

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

**Registered Charity Number: 1134149**

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**



**Music**

Sunday

**Ephesians 5:19: "speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."**

## DIARY

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June Music Sunday**

**8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's**

**9.30am NO SERVICE (see below)**

**10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's**

**6.30pm Second Thoughts at St Martin's  
'Songs of Praise'.**

Songs of Praise this month gives the opportunity for half a dozen or so hymns and songs to be introduced by members of the congregation. As they introduce the hymn they will say something about the organisation which they represent and something about why it has been chosen.

Do come! You will be very welcome!

***Adrian Esdaile***

### **Tuesday 11th June**

#### **4.00pm Centering Prayer**

'Be still and know that I am God' Psalm 46:10

A small group of us meet every other Tuesday at 4pm, at the back of church, to pray together, in silence. Tea and biscuits from 3.45pm.

If you would enjoy some time for silent prayer with others, please come along.

We begin with something to reflect on – perhaps a biblical passage or Psalm. After our period of silence, we might share something that we have noticed during our time together.

Do Join Us – All are welcome.

Any questions please ask Lynne Scholefield.

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

7.30pm PCC

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June Easter 3

9.30am To be advised

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

6.30pm Choral Evensong at St Martin's

## St Stephen's Church

Following some issues with an ant infestation in the wood of the front gable of the church, our architect visited the site last week. He discovered extensive dry rot and said **the building is not safe to use**. Therefore, we could not have a service there this Sunday (and have invited people to St Martin's).

Structural engineers are due to make a full assessment of the damage, and as soon as they report we will have an idea of the scale of the challenge we face.

We hope to make alternative arrangements for worship in Langley Vale and will let people know as soon as we can.

This is a significant issue, but we can only form a plan once we know the scale, cost, timings and so on. Please pray for our PCC in its discernment, and for the future of our ministry in Langley Vale. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any particular concerns, as we understand that this will be a worrying time.

**Nick & Sarah**

## **Contemplative Prayer Group**

No meeting last week because of the retreat. However, the saying will be used in the 'zoom' meeting at 8pm on Thursday 20th June at 8pm. The saying for this month is from Ezekiel 37.5: *Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.* Details for the zoom meeting can be obtained from me.

***Adrian Esdaile***

## **Work on the west end terrace outside St Martin's**

Our stonemason is replacing the concrete steps (the central section within the handrails) in front of the main door. There is still 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***

## **JUNE HIGHLIGHTS**

- On 12<sup>th</sup> the new PCC meets for the first time.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will mark world Refugee Sunday. At our 10am we will welcome Rev'd Rosie Hoad as our guest preacher, marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosie leaving St Martin's to be ordained. She is currently Vicar of Egham Hythe.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Judith will be ordained Priest at Guildford Cathedral.
- On 30<sup>th</sup>, Judith, at the 10am service, will preside at communion for the first time. We will follow this with a Bring and Share lunch – please look out for further details soon.

## **Keeping in Touch with our Baptism Families - A Big 'Thank You' to Sue – and are *you* able to take on this much valued service?**

For twenty years +, Sue Hyde has been administering the paperwork for our baptisms, filling in the baptism certificate and signing the cards which are given out during the service, as well as sending baptism anniversary cards for five years to every child who has been baptised at St Martin's and St Stephen's. This loving service has been much appreciated by the children and their parents, reminding them that they are part of God's family and our own church family. Sadly, her failing eyesight means that Sue can no longer do this. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank Sue for her long and dedicated service. And also, to ask for a volunteer to step forward to continue this ministry. Please let me know if you are able to do so. **Rev Judith** ([revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:revjudith@stmartinsepsom.org))

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Bring & Share Lunch to celebrate Judith's ordination**

There will be a sheet at the back of church to add your name to if you're coming to the lunch. There will also be a list of items of food and drink, so please tick something that you can bring for sharing.

***Maureen & Sarah***

## **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 9<sup>th</sup>**

Our Director of Music: Stephen Hope. 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.

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

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.

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Our Prayer and Healing Ministry: Contemplative and Centering Prayer. Those who work on our Website, Facebook and YouTube channel. Wheels for the World (Our Missions) and the Sunnybank Trust (based in Epsom). Those living and working in Downside, East Street and Elmslie Close.

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Our Church Development Plan: for Renewal and Growth. Those who read the Bible through the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Didi Steck. Those living locally who are housebound and their carers. Those living and working in Farriers Road, Fyfield Close, Grosvenor Road, Grove Avenue and Grove Road.

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Our Mission and Evangelism Team. Our Church Finances and Our Treasurer. Our future MP. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council: elected members and officers. Those living and working in Hambledon Hill, Hambledon Vale, Harding Road and Hawthorne Place.

