

Wye Bridge News

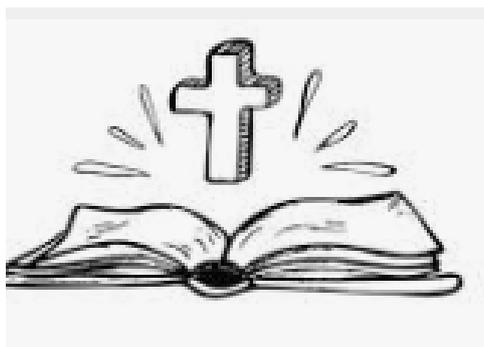
The Magazine of
South Wye Benefice

St Martins & St Peters Bullinghope churches £1.00 March 2026



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Mothering Sunday—What are its origins in the Church ?

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, countries around the world celebrate Mothering Sunday. This typically involves lavishing Mums with gifts and attention and celebrating the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives.

But with the day becoming increasingly commercialised, how many people are aware of its very different origins?

Here are some of the traditions that have shaped Mothering Sunday into the celebration recognised today:

The Journey to the Mother Church

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many.

A day off to visit Mother

Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focussed occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far more rare, (and facetime was still a long way off). In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on Mothering Sunday.

Simnel Cake



Simnel cake has a strong affiliation to Mothering Sunday as it is usually associated with spring and Easter. It resembles a Christmas fruit cake but should be slightly lighter in texture. The other difference is the two layers of marzipan. Simnel cake should have a layer of marzipan running through the middle and then another layer of marzipan on the top. Traditionally, you should also roll some marzipan into eleven eggs and place these on the top. The eggs are supposed to symbolise the disciples who followed Jesus – note that Judas is excluded.

Churchwarden News—St Martins

Even though we are currently without a resident member of clergy our parish life is continuing.

Every Sunday morning at 9.30am we have Holy Communion in church followed by refreshments. It is great to meet visiting clergy with new ideas.

During the service we offer Sunday School for the children.

Evening Prayer is on St Martin's Church Facebook page at 8pm every Monday.

Bible Study Group is every Tuesday at 1pm in the Narthex.

Tea, coffee and cakes are served at Tuesday Coffee every Tuesday at 2pm in the Narthex.

Messy Church runs once a month.

Young at Heart meets twice a month.

More details for the above groups can be found on our Facebook page and elsewhere in this magazine.

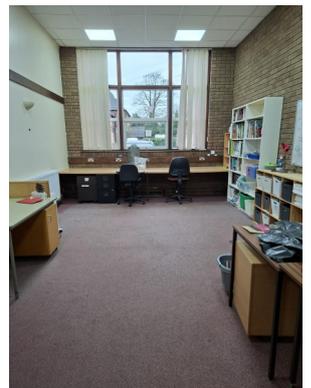
This month we are looking forward to our Lent Lunch on Saturday 14th March, run by ECO Church. Our Valentine's Day Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall was a huge success as you will see opposite.

We are very lucky to have an energetic group of volunteers who organise and run each and every one of these activities.

Over the past couple of months we have been cleaning and tidying , and now have an official space to hold meetings.

Please get in touch with the office for further details, details on page 24.

We are blessed with our helpers, paid and unpaid, without whom we would cease to function. We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our church services, clubs, groups and activities.



St Martin's Churchwardens: Gillian Farlow & Onnie Lane

A wonderful Afternoon Tea to celebrate Valentines Day



A lovely afternoon at St Martins, beautiful food, a prize draw and companionship. We raised £343 for church funds.



A 'big Thank You' to everyone involved in making the afternoon so special.



RSPB – Big Bird Watch 23rd -25th January 2026



We carried out the big bird watch in the churchyard on Saturday 24th and at home on Sunday 25th January. Each bird watch is for one hour and you are only allowed to count birds that land on the ground or in the trees, water etc. not any that just fly over your area. You are also only allowed to count the largest amount of any species you see at any one time i.e. at home on the Sunday I counted sixty-six sparrows in the allotted hour but could only enter a count of eight as that was the largest amount seen together at any one time. This is so you don't count the same bird twice. The whole weekend was wet and windy so that also kept the count down as well.

