# Wye Bridge News

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



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## Forward— The Bishop of Hereford The Rt Revd Richard Jackson

Dear Friends

As I write this, I have just returned from a visit to our link diocese in Tanzania. We visited the Diocese of Masasi in the south of the country which celebrated its 100th anniversary at the end of September. It was an experience both joyful and gruelling in equal measure. I'm not sure the Church of England is quite yet ready for four-hour ordination services in 85-degree heat. The celebration service for the anniversary was an hour longer laced with local music, ululation, joyful singing and a nun playing the vuvuzela! She played it again when we went to the convent for dinner one evening as part of the nuns' dancing and singing welcome – you had to be there really.

Alongside the joy is grinding poverty and a huge disparity of wealth. Whilst Tanzania is one of the most stable democracies in Africa, there is still widespread corruption and a poorly maintained infrastructure. It took us 13 hours to drive the 600 km from Dar Es Salaam to our Masasi hostel. Periods of fast driving were interspersed with bouncing through potholes almost as bad as South Shropshire.

It is easy to look at the Church in Tanzania with its spectacular growth, driven by genuine conversions to Jesus rather than church hopping, and think if only we transferred their patterns here we could have a similar experience. A simple transfer of methodology is unlikely to be successful. Culturally, English people are not as expressive. Similarly, we have such busy lives that 3-4 hour services with preaching of 45 minutes may not gain much traction.

The Christian message has always had to adapt as it moved from one culture to another through its history. Even the early churches described in the New Testament were very different from one another. There was conformity of belief, but great diversity of practice. The same is actually true in Tanzania depending on which UK missionary agency first brought the gospel to each part of the country. Even in the church of England, there is now a huge variation in congregational worship, even in the same parish. Perhaps the greatest lesson was not about a particular style, but the motivating question. In Tanzania it was 'how can we adapt our practice to make the message more accessible to those outside the Church so they can become followers of Jesus'? There don't seem to be many arguments about style of worship rooted in their personal preference. Mission comes first. Congregations are agents of community transformation. God is the one on whom they depend for everything, not a spiritual lifestyle accessory. I think all of us who visited found this profoundly challenging. I hope we all might also.

+Richard

Church Wardens Report October 2026.

I would like to start this report by saying a big thank you to everyone for all the hard work that's been carried out from Donations, Painting, Cleaning, tidying up the Church yard with all the bushes been trimmed etc to Sharon in the office for all the extra hours she done over the past months, Thank You.

A special thanks to the ladies for decorating the church with beautiful flowers and autumn leaves it looked so beautiful for the harvest festive and to John, Gay Marline Andrew and Carl and all other helpers for making the Harvest Lunch such a success with Donations of £300.00 plus gift aid. Another big "Thank you" to everyone that donated gifts of produce, and food which I delivered to Lee's Place St Peters Square to feed the homeless. They couldn't thank us enough and Sharon received a thank you email from Lee's Place that day.

October 14th South Wye Parish Orientation Day the Church Wardens welcomed two Candidates for the post of Team Rector of South Wye Ministry Team it was a very interesting day started with tours of the 2 churches etc then on to visit Hereford Academy, a big thank you to Barry for the tour of the Academy followed by lunch in the St Martins Hall .I would like to take this opportunity to thank Marline, Julia, Heather and all the other helpers for making the lunch and refreshments a great success after Lunch we went on a tour of the South Wye Areas on returning back to the hall for tea and we welcomed by 3 Rectors from other visiting churches .The Church Wardens, the following day attended the interviews at the Bishops Palace

On Sunday, October 24th, an announcement was made in the morning service by the Church Wardens. The Bishop is pleased to announce that the Rev Peter Letson, Priest in charge in the West Radnor Ministry Area has been appointed as Team Rector of South Wye Ministry Team. The Appointment is subject to DBS checks etc .The Bishop hopes to license Rev Peter on Wednesday 27th January 2027 in St Martins Church at 7.00pm. This will be confirmed once all necessary checks have been made.

