



# South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

## 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025

### 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and that you are enjoying the Summer.

It's wedding season at St Martin's – we had 3 in 8 days last week. It's always a lovely opportunity to support and be a small part of a family celebration. Although the actual ceremony usually flies by, we have a chance to get to know the bride and groom over the planning period as they prepare for the service and we often meet friends and family members at the rehearsal.

As well as walking through the choreography for the service and rehearsing the vows, I also have a few bits of information that I need to get across to the wedding party. Confetti (welcome outside the church), mobile phones (welcome inside the church, but silenced) and small children (welcome inside the church, even if not silenced) are on the list. As is a brief speech (from me) about timing. I get very grumpy at a late bride, I'm afraid – and too often when I ask 'what time will you be arriving?' the bride-to-be will say 'oh, it's traditional to be late isn't it?'

My response usually cover the following general headings: everything takes longer than you think and even getting from the wedding car to the church door can take 10 minutes when every moment has to be photographed. People involved in your wedding may be working at another service after yours – for example, if the organist has been playing for 20 minutes before the scheduled start time and we are then 20 minutes late starting because the bride is being 'traditional' then the organist may be entitled to leave just 20 minutes into your wedding, and you might need to forgo your last hymn and process from the church in silence. And anyway, you have invited the people that you love most in the world to sit in fairly uncomfortable pews and very uncomfortable shoes to share in your wedding – why would you want to keep them waiting? I'm not sure it really qualifies as a 'brief' speech, but it is usually effective and on the big day everyone is ready for the wedding to start reasonably promptly.

Our Gospel reading for Sunday encourages us to be ready for Christ, as those who wait for their master to come back from a wedding. We need to be dressed and alert, lamps lit and ready. It's easy to get distracted – theres so much going on, so much to think about. Big things like frocks and catering, small things like confetti and favours, so much to remember and to think about and so easy to forget what really matters.

Even if we are not getting ready for a wedding, we can still get distracted, still allow the busy-ness to get in the way of what really matters. So I'm asking myself what I need to do this summer to make sure that I am ready for the Lord when he knocks. What about you?

*With every blessing, Anne*  
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## Services and Events on-site, online and on TV and Radio

*Wishing our wonderful Rector Anne a fabulous birthday this weekend!*

### **A Warm Welcome at St Martin's**

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space. From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to come along.

### **Catching up with friends – or making new ones!**

**Young at Heart -** Second Thursday of each month – Lunch together in the church hall.

Please email or phone Home Instead to book. 01432 804000 or [info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

### **Services at Belmont Community Centre**

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

**The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

## **Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> August**

### **South Wye Services Through the Week:**

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

#### **Sunday**

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Family Service with Holy Baptism

#### **Thursday**

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page

### **Diocese of Hereford**

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

### **Church of England**

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

### **TV and Radio on Sunday;**

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- From the Festival City Of Edinburgh

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Hymns Celebrating Creation

### **Prayer for the day:**

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

## **For our Prayers**

### ***Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:***

Brenda Baylis	Maureen Gerard	Irene F	Margaret	Charlie	Sue	Peter
Irene Mussell	Mike	Karen	Nathan	Colin	Rachel	Shelley
Katie	Simon	Eddie	June M	Marie	Andrew Ley	

### ***Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:***

Stanley. Dorothy GA. Stephen G. Pamela and John P Margaret S

**Anglican Communion:** Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda: The Most Revd Laurent Mbanda

**Hereford:** Pray for all parish churches as places of welcome and support in their communities

**Porvoo:** Church of England: Diocese of Portsmouth, Bishop Jonathan Frost; Church of Sweden: Diocese of Stockholm, Bishop Andreas Holmberg

**South Wye:** Those living and working in Meadow Close, Court Crescent, Hinton Crescent, Hollybush Walk, Laburnum Grove, Oak Avenue, Oak Crescent, Lime Grove, Hinton Avenue, Maple Grove

**The Wider View:** Pray for peace and reconciliation between peoples in conflict, and for the protection of Christian minorities in the Middle East. Pray for all carers and for work in social care; for young people receiving exam results and considering next steps

## **Collect for 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Readings for 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### **Isaiah 1.1: 1-20**

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! <sup>11</sup> What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. <sup>12</sup> When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; <sup>13</sup> bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation - I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. <sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup> When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. <sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. <sup>18</sup> Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. <sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; <sup>20</sup> but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword;

## **Psalm 50: 1-8, 23-24**

1 The Lord, the most mighty God has spoken ♦ and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
2 Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; ♦ our God comes and will not keep silence.  
3 Consuming fire goes out before him ♦ and a mighty tempest stirs about him.  
4 He calls the heaven above, ♦ and the earth, that he may judge his people:  
5 'Gather to me my faithful, ♦ who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'  
6 Let the heavens declare his righteousness, ♦ for God himself is judge.  
7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak: ♦ 'I will testify against you, O Israel; for I am God, your God.  
8 'I will not reprove you for your sacrifices, ♦ for your burnt offerings are always before me.  
23 'You that forget God, consider this well, ♦ lest I tear you apart and there is none to deliver you.  
24 'Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me ♦  
and to those who keep my way will I show the salvation of God.'

