



# ST MARTIN'S CHURCH BARNEHURST

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

### JANUARY 2026



Eucharist services each week at 10.30am followed by refreshments  
The next non eucharist service will be on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
All services are followed with refreshments

#### **Epiphany: Hope and New Beginnings: Finding Light in the Longest Season**

January can often feel dark and cold, a time when post Christmas blues can set in as we face the long winter. Yet, in the Church calendar, January is a time of profound light and hope: the season of Epiphany. The word "epiphany" means a manifestation or appearance, marking the moment the wider world first recognised Jesus as the Son of God, symbolised by the journey of the Magi.

The light of Christ shines brightly, even during our darkest moments amidst challenging world circumstances. This is a time of indestructible joy that persists beyond the temporary Christmas decorations.

Make time for Reflection and Renewal and use this quieter season for personal reflection, looking ahead with the spirit Paul describes: "forget what is behind and strain towards what is ahead". It's an opportunity to press on toward our goals with a renewed mindset, trusting in God's faithfulness.

Our church community can be a source of warmth and support during the winter. Coffee Shop on Tuesdays and our CAMEO Group for everyone 18+ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in each month are both welcoming places where you can sit and chat and make new friends. Details for these can be found in this Newsletter. There are also always refreshments after the 10.30am Service on Sunday.

If you would like to be part of our new prayer rota, the tea rota or the cleaning team please contact us via any of the contact details in this newsletter

Many thanks to all of you for everything you already do

#### **GOSPELS FOR JANUARY**

4 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Matthew 2. 1-12
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Matthew 3. 13-end
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	John 1. 29-42
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Matthew 4. 12-23

#### **COLLECT FOR JANUARY**

O Eternal Lord God, who hast brought thy servants to the beginning of another year: Pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our transgressions in the past, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In January we ask you to pray for everyone living or working in Brendon Close, Cheviot Close, Colyers Lane, Cotswold Close, Hurstwood Avenue, Mendip Road, Normandy Way, Pennine Way

We also ask you to remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers. Andrew, Angela, David, Elizabeth M, Father Gareth, Joan, 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  
Vicarage: 93 Pelham Road, Barnehurst DA7 4LY  
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www.aChurchNearYou.com/saint-martins-barnehurst



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 **St Martin's Players**  
HUXTABLE HALL, ST MARTIN'S CHURCH,  
ERITH RD, BARNEHURST DA7 6LE

present

# Snow White

directed & produced by  
Sue Adams, Dave Barnett & Wendy Barnett

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30pm**  
**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2.30\*pm & 7.30pm**  
**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30pm**  
**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2.30\*pm & 7.30pm**

\* Pre-booking essential for 2.30pm performances **£8**  
BOOK ONLINE: [www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk)  
BOX OFFICE: **07539 351646** CONCESSIONS **£5**  
There will be Interval Refreshments and a Raffle, CASH ONLY



#### CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair held in December raised over £1,000 for Church Funds, with the Guiding and Scouting Units also raising money for their units. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported us and thanks also to Vicky plus the Fundraising Team for organising it.

#### CAMEO(MU)

The next meeting is on Monday 12th January at 1.30pm in the Maxim Room. We will have a short AGM, followed by completion of our membership forms to send off all together. Central MU needs every member to send in a new form to enable checking of the data base. After that we will have a lighthearted True or False game.

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

Email: [stmartins.monthlydraw@gmail.com](mailto:stmartins.monthlydraw@gmail.com)

##### Drawn on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

£25 (no 28) Pauline Towler, £10 (no 37) Karen Ingram  
£5 (no 9) Jean Baldwin, £5 (no 44) Paul Davies

##### Drawn on Sunday 28th December 2025

£25 (no 157) Gail Whitehead, £10 (no 200) Richard Storey  
£5 (no 138) Wendy Barnett, £5 (no 2) David Baldwin

#### REGULARS

**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](mailto: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

#### CHRISTINGLE 2025

Thanks to Crayford Sainsburys for donating the oranges and to everyone who helped prepare the Christingles or helped at the service.

Thanks also to everyone who donated to the collection. A total of £482 was raised for the Children's Society

Contact [st.martins.mag@gmail.com](mailto: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