

Wye Bridge News

The Magazine of
South Wye Benefice
St Martins & St Peters Bullinghope churches
September 2026
£1.00



Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.

Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103

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On being yourself

I remember my first day of school in September 1969. "Just be yourself!" exhorted my grandpa - which at the tender age of four made no sense whatsoever but which I have had good reason to think about many times since.

I have learned that 'being yourself' is an important part of living a full and faithful life. Each of us is unique yet we feel continual pressure to fit in with the expectations of others. As my grandpa tried to point out to the anxious four-year-old in the oversized blazer, happiness comes from embracing who God made us to be. When we are comfortable in our own skins, we are able to contribute authentically to our communities and build stronger relationships with others.

It is true of the church too. A church that is unsure of itself can easily drift into simply reflecting the preferences of society. A confident Church that knows who and whose it is can lovingly but clearly proclaim its beliefs even when they are unfashionable and teach the gospel in all seasons even (perhaps especially) at the hour of death.

Which brings me to the horror of what are euphemistically called "Pure Cremations". One might also accurately call them Carcass Disposal. Increasingly, society is sold on direct cremation because it appears simple, efficient and cheap. It is also pastorally destructive leaving families with no space to grieve and acknowledge death.

The Church should ask itself why it is handing the business of dealing with death over to the secular and profit-seeking funeral industry and whether something important is being lost on our watch. Christian funerals are not simply about disposing of a body. They are acts of worship in which we commend a loved one to God's mercy, support the grieving, give thanks for a life lived, and proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. The Church of England is a custodian of the Christian understanding of death, burial, resurrection, and hope. For two millennia, Christians have cared deeply about the treatment of the body because the body matters to God.

When the Church conducts a funeral, whether culminating in burial or cremation, it is being itself.

(continued overleaf)

It is doing what Christians have done for centuries: gathering around the dead and the bereaved, speaking words of hope, praying together, and declaring that death does not have the last word. If the Church becomes hesitant about offering this witness, it risks forgetting part of its own identity.

To be confident in whose we are means being confident enough to say that people need more than efficiency at the end of life. They need prayer, community, ritual, remembrance and hope. The Church serves society best not by surrendering these things but by offering them generously and joyfully and unashamedly in the way that it knows. Let's be who we are.

The Very Revd Sarah Brown Dean of Hereford

Churchwarden News—St Martin's

With one of hottest months on record, August has been busy at St Martin's with Fund Raising and Church Services.

There have been two Baptisms, three Funerals and a Memorial service. With the help from Eco Church, Peter has been hard at work cutting the grass in the wildflower meadow, which was becoming a dangerous fire concern, near to properties, due to the long hot summer and long dry grass and all the complaints received about this at the church office.

It's great to see it getting cut and looking much tidier. Scott and Simon, thank you both for cutting the high hedge down to level in the church carpark and removing the rubbish, tidying up, and making more room for more car parking spaces.

Clive- a big thank you for sorting the kissing gates out we will shortly be able to close the kissing gate and with a new coat of paint everything is looking good. Thanks again.

Fund Raising Events: Young at Heart held on 20th August was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Breakfast in the hall after the service on Sunday 23rd was very well attended.

Churchwarden News—St Martin's

Every Tuesday afternoon the Tea, Coffee and Cake in the Narthex is very well supported.

John and I would like to take this opportunity thank everyone that supports St Martin's in so many ways, it is so much appreciated.

Thanks Onnie.

Churchwarden News—St Peter's

Thank you to everyone who came to our Summer songs of praise service on August 9th. It was a lovely evening with some lovely hymns - **see page 16 for our photos**

Thank you to Onnie and Marlene for doing refreshments.

Congratulations to our organist Jeff who recently celebrated 60 years of being a church organist.

He's been organist at Bullinghope for 57 of those 60 years.



We are in the process of organising a 60's quiz night and a coffee morning as fundraisers for Bullinghope. We do need to raise as much money as we can for Bullinghope as our finances are getting critical.

