



**The Parish of
St. Martin's, Chipping Ongar
with St. Peter's, Shelley**



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MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

To be a growing church, God's gift to the community

Dear Friends

The Church celebrates Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, on the 2nd March. This year we will have the Archdeacon of Harlow with us at St. Martin's at the 10 am service as she will be going from us to start a Lenten walking pilgrimage around this area.

For many years I dreaded the Ash Wednesday service with its offer for all to come and have an ash cross drawn upon their forehead to show a penitent spirit. Why? Because I did not understand the concept of forgiveness, it was not something really practised in my family as I grew up. The reality is that if you do not understand what forgiveness is, it is really hard to admit one might have failed or screwed up as there is only condemnation available.



However, I was blessed with some good relationships with people who showed me what forgiveness was like. The reality was that they actually forgave me when I needed it, when I behaved badly. Gradually I learned what it was to have one's wrongs forgiven rather than just forgotten after a period of time!

Finally, I had an experience with God where I did something that should have been unforgivable, and yet I discovered that God both understood why I had behaved the way I had and inexplicably forgave me. Over a period of about a year I changed from someone who loathed Ash Wednesday to someone who was moved by the grace of a God who has done all that is necessary so that every one of us can receive whatever forgiveness we need if we will only accept it.

Then came the year when I was able to go forward and accept the ash cross on my forehead with joy. I had finally learned that a Christian was not someone who tries to be good but someone who knows they are not good but trusts God for the necessary forgiveness and healing. Trying to be good comes after forgiveness. Forgiven, I now try (and so often fail) to live up to the wonderful vision God apparently has of who I am.

How about you? If I am right about Christians being forgiven sinners it is no wonder we have so often got things wrong in the church and shown such a poor welcome and forgiveness to so many. We must so often break the heart of God but there is forgiveness there for me and for you. Do you want to put down that burden you carry and accept this gift from a loving God? What a wonderful way that would be of starting Lent and preparing for Easter!

May God bless us all ...

With love ... *Noelle*



HOME COMMUNION ... Is there anyone who, for one reason or another, cannot be in Church as they used to be? For those of you who would like it, we can offer home communions. If this is something you would like, please contact either myself, Sue on 01277 362723 or Shirley on 01277 364143, and we can arrange a convenient time to bring the sacrament to you.

ST. MARTIN'S, CHIPPING ONGAR

Times for Services & Private Prayer



Sunday Services

First & Third Sundays - 8 am - Holy Communion
First Sunday - 10.30 am - One Big Family for All
Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Sunday - 10.30 am - Holy Communion

Wednesday

9 am - Morning Prayer
10 am - Holy Communion

St. Martin's Church is open for Private Prayer each day between 9 am and Dusk

Please adhere to any notices displayed

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

Please do remember to visit our website <http://www.stmartinongar.org.uk> where you can link to our Facebook page

STREETS TO BE PRAYER FOR:

27th February - 5th March

6th - 12th March

13th - 19th March

20th - 26th March

27th March - 2nd April

Turners Close

Turret Court

Victoria Road

Walter Mead Close & Weighbridge Court

Acres Avenue & Hastingwood Court

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms:

Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

Funerals:

Patrick Jeary - 11th February at St. Peter's

Internment of Ashes / Memorial Services / Cremations:

Morning Prayer each Wednesday at 9 am in St. Martin's Church



Shirley writes ...



I'm continuing to lead a BCP Morning Prayer service via Zoom at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings for those of us unable to attend St. Martin's at present and new folk are always welcome. Just send an email to me at shirleydudeny@btinternet.com for the appropriate link.

The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/95073446203> Meeting ID: 950 7344 6203

Listening to God in Lent

You are invited to join me in *Listening to God in Lent*, via zoom on Monday mornings at 11 am starting on Monday 7th March.

We shall be using material provided as part of the Diocese's *Lent Holy Sabbatical*; an opportunity to *Rest, Replenish and Renew* ourselves through the Holy Reading of Scripture and prayer.

Please contact me for the zoom link if you are interested.



A Collect for the Lent Holy Sabbatical

God of our pilgrimage,
whose Son commanded the wind and waves to be still,
and in whom we find the peace that passes understanding:
grant that this Lent,
we may learn again to hear your still, small voice,
and be refreshed and sustained on our journey
until our restless hearts find their rest in you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



If you are unable to join me on a Monday morning, there might be an opportunity to meet in person on a Sunday afternoon. Please let me know if you would be interested in this.

There are further *Lent Holy Sabbatical* resources available on the Cathedral website - [Reflect, Replenish, Renew | Chelmsford Cathedral](#)

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Shirley ... shirleydudeny@btinternet.com or 01277 364143

We need an up to date picture for the Parish Profile!



This picture was taken in 2014 – there have been a lot of changes since then!

Following Noelle's announcement that she will be retiring at the end of April, the Area Dean has asked the PCC to prepare a Parish Profile as soon as possible. This is the document on which a prospective priest will base his / her decision to take the application further; it tells the applicant about our Parish and outlines the qualities the successful person is likely to have.

