, Cedar Hill, Chalk Lane, Chalk Paddock and Chalk Pit Road.

Tuesday 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. Those living and working in Chantry Hurst, Chartwell Place, Church Road and Church Street.

Wednesday 8th

Our Parochial Church Council – officers and members. Our Children's Church: The Ark – Yvonne Parish, the children, the parents and volunteers. The Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship. Those living and working in Chuters Grove, Clayton Road, College Avenue and College Road.

Thursday 9th

Our Director of Music. Our Organist: Iain Macfarlane. Our Welcomers: Sarah Lutton 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 living and working in Copse Edge Avenue, Delaporte Close, Denham Road and Depot Road.

Friday 10th

St Stephen's Church: its life, worship and mission to Langley Vale. Safeguarding in our churches: creating and sustaining a

safe welcoming inclusive space for everyone. The Bible Society, Spinnaker Trust (Our Missions) and all those teaching RE locally. Those living and working in Digidens Rise, Dirdene Close, Dirdene Gardens, Dirdene Grove and Dorking Road.

Saturday 11th

Our Bell-ringing Team and Tower Captain Mike Bale. Our Ministry Team. All local young families. Those living and working in Downs Avenue, Downs Hill Road, Downs Road and Downs Way.

MUSIC @ ST MARTIN'S

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm. Future dates for your diary:

11th May: Schubert Mass in G. This charming and youthful work is performed by some of the talented musicians from Epsom College. Accompanying the College's Chamber Choir is the String Orchestra and organ played by the College's Organ Scholar.

25th May: The Amantine Piano Quartet. We welcome cellist Georgia Morse back to the series, this time with fellow musicians to perform quartets by Brahms and Faure.

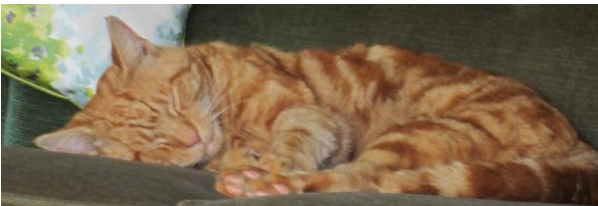
22nd June: The Plaegan Piano Trio performing Ireland and Beethoven

THE POWER OF POETRY: MAY

This month: a poem by D H Lawrence, mainly known of course for his novels and which you may know at least by reputation. He was known too for travel writing, essays, letters and plays. He was also a prolific poet, though many of the thousand poems he wrote were not regarded highly, and the selection I have in front of me numbers just 150.

A few are quite well known, e.g. *Snake* (“A snake came to my water trough...”), and I came across *The North Country* many years ago and was struck by the rhythm of the poetry which – particularly if read aloud and with due regard to the punctuation – reflects the insistent rhythm of machinery and industry.

This poem is *Pax* (peace). It describes a comfortable cat relaxing before a fire, and Lawrence’s description is a metaphor for contemplation and for being fully in the presence of God. For some, such an experience can be fearful, but here, with the image of the relaxed cat luxuriating in the warmth, we are encouraged to be at one with God, and at home in His presence. You will notice Lawrence’s use of repetition throughout.



*All that matters is to be at one with the living God
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.*

*Like a cat asleep on a chair
at peace, in peace
and at one with the master of the house, with the mistress,
at home, at home in the house of the living,
sleeping on the hearth and yawning before the fire.*

*Sleeping on the hearth of the living world
yawning at home before the fire of life
feeling the presence of the living God
like a great reassurance,
a deep calm in the heart,
a presence
as of the master sitting at the board
in his own and greater being,
in the house of life.*

The idea of reassurance, which we so often need in our lives, and of calm is very comforting, as indeed are many of the words selected by Lawrence - asleep, peace, at one, and so on. As far as the cat is concerned though, I suspect any contemplation would be of mice!

Mary Gilbert

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

This week we are in great need of all the following items:

Nappies 5 and 6 plus
Tinned Fruit
Sugar (500g bags)
Noodles (not super or pot)
Male Deodorant

Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste 0-2 and 6 plus
Ketchup
Shaving foam/gel
Conditioner
Washing up Liquid
Biscuit bars (penguins and so on)
Crisps

Please use our supermarket donation points or bring donations directly to us at Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Good Company Hub, behind West Ewell Primary School, Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG.

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to our Church

For general and stewardship giving you can give online via the Charities Aid Foundation. Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit. To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>
OR
2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below.