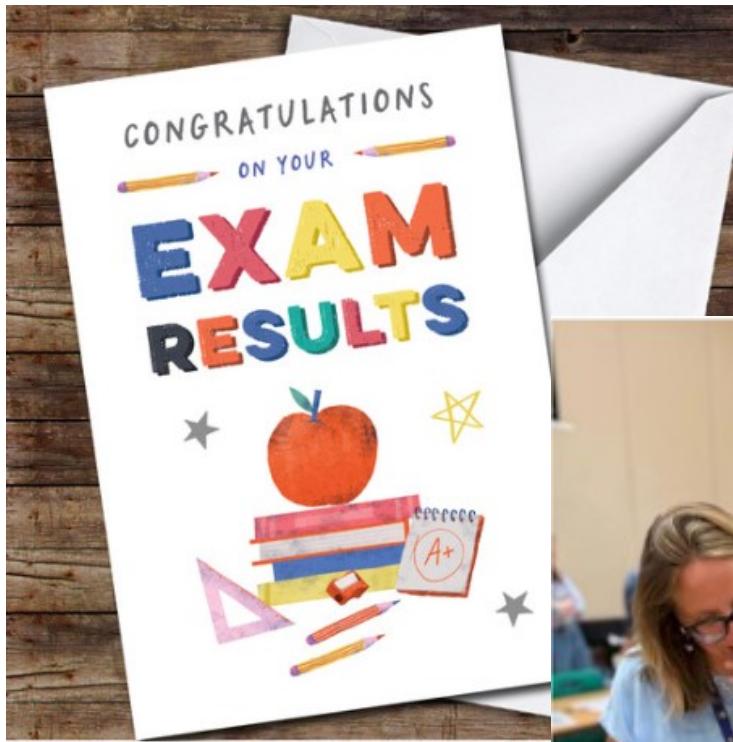


Parish Breakfast @ St Martin's

A new regular feature bringing together folk after our Communion service.

Following the Church Service on 23rd August a Full English Breakfast was served in the church hall by Gaye, Marlene, John and helpers Andrew and Karl. Again cooked without a range cooker. It was great seeing so many from the congregation attending and having a catch-up time. A total of £150.00 plus gift aid was again raised for church funds. Thank you to everyone. Onnie.





Daniel Hammett, who got 4 x Grade 9s, 3 x Grade 8s, 2 x Grade 7s, with Mrs Finch at Kingstone High School (Image: Kingstone High School)

Congratulations to Daniel and all children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews who were in our prayers as they sat their exams this year.

Well done to all !

Our thoughts and prayers also turn to those children going to school for the first time this September, those moving schools and those moving to higher education and apprenticeships. Also to all who support them.



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

Tue 1st Sept	1-2pm 2-3pm 7pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex PCC Meeting in the Choir Vestry
Sun 6th Sept	9:30am 11:15am	Morning Prayer at St Martin's Morning Prayer at St Peter's
Tue 8th Sept	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Sun 13th Sept	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
Tue 15th Sept	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Thurs 17th Sept	2pm	Young @ Heart Tea Party
Frid 18th Sept	4pm	Messy Church in St Martin's Church Hall
Sun 20th Sept	9:30am 11:15am 5:30pm	Holy Communion at St Martin's Holy Communion at St Peter's Songs of Praise @ St Martin's followed by Scones and Pimms
Tue 22nd Sept	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex
Sun 27th Sept	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Martin's followed by Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall-<i>booking required</i>
Tue 29th Sept	1-2pm 2-3pm	Bible Study in the Narthex Coffee - in the Narthex



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

- ♦ PCC 1st September:
- ♦ Messy Church — 18th September
- ♦ Quiz night TBC
- ♦ 17th September Young @ Heart 2pm Tea party
- ♦ 20th September Songs of Praise, Scones and Pimms at St Martin's 17:30pm
- ♦ 25th September: 60's Night fundraiser for St. Peter's
- ♦ 27th September: Harvest service and lunch, St. Peter's
- ♦ 4th October 11:15 Harvest Festival at St Peter's
- ♦ 10th October: Table top and car boot sale.
- ♦ 14th November: St. Martin's Christmas Fayre.
- ♦ 17th December: Young at Heart Carols.
- ♦ 20th December: Church Carol Service



St Martin's, Visiting Clergy

Sunday 6th Sept	9:30am	Irene Goodman
	11:15 am	Simon Paget
Sunday 13th Sept	9:30 am	Rev Jackie Nevill & Barry Stephens
Sunday 20th Sept	9:30 am	TBC
	11:15am	TBC
Sunday 27th Sept	9:30am	Rev Jackie Nevill



ST. MARTIN'S

Messy
Church

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH HALL, ROSS
ROAD, HEREFORD

Friday 18th September
4-5:30pm

ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, GAMES, FOOD
AND A BIBLE STORY
FUN FOR ALL AGES
CHILDREN MUST BRING AN ADULT

What am I reading on Sunday?

Please check with the person running our service.

