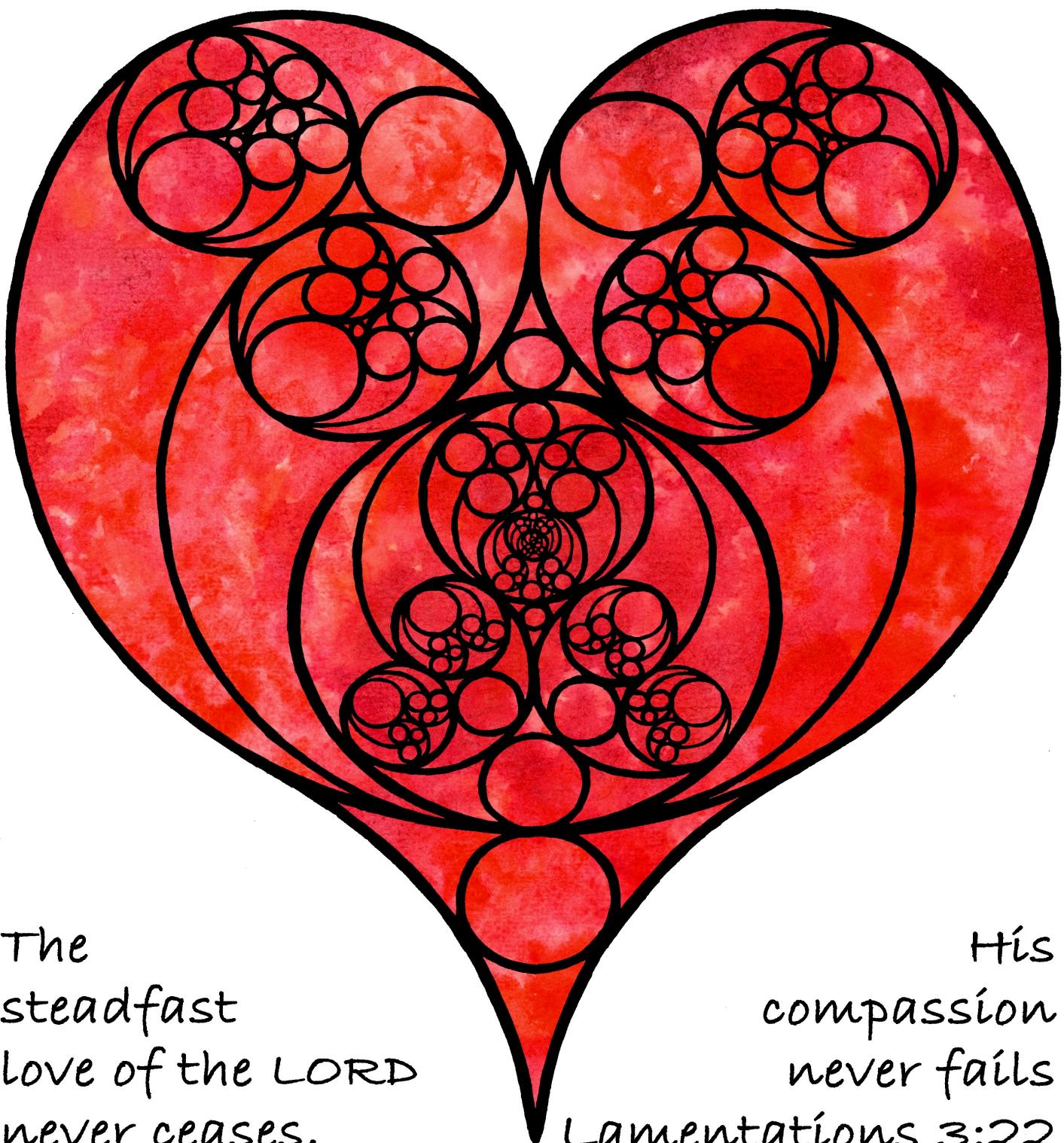


Wye Bridge News

£1

The Magazine of
South Wye Benefice

St Martins & St Peters Bullinghope churches



The
steadfast
love of the LORD
never ceases,

His
compassion
never fails
Lamentations 3:22

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Forward From Michael Ranyard—A Christmas Carol

Over Christmas, a neighbour's son had to produce an essay on 'Scrooge', and that made me think again about the story. In 1843, Charles Dickens made a visit to some unpleasant factories in Manchester which used child labour and he was appalled by the conditions in which children worked and he was depressed by the wretchedness, the dirt and open immorality he saw among the inhabitants of these long rows of new, cramped brick houses.