Following the service on the 25th, a Full English Breakfast was served in the hall, it was great seeing so many people enjoying breakfasts and it was a pleasure seeing Simon and Jeff from St Peters joining in and £148.00 plus gift aid was raised for St Martins Church funds. Messy Church and Twilight Service was well supported thank you Barry and all your helpers for making these events for the students a great success.

The Next Event is the Christmas Fair to be held on Saturday 14th November. Donations for the Stalls and Draw Prizes will be greatly received and appreciated. Thank you, Onnie

October

We had a 60s night at end of September thank you to Richard for a lovely evening also educational for me as am an eighties child.
Thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest festival
Also thank you to Rev Sheila for taking our Holy communion service

Looking to November our service pattern is slightly different.
We will be having our annual Remembrance service on November 8th at 10.45am
November 15th we have morning prayer at 11.15am
**November 29th 11.15am Advent Sunday there will be a joint Benefice service of Holy Communion. We look forward to welcoming our friends from St. Martin's for this.**
All are welcome to join us for this or any service at Bullinghope.
Simon






## Scholarship for St Martin's Organ Scholar

We are pleased to report that Arabella, our sixth-form Organ scholar has been accepted as a Choral Scholar at St Davids Cathedral in West Wales, for the academic year beginning September 2027. Arabella is using the year out to gain experience in cathedral repertoire before she goes to University to read Veterinary Medicine. Arabella will live in St Davids and sing with the Cathedral Choir, as well as continue her organ playing, which she started at St Martin's Hereford. It is a great achievement, and she joins another Herefordshire musician, Laurence John, who hails from Ross on Wye, and who is Assistant Organist at St Davids.



# St Martin's & St Peter's Diary November 2026

Sun 1st Nov 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's

Tue 3rd Nov 1-2pm Bible Study in the Narthex
2-3pm Coffee in the Narthex
7:15pm PCC

Sun 8th Nov 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's
11:15am Remembrance Service at St Peter's

Tue 10th Nov 1-2pm Bible Study in the Narthex
2-3pm Coffee in the Narthex
Fri 13th Nov 4-5:30pm Messy Church

Sat 14th Nov 11am- 2pm Christmas Fayre

Sun 15th Nov 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's
11:15am Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Tue 17th Nov 1-2pm Bible Study in the Narthex
2-3pm Coffee in the Narthex
Thurs 19th Nov 2pm Young at Heart

Sun 22nd Nov 9:30am Holy Communion at St Martin's
followed by Parish Breakfast

Tue 24th Nov 1-2pm Bible Study in the Narthex
2-3pm Coffee in the Narthex

Sun 29th Nov 9:30am Advent service at St Martin's
11:15am Joint Benefice Holy Communion service at St Peter's

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

Thurs 17th Dec 2pm Young at Heart Carols
Sun 20th Dec Church Carol Service
Weds 27th Jan 27 7pm Licensing of Rev Peter Letson

## St Martin's, Visiting Clergy

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sun 1st Nov | 9:30 am | Bishop David |
| Sun 8th Nov | 9:30am | Canon John Thewlis @ St Martin's |
| | 11:15 | Simon Paget @ St Peter's |
| Sun 15th Nov | 9:30am | Canon John Thewlis @ St Martin's |
| | 11:15 | Morning Prayer @ St Peter's |
| Sun 22nd Nov | 9:30am | Rev Jackie Nevill |
| Sun 29th Nov | 11.15am | Rev Sheila Anthony |




ST.MARTIN'S
Messy
Church
ST MARTIN'S CHURCH HALL, ROSS ROAD, HEREFORD
Friday 13th November
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 1st November** |
| **'Sunday'** | All Saints Sunday |
| **Colour** | Gold/White |
| **1st Reading** | Revelation 7:9-end |
| **Psalm** | 34: 1-10 |
| **2nd Reading** | 1 John 3: 1-3 |
| **Gospel** | Matthew 5:1-12 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date** | **Sunday 8th November** |
| **'Sunday'** | Remembrance Sunday |
| **Colour** | Red |
| **1st Reading** | Wisdom 6: 12-16 |
| **Psalm** | 70 |
| **2nd Reading** | 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end |
| **Gospel** | Matthew 25: 1- 13 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date** | **Sunday 15th November** |
| **'Sunday'** | 2nd Sunday before Advent |
| **Colour** | Red |
| **1st Reading** | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end |
| **Psalm** | 90: 1-8, 12 |
| **2nd Reading** | 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 |
| **Gospel** | Matthew 25: 14-30 |

