



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



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APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Friends

It is amazing what God can accomplish through God's people. Last year we were tempted to despair in all kinds of ways but particularly in the area of finance. The church closed and people afraid to leave their homes and there were many reasons why finances might take a turn for the worst. But thanks to the incredible generosity of many people, we ended the year able to pay all our bills. Thank you so much, we were blessed.

The issue of financing the church is not going away. We pay the diocese £1,000 per week and like you, are feeling the pinch of more expensive fuel bills etc. I don't know what the answer is but thankfully God does and if we each do what we can prayerfully and faithfully somehow God will enable us not just to survive but to thrive and so be that gift to the Community that our vision statement speaks of.

This month we move through Lent into Passiontide and on to Easter itself. This story of the end days of Jesus' life, his murder and finally his resurrection surely gives us hope even in days that seem unbearably dark. We serve a God who by and large doesn't seem to fight evil in the way TV and film heroes do. God appears to allow evil to do its worst and then, as evil celebrates its victory it becomes apparent that evil's best (or is it worst shot) is not sufficient to ultimately win, and we are once again surprised!

I don't know if the Church of England's approach to the financial problems it faces is actually the right one, come to that perhaps our approach isn't. But we can only do our best whilst trusting our faithful God will either redirect us or enable our efforts. The important bit to hang on to is the faithfulness of the God we serve. The One who leads us through difficult terrain at times but who having created us, knows absolutely what we need and can be entirely trusted. In Isaiah we are reminded that God's ways and thoughts are not ours, and yet we are constantly surprised when we fail to guess what God is up to.

God bless you ...

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 March - 2nd April

Acres Avenue & Hastingwood Court

3rd - 9th April

Aukingford Gardens & Aukingford Green

10th - 16th April

Bansons Way & Frank Bretton House

17th - 23rd April

Bansons Lane and Bansons Court

24th - 30th April

Bansons Yard and Bansons Mews

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms:

Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

Funerals:

14th March - Amy Day - St. Peter's

23rd March - Marja-Leena Walker - St. Martin'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

Knitting for Charity

A big 'Thank You' to all who have knitted blankets for Project Linus.

I recently handed over thirty blankets to the local organiser, who in response to a request, has taken to the Special Care Baby Unit and Children's Ward at Whipps Cross Hospital where they will be a tangible sign of your love for families whose children have to be in hospital.



As I've used up all the suitable wool I had for blankets, I've started using the oddments I have left to knit hats for *The Mission to Seafarers* – see [The Mission to Seafarers | Working In Over 200 Ports Worldwide](#) for details of the work which their Chaplain undertake.

Finally, if anyone has spare double knitting wool, I could make use of it. Oddments will be gratefully received and turned into either hats for seafarers or blankets for children undergoing trauma.

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.

Thank you!



Thank you to all of you at the One Big Family Service on 6th March who agreed to be included in the group photograph. This will be used in the document advertising for our next Parish Priest and shows a fair representation of our church community. We couldn't have done this without you!

Peter Dudeney

Ongar & Shelley Ladies' Thursday Group Speaker Report

The Wildlife of the Domestic Cat

Linda welcomed our members and introduced Keith Snow.

Keith commenced his slideshow and talk with some main characteristics about the domestic cat. If a cat has stripes that go around, it can look larger to any predator and if their whiskers can get through a gap, then the cat can follow. Cats have large eyes which makes their vision very good. They also have retractable claws, an extremely good sense of smell and hearing, and they can see clearly in total darkness, although their colour vision is not so good. A domesticated cat will look you in the eyes, but a feral cat won't. In Roman times, cats were not kept as pets, but to keep down the rat population, especially where crops were being stored. It is estimated there are around 8 million cats in the UK. They can be very inquisitive and an outdoor cat can catch birds, rats and mice, and sometimes rabbits; some of which they bring indoors as a prize for their owners! A deterrent can be to have your cat fitted with a collar and bell. A male cat has a larger roaming territory than a female, and this has been proved by using tracking collars.

Keith showed us many slides of different breeds of cat, some very fluffy, some almost hairless and of course the Manx cat from the Isle of Man which has a very short tail.

Linda thanked Keith for a very interesting talk.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th April at the Church Rooms. Doors open at 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start. New members welcome.

Jan Turnbull – March 2022



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

Sun 3	8.00 am	Communion
	10.30 am	Communion and Healing Service
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom</i> *
Mon 4	11.00 am	Listening to God in Lent on <i>Zoom</i> *
	7.15 pm	Fellowship Group meet at The Rectory
Tue 5	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed 6	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Communion
Sun 10	PALM SUNDAY	
	10.30 am	Process from Library to St. Martin's for Communion with Hymns
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom</i> *
Tue 12	2.30 pm	Communion Service at Weighbridge Court
	6.45 pm	Singing in St. Martin's for 1 hour
Wed 13	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Thu 14	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	8.00 pm	Washing of hands and Communion followed by Watch
Fri 15	GOOD FRIDAY	
	2.00 pm	Last Hour Liturgy
Sun 17	EASTER DAY	
	8.45 am	Communion at St. Peter's, Shelley
	10.30 am	Communion
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom</i> *
Wed 20	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Communion
Sun 24	NOELLE'S LAST DAY	
	10.30 am	Communion
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom</i> *
	12 noon	Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed by Bring and Share lunch in the Church Rooms
Wed 27	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	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 😊



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)



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

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

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

St Clare Hospice

Free, local support