




Registered Charity Number: 1134149


WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 14th JULY 2024



The PLUMB LINE

*Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My People”
— Amos 7:8b*



DIARY

Sunday 14th July

8.30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Stephen's

10.00am Choral Mattins at St Martin's

4.30pm Second Thoughts - an earlier time, a different place!



July's Second Thoughts will be led by Mike Mullins of Soul Rewilding. Amongst other things, Soul Rewilding aims to help us discover an older

story to reconnect us to sacred nature. Nature, the wild, has always been the primary setting of the journey to the divine and soul. "The Life of Gaia - A meditative walk on the life of mother earth" will take place by the willow trees by the pond in Rosebery Park. Please arrive by 4.20pm so that we are ready to start at 4.30pm. We should finish by 6.20pm, giving us time to go back to church for tea, cake, reflection and conversation.

Mike Mullins is a leadership coach and spiritual retreat facilitator. His background is in Catholic mysticism and psychology. Mike runs retreats on a range of themes, from finding the divine in the margins of life, masculine spirituality, spirituality and personality difference, to the ineffable nature of the divine. For Mike the key to rewilding the earth, to reversing biodiversity loss and the effects of climate change, is a spiritual challenge. How do we understand, love and treat all nature as sacred, as an expression of the divine?

Please ask Revd Adrian or Helen for more details.

Tuesday 16th July

4.00pm Take Time To Talk

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

Holidays and Holy Days

'The world is a place where the extraordinary can sit just beside the ordinary with the thinnest of boundaries.'

'I must go down to the sea again,
to the lonely sea and the sky;
I left my shoes and socks there -

I wonder if they're dry?' **Spike Milligan**

Pilgrimages, journeys, holidays, birthdays - what differences have these made in your life? 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**

Wednesday 17th July

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

2.00pm St Martin's school leavers' service

Thursday 18th July

7.30pm Standing and Finance Committee

Sunday 21st July

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion at St Martin's

3.00pm 3rd annual Brathwaite lecture:

**'Renewal and Reconciliation:
The Codrington Reparations Project'**

**Rev'd Dr. Duncan Dormer, General Secretary
of USPG (the United Society of Partners in the Gospel)**

In 1710, (U)SPG received a bequest from Sir Christopher Codrington of two estates on Barbados. They totalled 700 acres and included a population of enslaved African people. SPG owned and ran the estates until 1838. From 1712 – 1838 the Codrington Estate was managed as a plantation business. Last September 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.*

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, 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.”*

We have a link with this at St Martin’s, through our memorial to John Brathwaite, who was involved in the restoration of the state and the mission college during his time as a plantation owner nearby.

Please come 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**

Jul 21st 7.30pm Concert in aid of local hospices

Stephen Hope, our Director of Music, brings his Sussex Festival Choir and the Sinfonua da Chiesa to St Martin's 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

Funeral for the late Michael Rogerson

We have been informed by Fr David Fisher (All Saints, Carshalton) that Michael Rogerson's requiem mass will take place there on July 30th at 1pm. St Martin's parishioners are welcome to attend.

St Stephen's Church

Structural engineers, having established the damage to the frame of the front wall is due to wet rot, will soon be conducting further investigation to ascertain the extent of the damage, what repairs may be necessary and the cost of those repairs. We will make sure we keep everyone updated as we know more.

Meanwhile, our friends at the Village Hall are happy for us to use their facilities on a Sunday morning, so our normal pattern of worship at 9.30am each Sunday continues.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any particular concerns, or more details on what has led to the problem.

Nick & Sarah

Ukrainian Refugees still urgently need accommodation

As you know, many people in Epsom, including members of St Martin's, came forward and offered space in their homes to those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Sadly, as the war continues, there is still an urgent need for more people to provide a safe home for those who have nowhere to live, not just for new arrivals but also for those needing to move on from their initial host family due to changes in circumstances. If you think you may be able to host someone, please contact Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network on 07432 660653 or <https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/contact-us> or come and chat to me.

Revd Judith

Bring and Share Lunch

Somebody made a superb Ginger Cake for the lunch, would love to have the recipe sometime.

Thanks, Maureen Maurensuatt@virginmedia.com

DATES COMING UP

Ride and Stride Day

It is now less than three months until the annual sponsored Ride & Stride day on **Saturday, 14th September**. Of the monies raised 50% is returned to the nominated church and the balance distributed as grants to maintain or improve the fabric of Christian places of worship. The Trust has an unprecedented amount of money available to distribute as grants which can be up to £3,000 per church. When considering applications, the Trustees look more favourably on those who have shown support for the Ride & Stride. We would like your support on the day: this could range from providing people to visit other nearby churches and chapels, providing refreshments for your visitors, just having the doors open for visitors to look inside or merely putting a signing in sheet on the outside door. I am attaching a poster, sponsorship form, a list of Surrey churches (including some which are now in Greater London) and a Visitor Register; other information and documents can be found on the website:

<https://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org/ride-stride/>

Colin Quemby, Area Organiser.