A small group within the PCC has been chosen to draft out the Profile and they have asked me if I could provide a picture of our congregation which they can include in that document. It has been suggested that I do this on Sunday 6th March immediately after the 10.30 am One Big Family Service for All.

If the weather is fine, we will probably do this outside the Church – if not we can do it inside. If you are able to join us for this it would be greatly appreciated as we should like the picture to give a fair representation of our present Church family.

Thank you very much ...

Peter Dudeney

Memorial Concert for Frank and Daphne Hart

DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR SEAT ... BY 19th MARCH

Christine and David would like to invite you to a concert kindly being given by Times & Seasons Chamber Choir in memory of Dad and Mum.

The concert is to be held on Saturday 26th March 2022 at 7 pm in St. Martin's Church, Ongar.

Singing was a large part of Dad's life; he sang in St. Martin's Church Choir for nearly 60 years and was a founder member of Times & Seasons and sang with them for 28 years.

Tickets are not being sold for this concert, but there will be a retiring collection to be shared between Dementia UK, the Mothers' Union and St. Martin's Church. However, in the current situation, we do need to know numbers and who will be attending, so if you would like to join us to celebrate and remember Dad and Mum would you please RSVP to Sue King (susan.roger.king@ntlworld.com or 01277 362723), thank you.

Also, given the continuing situation and in line with St. Martin's current practices, we will be asking those attending to wear a mask whilst in the Church building and also to take a lateral flow test prior to attending, thank you.

MARCH

All Services are in St. Martin's unless otherwise stated

Tue	1	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed	2	ASH WEDNESDAY	
		9.00 am	Morning Prayer
		10.00 am	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Sun	6	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	One Big Family Service for All
		10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
Mon	7	11.00 am	Listening to God in Lent on <i>Zoom*</i>
		7.15 pm	Fellowship Group meet at the Rectory
Tue	8	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed	9	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
		10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sun	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
Mon	14	11.00 am	Listening to God in Lent on <i>Zoom*</i>
Tue	15	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed	16	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
		10.00 am	Holy Communion
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Sun	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
Mon	21	11.00 am	Listening to God in Lent on <i>Zoom*</i>
		7.15 pm	Fellowship Group meet at the Rectory
Tue	22	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed	23	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
		10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sat	26	7.00 pm	Memorial Concert for Daphne and Frank Hart – St. Martin's
Sun	27	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
		10.30 am	One Big Family Service with a Simple Communion
		10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
Mon	28	11.00 am	Listening to God in Lent on <i>Zoom*</i>
Tue	29	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed	30	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
		10.00 am	Holy Communion

**If you haven't attended a Zoom service/event before and would like to attend please contact Shirley Dudeney – shirleydudeney@btinternet.com for the necessary link*

Please advise Peter Dudeney on 364143 or peterdudeney@btinternet.com of details of any events/meetings taking place or cancellations / amendments.

If you don't tell him, nothing happens 😊



Notices

**Next One Big Family for All
Service is at 10.30 am
on 6th March**

Also in March

**Mothing Sunday One Big Family Service
27th March at 10.30 am
(instead of 3rd April)**



Electoral Roll Notice

Renewal between Sunday 27th March & Sunday 3rd April 2022

The time will come once again to update the Electoral Roll. Anyone who is not on the Roll and wishes to be, (please check with the list on the board at the back of Church from 27th March to see if your name is there), can take a form from the envelope, complete it and return it to a Churchwarden or me, Sue King, by Sunday 3rd April. Being on the Electoral Roll permits you to vote when attending the APCM on Sunday 24th April in St. Martin's after the main service.

It would be very helpful if you could add your telephone number and e-mail address to the form.

Many thanks ... Sue King - Electoral Roll Officer



St. Martin's Church, Chipping Ongar with St. Peter's Church, Shelley has been paid £79.15 by easyfundraising.org.uk in respect of online purchases made in the last quarter. And in the last 30 days our members have raised another £17 pounds which will be included in the current quarter's purchases. Since we first joined this scheme some years ago, we have now received £2,777.

Thanks to everyone who's helped make a BIG difference during this difficult time by raising donations for us.

If you're not supporting us yet, please sign up now. It takes 2 minutes & 6,000+ shops & businesses will donate to us for free every time you shop with them! They include many household names and include groceries, fashion, entertainment, electricals, home & garden, insurance, mobiles, travel and utilities.

Please visit easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmartinongar/payments/61f901cd4a900db4227b865b/

Thank you!

Peter Dudeney

Ongar & Shelley Ladies' Thursday Group Speaker Report
St. Clare Hospice

Linda welcomed everyone back after the New Year. She also mentioned that the club desperately needs a treasurer.

Linda then introduced Stacey & Ellie who came to speak about St. Clare's. The NHS donate 44% of the 3 million which is needed each year to run the hospice which has 8 beds. They are supported by many local businesses who also sponsor some of the annual events. A lot of fundraising is required as well, which includes individual giving; money left in wills; their own lottery and income from the retail shops. Recently, they received a donation of an original Mary Quant dress and a Chanel bag! Both these raised a huge amount of money. There are 650 volunteers; some of them help at the hospice or in the community.

