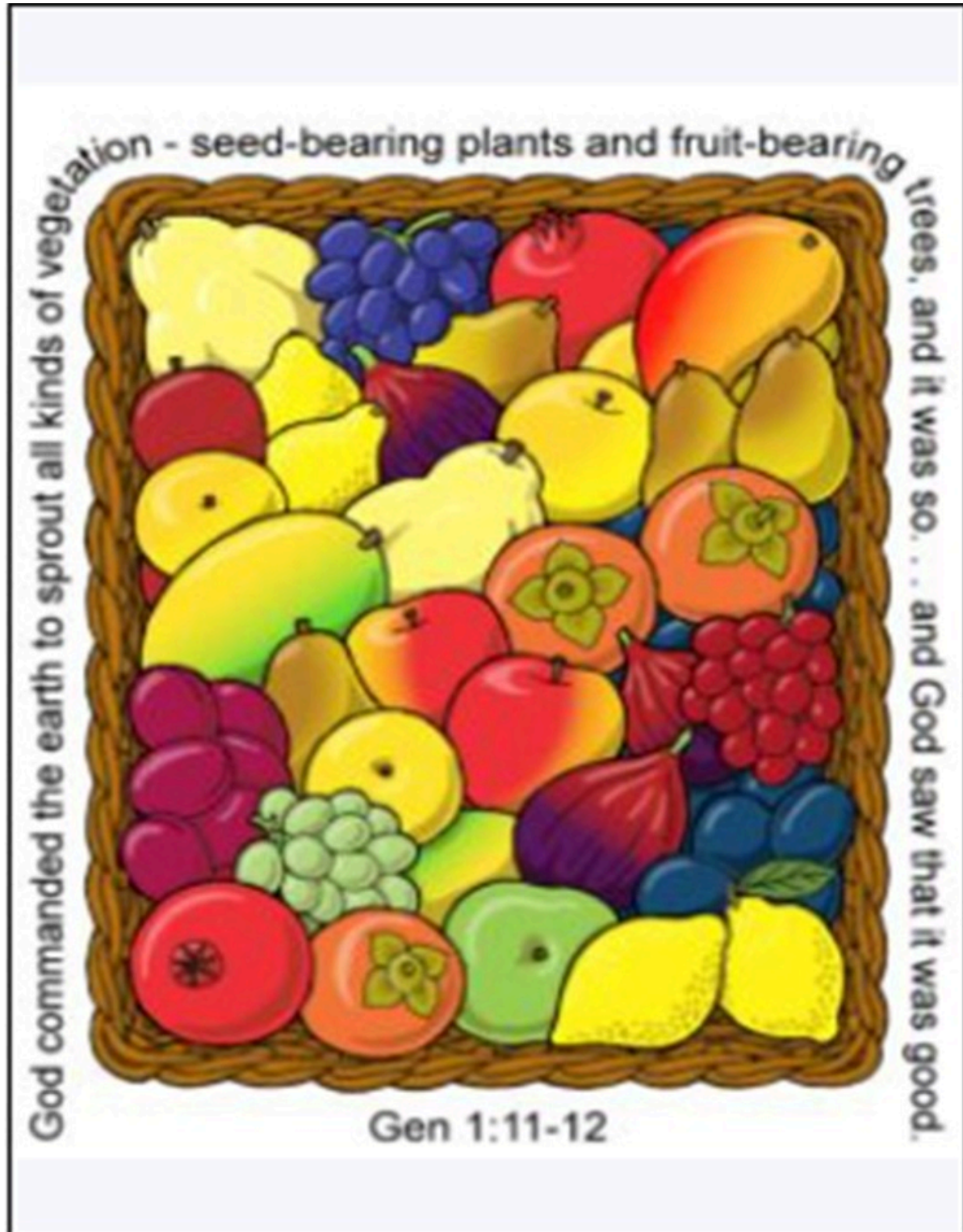


Wye Bridge News

The Magazine of
South Wye Benefice

St Martins & St Peters Bullinghope churches October 2026 £1.00



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Anniversary - I wonder how many of you look up dates to see what happened on them? If you love history, you already know that 87 years ago the Britain declared war on Nazi Germany for invading Poland. The Second World War ended in 1945 and peace was maintained in Europe despite the Cold War until Russia invaded Ukraine.

