



Light in the DARKNESS

JOHN 1:4-5

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Hello and Welcome

Hello and welcome to the December mini edition of our magazine after a break of 3 months.

We hope to be fully operational in 2026!

In case you are not aware of recent changes, Rev'd Anne has sadly left us for another posting in Warrington meaning the new Churchwardens Onnie and Gillian are responsible for trying to keep things running smoothly.

This is a huge learning curve for both of us, having only been in position since May.

As Anne used to edit the magazine we have only just managed to find a new editor.

We are also reverting to our traditional name of "South Wye News" from our next edition.

Life is an Adventure!
Success is not Final;
Failure is not Fatal;
It is the courage to continue that counts!

Our church community is growing even closer together in strength as we face this challenge. We have a lovely team of visiting clergy to lead us in worship each Sunday even though we are unable to transmit on Facebook anymore. We have a wonderful new altar cruet set to use for our Communion services, donated by Rev'd Anne on her departure.



Hello and Welcome continued

We are currently in the season of Advent, a period of reflection and anticipation, as we lead up to Christmas Day with special services:



12.12.25 3.30pm Messy Church - Christingle Service in the Narthex

14.12.25 11.00 am - 9 Lessons & Carols followed by mince pies and

mulled wine or spiced apple juice.

21.12.25 9:30 am Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 3.00 pm Crib Service in St Martin's

8.00 pm First Mass of Christmas at St Peter's, Bullinghope

Christmas Day 10.00 am Christmas Day Communion at St Martin's

Please join us at any or all these services. We have been busily tidying, cleaning and polishing our lovely churches.

With Christmas Blessings to you and your loved ones, Gillian Farlow and Onnie Lane





ADVENT

An Advent Message

We tend to think of Advent as a time of waiting... waiting for Christmas... counting down the days as we tear open each door and devour chocolate from our Advent calendar. Moreover, it is a time of preparation.

Originally, it was a time for new Christians to prepare themselves as they approached the festival of the Epiphany, when they would be baptised. Eventually, however, it became linked with Christ – awaiting the celebration of his incarnation and anticipating his second coming, when he will restore all things to himself. In Advent, therefore, our waiting should not be idle or indulgent, replete with mince pies, shopping and sherry; in Advent, our waiting should have purpose.

This leads us to the question... what exactly should that purpose be? Like you, I've read my fair share of Advent devotionals and, always, the purpose in all this preparation seems to be readying oneself to meet Christ, either at the crib or in the clouds. I do understand this. After all, only the righteous can see God: this is what scripture tells us. Equally, I don't understand it at all, because what about grace? If we are already made right through our faith, what's the point of all this preparation? I have come to believe that preparation is about relationship.

We prepare ourselves to stand face to face with God by getting to know Him through prayer, scripture, worship and sacrament. But building a relationship is about more than recognition; it's about journeying together towards that point of complete knowing; it's about love, learning, and community. What we find when we ready ourselves to meet Jesus is that we are loved. We are loved with a love that sustains us and inspires us; a love that enables us to love others, and a love that empowers us to live together in peace. In this way, our preparation is not merely a vertical, heaven-bound, exercise; it is very much grounded in the horizontal. So I urge you to prepare yourselves this Advent.

But let your preparation not be a self-indulgent massage of your own spiritual life. Let it lift up your head to look around you, to see with the eyes of love, to reach out with the hands of love, and to draw others into the journey alongside you.



Christmas Services at St. Peter's Bullinghope

December 13th— Christmas Coffee Morning at St Martins Church 10am-12 noon (to raise funds for St Peter's Bullinghope)



December 21st 11:15am- Carol Service

December 24th 8pm First Communion of Christmas

For more information on our services please check our Facebook page 'St Peter's Bullinghope'



Wreath Making Workshop

Jill Crowther is hosting a wreath making workshop on Thursday 18th December in St Martins hall, to raise funds for St Martin's, 11:30am-2pm.

The cost is £30 per person. Limited spaces, please book via St Martin's office.



2026 - Advanced Warning of Dates!!