It was to Dickens a new and shocking face of squalor, and it was this that gave him the impetus to write 'A Christmas Carol'. During his visit, he wrote to a friend, "God forgive us for the prosperity that is the fruit of our new machines and factories. I am going to throw myself on the feeling of the people with a short story. It will attempt to exploit the notion that Christmas is a merry time but entails duties and obligations, especially to the poor."

What many of the productions and versions of 'A Christmas Carol' overlook is that it is a Christian story about faith and the duties of faith, and it comes from 'Dickens' deep faith in Jesus. The story of Scrooge is structured as a Christmas carol, and all through, there are quotes from, or echos of the Gospels and Jesus' teaching.

The message is that faith implies action to meet the needs of others. Dickens has Marley's ghost tell Scrooge the lesson he has learnt. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

The epistle 1 John, contains a statement which has been one of the pillars of my faith, "whoever does not love the brother whom he can see cannot love God whom he has not seen."

It is perhaps a long way from Scrooge to how we are going to rebuild our small Christian community, but I think not. For whatever else we do, we must put our faith into action. Our first purpose is to offer worship to God that is attractive and inviting, but then folk need to see that we do offer practical serving love to our neighbours. For to misquote Marley, and Dickens, 'in God's name, humankind is our business. The common welfare is our business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, are, all, our business.'

Michael

Churchwarden News—St Martins

Even though we are currently without a resident member of clergy our parish life is continuing.

Every Sunday morning at 9.30am we have Holy Communion in church followed by refreshments. It is great to meet visiting clergy with new ideas.

During the service we offer Sunday School for the children.

Evening Prayer is on St Martin's Church Facebook page at 8pm every Monday.

Bible Study Group is every Tuesday at 1pm in the Narthex.

Tea, coffee and cakes are served at Tuesday Club every Tuesday at 2pm in the Narthex.

Messy Church runs once a month.

Young at Heart meets twice a month.

FoodShare at Saxon Hall is at 12 noon every Monday.

FoodShare at Belmont Community Centre is at 12 noon every Friday.

More details for the above groups can be found on our Facebook page and elsewhere in this magazine.

Most months we enjoy a social event giving us an opportunity to get together informally and meet up with friends. We are planning a Valentine's Day Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall on Saturday 14th February from 2pm to 4pm. Please join us – all are Welcome. We are very lucky to have an energetic group of volunteers who organise and run each and every one of these activities.

Over the past couple of months we have also been concentrating on making our buildings more welcoming. Carpets have been deep cleaned, cupboards tidied, surfaces scrubbed and woodwork polished. Needless to say this is an ongoing activity.

We are blessed with our helpers, paid and unpaid, without whom we would cease to function.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our church services, clubs, groups and activities.

St Martin's Churchwardens: Gillian Farlow & Onnie Lane



Churchwarden Spotlight—St Peter's Bullinghope

Hello my name is Simon and I'm one of the church wardens at St Peter's Bullinghope.

I've been church warden at Bullinghope for many years and enjoy the challenges it brings.

Bullinghope Church is very important to me and my family. My parents got married there, I was baptized and my brother also got married there. My father (Jeff) who is also Churchwarden has been the church organist since 1968.

I work full time on the railway and in my spare time I'm also a supporter of Westfields FC as well as a rail enthusiast. I like travelling to different railway stations around the UK railway network.

I'm married to Natasha and have a stepson called Josh.

During the Interregnum we are only having 2 services a month. As we are a very small congregation.

I undertake most jobs associated with looking after the church from ringing clergy to confirming their attendance, making sure the right alter cloth is on. I also make sure order of services are ready. I'm at church early enough to put heating on so church is warm for start of services, making sure the boiler has enough oil to work and the water tanks are full. I also do a bit of cleaning in the church.

I lead Morning Prayer when no clergy are available and organise and head PCC Meetings.

There always seems to be something I need to email Sharon in the office for!