| **Date** | **Sunday 22nd November** | **Sunday 29th November** |
|---|---|---|
| **'Sunday'** | Christ the King | The First Sunday of Advent |
| **Colour** | Red | Red |
| **1st Reading** | Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 | Isaiah 64. 1-9 |
| **Psalm** | 95: 1-7 | 80.1-8,18-20 |
| **2nd Reading** | Ephesians 1: 15-end | 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 |
| **Gospel** | Matthew 25: 31-end | Mark 13. 24-37 |

# EcoChurch-Our Future

Now is the time for all good people to come to the aide of the Country-Side

We call the UK our “Green and Pleasant Land” but the truth is the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. Only about 53% of our biodiversity remains; one in six of our species faces extinction.

Restoring nature is one of the highest – return investments available. Wetlands, Peatlands, Hedgerows and Urban Trees cut flood risk, prevent heat deaths, protect food supplies, store carbon and create skilled jobs-at a far lower than rebuilding after disasters.
We are still paying to destroy our own Life Support System; public money and finance continue to subsidise pollution and ecosystem damage.

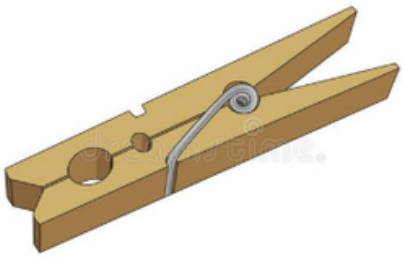
I can hear you saying what can I do I’m just one person; the answer is quite a lot, you can change some of your everyday purchases (and in some cases save money) to one that are more environmentally friendly. i.e. change your cloths pegs from plastic to wooden ones, your liquid shampoo to a shampoo bar (ask yourself-why are you paying to transport water around the country). Even our Vegan friends who drink Oat Milk (made from 90% water) change to powder and mix it up yourself.
We can also lobby our local councillors and MP for a cleaner River Wye and more trees in and around Hereford to offset carbon emissions, provide shade for us during the summer and food and shelter for our wildlife.

The EcoChurch Team would like to do more for our local environment, and we welcome extra help. We hope to organise litter picks in the local area and along the riverbank, and to work with other organisations on tree and hedge planting. Please join us if you are interested.









# An introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme

## Why are regular gifts so important to your Church?

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of all our cities, towns and villages: by our wonderful buildings; by worshipping together; by serving our communities and by sharing our faith and values. This valuable contribution to our communities has a cost. For our Churches to survive and grow, they rely on regular gifts so that they can plan confidently for the future.

## What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has been set up to help your parish best manage regular gifts. It is a charity that is owned and funded by the Church of England.

## How does it work?

Gifts can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, using the attached gift form and Direct Debit instruction. Even though gifts are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to your parish, giving you peace of mind that your gift cannot be used elsewhere. Unlike a utility bill you are always in charge of what you give. Your gift will be passed back to your parish by the 10th of the month. Gift Aid will be received separately once PGS has received it from HMRC. The unique feature of this scheme is the option for you to commit in principle to increase your gift annually in line with inflation. Whilst this is a voluntary decision, it is one that could potentially have a huge impact on the life and future of your church.

## What are the main benefits?

Through your generous commitment, your church can be assured of a regular, tax-efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting your church today and for the future.