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

**March for Nature, London, Saturday 22nd June - join me for a church service.**

This march, supported by groups including The Wildlife Trusts, The RSPB, The Climate Coalition, Chris Packham, WWF-UK, National Trust, WWT, Woodland Trust and Rewilding Britain, is aiming to be a really big gathering. It takes place in London and is a family-friendly, legal march to demand that UK politicians show strong domestic and global nature and climate leadership. There will be a strong Christian presence, including A Rocha UK, Christian Climate Action, Green Christian, Operation Noah and other groups, and these are organising a service at 11am at Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount St, Mayfair, London, W1K 3AH, which includes a children's outdoor nature-based church. Do join me by coming to the service (and the march, if you wish) - you'll need to sign up for a free ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creation-cries-out-service-and-march-for-nature-tickets-891545124467?aff=eand> with love, Helen Williams.



**Save the Date:**

**Sunday 21 July 3pm, (*refreshments from 2.30pm*).**

**Lecture: ‘Renewal and Reconciliation:  
The Codrington Reparations Project’**



We are delighted to welcome Revd Dr Duncan Dormor to give our third annual Brathwaite Memorial Lecture. Duncan is the General Secretary of USPG (the United Society Partners in the Gospel) formerly known as SPG (the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts).

In 1710, SPG received a bequest from Sir Christopher Codrington for two estates in Barbados. The estates totalled 700 acres and included a population of enslaved African men, women, and children. From then until 1838 SPG owned and ran the estates.

One of those involved in the running of the estates was John Brathwaite, who later acquired the freehold of a house in Epsom and lived there with his niece Mary Ashley (hence Ashley House, Ashley Road and the Ashley Centre). John Brathwaite is buried in a vault at St Martin's and, as we know, his memorial has been the subject of much pain and controversy over the past few years.

Between the years 1712 – 1838, the Codrington Estate was managed as a plantation business. Although conditions improved towards the end of this period, the use of the whip 'in the field' was not abolished until September 1829. (U)SPG's stewardship of the Codrington Estate ended in 1983.

Last September when USPG announced The Codrington Reparations Project, Duncan gave the following statement: "USPG is deeply ashamed of our past links to slavery. We recognise that it is not simply enough to repent in thought and word, but we must act, working in partnership with Codrington whose descendants are still deeply impacted by the generational trauma that came from the Codrington Plantations".

USPG explains further on their website: Though USPG has long been engaging critically with its past including a substantial amount of research into Codrington, we are aware that it is not enough just to offer an unreserved apology. It must be more than mere thoughts and words. As an organisation that is committed to championing justice, we seek to honour the command in 1 John 1: 6-7 and move now towards honest reparative action.

*"If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:6-7*

The project is planned to last 10-15 years and will include four areas of work in collaboration with the descendants of the enslaved: community development and engagement; historical research and education; burial places and memorialisation, and family research. USPG has pledged 18M Barbadian dollars – equivalent to approximately £7M – to be spent in Barbados to support this work. The Codrington Trust suggested the sum of money for the project and USPG accepted it, without dispute.

The Most Revd Howard Gregory, Primate of the Church in the Province of the West Indies said:

“It is our hope that, through this reparations project, there will be serious reckoning with the history of the relationship between The Codrington Trust and USPG, but also a process of renewal and reconciliation that will be healing of the pain of the past.”

Please come along to hear about this important project and encourage your friends and others to come too. There will be time for questions and discussion afterwards.

***Revd Judith***

## ST MARTINS MUSIC AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

For those who come to St Martin's for worship, music is provided by the choir, the organ and, as often happens at Evening Prayer and occasionally other services, it comes from music websites.

However, beyond music for worship, St Martin's is frequently filled with music on other occasions. Our big and beautiful building with its wonderful acoustics is an essential venue for key local community groups. Epsom and Ashted Choral societies and Epsom Chamber Choir each hold up to four concerts a year in St Martin's. Local schools also use the building for their end of term celebrations.

Then there is our own series of concerts – Music @ St Martin's – on Saturday afternoons. The performers range from students from our local schools to international artists. A performance at St Martin's can be an important stepping stone for those in the early stages of their careers. We ask our audiences only for a donation, so not having the money to buy a ticket isn't a barrier to experiencing some wonderful music. We aim only to break even with these concerts.

Our last concert in this current season of Music @ St Martin's is on 22 June, featuring trios for piano, violin and cello by Beethoven and John Ireland. Our new season launches in September with some of the talented musicians from City Freeman's school.

Stephen Hope, our new Director of Music, brings his Sussex Festival Choir and the Sinfonua da Chiesa to St Martin's on July 21st in a programme of choral masterpieces : Mozart's Exultant Coronation Mass and Haydn's charming Great Organ Mass. A fabulous array of soloists including Glyndebourne star Gillian Ramm and Sussex favourite Susan Legg will be one of the highlights of this performance which starts at 7.15pm.

Stephen founded this event 20 years ago to raise funds for the wonderful Hospices which receive so little funding other than from private and public donations. Amongst a galaxy of stars, Dame Felicity Lott and Sir Willard White have given their services, along with all the orchestral players involved. This has enabled all the money raised through tickets and raffles to be given to St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley and Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. So far, we have been privileged to raise in excess of £190,000.