St Clare's has the facility to care for 100 patients, mostly taking place in the patient's home. A Bereavement Café is available for those who have lost someone recently or would like to stay in touch with people they know. There is also day therapy with workshops that support patients, giving them a better quality of life and a social aspect as well, plus a Compassionate Neighbours scheme where a volunteer can go and meet a patient in their own home for a chat and a cup of tea. Dementia clinics help patients with music sessions, taste and touch therapy and there is now a sensory garden for them. The Chaplin is always on hand with spiritual support for patients, families and the staff.

Linda thanked Stacey and Ellie for giving the club an interesting talk. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd March, when Keith Snow will be talking about "The Wildness of the Domestic Cat". We will also be reverting to our times of arriving at 7.30 pm for an 8 pm talk and new members are welcome.

Jan Turnbull
February 2022



EASTER FLOWERS

Would you like to see our lovely Church adorned with flowers on Easter Day? If you would, then Gill Richardson would be pleased to receive donations towards the arrangements. Please see her in Church if you would like to donate.

Many thanks ...

Page 8 is blank !!

NEW CLASS STARTING MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021!

STAY ACTIVE STAY STRONG

BOOST YOUR ENERGY AND IMPROVE YOUR STRENGTH, BALANCE & POSTURE IN THIS FUN ACCESSIBLE CLASS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!

EXERCISES CAN BE ADAPTED FOR EVERYONE AND ARE A MIXTURE OF CHAIR BASED YOGA & STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISES

EVERY MONDAY 10-11AM

AT ST.MARTIN'S CHURCH ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, ONGAR
JUST £5.00 PER CLASS!

CONTACT LUCINDA ON 07775796549 TO BOOK OR FOR MORE DETAILS



WWW.LIVEHAPPYYOGA.COM



FREE!
ALL AGES WELCOME

ONGAR PUZZLE & GAMES CLUB

**St Martin's Church Rooms,
Castle Street, Ongar**

**Starting from Thursday 16th September,
every Thursday from 10am - 12noon**

Come along for a chat and a cup of tea over a jigsaw puzzle and a few friendly rounds of your favourite board games.

 Epping Forest District Council
 For more information please contact Samuel Price, Cultural Development Officer. Tel: 01992 564442 Email: sprice@eppingforestdc.gov.uk





VOLUNTEER WITH US make a real difference in the fight against poverty

Epping Forest Foodbank provides three days' emergency food and support to local people experiencing crisis.

As soon as lockdown restrictions ease, we will be opening a new distribution centre in **Chipping Ongar** every **Thursday** between **10am** and **11.30am**.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the running of the food bank, from collecting and sorting donations to processing vouchers and helping to create a welcoming space for people in crisis.

To find out more about how you can join our new team,
email
volunteer@eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk

Epping Forest Foodbank
eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk
Registered Charity in England & Wales (1182270)



**THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN ON THURSDAY MORNINGS BETWEEN 9.30 am & 12.30 pm
IN THE CHURCH ROOMS, CASTLE STREET.**

If you need a referral for the Food Bank, please contact our Rector, Revd. Noelle Taylor, on 01277 362173

Walking Wednesdays

Step outside through Lent and join Archdeacon Vanessa for all or part of her route.

Route

Each day will start at 9am leaving at 9:30am and will end around 4:30pm

<p>Day 1 - 2nd Mar 0900hrs St Martin's Chipping Ongar Ash Wednesday Eucharist Midday worship at St Michael's Theydon Mount Arrive at St Mary's Lambourne End</p>	<p>Day 2 - 9th Mar 0900hrs St Mary's Lambourne End Midday worship at St Mary's Loughton Arrive at Epping Forest Visitors Centre</p>
<p>Day 3 - 23rd Mar 0900hrs Epping Forest Visitors Centre Midday worship weather and route dependent Arrive at St Peter's Roydon</p>	<p>Day 4 - 30th Mar 0900hrs St Peter's Roydon Midday worship at St Mary's Little Fardon Arrive at St Mary's Sheering</p>
<p>Day 5 - 6th April 0900hrs St Mary's Sheering Midday worship at Hatfield Forest Arrive at St Mary's Hatfield Broad Oak</p>	<p>Day 6 - 13th April 0900hrs Holy Trinity Hatfield Heath Midday worship weather and route dependent Arrive at St Mary's High Ongar</p>

We encourage you to share your spiritual experiences throughout the pilgrimage using the hashtag #WalkingWednesdays @Chelmsdio

Bereavement

HELPLINE

01279 967670

Call our Helpline to access:

- A listening ear & emotional support
- Guidance on what to do after a death
- Sign-posting to support in your area

Free, local support

OUR PARISH VISION

To be a growing Church, God's gift to the community.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

In the light of God's call and our situation here, our mission is:

to be a more evident presence in our community, witnessing to God's love for all;

to be God's hands and feet within the Church and beyond through
 worship and prayer;
 listening and serving;
 acceptance and welcome;

to be a people who are growing towards a closer relationship with God, creation and each other.