## **Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16**

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.  
<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'  
<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## **Luke 12: 32-40**

<sup>32</sup> 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.  
<sup>35</sup> 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.  
<sup>39</sup> 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

## Bible Study based on Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

**Bible notes** Throughout the letter to the Hebrews, the writer encourages the audience to keep their faith alive. Like many early Christians, they expected Jesus to return soon. The long wait for his arrival left them losing energy and commitment – this has been described as ‘spiritual torpor’. Just before this passage, the writer has reminded them that faith brings life and salvation. So, what is faith? In verse 1, the writer links faith to assurance (v.1), using the word *hypostasis*, which implies emotional certainty, and to conviction (the translation of the Greek word, *elenchos*). Faith relates to two core aspects of human understanding. He then goes on to tell stories of Israel’s history, beginning from creation itself. The world is God’s work, and the stories of chosen individuals follow from this.

Though this passage tells many stories, today’s reading focuses on Abraham, who is also an example of faith for Paul (Galatians 3:6). God promised him a home and descendants (Genesis 12:1-2), and his trust in God led him to follow God’s call, leave his home and become a nomad. He and Sarah had no child and no home for many years, but their commitment to God’s promise was unwavering. The writer relates God’s promise of home to the end-time expectation of the city of God (Revelation 21:2f), which was core to the hopes of the early Christians if not exactly what Genesis implies.

In telling these stories, the writer highlights how the believers’ hopes remained unfulfilled, for they lived in expectation of God’s promises but did not see their fulfilment in Christ. Though they were still on the journey, they did not give up or consider returning to their earlier lives, but continued onwards, faithfully trusting God’s promise that there would be a home for them in God’s country. The stories carry clear implications for the audience of this letter – weary Christians whose faith was dwindling even though they had already met the risen Christ in the power of the Spirit.



**Reflection** *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* Hebrews was written for people who were in danger of starting to lose interest in Jesus. Possibly some were becoming disillusioned with faith because of personal issues. Most of the previous chapters deliberately remind people of how wonderful Jesus is – in particular, that he is the real high priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). Chapter 11 is an encouragement to keep on going in faith. Abraham and Sarah are held up as exemplars of people who kept going in faith when the odds seemed to be stacked against them. This week would be a good opportunity to be honest about the struggles we experience to keep on going in faith.

### Questions for reflection

- Think of a time when you felt like giving up – what helped you to keep going?
- What are you still trusting God for?
- How is your journey of faith going? Are you focused on the destination?

# Sudoku

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3	7	9	2	4	8	5	1	6
4	8	5	9	1	6	3	2	7
7	4	1	5	8	9	2	6	3
8	9	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
2	5	3	6	7	4	1	9	8
9	3	7	4	6	1	8	5	2
5	6	4	8	9	2	7	3	1
1	2	8	7	3	5	6	4	9

9	6	5	2	7	1	3	4	8
2	4	1	6	8	3	9	5	7
7	3	8	9	5	4	2	6	1
6	5	2	1	4	9	7	8	3
4	7	3	8	6	2	1	9	5
8	1	9	7	3	5	4	2	6
5	8	4	3	9	7	6	1	2
1	9	7	5	2	6	8	3	4
3	2	6	4	1	8	5	7	9

# Sudoku (Trickier)

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		6		4				1
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		5			2			
3	1				5			

5	6	4	3	1	7	2	9	8
1	9	7	8	5	2	3	4	6
8	2	3	9	4	6	1	5	7
9	4	6	1	7	3	8	2	5
7	8	2	6	9	5	4	1	3
3	1	5	4	2	8	7	6	9
6	7	9	2	3	4	5	8	1
2	5	1	7	8	9	6	3	4
4	3	8	5	6	1	9	7	2

3	1	9	8	6	5	4	2	7
6	7	5	4	3	2	1	8	9
2	8	4	7	1	9	5	3	6
7	2	6	3	4	8	9	5	1
5	9	1	2	7	6	3	4	8
8	4	3	5	9	1	6	7	2
4	6	7	1	2	3	8	9	5
9	5	2	6	8	4	7	1	3
1	3	8	9	5	7	2	6	4

Wordsearch based on Luke 12: 32-40

M	O	D	G	N	I	K	X	H	D	O	O	R	V	L
F	M	A	K	Q	M	O	T	H	E	I	E	X	S	I
K	N	C	L	I	T	T	L	E	P	A	A	U	P	M
B	T	T	L	A	M	P	S	L	C	X	R	R	L	G
X	Y	I	Q	Z	O	M	A	S	T	E	R	T	F	L
P	Z	O	O	N	W	A	D	E	I	U	V	R	B	A
U	S	N	G	K	C	O	L	F	J	F	T	F	H	N
R	G	O	B	P	L	E	A	S	U	R	E	H	O	D
S	X	L	P	P	C	G	N	I	D	D	E	W	U	C
E	Z	S	K	C	O	N	K	J	O	V	M	S	S	T
S	Z	L	L	E	S	Y	I	Z	R	F	R	M	E	W
E	N	E	V	A	E	H	F	E	I	H	T	L	E	T
U	G	G	J	O	S	J	S	R	D	L	P	A	V	L
J	S	B	E	H	T	G	P	U	X	N	R	W	P	E
S	Z	B	M	R	K	G	O	O	D	I	P	Y	R	B

AFRAID  
DOOR  
MOTH  
KINGDOM  
HOUSE

PURSES  
FLOCK  
BELT  
LAMPS  
ALMS

WEDDING  
THIEF  
PLEASURE  
DAWN  
HEART

LITTLE  
KNOCKS  
ACTION  
SELL  
HEAVEN

WEAR  
GOOD  
SERVE  
MASTER