MAY MISSION FOCUS

AMECA (Alex's Medical & Educational Clinic in Africa)



Ruth Markus, whom many will know from previous visits to St Martin's, founded AMECA in 2006 in memory of her son. It focuses on delivering healthcare and training in Malawi, where facilities, professionals, equipment and medicine are scarce and travel distances prohibitive. The aim is for long term sustainability across a variety of ventures and projects, partnering with existing structures and other organizations.

Community engagement is strong and AMECA has a proven track record of making efficient use of funding to transform lives in Malawi and respond to urgent need. See <https://www.ameca.org.uk> for further details.

Alexander Rennie, Mission & Outreach

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

St
PB

Summer 2024

SPEAKER | CONVERSATION | LUNCH

Wed 1 May | Does God Love Lawyers? | James Wakefield KC

**Wed 5 Jun | God and Gaza - Christian Perspectives on the
Middle East | Revd Canon John Salter**

Wed 3 Jul | Can Faith be Fashionable? | Simon Ward


Welcome & Coffee 11:30am | Talk 12pm

Lunch 1pm | Finish 2:30pm

Charge £10

Book your place at saintpauls.co.uk/foodforthought

St
PB



AMECA

www.ameca.org.uk

'An Evening with AMECA'

Ruthie Markus, CEO & Founder and Consultant Surgeon, Mr Paul Thomas, Medical Director of AMECA, speak about the charity's work in Malawi and the challenges of healthcare delivery.

TIKHALE NDI ANA OCHEPA KUTI TITHE KUWASAMALIRA, TILELE.



NDI UDINDO WA ABAMBO KUWALIMBIKITSA AMAYI ZAMALELEDWE.

With guest Right Hon. Chris Grayling MP

7pm to 9pm, Thur 30 May 2024, Ewell Hall,
7 London Rd, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

£12 per ticket includes wine and nibbles.

Contact Barb Warwick : barb.warwick@virginmedia.com





The **Shrouded in Silence** project has been created by **Whistlestop Arts** to encourage conversations around the topics of death, dying and grief, which are often difficult to discuss. The project has been designed with empathy and creativity and includes a range of artworks, talks, films, podcasts and workshops taking place between February and June 2024.

The exhibition features new work from **Mary Branson, Annalees Lim, Karl Newman, and Luna Russell**. They use their diverse experiences and creative mediums to explore the Shrouded in Silence theme and encourage visitors to reflect on their own feelings. In addition, the exhibition showcases a soundscape by **Miles Russell** and the work of guest artists, community stitch and textile groups, local poets, and creative writers.

Exhibition touring to:

7 FEB - 10 MAR 2024 | Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton-on-Thames

17 APR - 26 APR 2024 | The Horton Arts Centre, Epsom

14 MAY - 20 MAY 2024 | Unit 23, St Martins Walk Shopping Centre, Dorking

12 JUN - 16 JUN 2024 | Place Farm Barn, West Horsley Place

Artists Talks and Workshops

Death Cafes (hosted and led by the Brigitte Trust)

All events are free to join - booking essential

For more information and dates visit:

whistlestoparts.org/shrouded



whistlestop
ARTS
presents

SHROUDED

in silence

Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground, Epsom Rd, West Clandon, Guildford GU4 7FN

Join us for our
CELEBRATION EVENT
at Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground

Friday 21 June 2024 | 6 pm - sunset
*free to join**

To mark the final stage of the Shrouded in Silence project an evening of celebration will be led by a celebrant with poems and artwork created during the project. The evening will also feature a new film that showcases artists, community members, and end-of-life specialists, exploring the different choices we can make when planning for the end of our lives.

The event will conclude with a group walk through the meadow, providing a chance to reflect and appreciate the beauty of nature as the sun sets.

Bring an LED candle or lantern (no naked flames).

*booking essential – RSVP whistlestoparts@gmail.com
whistlestoparts.org/shrouded



**Submitting an item for the newsletter:
Please ensure that all items are emailed to the office marked
'For Newsletter' in the title by
12pm on Wednesday, to be included for that week.**

**Parish Office:
The parish office is open from 9.30am – 12.30pm every
Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567
E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org
Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org**

**If you would like to be added to our mailing list so that you
receive the newsletter and orders of service weekly, please
email the parish office. Please contact clergy and lay
ministers via the office.**