



ST MARTIN'S BARNEHURST

PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

Eucharist services each week at 10.30am followed by refreshments
The next non eucharist Family Service is on **1st June** when we welcome back Father Paul Davies
All services are followed with refreshments
Click [here](#) for the full calendar of Family Services in 2025

Father Gareth is on sabbatical until 24th August.

For information about St Martin's you can visit our website at www.aChurchNearYou.com/saint-martins-barnehurst

Email st.martins.barnehurst@gmail.com for parish matters or contact st.martins.hall@gmail.com for hall bookings.

For any pastoral matters please contact Julie Bowen on 01322 523344

Gather, Grow, Go – What's it all about? – by David Baldwin

You may have noticed the new posters on the pillars in church saying "**Gather, Grow, Go**" and wondered why they are there and what they mean.

Some time ago the PCC had a vision setting day and one of the subjects discussed was the creation of a "Mission Statement" for Saint Martin's. A mission statement is a formal, short, written statement describing the purpose of an organisation or company. It may be used to guide the actions of the organisation, spell out its overall goals, provide a sense of direction, and guide decision-making. It does not define how to achieve those goals but provides a context within which the organisation may grow and move forward.

The mission statement agreed by the PCC was in three parts:

- To **gather** as a family, worshipping God and supporting each other.
- To **grow** in faith and encourage new believers into the life of God's church.
- To **go** out into the wider community as God's servants, sharing the love of Christ through words and actions.

And this was abbreviated to the phrase: "**Gather, Grow, Go**"

What does this mean for Saint Martin's? There are many ways in which the mission statement may be viewed and used; below are some thoughts and reflections. You will notice that in this article, and also in the banners displayed in church there are traffic light colours, one for each key word

Gather – This is in red for stop. It is important that when we come to worship that we stop and put aside the worries and pressures of our daily lives so that we can focus on worshipping God without distraction. A challenge is in the word "family"; are we really coming together as a family, loving and supporting each other, or just as a group of individuals whose only link is that we happen to be in church at the same time?

Grow – This is in amber, for being prepared or getting ready (to stop or start). Are we growing as Christians ever closer to God, through our prayers and bible study? Are we as a church enabling and encouraging each other to grow in faith, are we open and welcoming to newcomers or are we "comfortable" where we are and resistant to changes?

Go – Green for (what else but) go or, from the film world, "action!" For most people one of the most challenging aspects of Christianity is that of outreach, whether it is at an individual 1-on-1 level or as a group activity. It often involves sharing part of our self with another person, who may be virtually a stranger, something that the "reserved" British are not very good at!

In June we ask you to pray for everyone living or working in Hillingdon Road, Holly Gardens, Inglewood Road, Midfield Avenue, Midfield Parade, Oakwood Drive, Stephen Road and Westfield Road. We also ask you to remember the following in your prayers and keep them in your thoughts: Andrew, Angela, Charlotte, David, Elizabeth, Joan, John, Joyce, Keith, Lucy, Mary, Mike, Neil, Rob, and all who are suffering in body, mind and spirit.

COLLECT FOR JUNE

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: Enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.
Amen

GOSPELS FOR JUNE

1 st June 2025	John 17: 20 - 26
8 th June 2025	John 14: 8 - 27
15 th June 2025	John 16: 12 - 15
22 nd June 2025	Luke 8: 26 - 39
29 th June 2025	Matthew 16: 13 - 19



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A WELCOME BACK TO ARTHUR

Following the article in last month's newsletter Arthur has contacted us with an update and we are also pleased to announce that he is now back at Church and once again playing for us on Sundays.

Arthur would like to share the following update.

Whilst I was in St Thomas's Hospital undergoing a major operation, the hospital saved my life three times. As I was lying in bed one night all the lights went out and I saw a figure in black with a wheel which looked at my sight. This was most likely an encounter with God. It lasted about three hours and two days later my sight was far better than it had been. The nurses looked after me well in all three hospitals and I am now back at home, unfortunately with some major leg trouble as they are still swollen.

CAMEO (MU)

On Monday 9th June, CAMEO members will be visiting Christ Church, Bexleyheath, at 1.30pm to hear about the history of the church and stay to have a cup of tea and a chat. However, this is also a very important opportunity for us to meet ladies who were once part of Christ Church MU branch, which closed, as well as anyone else who is interested in what we are! Christ Church is giving a wide invitation. We will be telling them all about our meetings and offer them the opportunity to visit meetings this year, to decide if they would like to join us. Heather will be giving a short talk, but the most meaningful discussion will probably come as we meet over a cuppa!

BOOK AND JIGSAW SALE

The recent book and jigsaw sale held outside the church raised an amazing £85 for Church Funds. Many thanks to Alyson and Victoria for arranging the event and for braving the dreadful weather. Thanks to everyone that supported the event. Watch out for a repeat in September

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW

1st June Winners. Jan Hailstone £25, Deborah Ingram £10, Jan Hailstone £5, Mark Jamieson £5

QUIZ NIGHT

The Quiz on Saturday raised £420 for Church Funds. Many Thanks to Neil Rossiter for hosting this and to everyone who supported the event



CHRISTIAN AID WALK

Karen, David and Heather completed the walk on Saturday 10th May, in beautiful weather and would like to thank everyone who sponsored them so generously. A very pleasing total of £455 was raised by St Martin's Church family and friends & families of the walkers.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX MASS

St Martin's welcomes Bexley's Ukrainian residents as they hold mass each Sunday from 1pm to 3pm. The mass is in Ukrainian and is led by an Orthodox Priest or Presbyter

REMINDERS

POSTAGE STAMPS AND PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES - Please keep saving these. Collecting boxes are in the church and hall
COFFEE SHOP - Every Tuesday in the Maxim Room from 10am
GARDENING WORKING PARTIES - If you can help to keep our grounds tidy please contact Phil: Philip.church@virgin.net

Contact st.martins.mag@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the mailing list or if you have anything that you would like included in the next issue