

Wye Bridge News

The Magazine of
South Wye Benefice
St Martins & St Peters Bullinghope churches £1.00
May 2026



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Forward From The Reverend Jackie Nevill

Did you have an older brother, cousin or friend who decided to teach you to swim by dropping you in the deep end of the swimming pool? Thankfully I didn't, my dad taught me to swim in the chilly sea off Eastbourne. My thoughts today though centre on the feeling that our Father has, on more than one occasion, lobbed me into situations where I wonder 'what am I doing here', probably because I haven't listened or responded to him.

For example, finding myself in a multi bed dorm! What is the etiquette? A few years later told to fly to Kigali with 5 days' notice, where exactly is it? Arriving at the airport and no one to meet me, and I had no idea where I was supposed to go! Then I'm sharing a house with several male pastors for a week, none of whom speak English. Another time I'm in a convent near the DOC and Rwandan border and from my bedroom watch sparks flying from the local volcano and look at the graves of nuns slaughtered by insurgents.

I tell these stories because I always hang on in faith to the truth that God knows what he has planned, Isaiah 43:19, 'Behold I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'

And the result of these uncomfortable, and at times scary happenings, is that I'm here with you at South Wye and able to help during the interregnum, again a deep end experience, and thanks to Sharron for guiding me through the legalities which I didn't have to cope with in Portugal or Rwanda.

It's always a shock when the vicar tells you they're leaving, but of course, God had this change for South Wye planned, 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? 'The verse continues, 'I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.' How exciting!

Rev Jackie

Churchwarden News—St Martin's



Palm Sunday service was well attended with a procession consisting of Scouts and Cubs who also took part in the readings. I would like to thank Doreen and Bev for organising the procession.

Good Friday service saw a lovely turn out to be welcomed by wonderful singing from John's choir group who sang beautifully. Thank you John for arranging for the choir to sing for us and thank you to everyone for attending.

Special thanks to Deanne, Marion, Joan and the team for providing the beautiful flower arrangements and decorating the church. It was beautiful with the Easter bonnets included.

Easter Sunday service, conducted by Michael Ranyard, again it was so lovely to see so many in the congregation and a special thank you to Michael & Kate for providing the baskets of Easter eggs that were given out to the congregation after the service.

Special thanks also to everyone who provides the coffee & tea after our services, it is so very much appreciated.

Our thoughts are with Michael's wife Sue, wishing her a speedy recovery.

On April 26th we had our APCCM meeting (see page 5) I would like to thank everyone for attending and I am looking forward to working with John as fellow Churchwarden.

Onnie

Churchwarden News—St Peter's



We had a lovely service on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Rev Sheila Anthony for taking the service.

Looking forward to May, it is going to be a busy month ahead with 2 services and an APCM to look forward to.



St Peter's will be holding its Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting on **Thursday 21st May** at St Peter's Church with an **11:30 start**.



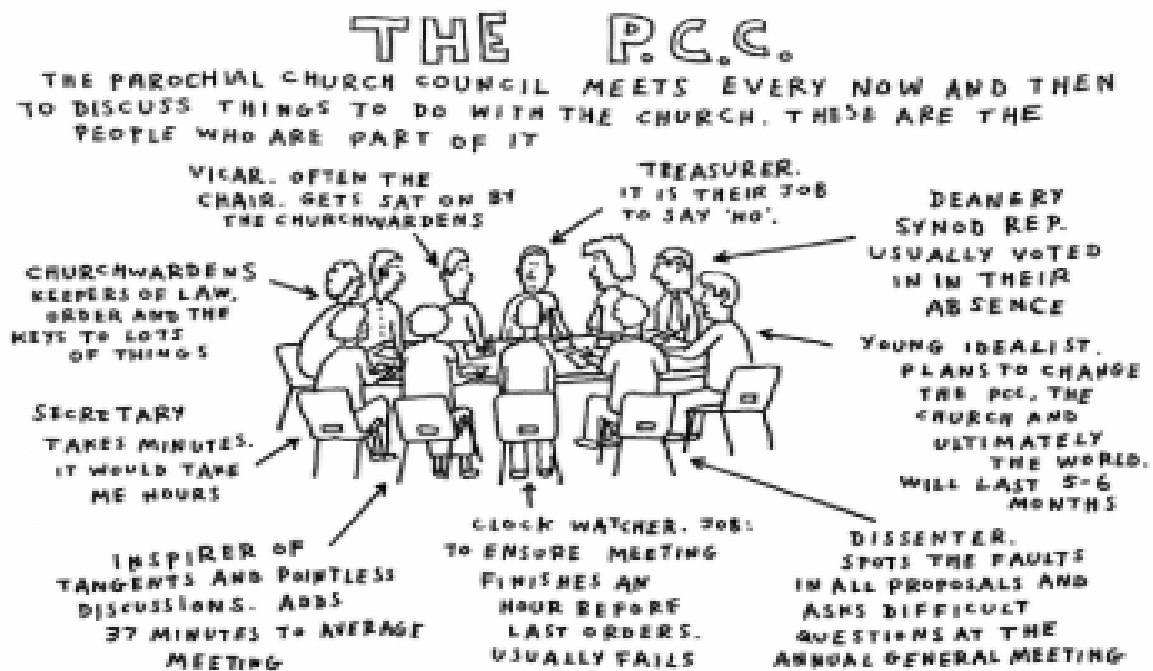
Services and Events in May at St. Peter's