In many ways anniversary dates often remind us of significant events in history or things closer to home like weddings or birthdays and I think we find these easier to mark because we are involved and invested in them. In churches we have festivals which help remind ourselves us of the Christian story. From a spiritual perspective, if you were to look for them there is almost a Saints Day for every day of the year! We are about to enter a season of Harvest Festivals, All Souls tide and Remembrance Sunday, as human being we love to find reasons to celebrate anniversaries and significant dates.

Paul writing to the church in Rome says to them that how we mark anniversaries or which anniversaries doesn't actually matter in God's kingdom, but it is the attitude of the heart that matters. Paul didn't condemn the people for marking days or celebrating special anniversaries instead he reminds them that we need to honour God in all that we do.

In the book of Amos God tells the people through the prophet that he has no time for their religious feasts, festivals and anniversaries because of their attitude towards others. The religious people have forgotten that their faith in God starts and finishes with justice, righteousness and mercy. If we do not allow God to change our hearts and minds, then our religious festivals and ceremonies are meaningless. It is the very thing that Jesus condemns the religious people of his time for doing and what Paul warns Timothy against.

Our faith is primarily lived out every day and whilst festivals and anniversaries help us remember the faith story when they become more important than our faith, we are in danger of swapping human rules and regulations for spiritual realities.

The Venerable Derek Chedzey Archdeacon of Hereford

Church Wardens update – St Martin's

We are pleased to see that a number of refurbishment and renewal works in and around St Martin's have been completed or are well on the way to being finished.

- The bike racks at the front of the Parish Centre are now in place - thanks to the Eco-Church team for getting the funding and arranging the installation
- The gutters and timber work at the front of the hall has been renewed. We had a collapse of one section earlier this month, which was a serious health and safety risk to users and visitors. The work was so urgent that a contractor was secured at short notice, this work was done in a matter of days. Whilst the guttering in itself is an unremarkable feature of the building, the leaks and splits in the metal were causing other problems with doors and timber work. We have replaced with plastic - it is cheaper, lighter and more easily replaced
- The redecoration of gates, porch interior and wainscotting in the entrance lobby are well on the way to completion.
- The repair of the noticeboard facing Ross Road has been completed
- The condemned gas oven in the Hall kitchen has been removed, and a small cooker borrowed to 'tide us over'. We are looking for a grant to fund a larger-scale replacement.
- The refurbishment of Flat 2 is about to commence - the surveyors have revisited and the contractor has been on site.
- The churchyard is now under control, with a few areas yet to be addressed, but the major areas of concern have.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed time, labour and money to allow these works to be carried out. The Wardens remind the community at St Martin's that we have a large estate to manage and maintain, and every contribution helps. If there are events planned please get involved and support them. Regular small-scale events are vital, yet low impact, and mean that we are less reliant on one or two fetes to try and raise £2000+, which can be a challenge, especially with the weather. So, please do what you can to help continue this work.

Church Wardens update – St Martin's cont'd

The closing date for applications for the role of Team Rector of St Martin's with St Peter's has now passed. We await news of applicants. The Orientation day is 14th October, with the interviews on 15th October. The Churchwardens of both parishes are involved throughout the process, and should an appointment be made, we will be unable to give any information until the legal and administrative processes have concluded satisfactorily.

Thanks to everyone who continues to keep the church and parish running during the vacancy - everyone has stepped up and taken on and exercised responsibility. Particular thanks to Sharron who has to find clergy for our Sunday services, in an area already under strength in arms of priests!

John

Church Warden's update St Peter's Bullinghope

So unfortunately, this month's update isn't going to be very positive.

We had a PCC meeting earlier this month and, getting straight to the point.

there is a strong chance we could run out of money in the next 6-9 months.

There has been a place of worship up Bullinghope since 12th century (If you include the old church)

Jeff and I don't want to see the church close it means a lot to us.