- PCC Meeting 6th January
- January Jumble Sale 31st January
- PCC Meeting 3rd February
- Easter Sunday April 5th
- Summer Fete TBC
- Christmas Fayre TBC



St Martin's & St Peter's Diary

December 2025

Sun 7th 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

11:15am Holy Communion at St Peter's

Tues 9th 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Church Hall

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Church Hall

Frid 12th 15:30pm Messy Church Christingle in St Martin's Church

Sat 13th 10:00am—12noon Christmas Coffee morning @ St Martin's in aid

of St Peter's.

Sun 14th 11:00am Carol Service at St Martin's

Tues 16th 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex

Thurs 18th 11:30-14:00 Wreath Making Workshop

13:00pm Young at Heart

Sun 21st 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

11:15am Carol Service at St Peter's

Tues 23rd 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex

Christmas Eve St Martin's 3pm Crib Service

Christmas Eve St Peter's Bullinghope 8:00pm Early Midnight mass

Christmas Day St Martin's Ross Road

11:00am Christmas Communion

Team Office Closed

Sun 28th 9:30am Holy Communion

Tues 31st 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex

January 2026

Sun 4th 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

11:15am Holy Communion at St Peter's

Monday 5th Team Office Reopens

Tues 6th 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex



St Martin's & St Peter's Diary

Tues 6th 7:15PM PCC Meeting in the Choir Vestry

Sun 11th 9:30 am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Tues 13th 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex

Sun 18th 9:30 am Holy Communion at St Martin's

11:15am Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Tues 20th 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex

Sun 25th 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Tue 27th 13:00-14:00 Bible study in the Narthex

14:00-15:00 Coffee - in the Narthex



St Martin's, Visiting Clergy

Sunday 7th Dec 9:30am Jane Plackett Ferguson

Sunday 14th Dec 11:00am Carol Service Jackie Nevill & Barry Stevens

Sunday 21st Dec 9:30am Jane Plackett Ferguson

Christmas Eve 15:00pm Crib Service Jackie Nevill & Michael Ranyard

Christmas Eve 8:00pm St Peters Sheila Anthony

Christmas Day 10:00am Jackie Nevill

Sunday 28th Dec 9:30am Bishop David Thompson

Sunday 4th Jan 26 9:30am Jackie Nevill

Sunday 11th Jan 26 9:30am Michael Ranyard

Sunday 18th Jan 26 9:30am Jackie Nevill & Barry Stevens

Sunday 25th Jan 26 9:30am John Thewlis

What am I reading on Sunday?

We're in to a new Church year (and purple hangings) on the first Sunday of Advent. Sunday readings through December may be complicated by Carol Services and other seasonal excitements, so, as always, check with the person running your service.

Sunday 21st Dec

4th of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-end

Purple

80:1-8

Date	Sunday 1st Dec	Sunday 7th Dec
'Sunday'	1st of Advent	2nd of Advent
Colour	Purple	Purple
1st Reading	Isaiah 2.1-5	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm	122	72:1-7
2nd Reading	Romans 13.11 end	Romans 15:4-13
Gospel	Matthew 24.36-44	Matthew 3:1-12

Date	Sunday 14th Dec
'Sunday'	3rd of Advent
Colour	Purple
1st Reading	Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm	Magnificat
2nd Reading	James 5:7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11

Christmas Eve 24th Dec			
'Sunday'	Christmas Eve		
Colour	Gold/White		
1st Reading	Isaiah 52: 7-10		
Psalm	98		
2nd Reading	Hebrews 1: 1-4(5-12)		

Gospel *John 1: 1-14*

Christmas Day
Sunday'
Colour
Colour
Gold/White
1st Reading
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm
96
2nd Reading
Titus 2:11-14
Gospel
John 1:1-14

What am I reading on Sunday?