3rd May– 11.15am Holy Communion lead by
Canon John Thewlis

17th May– 11.15am Morning Prayer

21st May– 11.30am APCM in St. Peter's Church

St Martin's APCCM –The results



The APCCM was held on Sunday 26th April and the following people were elected to serve the parish as Churchwardens, PCC members, Deanery Synod and Safeguarding Officers .

Churchwardens— Oenwen Lane and John Eden

PCC Members— Sue Cockroft

John Eden—Treasurer

Irene Goodman—PCC Secretary

Oenwen Lane

Bev Merritt

Marlene Price

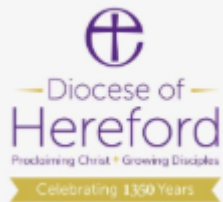
Julia Ware

Clive Wilce

Sue Wilce— Minute taker

Deanery Synod— Irene Goodman and Oenwen Lane

Safeguarding Officer— Bev Merritt



Archbishop of Canterbury

Pastoral visit to Hereford Diocese

The Diocese of Hereford is delighted to share the exciting news that the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, will make a two-day visit to the Diocese on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October 2026. This is a part of a series of pastoral visits to dioceses in the province of Canterbury during her first year in office. There is an opportunity for everyone to welcome the new Archbishop to celebrate the life, mission and witness of the Church across Herefordshire and South Shropshire as part of our Year of Celebration. The visit underscores Archbishop Sarah's commitment to engaging with people from across the breadth of the Church of England at the local level and to listen to the joys, challenges and hopes of those serving in diverse rural and market towns.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, said: "As I start this new ministry, I am eager to visit dioceses and parishes across the Church of England to shine a light on where God is at work in local churches and communities.

"I am also looking forward to visiting Hereford, to join with the diocese as they mark 1,350 years of faithful witness."

During the two days, the archbishop will take part in a range of activities designed to reflect the breadth of diocesan life.

The Bishop of Hereford, The Rt Revd Richard Jackson said:

"We are thrilled to be welcoming Archbishop Sarah to the Diocese of Hereford. This visit will be a moment of encouragement and affirmation for all who serve so faithfully in our parishes and communities. It will also be a valuable opportunity for us to share our local story of how God is at work, including the challenges we face, the creativity we see, and the hope we hold as we seek to live out God's mission together."





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

Sun 3rd	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Holy Communion at St Peter's
Tues 5th	1-2pm 2-3pm 7.15pm	Bible study in the Church Hall Coffee - in the Church Hall PCC Meeting in St. Martin's Choir Vestry
Frid 8th	4pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall
Sun 10th	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 12th	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Thurs 14th	12:30pm	Home Instead lunch in St. Martin's hall
Sun 17th	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Morning Prayer at St Peter's
Tues 19th	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Thurs 21st	2:pm	Young at Heart Tea Party @ 2pm
Sun 24th	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 26th	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Sun 31st		Joint Service Holy Communion at St. Martin's with St. Peter's



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

- ◆ PCC 5th May
- ◆ Messy Church— 8th May
- ◆ 24th May Pentecost Parish Breakfast in St Martin's Hall after the main service £2.50 min donation
- ◆ Quiz night TBC
- ◆ Summer fete Saturday 11th July 12 –3pm—see page 16



St Martin's and St. Peter's, Visiting Clergy

Sunday 3rd May	9:30am	Rev John Thewlis
	11:15 am	Rev John Thewlis
Sunday 10th	9:30 am	Rev Sheila Anthony
Sunday 17th	9:30 am	Rev Jackie Nevill
	11:15am	Lay- led
Sunday 24th	9:30am	Rev John Thewlis
Sunday 31st	9.30am	Rev Jackie Nevill & Barry Stevens

St Martin's Church

Friday 8th May 2026 4-5:30pm



Since Christmas last year, the Messy Church team has been blessed by the addition of 8 pupils from years 9 and 10 of The Hereford Church of England Academy. These volunteers help the team by running craft activities, performing dramas from the bible and helping practically during clear up time. They were particularly welcome in the April Messy Church when over 30 were in attendance for the session on The Road to Emmaus. It was a great time particularly enjoyed by all the primary school children that took part.