Please keep us in your prayers over the next few months as difficult decisions may have to be made.

Anyway, by the time this goes to print we would have had our 60s night let's hope it was a good night

Our Harvest festival is on 4th October at 11.15 and there will be a service of holy communion on 18th October also at 11.15

Thank you to Rev Nicholas Lowton for taking our Holy Communion service on September 20th.

Simon



Parish Breakfast @ St Martin's

A new regular feature
bringing together folk after our Communion service.
Thanks to all who help bring this together. One of our many fund raising
events in the parish.

Next one is one Sunday 25th October 2026



Bonus Ball Scheme

The next payment for the bonus ball scheme is due at the beginning of October, for the period October 26 to March 2027.

If you do not pay by standing order, could you please pay your £26 for each ball you have, to the office by cash or cheque.

Cheques should be made payable to St Martin with St Francis Roof Account.

Alternatively, you can pay directly to the account , sort code 30-80-55, account number 42121368.

There are numbers available if you wish to increase your chances of winning and to raise more money for the church.

Please contact the office or myself.

Many thanks for your support

Sue Cockroft



TABLE TOP / CAR BOOT



Join us for a Car Boot and Table top sale
@ St Martin's Church Hall and Car Park.

Saturday 10th October 2026 :10am till 1pm

£5.00 Per Table £10.00 per Boot

Refreshments will be available to purchase in the
Church Hall.

Please book your space/table with the office at
Hereford 04132 353717

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

Sun 4th October	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Harvest Festival at St Peter's
Tues 6th October	1-2pm 2-3pm 7pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee in the Narthex PCC Meeting in the Choir Vestry
Sun 11th October	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 13th October	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Frid 16th October	4pm -5:30pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall
Sun 18th October	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Holy Communion at St Peter's
Tues 20th October	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee in the Narthex
Thurs 22nd October	2pm	Young at Heart
Sun 25th October	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 27th October	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex



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

- 4th October Harvest Festival @ St Peter's 11:15
- 6th October PCC 7:15pm Narthex
- 10th October Tabletop & Car Boot Sale 10:00am-1pm
- 25th October Parish Breakfast
- 13th November Messy Church
- 14th November St Martin's Christmas Fayre
- 22nd November Parish Breakfast
- 17th December Young at Heart Carols
- 20th December St Martin's Church Carol Service

September's Parish Lunch raised £380.00 for Church Funds- thank you everyone!

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

Sunday 4th October 09:30am Rev Nicholas Lowton

11:15am Simon Paget St Peter's Bullinghope Harvest Festival

Sunday 11th October 09:30am Rev Jackie Nevill

Sunday 18th October 09:30am Bishop David

11:15am St Peter's Bullinghope Bishop David

Sunday 25th October 09:30am Rev Jackie Nevill & Barry Stephens

The poster features a light beige background decorated with large, abstract paint splashes in red, teal, and yellow. At the top, the text 'ST. MARTIN'S' is written in a red, bubbly font with a white outline, arched over the top. Below it, the word 'Messy' is in a large, white, bold font with a red outline, and 'Church' is in a smaller, yellow font below it. The entire 'Messy Church' text is set against a red, splatter-like background.

ST. MARTIN'S

Messy
Church

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH HALL, ROSS
ROAD, HEREFORD

Friday 16th October
4-5:30pm

ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, GAMES, FOOD
AND A BIBLE STORY
FUN FOR ALL AGES
CHILDREN MUST BRING AN ADULT

What am I reading on Sunday?

Please check with the person leading our service

Date Sunday 4th October

'Sunday' *18th Sunday after Trinity*

Colour Green

1st Reading Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19: 7- end

2nd Reading Philippians 3:4b - 14

Gospel Matthew 21: 33 - end

Date Sunday 11th October

'Sunday' 19th Sunday after Trinity

Colour Green

1st Reading Exodus 32: 1-14

Psalm 106: 19 - 23

2nd Reading Philippians 4: 1-9

Gospel Matthew 22: 1- 14

Date Sunday 18th October

'Sunday' Harvest

Colour Green

1st Reading Deuteronomy 26: 1- 11

Psalm 65

2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - end

Gospel John 6: 25-35

Date Sunday 25th October

'Sunday' 20th Sunday after Trinity

Colour Green

1st Reading Deuteronomy 34: 1 -12

Psalm 90: 1- 6, 13-17

2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Gospel Matthew 22: 34-46



UNBLOCKTOBER - A Month to save our Sewers and Seas

48% of the British public has flushed away wet wipes

11,000,000 tonnes of plastic are dumped in the ocean every year!