We welcome you all to this great evening to support these amazing institutions which give so very much to our communities with loving and flawless care.

Tickets are £20 and £15, concessions on the door or in advance or from Stephen 07770 392067. Website: Sussex Festival Choir

Income from those who hire our church for a music event is, of course, an important revenue stream for us. But what mustn't be overlooked is the number of local people who come through our doors because of these concerts. If the music they hear here touches their hearts, then what else they might experience or be touched by whilst in our church?

## THE POWER OF POETRY: JUNE

Henry Vaughan, 1622-95, was a physician who lived, like George Herbert (see February's poem), in the tumultuous years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Unlike Herbert though, Vaughan lived through the Civil War, the execution of King Charles I, and the Restoration in 1662. His contemporaries thought little of his poems. But, to quote from *A History of English Literature* by Emile Legouis and Louis Cazamian, some "are pure gold". Vaughan's own country, Wales, inspired in him a love for nature. After a serious illness his poetry was mainly religious.

This poem is about his longing to understand the meaning of death and where those he loved are. His thoughts of those are "fair and bright" in contrast to his initial sadness. In the fourth verse he speaks of hope, humility and God, and later acknowledges that it is God who has let him remember so clearly the time when those he mourns were alive, and he states his longing to be in Heaven too. Many of us have probably had similar thoughts when feeling bereft and alone.

*They are all gone into the world of light!  
And I alone sit ling'ring here;  
Their very memory is fair and bright,  
And my sad thoughts doth clear.*

*It glows and glitters in my cloudy breast  
Like stars upon some gloomy grove,  
Or those faint beams in which this hill is drest,  
After the sun's remove.*

*I see them walking in an air of glory  
Whose light doth trample on my days:  
My days, which are at best but dull and hoary,  
Mere glimmering and decays.*

*O holy Hope! And high Humility.  
High as the heavens above!  
These are your walks, and you have show'd them me  
To kindle my cold love.*

*Dear, beauteous Death! The jewel of the just,  
Shining nowhere, but in the dark;  
What mysteries do lie beyond thy dust  
Could man outlook that mark!*

*He that hath found some fledged bird's nest, may know  
At first sight, if the bird be flown;  
But what fair well or grove he sings in now  
That is to him unknown.*

*And yet as angels in some brighter dreams  
Call to the soul, when man doth sleep:  
So some strange thoughts transcend our wonted themes  
And into glory peep.*

*If a star were confin'd into a tomb,  
Her captive flames must needs burn there;  
But when the hand that lock'd her up, gives room,  
She'll shine through all the sphere.*

*O Father of eternal life, and all  
Created glories under thee!  
Resume thy spirit from this world of thrall  
Into true liberty.*

*Either disperse these mists which blot and fill  
My perspective still as they pass,  
Or else remove me hence unto that hill,  
Where I shall need no glass.*

**Mary Gilbert**

## **FOODBANK WANTS LIST**

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

Urgent- Jars of cooking sauce  
Urgent- Instant Mash  
Urgent- Long life Sponge puddings  
Packet soup  
Chocolate spread, Chocolate, Crisps  
Urgent- Toilet rolls  
Female Deodorant, Shaving Foam  
Washing powder or pods  
Baby toiletries (shampoo, body wash etc).

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.



## MISSION FOCUS – JUNE

Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need. Information about our collaboration with Mercy Ships is featured on the Missions Abroad noticeboard in Church. St Martins Church has supported Mercy Ships ever since Dr Michelle White first attended the ship in 2012 to begin her 5 year assignment.



## **Managing Biodiversity in Epsom Common**

Come and listen to Stewart Cocker, Countryside Manager for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council who will be talking to us about how Epsom Common is managed, protected, and enhanced. There will be time for Q&A at the end.

**Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm,**  
**Epsom Methodist Church**  
**Ashley Road KT18 5AQ**  
Refreshments served before event

The Eco-church groups in Epsom would like to invite you to this event.





### Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable. We expect all of our staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure (DBS) and identity check.

### Contact

Full job description and details:  
admin@stpeterswoth.org



## WE ARE HIRING!

### Parish Administrator & PCC Secretary

St Peter's seek an experienced and well-organised individual to provide support to the Rector and Churchwarden. This will include organising volunteer rotas, producing weekly news sheets, publicity material and maintaining the parish website. As PCC Secretary you will support six trustee evening meetings per annum.

### Essential Skills

- Diary management
- Internet/ online skills
- Word processing
- Familiarity and basic proficiency with spreadsheets
- Website administration

### Terms & Conditions

- Flexible hours, expected to average 50 hours per month (a minimum of 10 hours per week).
- Office hours preferably on Tuesday and Thursday.
- £18 per hour rising to £20 per hour subject to satisfactory six-month probation. Annual review.
- Location: Parish Office at St Peter's Church, Breech Lane, Walton on the Hill.

**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](mailto:office@stmartinsepsom.org)**

**Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://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.**