What am I reading on Sunday?

Please check with the person running our service.

Date	Sunday 3rd May	Sunday 31st May
'Sunday'	5th Sunday of Easter	Trinity Sunday
Colour	White	Gold/White
1st Reading	Acts 7: 55-end	Genesis 1: 1-2(4a)
Psalm	31 : 1-5	8
2nd Reading	1 Peter 2: 2-10	2 Corinthians 13:11-end
Gospel	John 14: 1-14	Matthew 28:16- end

Date	Sunday 10th May
'Sunday'	6th Sunday of Easter
Colour	White
1st Reading	Acts 17: 22-31
Psalm	66: 7-end
2nd Reading	1 Peter 3: 13-end
Gospel	John 14:15–21

Date	Sunday 17th May
'Sunday'	<i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>
Colour	White
1st Reading	Acts 1: 6 –14
Psalm	68; 1-10
2nd Reading	1 Peter 4: 12-14:5:6-11
Gospel	<i>John 17: 1-11</i>

Date	Sunday 24th May
Sunday'	Pentecost
Colour	Red
1st Reading	Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm	104: 26-end
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13
Gospel	John 20: 19-23



RSPB Big Bird Watch 2026

The Results are in!

This year over 650,000 nature lovers counted 9,473,932 birds. This is the worlds largest garden wildlife survey.

The Results of the Top 10

No Bird Number Counted

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. House Sparrow 1,275,378 | 6. Great Tit 562,690 |
| 2. Blue Tit 1,114,620 | 7. Robin 534,032 |
| 3. Starling 796,002 | 8. Goldfinch 492,721 |
| 4. Woodpigeon 787,190 | 9. Magpie 469,419 |
| 5. Blackbird 598,783 | 10. Long Tailed Tit 424,715 |

Despite these numbers, UK birds are in serious decline. Song Thrush, Skylarks, Lapwings and House Sparrows are in gradual decline. Most of the declining species are farmland birds. Woodland birds like the Blue Tit, Nuthatch and Great Spotted Woodpecker are still on the green list of least conservation concern. Declines may have started in woodland habitat also with Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and Willow Tits now red listed because of their severe decline.

Trichomonosis

This disease is found in several species of garden birds although finches appear particularly at risk. It spread quickly and is passed on where birds share food and water. To help our feathered friends you are advised to feed in moderation, clean feeders and water containers weekly and change water daily. Avoid flat feeders, the RSPB no longer recommends using bird tables and offerings on other flat surfaces due to the high risk of disease transmission.

Birdbox's

In the garden behind the church hall, we had a Robin take up residence early February in one of our bird box's. Early April she successfully fledged two chicks to add to the local numbers.



Coming Soon

National Hedgerow Week 2026 is being held between 4 th – 10 th May, for more information on what is taking place checkout:

www.NationalHsdgerowWeek.org.uk

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) 3rd—9th May

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is the compost industry's largest, most far-reaching education and awareness campaign, celebrated worldwide each year during the first full week of May. The mission is simple but powerful: bring people together to share the benefits of composting organics and using compost to build healthier soil.

This year's theme is "**Compost! Feed the Soil that Feeds Us.**" Soil is the foundation of life. It grows the food we eat, filters the water we drink, and sustains the biodiversity that keeps our ecosystems in balance. Yet soil is also one of our most threatened resources, with erosion, top soil & nutrient depletion, and contamination endangering its health worldwide. Protecting and restoring soil is a global priority and one of the most impactful ways we can care for the planet.

Composting has many benefits. These include:

- ❑ Excellent soil conditioner: By making compost, you are creating rich humus for your lawn and garden. This adds nutrients to your plants and helps retain soil moisture.
- ❑ Recycles kitchen and garden waste: Composting can divert as much as 30% of household waste away from the bin. That's important, because when organic matter hits the landfill, it lacks the air it needs to decompose quickly. Instead, it creates harmful methane gas as it breaks down, increasing the rate of climate change.
- ❑ Introduces beneficial organisms to the soil: **Microscopic organisms** in compost help aerate the soil, break down organic materials for plant use, and ward off plant disease.
- ❑ Good for the environment: Composting offers a natural alternative to chemical fertilizers when applied to lawns and garden beds.