Date	Sunday 6th September
'Sunday'	14th Sunday after Trinity
Colour	Green
1st Reading	Exodus 12: 1 –14
Psalm	149
2nd Reading	Romans 13: 8 – end
Gospel	Matthew 18: 15 –20

Date	Sunday 13th September
'Sunday'	15th Sunday after Trinity
Colour	Green
1st Reading	Exodus 14: 19- end
Psalm	114
2nd Reading	Romans 14: 1-12
Gospel	Matthew 18: 21-35

Date	Sunday 20th September
'Sunday'	16th Sunday after Trinity
Colour	Green
1st Reading	Exodus 16: 2-15
Psalm	119: 65-72
2nd Reading	Philippians 1: 21-end
Gospel	Matthew 20: 1-16

Date	Sunday 27th September
Sunday'	17th Sunday after Trinity Harvest Festival
Colour	Green
1st Reading	Deuteronomy 8: 7-18
Psalm	65
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 9: 6-end
Gospel	Luke 12: 16-30



10 Years of Eco Church

A Rocha UK's mission is to equip Christians and churches to care for the environment. Eco Church is a crucial part of this, and in its 10th anniversary year, a report was commissioned to celebrate what has been achieved so far, and to identify improvements they can make to increase its impact in the future.

Over 9,000 churches in England and Wales have now registered in the scheme, and more than half have achieved a Bronze award (including us) or higher. Andy Atkins (CEO of A Rocha UK) says 'We thank God for that growth, and celebrate it as a manifestation of an ongoing rediscovery of the Christian obligation, and joy, to care for creation.

Churches have appreciated the structure of the survey to guide them through the steps to take to achieve the next award, but as they progress, they have expressed a desire for:

- opportunities to learn from and be motivated by other churches
- people to coach them through the process
- resources, including specific ideas
- help in negotiating denominational barriers

I think our team here at St Martin's would agree, so we look forward to working towards our silver award with renewed support, help and ideas.

Some challenges for us this September -

Second-Hand September -Tuesday 1st to Wednesday 30th

September 2026. This is a campaign led by Oxfam to encourage people to buy only second-hand items for 30 days in the month of September. You can buy a new outfit and/or donate an old one.

Zero Waste Week - Monday 7th to Friday 11th September 2026

This is an annual awareness campaign that takes place online and on the ground. It works to help householders, businesses, organisations, schools, universities and community groups reduce landfill waste, so you can save money, preserve resources and protect the environment. Check out [zero-waste resources](#) to get you off to a good start.



St Martin's Bible Study Group



Bible study is returning on September 8th. 1pm-2pm

We look forward to seeing you then.



Please come and join us for Songs of Praise
at St Martin's

20th September @ 17:30pm

Followed by Scones and Pimms





Harvest Festival Service

27th September

St Martin's church at 9:30am.

**Followed by Harvest Lunch in the
Church Hall, immediately after the
service.**

**Please book in advance, by putting
your name down on the list in the
Church/Church Office.**

£12.50 per person



Join us for a Car Boot and Table top sale
at St Martin's Church Hall and Car Park.

Saturday 10th October 2026 :10am till 1pm

£5.00 Per Boot and Table

Refreshments will be available to purchase in the
Church Hall.

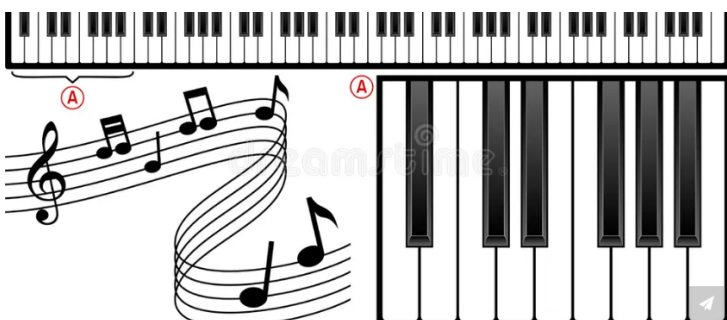
Please book your space/table with the office.

Fund Raising.

Young at Heart, held on Thursday 20th August, was a very enjoyable afternoon. Singing well known songs with Irene playing the keyboard. Thank you to Irene for all her hard work preparing the songs. Following the singing 'Puddings and Pimm's' was enjoyed by all and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying an afternoon out. Thank you to Marlene, Julia, Andrew and Karl for helping myself prepare the afternoon's Young at Heart refreshments and tidying up. £120.00 raised for church funds.

Keep **17th September 2.00pm** in your diary free for the next Young at Heart when Irene's got a surprise for us followed by a Tea Party. Thanks to everyone for supporting Young at Heart. It's always a lovely, enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks Onnie.





A lovely afternoon at St Peter's Bullinghope for our Songs of Praise service.



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wish to park at Asda)

Leave Bristol: 16:30



To reserve your seat/s contact Lesley on

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FUNERAL



DIRECTORS

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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 streaming of services during the Interregnum. We will be live streaming Night prayer every Monday on Facebook.