Since Unblocktober was launched in 2019, they've been working to remind everyone that plastic pollution in our drains and sewers is part of a larger environmental crisis. From floods, droughts and heat waves becoming commonplace in the UK to the emergence of a giant wet wipe island that's changing the course of the River Thames, and fatbergs blocking sewers, show that our environment is changing for the worse. We the British public have the power to take the health of our seas and sewers into our own hands and protect the planet from pollution.

Welsh Water: 35% of blockages are attributed to sewer misuse each year, with an annual repair cost for £3 million for these blockages alone.

Severn Trent Water: Around 70% of blockages are caused by the wrong things being put down the sink and toilet.

Disposable face masks, disposable gloves, nappies, sanitary products, wet wipes, cotton buds, dental floss, contact lenses, plasters and many other items are non-biodegradable because they contain hidden plastics. When these items and Fats, Oils and Grease go down the drains, it damages the sewer infrastructure, leading to costly repairs, sewer spills and pollution across the wider environment, and increases the chances of plastic making its way into our rivers and seas. It also creates direct inconvenience for the British public in the form of flooding, whether on the streets or in the home. According to Northumbrian Water, over 50% of sewer flooding incidents are because of blockages within the sewerage system,

We must take the opportunity to double down on the campaign's central lesson: to be mindful of what we flush down our drains and to encourage others to do the same.



Each year presents a challenge, but also an opportunity - to build on the progress that's been made by Unblocktober and to create a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future. Let's make it our mission to ensure that we are not pouring or flushing the above items down our drains or into the toilet for the whole of October, and beyond.



BICYCLE RACKS

We now have some wonderful bicycle racks in the church car park; in front of the choir vestry, next to the ramp to the office. We hope this will aid all those cycling to church, visiting the churchyard and community events.

We would like to thank the City Council for providing the funding for this project and Michael Jones and Simon Lloyd for installing the racks.



Support for victims and survivors of abuse

Church of England - Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse

If you have been hurt or harmed and want to speak to someone in the Church, you deserve to be listened to, taken seriously, and treated with compassion, respect, and honesty. This leaflet explains the kind of support and response you can expect from the Diocese of Hereford.

Who can I talk to?

- You may begin by speaking to someone you trust within your church. Many churches have appointed a Parish Safeguarding Officer (or PSO), and their details should usually be visible on posters inside the building.
- You may choose to speak directly to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer or safeguarding team if that feels right for you.
- If you would rather speak to someone independent of the Church, you can contact Safe Spaces for confidential support.
- You do not have to work out everything on your own — help is available, and you can choose the route that feels safest for you.

What support can I expect?

- We will listen to you carefully and respond with compassion, dignity and respect.
- We will take your wishes, needs and wellbeing seriously.
- Support may include emotional and practical support, pastoral or spiritual support if this would be welcome to you. We can also help you access therapeutic support where appropriate.
- You can have a Support Person to help you understand the process and stay in touch with the Church if you would find that helpful.
- Where harm has occurred, the Church will acknowledge that and, where appropriate, offer an apology.

What happens when I tell the church about abuse?

- What you share will be taken seriously.
- In some situations, the safeguarding team may need to share information with statutory agencies to help keep people safe. If this applies, we will explain why and what it means for you.
- We will keep you informed, as far as possible, about what happens next and who will be involved.

- Support will be discussed with you and arranged in a way that reflects your needs and choices wherever possible.
- You will not be pressured into receiving spiritual or pastoral support if you do not want it

What about my choices?