28th Dec Date

Sunday' 1st of Christmas Colour Gold/White

1st Reading Numbers 6:22-end

Psalm

2nd Reading Galatians 4:4-7 Gospel Luke 2:15-21

2026

Sunday 4th Jan **Date** 'Sunday' **Epiphany** Gold/White Colour 1st Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

72: 10-15 **Psalm**

2nd Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 Gospel

Date Sunday 19th Jan 2nd of Epiphany 'Sunday'

Colour White

1st Reading Isaiah 9:1-4 27:1-11 **Psalm**

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 2nd Reading

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

Isaiah 49:1-7 40: 1-12

Gold/White

1Corinthians 1: 1-9

Sunday 11th Jan

Baptism of Christ

John 1: 29-42

Sunday 25th Jan

3rd of Epiphany

White

Malachi 3:1-5

Psalm 24:7- to end Hebrews 2: 14-end

Luke 2: 22-40

Sunday 1st Feb Date

'Sunday' Candlemas Colour Gold/White 1st Reading Isaiah 58: 1-9a

Psalm 119:1-8

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Gospel Matthew 5: 13-20



at St Martin's Church

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Friday 12th December 3:30pm

in the Church Hall

Learn about and make a Christingle

Children MUST be accompanied by adults EVERYONE WELCOME

Free to all - but donations welcome



On **Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th December** St Martins church carpets are having a winter deep clean .

Please take care when walking on the carpets from Wednesday 10th onwards, we are hoping the carpets will be fresh ,clean and dry ready for our Sunday services.



Stewardship at St Martin's









PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

Your church is proud to be part of the Parish Giving Scheme



When you choose to give through the *Parish Giving Scheme* it allows our church leaders to do for our community what you do for your household: plan wisely for the use our resources in support of the mission and

ministry to which God has called us

Join us

To find out more please speak to your Church Treasurer or Churchwardens

Stewardship at St Martin's

Reaching the parts other beers simply cannot reach...

Many of you will recall the advertisement and the brand associated with these well-known words.

Generosity (our attitude) and giving (our generous actions) are similarly far reaching; so often we never get to know the people and places our giving and generosity have reached. Or perhaps you've been the recipient of such generous actions or giving. Giving to the work of the church in our community changes, transforms - and yes - even saves lives. Generous giving of money, love, time and skills is the fuel in the tank of life of the church; and that ministry and mission touches and shapes lives in so many ways; our own life and the lives of so many other people too, and most of the time we never fully get to know about the difference our giving has made.

Can you recall the last time someone was generous to you? How did it feel?

How did you react? What difference did it make to you? The incredible thing about giving is that the giver and the receiver both benefit. An article from 'Psychology Today', entitled 'Be Kind, Feel Happy' explains more... "Scientists asked people to keep a record of how they spent their money over a month, noting everything from paying bills to shopping, donating to charities and buying gifts. The happiest people, it turned out, were those who listed spending money on other people. Volunteers were also given cash and half were asked to spend it on others, while the rest were told to spend it on themselves. Regardless of the value, those who spent the money on others were the happiest. It's not so much the cost of a gift that's important, it is the act of giving itself that matters, regardless of what is given – weather it be money, food, a treat, your time, your support, or even friendship itself. Kindness and giving, whatever form it takes, increases your happiness levels". If it's possible to make such a positive difference to both ourselves and others through our giving, how much more can we do together through our giving to

you may already know about our membership of the Parish Giving Scheme. The scheme has already helped to transform the life of so many churches across the diocese, and we're excited about the difference it is making make within our church too.

the work, ministry and mission of our church? If you're a member of St Martin's

Please continue to pray for the work of all our churches and in particular how each of us is imitating the incredible generosity of God to us, in the way we give back to him - in generous financial giving and through committed service. "For it is in giving that we receive." Francis of Assisi; and it's good for you too!

Richard Jones

Acts of Kindness



There are thousands of displaced people trying to survive on the streets of Paris with no shelter, food, warmth, access to toilets or privacy. People, including families, are as you can image really struggling as winter hits and they are being exposed to a number of frightening dangers ranging from people traffickers to extremely wet weather, with freezing temperatures around the corner. The top five most needed items in Paris are:

People in Motion Donations List

Priorities

ADULTS & KIDS -Practical, comfortable clothing and paired footwear.

MENS & TEENAGE BOYS -All practical clothing in small sizes.

ADULTS & KIDS - NEW underwear and socks.

CAMPING -Sleeping bags, blankets, camping mats and tents

FOOD & OTHER - Tea and coffee, tinned; tomatoes kidney beans, chickpeas. Oil, veg stock cubes, tinned fish, spices, biscuits, cereal bars. Mobile phones.

NO- formal/ party wear, dressing gowns, used underwear, skimpy clothing, damaged or dirty items, pillows, broken tents, bed linen, mattresses, electrical items, books, soft toys, half used toiletries, impractical shoes.