This is the second year we have carried out the big bird watch count in the churchyard and there were definitely more birds around this year, there were plenty sheltering from the weather in our hedgerows we could hear them chirping and fluttering around, we even had a solitary robin following us for around ten minutes until we gave it some food.

We have more birds this year due to the hard work everyone has put in like planting flowers around the front and back of the church hall which attracts more insects and in turn attracts more birds feeding on them. The no mow May also had a similar impact with a wealth of wildflowers and seeds from the different grasses. The bird feeding station we hung up contributed as well, but unfortunately the squirrels usually got there first and had the majority share.



The total churchyard count for this year with the adjusted figures were:

Blackbirds	Qty 3
Collared Doves	Qty 1
House Sparrows	Qty 3
Robins	Qty 1
Starlings	Qty 6
Wood Pigeons	Qty 5
Crows	Qty 3



Future Plans

During this year we are planning to put up some more bird nesting boxes, squirrel proof the feeding station, plant some more wildflowers around the churchyard and organise a litter pickup in the local area. If you would like to help or if you have any ideas for God's Acre, feel free to join in.

Sometime in April when the RSPB have worked out the numbers on how the bird population is faring across the UK, we will pass this information on in the Parish magazine.

Peter Bird



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

Sun 1st	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Holy Communion at St Peter's
Tues 3rd	1-2pm 2-3pm 7.15pm	Bible study in the Narthex St. Martin's Tuesday Coffee in the Narthex PCC Meeting in the Choir Vestry St Martin's
Sun 8th	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 10th	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible study in the Narthex St Martin's Tuesday Coffee in the Narthex St Martin's
Thurs 12th	12:30pm	Home Instead lunch in church hall St Martin's— please 'phone 01432 804000 to book- £5pp
Frid 13th	4-5:30pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall
Sat 14th	12pm	Lent Lunch St Martin's Church Hall
Sun 15th	9:30am 11:15am	Holy Communion at St Martin's Mothering Sunday Holy Communion at St Peter's Bullinghope
Tues 17th	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible study in the Narthex St Martin's Tuesday Coffee in the Narthex St Martin's
Thurs 19th	2:00pm	Young at Heart Arts & Crafts in the Narthex
Sun 22nd	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tues 24th	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible study in the Narthex St Martin's Tuesday Coffee in the Narthex St Martin's
Sun 29th	9:30am	Palm Sunday No Procession Holy Communion at St Martin's joined by St Peter's



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

- ◆ 3rd March PCC Meeting at 7:15pm Narthex St Martin's
- ◆ 14th March Eco Church Pre Lent lunch in the Parish Hall St Martin's
- ◆ 24th March PCC including a visit from Archdeacon Derek, Peter Maxwell and Stephen Herbert in the Narthex at St Martin's
- ◆ Passover Meal Thursday 2nd April at St Martin's time TBC— please sign up in church
- ◆ Last Hour Service Good Friday 3rd April at St Martin's at 2pm
- ◆ 7th April PCC Meeting at 7:15pm Choir Vestry St Martin's
- ◆ Quiz night TBC
- ◆ Summer fete TBC



St Martin's, Visiting Clergy

Sunday 8th March	9:30 am	Rev. Jane Plackett – Ferguson
Sunday 15th March	9:30 am 11:15am	Rev. Jackie Nevill & Barry Stevens Rev. Tony Kelk
Sunday 22nd March	9:30am	Rev. Jane Plackett – Ferguson
Palm Sunday 29th March	9:30am	Rev. Jackie Nevill

What am I reading on Sunday?

Please check with the person running our service.

