



ST MARTIN'S CHURCH BARNEHURST

PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



Eucharist services each week at 10.30am followed by refreshments
The next non eucharist service will be on Mothering Sunday, 15th March
Click [here](#) for the full list of Family Services in 2026

Among the saints of the British Isles, few are as beloved and enduring as Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. Known in Welsh as Dewi Sant, he stands as a spiritual father of the Welsh people and a symbol of faith, resilience, and gentle holiness. Each year on 1 March, his feast day is celebrated not only in Wales but wherever Welsh communities have settled across the world.

Saint David lived during the sixth century, at a time when Christianity in Britain was still developing its distinctive Celtic character. Tradition tells us that he was born near the south-western coast of Wales and that he founded a monastic settlement in what is now the city of St Davids, near Cardiff. Though small in size, the city became an important religious centre, and its cathedral still stands as a place of pilgrimage.

David was renowned as a preacher and teacher. He established a number of monasteries, not only in Wales but also in parts of western Britain. The monastic rule he promoted was notably strict. The monks lived a simple life: they refrained from eating meat, drank only water, and undertook hard physical labour in the fields. Even the plough was pulled by the monks themselves rather than by oxen. This simplicity and self-discipline were not ends in themselves but expressions of wholehearted devotion to Christ.

Several stories are associated with Saint David, the most famous occurring at the Synod of Brefi. According to tradition, while he was preaching to a large crowd, the ground beneath him rose up to form a small hill "bryn" of so that all could see and hear him. A white dove was said to have settled on his shoulder, a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence. Whether understood as history or legend, the story conveys an important truth: David's preaching was inspired, clear, and full of spiritual authority.

His final words to his followers have become a cherished motto in Wales: "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things." The phrase "Do the little things" (Gwnewch y pethau bychain) captures something essential about Christian discipleship. Holiness is not always found in dramatic gestures, but in daily faithfulness — in prayer, kindness, integrity, and perseverance.

Saint David was recognised as a saint by the early Christian community, and his cult spread widely. In time, he was formally acknowledged by the wider Catholic Church, and he remains a figure of unity for Christians across denominations in Wales today where, Churches, schools, and charities bear his name now.

Wishing You, Love, Life, Peace and Blessings, Father Gareth

GOSPELS FOR MARCH

1st March 2026	John 3.1–17
8th March 2026	John 4.5–42
15th March 2026	John 9.1–41
22nd March 2026	John 11.1–45
29th March 2026	Matthew 26.14 – 27

A PRAYER FOR LENT

During Lent we often think of giving things up in your honour, yet you call us to seek something deeper, to focus on kindness, compassion and generosity. Teach us to willingly share a listening ear, a caring attitude, a helping hand or a soft and gentle word where needed most.
Amen

In March we ask you to pray for everyone living or working in Beechcroft Avenue, Castleton Avenue, Downbank Avenue, Edendale Road and Fairford Avenue

We also ask you to remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers. Andrew, Angela R, David B, Elizabeth M, Father Gareth, John M, Joyce P, Julia J, Keith R, Mary P, Neil R, Rob P, and all who are suffering in body, mind and spirit.

If you have any specific prayer requests or an approaching significant special event, please let us know

Vicar: Father Gareth Bowen - Rest day: Monday
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St.Martin's Church: Erith Road, Barnehurst DA7 6LE
www.aChurchNearYou.com/saint-martins-barnehurst



ST MARTIN'S CHURCH BARNEHURST
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**PLANT SALE
 AND
 SPRING FAIR**

**SATURDAY 25 APRIL
 10AM - 12PM**

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH
 ERITH ROAD, DA7 6LE**

**RAFFLE
 TOMBOLA
 CAKES
 SOFT TOYS
 LUCKY BAGS
 BOTTLE TOMBOLA**

**TEA &
 COFFEE
 BOOKS &
 JIGSAWS**

CAMEO (MU)

The next meeting will be on Monday 9th March, the last 1.30pm meeting before we change back to evening meetings in April.

We will be looking at Spring Festivals around the world. All adults are welcome.

We will also collect any donations of the small boxed Easter Eggs for BWA at this meeting as our April meeting is after Easter

EASTER SERVICES

15th March Mothering Sunday. 10:30am Family Service of Morning Prayer. All welcome.

29th March Palm Sunday. 10:30am Liturgy of the Palms with Holy Communion. All welcome.

2nd April Maundy Thursday. 7:30pm Compline and Prayer and Anointing for Healing. All welcome.

3rd April Good Friday. 12:00 noon Stations of the Cross. 1:00pm Readings, Poems, and Contemplation. 2:00pm Last hour. All welcome.

5th April Easter Sunday. 9:00am Low Mass. 10:30am Easter Sunday Mass with Easter Egg hunt in Church and Baptism of baby Dorothy. All welcome.

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW - £1
 Per ticket**

Email: stmartins.monthlydraw@gmail.com
 Drawn on Sunday 22nd February

2026

£25 (no 126)	Julia Jamieson
£10 (no 125)	Julia Jamieson
£5 (no 79)	Keith Rossiter
£5 (no 112)	Jan Hailstone

**COME AND JOIN US AT OUR 90TH
 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON
 SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026**

**FULL DETAILS TO BE
 ANNOUNCED SOON**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
 ST MARTIN'S IN 2026**

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



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NHS
Dartford and Gravesham
NHS Trust

You are warmly invited
DARTFORD AND GRAVESHAM NHS TRUST'S
Unpaid Carers Engagement Event
TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2026
10.00AM – 3.00PM
AT: CLAIRE TILTMAN CENTRE, COTTON LANE, GREENHITHE DA9 9FA

THE EVENT IS FOR:

- Unpaid Carers supporting patients during hospital stays, visits and at home
- Patients who rely on an unpaid carer(s)
- Healthcare professionals committed to improving carer involvement

WE VALUE UNPAID CARERS AS ESSENTIAL PARTNERS IN PATIENT CARE. THIS EVENT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Share your experiences and insights
- Help shape our hospitals to better support carers
- Collaborate with professionals and community partners.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:
Please scan the QR code or
Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3x6vzdh>
Email: dgn-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net
Call: 01322 428851

VALLEY
HOSPITAL CHARITY
SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE

Beths Grammar School Present

SHREK
THE
MUSICAL

Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig

Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire
Music by Jeanine Tesori

Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

Dates and times are:

- March 12th and 13th at 7pm
- March 14th at 1pm

Scan the QR code or visit:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/beths-grammar-school

COFFEE SHOP – every Tuesday in the Maxim Room from 10am to 12pm

POSTAGE STAMPS AND PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES -
Please keep saving these. Collecting boxes are in the church and hall

GARDENING WORKING PARTIES - If you can help to keep our grounds tidy please contact Phil: Philip.church@virgin.net

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

You are warmly invited to...
Beths Grammar School's

Easter
Afternoon Tea
for the retired & semi-retired

Please join us for a delightful afternoon filled with music, games, food and laughter. Enjoy wonderful company as we host a community afternoon tea.

Wednesday 25th March 2026 - 2:15pm- 4pm
Beths Grammar School, Hartford Road, DA5 1NE
Price: £4 per person.

Please register your interest by emailing Admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk or call 01322 556538 by Wednesday 18th March 2026.