# What next?

## How do I go about signing up to the scheme?

Fill out the form opposite, with as much detail as possible using a black pen in BLOCK CAPITALS. Detach it from this leaflet following the cutting line and post it to the address given below. ***Important:*** *It is essential to complete all sections of the gift form in particular* ***'Church / Parish name; Diocese of; and PGS Parish code'. Please also ensure that you have ticked the box to say you have read and accepted the terms and conditions.*** *Without this information in full, PGS cannot process your gift.* ***Note:*** *We welcome gifts from couples, so if you wish to make a joint gift please write your preferred title in the 'other' box. For the purpose of Gift Aid however they need the signature* ***of just one individual who pays sufficient tax to cover the gift.*** *Please* ***add your initials in the Gift Aid signature box*** *so they know which individual the declaration belongs to.*

## Then what can I expect?

Within 10 working days you will receive a letter confirming your personal details, the level, frequency and date of your first gift and the parish you wish to restrict it to. Please check this letter thoroughly to ensure that all the details are correct. In this letter you will receive a PGS reference number (located below the address) which needs to be retained by you, and quoted in any future communication you have with the Parish Giving Scheme. There will also be a bank reference code which begins with 'PGSGIFT', and ends with a unique number code. This is the description which will appear on your bank statement when each gift is given.

## How will my parish be notified of my gift?

Your gift will be paid into your parish's bank account by the 10th of the month and Gift Aid will be received separately once PGS has received it from HMRC. Your parish's Planned Giving Representative receives a statement detailing the names of those who have given gifts through PGS. PGS will provide your parish's Planned Giving Representative with your postal address, however you can decide to remain anonymous by ticking the box on the right. If you decide to remain anonymous only the amount of the gift will be shared with your Representative. We encourage you to remain known to your parish, so that they can thank you and tell you more about how you can support them. This also helps them to avoid mistakenly approaching you in the future to consider a regular gift to your church.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Title: Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Other ☐

| |
|---|
| First name(s): |
| Surname(s): |
| Full home address: |
| |
| Postcode: |
| Telephone: |
| Email: |

**I wish to give** £ ☐

*Please tick one* **per month** ☐ **quarter** ☐ **year** ☐

**to the Parish Giving Scheme** *Registered Charity Number: 1154606*

**Starting on the 1st* of** .....**(month)** .....**(year)**

**Please allow one month from today*

*NB: Only you can cancel your existing Standing Order*

I wish to remain anonymous to my parish's **Planned Giving Representative** *(Please carefully read 'How will my parish be notified of my gift?' on page 2)* ☐

**I wish my regular gift to be used solely for the benefit of:**

*Church / Parish name* Hereford, St Martin

*PGS Parish code* 1806180075

*In the village / town / city of* Hereford

*In the Diocese of* Hereford

*I understand that the new amount will be communicated to me by letter 30 days prior to the gift date. I have the right to opt out of this arrangement at any point in the future by communicating my wishes by letter, email or phone to the Parish Giving Scheme.*

**I wish to support my parish in the future by increasing my gift each year in line with inflation.** *Please tick:* **Yes** ☐

**I wish to Gift Aid my donation** *giftaid it*

**Gift Aid makes every £1 worth £1.25**

*Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of my first gift on this declaration and in the future. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my gifts in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p for every £1 that I give.*

**Signature** ☐ *Initials:*

**Please tick to confirm you have read and accepted the terms and conditions, which can be found at mypgs.io/givers** ☐

News from PGS by: Post ☐ Email ☐ or Text ☐

Share info with Church by: Post ☐ Email ☐ or Text ☐

## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

| |
|---|
| To: The Manager — Bank/Building Society |
| Address: |
| |
| |
| Postcode: |

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank / Building Society account number

Service User Number

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Giver reference number (to be completed by PGS office)

| P | G | S | G | I | F | T | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society**

Please pay Parish Giving Scheme Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Parish Giving Scheme and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank / Building Society.

| |
|---|
| Signature(s) |
| |
| Date |

*Please complete this page and send it to:* **Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD**