Date	Sunday 1st March
'Sunday'	2nd Sunday of Lent
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm	121
2nd Reading	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
Gospel	John 3: 1-17

Date	Sunday 8th March
'Sunday'	3rd Sunday of Lent
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Exodus 17:1—7
Psalm	95
2nd Reading	Romans 5: 1 –11
Gospel	John 4: 5-42

Date	Sunday 15th March
'Sunday'	Mothering Sunday
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Exodus 2: 1—10
Psalm	34: 11-20
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
Gospel	<i>Luke 2: 33-35</i>

Date	Sunday 22nd March
Sunday'	5th Sunday of Lent
Colour	<i>Purple (Lenten Array)</i>
1st Reading	Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Psalm	130
2nd Reading	Romans 8: 6-11
Gospel	John 11: 1-45

What am I reading on Sunday?

Date Sunday 29th March
'Sunday' Palm Sunday
Colour Red
1st Reading Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9 –16
2nd Reading Philippians 2: 5-11
Gospel Matthew 27: 11-54

Date Sunday 5th April
'Sunday' Easter Day
Colour *Gold/White*
1st Reading Acts 10: 34-43
Psalm 118: 14-24
2nd Reading Colossians 3: 1-4
Gospel John 20: 1-18

Date Sunday 12th April
'Sunday' 2nd Sunday of Easter
Colour *White*
1st Reading Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
2nd Reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9
Gospel John 20: 19– end

Date Sunday 19th April
'Sunday' 3rd Sunday of Easter
Colour *White*
1st Reading Acts 2: 14a, 36 - 41
Psalm 116; 1-7
2nd Reading 1 Peter 1: 17-43
Gospel Luke 24: 13-35



ECO CHURCH

The Christian charity A ROCHA UK devised a survey to provide a framework to support churches to take practical action to care for God's earth. We use this survey to discover how our church is already caring for God's earth, and to highlight those areas where we could do more. The survey covers five key areas of church life: Worship and Teaching, Buildings and energy, Land and nature, Community and global engagement and Lifestyle.

Early last year, we celebrated achieving our Bronze award. Has anyone spotted the plaque in the Narthex? A ROCHA UK then produced a new survey and this requires more commitment from us all, as globally it has been recognised more needs to be done to meet the needs of the environment and to slow down adverse change. We therefore have larger targets to meet to achieve our Silver Award, and the Eco Church Team have been looking at how we can meet these.

The survey suggested the provision of cycle racks, and we realised they are much needed, due to the increased number of activities in and around the church and church centre, and nowhere for cyclists to keep their bicycles safely. It also encourages the community to travel in a greener way, to make use of the new cycle tracks soon to be created on the Holme Lacy Road and to keep fit. We have applied for funding from the City Council to cover the cost of the racks and installation, and hope to have good news soon.

We are ever mindful of the materials and resources used around the church and church centre, and will continue to look at this. Less paper is being used for pew sheets and therefore less ink and energy too. If you are happy to just have a digital copy of the newsletter, please decline the paper version, so that we can reduce the number we produce, also. On our stalls at fairs we have sold plants and items produced from renewable resources, such as the wonderful St Martin's Church bamboo pens. We have tried to avoid plastic for prizes, and used recyclable materials.

At our coffee morning a few years ago, those of us present put together some suggestions on how to tackle the '3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' and thought about what we could do under each heading, to reduce our carbon footprint and to prevent waste. How many of the following do you now do, and which of these could you now adopt this year?

REDUCE	REUSE	RECYCLE
Single use plastic	Glass and plastic bottles and containers	Garden and green waste
Take your own cups and bottles	Make do and mend	Paper, card, tins, plastics, glass in our fortnightly home collections
Use tumble dryer less	Buy clothes from charity shops	Metal, foil and much more at the household recycling centre at Rotherwas
Use microwaves and airfryers more than ovens	Buy clothes made locally or in Britain	Is your workplace recycling? If not perhaps you could set up some bins like we have in the church buildings?
Boil only the water you need in the kettle	Buy recycled paper	Batteries (taken in many supermarkets)
Use a water butt	Run a communal Christmas card scheme and when finished with the cards, use the fronts as tags or donate to groups who use them to make new cards	Ink cartridges (taken by Tesco for example)
Flush the toilet less	Fluff from your tumble dryer can be put out for the birds to line their nests with	Soft plastics (taken by many supermarkets including M&S, Co-op, Tesco)
Cook in batches		Donate to charity shops
Eat less meat		
Buy locally sourced food		
Grow your own		
Car share		
Digital use		

This Lent, you could take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.