Sorting Days at our collection hub

Sorting aid is hard work...please bring your donations along and join us. You'll make a difference, learn lots, make friends and eat cake! Children welcome. Dogs on leads.

Saturday 10am-1pm

Wednesdays- vary seasonally, please check Facebook

www.people-in-motion.co.uk

Tents; Sleeping bags; Blankets; Duvets (clean and not smelly); Pants (New) Brilliant things can happen when we work together, share and care. Keep donating your warm things, spare cash and time to volunteer.



We welcome all gifts of food or donations of money. We always need: Tinned meat (stews, casseroles, ham), Tinned vegetables, Smash,

UHT/Dried Milk, Sugar, Tinned fruit/rice pudding/custard, Coffee, Toothpaste, Soap & Toilet rolls. Donations of food can be delivered to our premises: 41 Monkmoor Street, HR1 2DX Opening Hours are 10-12, 1-3, Monday to Friday, We are grateful for donations of money which enable us to provide fresh food items such as milk, butter and cheese with the Food Parcels.

Donations can be in cash or by cheque made out to "Hereford Food Bank". If you are a UK taxpayer, your donations can be gift aided, please download complete a gift aid form from the website and all future gifts will be included in your declaration. Cheques and gift aid forms can be posted to The Hereford Food Bank, 41, Monkmoor Street, Hereford, HR1 2DX.

Acts of Kindness





Poor mental health will affect all of us, at some time in our lives. It does not respect age, gender, creed or colour.

Based in a woodland setting in North Herefordshire, The Cart Shed helps those with an imbalance in their lives - to heal, learn new skills, find friendship and a future: - how to manage their own mental and physical health and well-being in a sustainable way.

We work with adults and young people, members of the Armed Forces, Veterans, ex-police officers, paramedics, teachers, medical staff, factory workers, carers, the unemployed and school children. Our youngest is 11, the oldest 88.

Not just those experiencing long term physical and mental health issues, we also welcome people facing their first emotional upset, those with bi-polar, schizophrenia, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, substance misuse, bereavement, stress and those for whom a sudden unexpected event has knocked them off balance.

Signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant, we hold the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, Herefordshire Council's Community Champions Award for volunteering and Herefordshire Business Awards Charity of The Year 2019.

We are a service without walls. We share food, stories, experiences and life's challenges. Being in a safe place where it's safe to laugh and safe to cry enables participants to find a sense of inner peace. We are a community, a family which welcomes new faces each week and supports those who have been with us for a while to find a future; we walk alongside the vulnerable and the outcast and bring them back into the heart of our communities.

Would you like to support us and make us your charity of the year 2025?

Katie Eastaugh, CEO

katie@thecartshed.co.uk

Trustees: Patrick Wrixon DL (Chair), Allan Johnson, Bill Jackson, Allan Davies, Jenny Watt.

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Regular Sunday Services

St Martin's, Ross Road

9.30 am Holy Communion

Baptisms on request.



There will be no live Facebook screening of services during the Interregnum. We will be live screening Night prayer every Monday on Facebook.

St Peter's, Bullinghope

11.15 am Holy Communion—1st Sunday is Holy Communion. 3rd Sunday of the month is Morning prayer.

Baptisms if required on second Sunday of the month For patterns of Communion and Morning Prayer, please check on St Peter's Facebook page

For occasional alterations to

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of Aspiration, soon to be South Wye news.

Please let us know what you have liked and would like to see in Future editions.

Thank you



Meet The Team

Clergy

We are currently in the interregnum for South Wye churches.

Updates will be provided and timescales announced when known.

Team Office Staff



Team AdministratorSharron Brown

Financial Co-Ordinator

Kirstie Weaver

Sexton

Scott

Cleaning Specialist

Sara

TEAM OFFICE (at St Martin's Church)

89 Ross Road, Hereford HR2 7RJ office@stmartinshereford.org.uk

OPENING HOURS Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday 11:00am-15:00pm

Call in to see us on a weekday morning or phone us on 01432 353717

Websites:

www.stmartinshereford.org.uk St Martin's Church, Ross Rd, Hereford Or find us on Facebook @stpetersbullinghope