At the beginning of the Interregnum, I organised harvest festival, literally walking around Tesco the Friday before the service buying produce to decorate the church. I led the Remembrance Sunday service, and I also decorated the church for Christmas and organised a coffee morning which we held at St Martins just before Christmas to raise funds for St Peters.

This also meant delivering leaflets around Bullinghope lane advertising harvest and Christmas services with the help of Jeff and my wife Natasha.

I also keep the churches Facebook page updated.

What would I like? Well, to get the congregation into double figures, we average about 5/6 now so it would be wonderful if more people from our wider parish would come and join us and help to keep our church an important part of the community.

Simon





St Peters Bullinghope Christmas Fundraising Update

Christmas went really well at Bullinghope.

First we had the coffee morning at St Martin's and we raised £200 for Bullinghope.

A massive thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning and St Martin's for letting us host this at the back of the church.

We had a carol service and a communion service on Christmas Eve night.

Also a massive thank you to Rev Sheila Anthony for taking our Christmas services

Also may I say thank you also to Rev Tony Kelk , Rev Jackie Nevil and Rev Raymond Adams who have also taken services during Interregnum.

On Sunday 1st February our 11.15am Holy Communion service will be led by the Bishop of Hereford, RT Rev Richard Jackson. Our next service will be on 22nd February, lay-led Morning Prayer

All are welcome to join us for the service.

Simon

Valentines Day Afternoon Tea party

Saturday 14th February 2pm till 4pm

Come and Join us in
St Martins Church Hall





St Martin's & St Peter's Diary February 2026

Sun 1st	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Holy Communion at St Peter's
Tues 3rd	1-2pm 2-4pm 7:15PM	Bible study in the Church Hall Coffee - in the Church Hall PCC Meeting in the Choir Vestry
Frid 6th	15:30pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall
Sun 8th	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 10th	1-2pm 2-4pm	Bible study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Thurs 12th	12:30pm	Young at Heart lunch in church hall
Frid 13th	15:30pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall
Sat 14th	2pm	Valentines Day Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall
Sun 15th	9:30am	Morning Prayer at St Martin's
Tues 17th	1-2pm 2-4pm	Bible study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Weds 18th	11:00am	Ash Wednesday service at St. Martin's
Thurs 19th	2:00pm	Young at Heart Arts & Crafts in the Narthex
Sun 22nd	9:30am 11.15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Morning Prayer at St. Peter's
Tues 24th	1-2pm 2-4pm	Bible study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Frid 27th	15:30pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall



St Martin's & St Peter's Diary—advance dates

- ◆ 3.2.26 PCC Meeting @ 7:15pm Choir Vestry
- ◆ 14.2.26 Valentine Day Afternoon Tea 2pm—4pm Parish Hall
- ◆ 3.03.26 PCC Meeting @ 7:15pm Choir Vestry
- ◆ 14.03.26 Eco Church Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall 10:30—12 noon
- ◆ Passover Meal Thursday 2nd April Time TBC
- ◆ 180th Anniversary Celebration weekend 9th—10th May , a whole weekend of celebrations to include our Spring Fayre, Afternoon Tea, evening prize bingo and curry .Sunday celebration service and Parish lunch in the church hall
- ◆ Quiz night TBC
- ◆ Summer fete TBC

A representative from Hereford Diocese is holding a Consultation Meeting on the 7th February, 10am-12.30pm, in St. Martin's church hall, to give everyone a chance to discuss what attributes they would like our next incumbent to have.

All are welcome.



St Martin's, Visiting Clergy

Sunday 1st Feb	9:30am	Bishop Richard Jackson
Sunday 8th	9:30 am	Jackie Nevill
Sunday 5th	9:30 am	Lay-Led Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd	9:30am	Jackie Nevill & Barry Stevens

What am I reading on Sunday?

Please check with the person running our service.