- You will be involved in conversations about the support you need.
- We will work with you to identify what might help, how it can be arranged, and when it can begin.

Your views, your pace, and your preferences matter, and will be respected

What if I am in immediate danger?

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999 straight away.

Diocese of Hereford contacts and support

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer - Lisa Anderson: 07999 028076

Email: safeguarding@hereford.anglican.org

Safe Spaces (independent support service): 0300 303 1056

Email: safespaces@firstlight.org.uk

Police / emergency services: 999 in an emergency

If you would prefer to seek support outside the Church, you can also contact statutory services or an independent specialist support service.

Additional support can be accessed via the Hereford Diocese Safeguarding website at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/safeguarding/safe-spaces/>

You matter, and so does your wellbeing. Reaching out should lead to care, support, and honest communication. We hope this leaflet gives you confidence that you will be treated with dignity , sensitivity, and respect.

Young at Heart held on Thursday 17th September, was an excellent afternoon we were entertained by Mrs Irene Goodman, on her life stories been born and brought up in Northern Ireland. Irene told us interesting stories and read poem's from though out her teacher training and career and about the lifestyles been brought up in her early days. It was so entertaining with so much laughter in the room so many interesting tales. Irene is still in contact with some of the students she taught years ago. She told us the story of how she and Michael arrived in Hereford and such interesting career jobs in our local schools and all her church work over the years. Irene on behalf on Young at Heart thank you for such an interesting afternoon and for all the hard work and time you put in for St Martins Church.

Following Irenes talk I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that supported Young at Heart yesterday we were a little thin on the ground due to holidays and appointments but your donations still total £85.00 plus Gift Aid with all the expenses that St Martins are dealing daily with that means every penny counts and I would also say thank you to Marline, Julia, Andrew and Carl without their help I could not provide the Tea Party, so thank you all so much. Young at Heart next is due on Thursday 15th October. Thanks again Onnie.





Summer Coffee Morning held on Saturday 29th August in aid of the Air Ambulance

Organised by the Rev Jackie Neville. It was a pouring with rain in the morning so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that attended and for all the donations of cakes, produce, raffle prizes and for all your help in every way.

An amazing amount was raised totalling £600.00 plus Gift Aid. This money has been sent to Midlands Air Ambulance Head Office in Shifnal, Shropshire, and we will receive a thank you letter and a certificate in due course as a record of our fund-raising activity.



All Arms Veterans Motorcycle Club



On Saturday 12th September

St Martins Church had the privilege of welcoming over 40 bikers to our church where a wreath was laid in graveyard. I unlocked the church for viewing of the stained -glass window and things of interest in the church. Following their visit to St Martin's, the office received an email from the leader, having never seen the stain-glass window in the church before "We were all very humbled by our visit and would like to thank your church warden Onnie for being a prefect host and making us all feel so incredibly welcome. It was a prefect end to our Ride Out. Please accept this donation. "

On behalf of St Martins, I would like to say thank you to All Arms Veterans Motorcycle Club for their generous donation.

Onnie



Superb photos of the motorcycles.



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**Get into the Christmas spirit with a coach trip to
Bristol Christmas Market, or just browse the shops
Christmas shopping!**



Sunday 13th December 2026

£20 Adults £15 Children under 16



Tickets secured with a £10 deposit

(Non-refundable, unless your ticket/s can be sold)

Pick up point: Asda at 8.30am



**(Parking can be booked via Just Park app if you wish to park at
Asda)**

Leave Bristol at: 16.30

To reserve your seat/s contact Lesley on **07817 939981**



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

Morning Prayer

On first Sunday of the month, we have a service of Morning Prayer, services still begin at 11:15.

Holy communion

Third Sunday will now be Holy communion; services still begin at 11:15.

For changes to 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 @ St Martin's



Team Administrator
Sharron Brown

Financial Co-ordinator

Kirstie Weaver

Sexton

Scott

Cleaning Specialist

Sara

Wye Bridge News Editor

Sue Wilce

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 Or find us on Facebook St Martin's Church,
Ross Rd, Hereford @stpetersbullinghope

DOODLE PAGE