CUT HERE

*This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer*

## The Direct Debit Guarantee

DIRECT Debit

- ✓ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- ✓ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit GC re Parish Giving Scheme will notify you a minimum of two working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request GC re Parish Giving Scheme to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- ✓ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by GC re Parish Giving Scheme or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- ✓ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when GC re Parish Giving Scheme asks you to.
- ✓ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.
- ✓ Payments securely processed by GoCardless. GoCardless Ltd (company registration number 07495895) is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority under the Payment Services Regulations 2017, registration number 597190, for the provision of payment services. GoCardless uses personal data as described in their Privacy Notice (https://gocardless.com/privacy/)

PGSGIFTDOWN-0903

Young at Heart this month was held on 22nd October with a last minute change of plan due to the speaker being taken ill. Irene stepped in at last minute, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Irene for playing the Keyboard and to John for setting everything up for Irene. A great afternoon singing, enjoyed by everyone followed by singing a special "Happy Birthday" to Janet, followed by a tea party. Thanks to Marline, Julia, Andrew and Carl without your help I would not be able to provide such a lovely tea and thank you to everyone for the donations a total of £110.00 plus gift aid to church funds was raised.The Next Young at Heart afternoon will be held on Thursday 19th November at 2.00pm with a speaker. Thanks to everyone for supporting Young at Heart for such a lovely entertaining afternoon.
Thank You, Onnie.











# Parish Breakfast @ St Martin's

A new regular feature bringing together folk after our communion service. Our next Parish Breakfast is on Sunday 22nd November.





Thank you to everyone involved in preparing the Parish Breakfast. We raised £148.00 + Gift Aid for Church funds.

# Harvest celebrations @ St Martin's

A huge Thank you to all our talented flower arrangers for making the church look so beautiful for our Harvest Celebrations here @ St Martin's. We are truly blessed!
A big Thank you to all who helped prepare, cook and serve our Harvest festival meal. We raised £300.00 + Gift Aid for much needed Church funds.
















# Harvest Celebrations @ St Martins







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**Get into the Christmas spirit with a coach trip to Bristol Christmas Market, or just browse the shops Christmas shopping!**

🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅

**Sunday 13th December 2026**

£20 Adults £15 Children under 16

🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅

Tickets secured with a £10 deposit

(Non-refundable, unless your ticket/s can be sold)

Pick up point: Asda at 8.30am

🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅

(Parking can be booked via Just Park app if you wish to park at Asda)

Leave Bristol at: 16.30

**To reserve your seat/s contact Lesley on 07817 939981**

🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅🎄🎅

# Bayley Brothers

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

At Bayley Brothers Funeral Directors in Herefordshire we are here to support our local community during difficult times. We hope every family who visits our funeral homes feel they can trust us to care for you, your family and your loved one.

Since we were established in the 1930s, we have gained valuable experience in different types of funerals. We have worked closely with local families who have requested traditional, religious, woodland and celebratory ceremonies.

We will work alongside you to ensure that your loved one receives a caring and personal farewell, tailored to honour the life they lived. With many years of experience in planning funerals, as well as extensive knowledge of Herefordshire area we are available to serve you 24 hours a day, to provide you with guidance and assistance in any way we can.

## Bayley Brothers
Central Branch
23-24 Gaol Street, Hereford, HR1 2HU
Tel. 01432 273736

## Bayley Brothers
17-19 Cotterell Street, Hereford, HR4 0HH
Tel. 01432 272465

Visit our website: bayleybrothers.co.uk

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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

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

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

For service times, please see the Church Facebook page.

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

The Bishop is pleased to announce that the Rev Peter Letson, Priest in charge in the West Radnor Ministry Area has been appointed as Team Rector of South Wye Ministry Team. The Bishop hopes to license Rev Peter on Wednesday 27th January 2027