Date	Sunday 1st Feb
'Sunday'	Candlemas
Colour	<i>Gold/White</i>
1st Reading	Isaiah 58: 1-9a
Psalm	119: 1-8
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Gospel	Matthew 5: 13-20

Date	Sunday 8th Feb
'Sunday'	2nd Sunday before Lent
Colour	<i>Green</i>
1st Reading	Genesis 1: 1 –2:3
Psalm	136: 1-9, 23-end
2nd Reading	Romans 8: 18-35
Gospel	Matthew 6: 25– end

Date	Sunday 15th Feb
'Sunday'	3rd Sunday before Lent
Colour	<i>Green</i>
1st Reading	<i>Exodus 24: 12—end</i>
Psalm	2
2nd Reading	2 Peter 1: 16—end
Gospel	<i>Matthew 17: 1-9</i>

Date	Wednesday 18th Feb
'Sunday'	Ash Wednesday
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm	51: 1– 17
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20b- 6:10
Gospel	Matthew 6: 1-6,16-21

What am I reading on Sunday?

Date	Sunday 22nd Feb
'Sunday'	1st Sunday of Lent
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
Psalm	32
2nd Reading	Romans 5: 12-19
Gospel	Matthew 4: 1-11

Date	Sunday 1st March
'Sunday'	2nd Sunday of Lent
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm	121
2nd Reading	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
Gospel	John 3: 1-17

Date	Sunday 8th March
'Sunday'	3rd Sunday of Lent
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm	95
2nd Reading	Romans 5: 1-11
Gospel	John 4: 5-42

Date	Sunday 15th March
'Sunday'	Mothering Sunday
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Exodus 2: 1-10
Psalm	34; 11-20
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
Gospel	Luke 2: 33-35

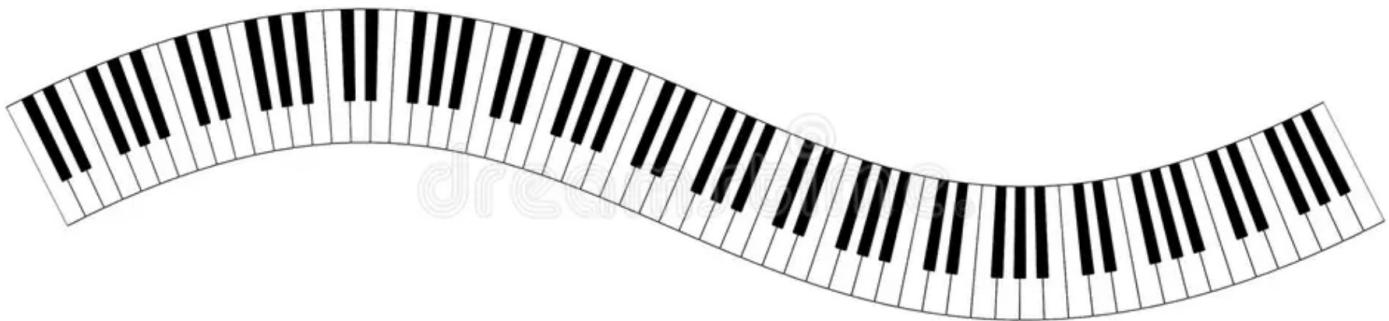


at St Martin's Church
Friday 13th February
3:30pm
in the Church Hall
Theme 'God is Love'
It's Church, but not as you know it.

Messy Church is a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

Children MUST be accompanied by adults
EVERYONE WELCOME
Free to all - but donations welcome