Beginning on 18th February (but you can join anytime), you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season.

Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/

We look forward to continuing on the Eco Church journey and if anybody would like to join the Eco Church Team to help action change, we would love to hear from you.

Sarah, Peter and Dafydd

LENT LUNCH



Saturday 14th March

12 pm

St Martin's Church Centre

Come and join us for a light lunch

Suggested donation £3

Prize Raffle

Please sign up on the sheet in church

The Eco Church Team

Messy Church @ St Martin's

You're Invited to :



at St Martin's Church Ross Road

Friday 13th March

4- 5.30pm

in the Church Hall

We will be getting ready for Mother's Day and making cards and gifts for our mums and other people we care about.

We finish with a hot meal together, for everyone.

Children MUST be accompanied by adults

Free to all - but donations welcome

www.stmartinshereford.org.uk/messy-church



Young at Heart



Onnie, Marlene & Julia welcome everyone, every 3rd Thursday of the month.
2pm in the Narthex at St Martins Church.

We play games including Bingo. We do Flower arranging and many other crafts.

You are welcome to come along and join us, just turn up every 3rd Thursday of the month.



On the 2nd Thursday of the month we join Home Instead in the church hall to enjoy a meal prepared for us and celebrate fellowship and all things "Young at Heart". Please contact Home Instead on 01432 804000 if you would like to come to the meal. £5pp.

It will be great to see you there!

Onnie, Marlene & Julia

A prayer for Mothering Sunday

Join us in prayer this Mothering Sunday as we celebrate and extend our hearts to those who find this day challenging.

Loving God,

Thank you for mothers and children and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;

Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;

Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home,

And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



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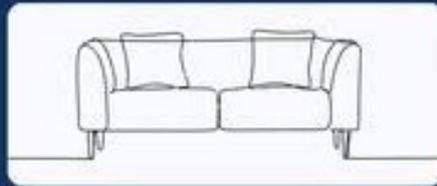


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Regular Sunday Services

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

11.15 am Holy Communion—1st Sunday is Holy Communion. 3rd Sunday of the month is Morning prayer.

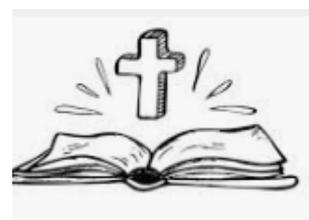
Baptisms if required on second Sunday of the month

For patterns of Communion and Morning Prayer, please check on St Peter's Facebook page

Please let us know what you have liked and would like to see included in future editions of Wye Bridge News.

You can email us at aspiration@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Thank you



Meet The Team

Clergy

We are currently in interregnum at the South Wye churches.

Updates will be provided and timescales announced when known.

Team Office Staff



Team Administrator

Sharron Brown

Financial Co-Ordinator

Kirstie Weaver

Sexton

Scott

Cleaning Specialist

Sara

TEAM OFFICE (at St Martin's Church)

89 Ross Road, Hereford HR2 7RJ

office@stmartinshereford.org.uk

OPENING HOURS Mon - Thurs 9am - 1pm

Friday 11am- 3pm

Call in to see us on a weekday morning or phone us on 01432 353717

Websites:

www.stmartinshereford.org.uk

St Martin's Church, Ross Rd, Hereford

Or find us on Facebook

[@stpetersbullinghope](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersbullinghope)

Home Instead Monthly Lunch Club
on the
2nd Thursday of every month at noon.
£5 per person.

Come and join us for a home-cooked lunch and conversation with people just like you.

Home Instead Hereford is supporting monthly get-togethers to help combat loneliness for our more senior members of the community, especially those whose world still hasn't opened since COVID-19.

St Martins Church Hall, Ross Road Hereford,
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