COMPOST

What To Compost



What Not To Compost



Composting Rules Of Thumb

If it's too dry, add greens. (e.g. some grass cuttings, fruit and veg which are quite moist)

If it's too wet, add browns. (e.g. wood shavings, newspaper,

card egg boxes, toilet roll tubes)

It should be about the same wetness as a squeezed sponge: damp, but not saturated. A healthy compost pile should have much more carbon than nitrogen, but since most materials are not pure carbon or nitrogen, a simple rule of thumb is to use one-third green materials and two-thirds brown.

There is a wealth of ideas and information to get you started at compostfoundation.org/compost-resources/

World Bee Day - 20th May

Five reasons pollinators matter

Pollinators, such as bees play a vital role in the health of plants, animals, people and the environment. They help feed the world - Pollinators contribute to 35 percent of the world's total crop production, supporting 87 of the 115 leading food crops, including fruits, vegetables, seeds, and nuts. These crops are critical for diverse diets and livelihoods. Without adequate pollination, yields decline, food becomes scarcer and more expensive – placing food security and the livelihoods of farmers and communities at risk.

They strengthen plant health - Pollinators are essential for the natural reproduction and genetic diversity of plants, which helps enhance their resistance to pests, diseases, and climatic conditions. This is vital for maintaining plant health. Healthy, resilient plants may require fewer chemical inputs like pesticides, which, if not used properly, can pose risks to pollinators. Practices such as integrated pest management and agroecological approaches help manage plant health in ways that also safeguard pollinators and ecosystems. They support human health through better nutrition - Pollinators ensure the availability of many nutrient-dense foods - like berries, seeds, nuts, and vegetables - that are crucial for balanced diets and disease prevention. Without them, the supply of these foods could decline, leading to poorer diets and negative health outcomes.

Pollination also supports biodiversity in our food systems, helping to sustain a wide variety of crops that contribute to more resilient and diverse diets. Many of these foods play a critical role in preventing micronutrient deficiencies, including Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and iron. They maintain healthy ecosystems and biodiversity - Pollinators enable the reproduction of nearly 90 percent of the world's flowering wild plants - more than 300 000 species. These plants are the backbone of ecosystems, providing habitat, shelter and food for a wide range of wildlife. Pollinators play a role in the regeneration of forest areas, wetlands, and other ecosystems, contributing to the overall environmental health of the planet. Their decline sets off a chain reaction, threatening biodiversity and weakening the ability of ecosystems to withstand climate change and environmental stress.

They signal environmental health risks - Pollinators are indicators of environmental health. Because they are

sensitive to ecosystem disruptions, monitoring pollinator health offers vital clues about wider environmental threats.



When pollinator populations decline, food production and essential ecosystem services are affected, triggering a feedback loop that worsens both environmental and human health. Protecting pollinators is therefore critical to safeguarding the ecosystems that sustain plant, animal, and human health.

Did you know?

You don't have to be a beekeeper to protect bees and other pollinators. Here are some easy alternatives:

- Plant pollinator-friendly flowers
- Establish bee houses for solitary bees
- Opt for organic, sustainable food choices
- Buy honey and bee products locally
- Avoid harmful chemicals and pesticides
- Leave nesting sites for ground-nesting bees
- Plant hedgerows



Sue Cockroft is holding a coffee morning at 199 Ross Road on Saturday 23rd May from 10:00am—12:00am to raise funds for St Martin's Church.

Cakes and raffle on the day .

All welcome

Onnie, Marlene & Julia welcome everyone, every 2nd & 3rd Thursday of the month.

This month we had an excellent afternoon, it was lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves singing along to Irene playing the organ. So many of these songs we sang twice as everyone was enjoying them so much.

A big **Thank You** to Irene for a wonderful afternoon, we can't wait for the next sing-a-long. Also a big **Thank You** to Marlene, Julia and Joyce for helping myself provide a lovely tea.

Onnie





St Martin's Church
Ross Road Hereford
Saturday 11th July 2026
12am – 3pm

We need donations for all of the following please :

**Prizes for the Draw -Cake Stall –Bottle Stall – Plants-
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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 service times, please see the Church Facebook page.