St Peter's, Bullinghope

Morning Prayer.

On first Sunday of the month we have a service of Morning Prayer, services still begin at 11:15am

Holy communion

Third Sunday will now be Holy communion, services still begin at 11:15am

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of Wye Bridge news.

Please let us know what you have liked and would like to see in Future editions. Please email - office@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Thank you

Sue the editor



Meet The Team

Clergy

We are currently in the interregnum for 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

Wye Bridge News Editor

Sue Wilce

TEAM OFFICE (at St Martin's Church)

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OPENING HOURS Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday 11:00am-15:00pm

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

Websites:

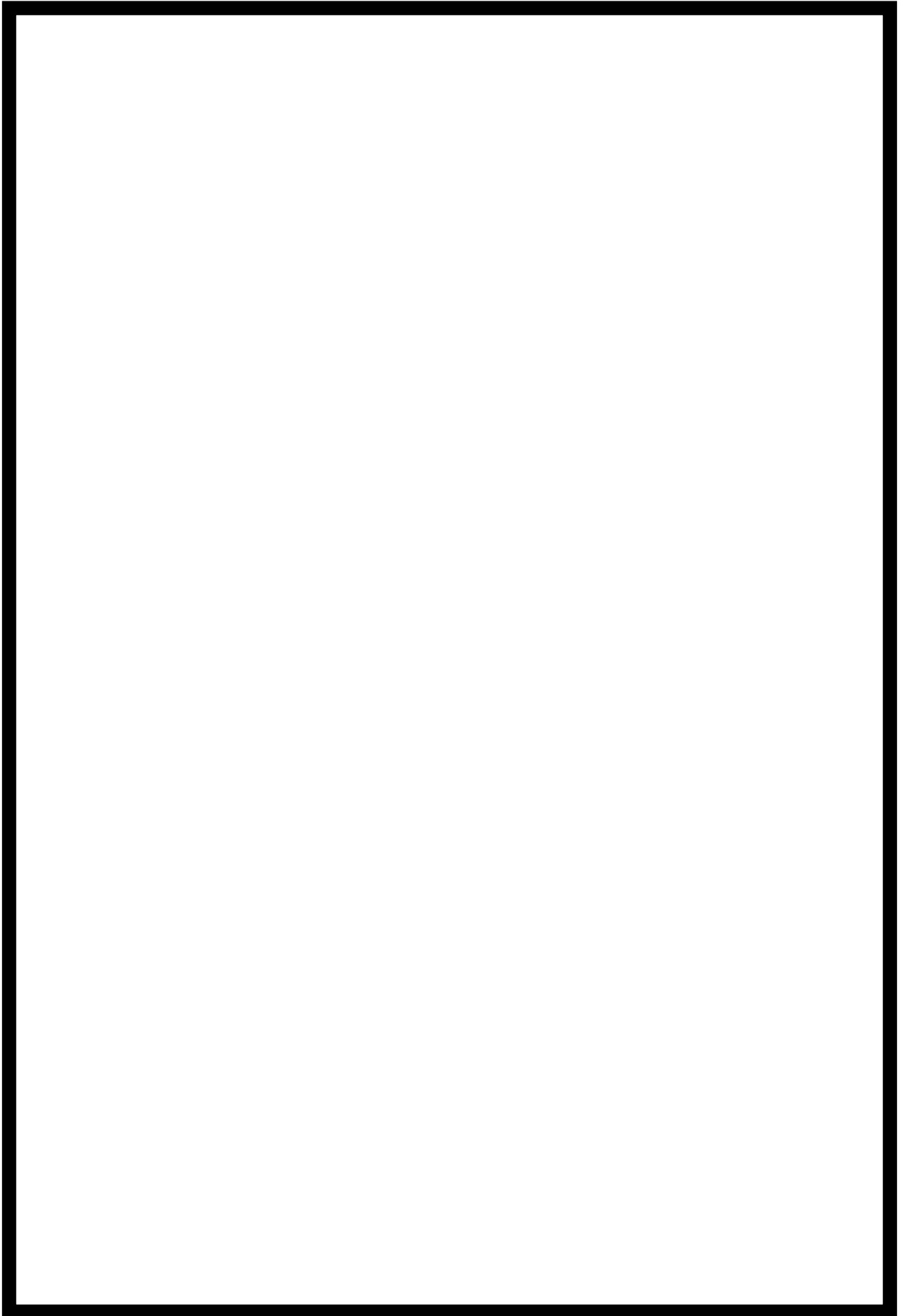
www.stmartinshereford.org.uk

St Martin's Church, Ross Rd, Hereford

Or find us on Facebook

@stpetersbullinghope

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Colouring Page





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Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103