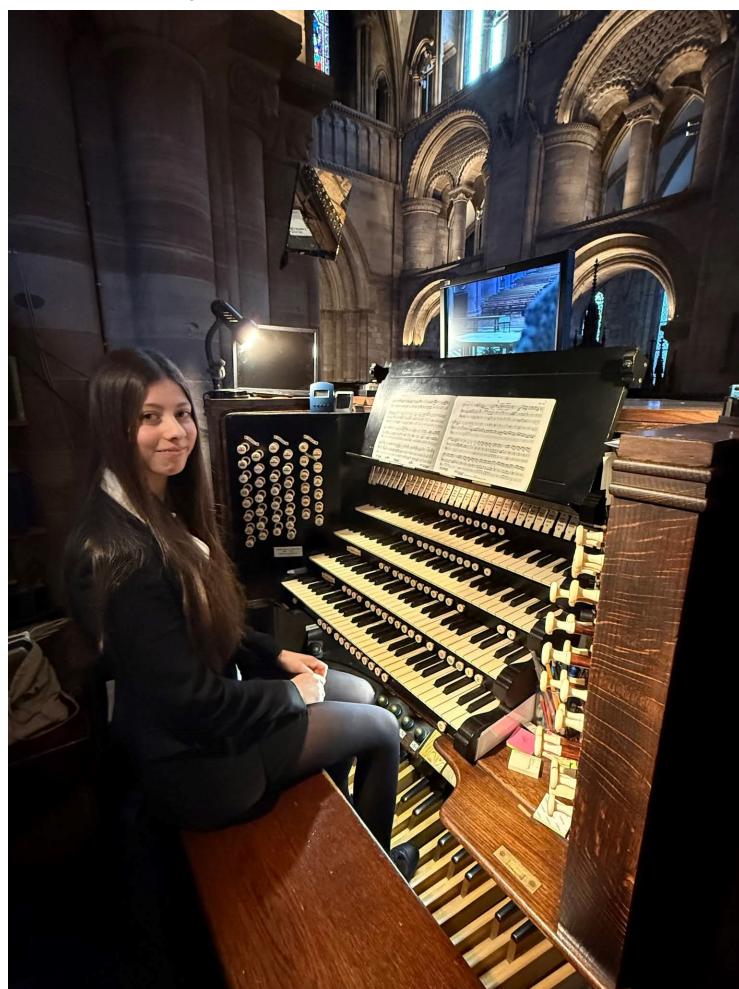




Earlier this week, our Year 7 pupils explored how Hereford Cathedral's organ works (catch it on our Instagram story).

Thursday, that same instrument was played for morning Chapel by Year 12 student, Arabella C, who performed the hymn and voluntary on the world-famous 'Father Willis' organ.

We are proud that our students have exceptional opportunities to engage with one of the country's most celebrated instruments.



Well done, Arabella! 🎵



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 of 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

In a church, stewardship is the faithful management of God's gifts (time, talents, treasures, and creation) as a disciple's grateful response to God's generosity, extending beyond money to include using one's whole life to serve God's mission, support the church, and bless others. It's a lifestyle of responsible stewardship, recognizing God as the owner of all resources and viewing oneself as a temporary manager.



Key aspects of church stewardship:

- **Biblical Foundation:** Rooted in the understanding that God owns everything, and humans are entrusted to manage it for His purposes, as seen in scriptures like Genesis.
- **Beyond Money:** While tithing (financial giving) is important, stewardship also encompasses using your time, talents, relationships, and even the environment responsibly.
- **A Way of Life:** It's a spiritual practice and a lifestyle choice, a daily decision to live as a follower of Christ, making God the priority.
- **Response to God's Love:** It's a joyful response to God's extravagant love, particularly the gift of Jesus, by giving your whole self back to Him.
- **Practical Application:** Involves practical actions like volunteering, leading worship, managing church property, and supporting ministries, ensuring resources build God's kingdom.
- **Stewardship vs. Fundraising:** Stewardship is a spiritual, relational approach to giving and managing resources, distinct from secular fundraising, focusing on cultivating generosity and accountability.

In essence, Christian stewardship is about being a faithful manager of all that God provides, using those gifts to honour Him, further His work, and bring blessings to the world.

Young at Heart



Onnie, Marlene & Julia welcome everyone, every 3rd Thursday of the month.

2pm in the Narthex at St Martins Church.

We play games including Bingo. We do Flower arranging and many other crafts.



We also meet every 2nd Thursday of the month and enjoy a meal prepared for us where we celebrate fellowship and all things "Young at Heart".

Why not come along and join us, just turn up every 3rd Thursday of the month.

It will be great to see you there!

Onnie, Marlene & Julia

Eco Church



Coming In March's edition of Wye Bridge News an article from our EcoChurch volunteers.

St Martins has already attained the Bronze award. You will see in church and around the church yard evidence of their work in practical terms in caring for God's earth.

Our EcoChurch volunteers are taking part of this years "big garden bird watch'



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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

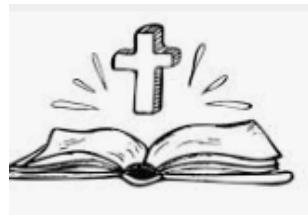
For patterns of Communion and Morning Prayer, please check on St Peter's Facebook page

For updates on these service times, please see the Church Facebook page.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of Aspiration, soon to be Wye Bridge 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 Administrator

Sharron 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