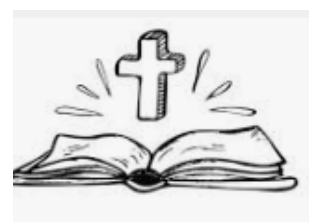
We hope you have enjoyed this edition of Wye Bridge news.

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

Future editions. Please email - office@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Thank you

Sue the editor



Meet The Team

Clergy

We are currently in 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-3.00pm

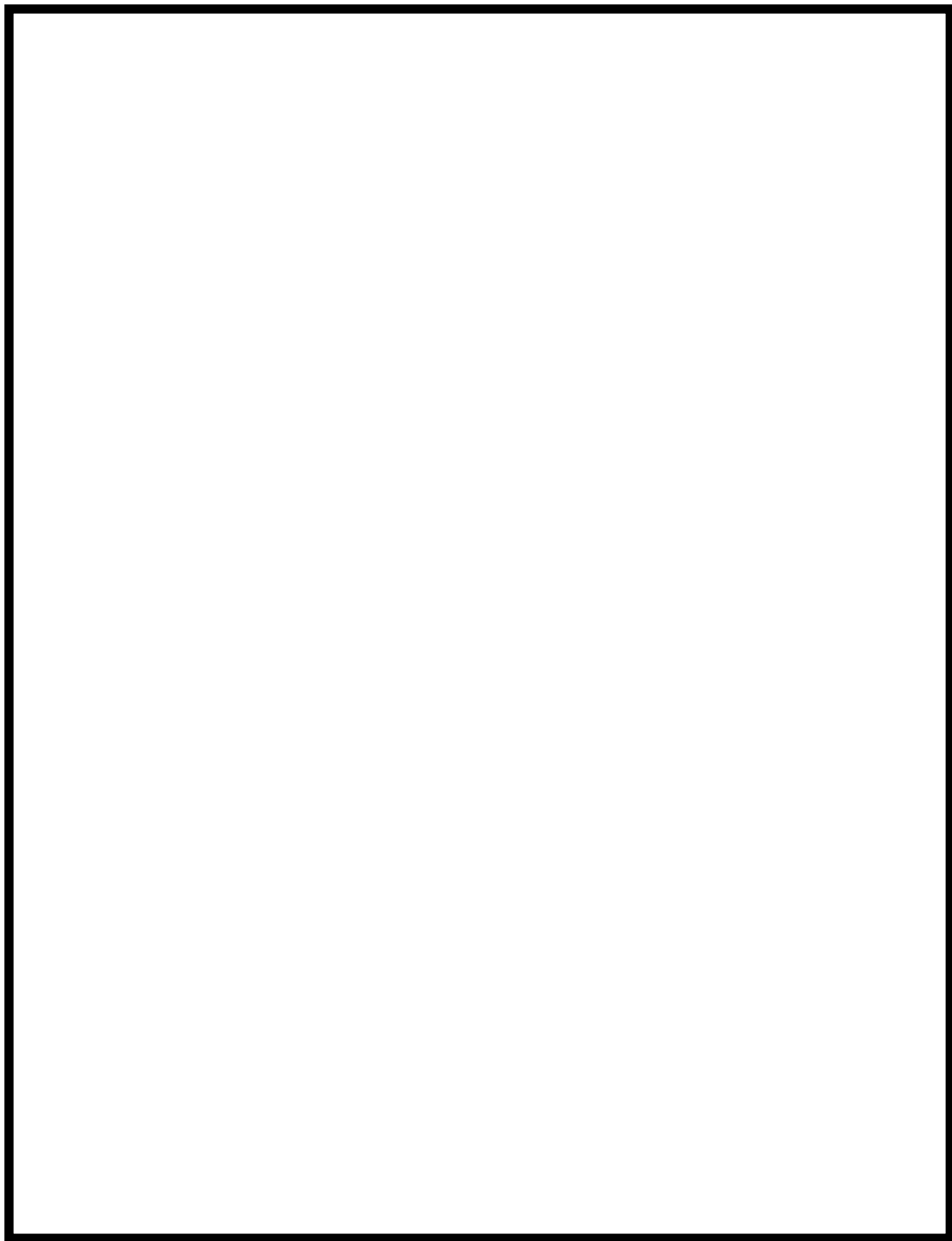
Call in to see us on a weekday morning or phone us on 01432 353717

Websites:

www.stmartinshereford.org.uk
St Martin's Church, Ross Rd, Hereford

Or find us on Facebook
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