020 8642 3720k



CTIE is planning the return of the PASSION PLAY on Good Friday 2025. Involvement of all of the congregations from all the churches in Epsom would be very welcome. If you feel you would like to be involved in the PASSION PLAY, whatever role, please contact Meg Topley, and / or come along to the meeting at Epsom Methodist Church on Saturday 20th July from 3-4pm.

FOODBANK WANTS LIST

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

Sweetcorn (we have none)
Cooking Sauce (tomato, curry etc), Rice
Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit
Long life Milk (full fat or semi skimmed)
Dried Noodles (not pot or instant)
Long Life Juice, Squash (we have none)
Long life Sponge puddings
Adult and Children's chocolate
Biscuits, Savoury biscuits /crackers, Crisps
Custard, Rice Pudding, Ketchup (we have none)
Mayonnaise (we have none)
Nappies 6+, 4 and 7, Strong shopper bags and bags for life.
Use our supermarket donation points or bring donations to
Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Good Company Hub, behind West
Ewell Primary School, Ruxley Lane, Ewell . KT19 0JG.

THE POWER OF POETRY: JULY by Mary Gilbert

This month, Rudyard Kipling: It is well-nigh impossible to do justice to Kipling's life in the space available. Born in India in 1865, sent home, aged 5, with his younger sister, to board with strangers in Southsea. His parents stayed in India (a period remembered in later years with hatred). Then school at Westward Ho!, back to Lahore as a reporter, published *Departmental Ditties* in 1886, back to London and literary success in 1889, marriage 1892, death of elder daughter 1899, Nobel prize 1907, death (missing in action) of his son in 1915, and Kipling's own death in 1936.

He published much, including *The Jungle Books*, *Kim*, and *Just So Stories*, and lots of poetry. Two of his aunts were married to Sir Edward Burne-Jones and Sir Edward Poynter, and Stanley Baldwin was a cousin. He is often accused of being an imperialist, but there is no doubt that he loved India, was inspired by it, and wrote about it often, though never returning after leaving in 1886. He wrote an affecting war poem, *My Boy Jack*, which contrary to what I expected when I read it first, was not about his own son but about Jack Cornwell, the youngest sailor to perish at the battle of Jutland.

I've chosen *The Way Through the Woods*, a celebration of the triumph of nature over the man-made. It is a haunting evocation of the quiet of the woods - you can almost smell the damp earth, feel the cool air and hear the rustle of the wood's inhabitants. Perhaps the woods represent the difficulties of a journey through life, but the main theme of the poem seems to be that ultimately our stay on earth is transitory and that given a chance nature *will* triumph. I find a sort of comfort in that concept.

*They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the coppice and heath,
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.*

*Yet if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate,
(They fear no men in the woods,
Because they see so few.)
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods.
But there is no road through the woods.*

I suggest that anyone who hasn't should visit 'Bateman's', Kipling's home in East Sussex, if they are able. It is well worth a visit and is not just a pleasant house in a beautiful setting, but gives a lot of information about Rudyard Kipling's life and works.

STEWARDSHIP

Increasing our Giving Income

We hope to grow our giving by 10% this year. If you are a regular giver, thank you, and please could you see if you are able to increase your gift. If you are not yet a regular giver, please consider becoming one. It's easy!

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:





Holiday at Home

3 days of summer fun!

at

Epsom Methodist Church

Mon 29th July, Wed 31st July, Fri 2nd Aug 2024

10.30am - 3.45pm

We invite you to join us on our fantasy holiday, stopping off in India, spending a day on board our cruise ship and ending our exciting adventure in Egypt!

Each day includes morning coffee, a delicious lunch, afternoon tea, crafts and entertainment.

The cost of this event is £10.00 per person per day or £25.00 for 3 days.

Please contact the EMC office on 01372 728535 or email belonging@epsommethodistchurch.org.uk if you are interested in attending.



**14TH
SEPT.
2024**

RIDE+STRIDES for Churches

DISCOVER AND SUPPORT SURREY'S HISTORIC CHURCHES.



Join Us

Stretch your legs and relax your mind, visit unique historic buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with the family and friends!

Ride+Stride for Churches is a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches, exploring and enjoying town and countryside in Surrey. Run by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust, the money raised helps to repair churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout our County.

Cycling/walking not for you? Join many others who decide to put on their own Ride & Stride fundraising events such as coffee mornings, tea parties and talks.

Half of the money you raise goes to your nominated church, half for grants to help maintain Surrey's churches.

Find out more and download sponsorship forms and maps at www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org or email scpt@quemby.cix.co.uk



**Surrey Churches
Preservation Trust**

Find out more at www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org

Charity number 1063656

Supported by the
National Churches Trust
Charity Number 1109845



Yours for good.

**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.**