## Team Office Staff



***Team Administrator***
Sharron Brown

**Financial Co-Ordinator**
Kirstie Weaver

**Sexton**
Scott
**Cleaning Specialist**
Sara

**Wye Bridge News Editor**
Sue Wilce

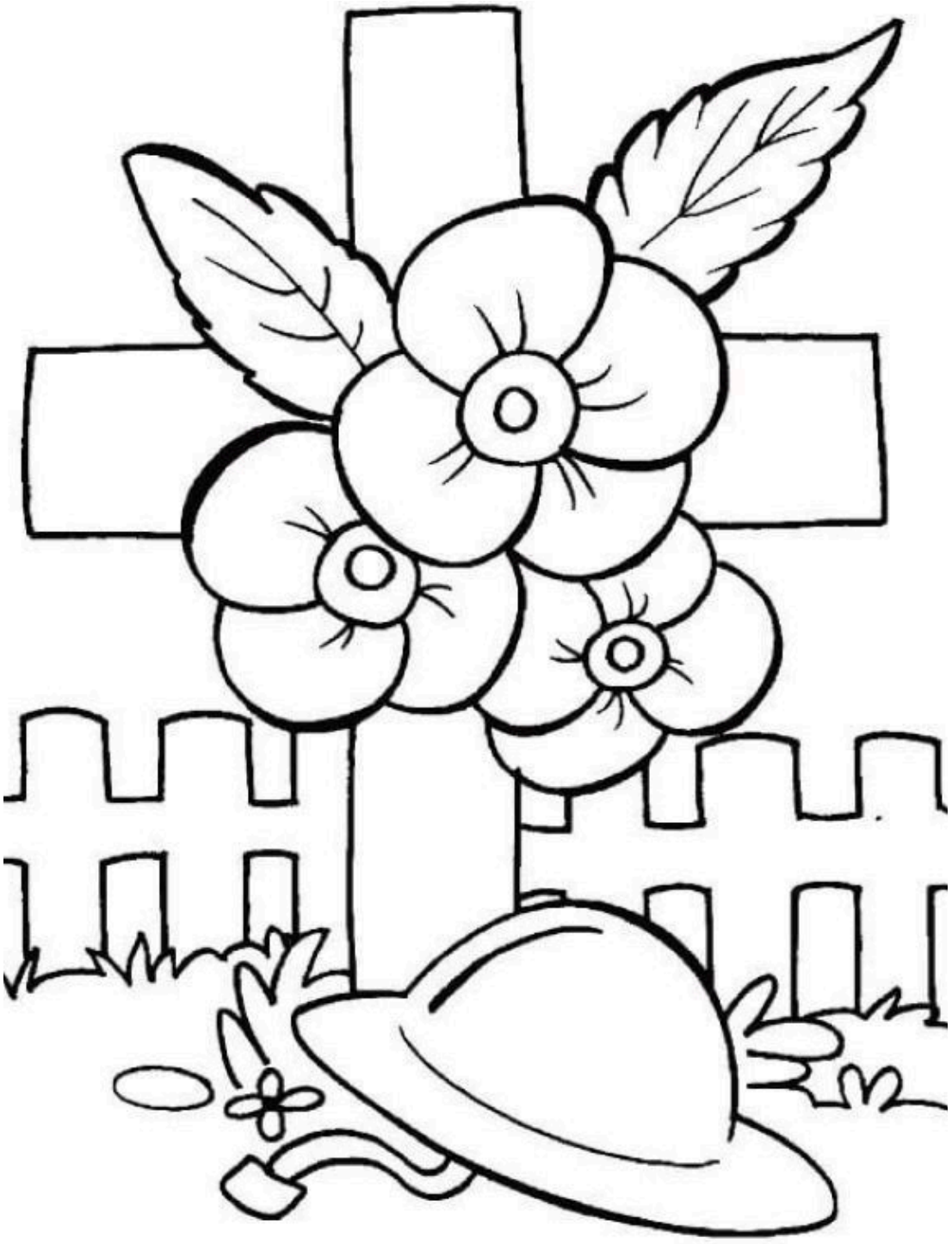
**TEAM OFFICE** (at St Martin's Church)
**89 Ross Road, Hereford HR2 7RJ** office@stmartinshereford.org.uk
**OPENING HOURS** Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Friday 11:00am-15:00pm

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

**Websites:**
www.stmartinshereford.org.uk **Or find us on Facebook**
St Martin's Church, Ross Rd, Hereford @stpetersbullinghope

## DOODLE BOX

# Colouring Page




IN
REMEMBRANCE