

MEET THE TEAM

Who We Are: St Martins, Knowle

REV. BECKY
WARING

I'm Becky and I've been the vicar here at St Martin's since July 2016. I believe one of the most important jobs I have as vicar is to help us all discover the extraordinary love of God in the ordinary and everyday ways we live our lives.

I love being creative, whether it's creating a craft for under 5's out of a paper plate, or working out how to do a magic trick for our all age worship and everything in between!

I believe we are all invited to share in the limitless love of God, and connecting with our community here at Knowle, sharing the story of that love, and joining in with what God is doing here is a great privilege.



REV. PHIL MANNING



I am Phil and I became the curate at St Martin's in July 2023, having just been ordained in Bristol cathedral. I have enjoyed beginning my ministry in Knowle, getting to know people at church and in the wider community.

I'm originally from Southampton but I have been living in south Bristol for 9 years now with my wife Abbey, we think it is a fantastic part of the world. For me this journey to ordained ministry in the Church of England has been one of discovery as I have found out more of who I am and how traditional, liturgical worship, can help facilitate a community meeting with God together. I am passionate about exploring faith and doubt with others as well as creating fresh expressions of church that are infused with the richness of tradition.

Over the last few years I have been involved in a church based around a community garden, Hazelnut Community Farm. As a response to the climate emergency it is a way to rediscover our connection with the world around us, a practical response to the challenges we face, and a way to worship the creator surrounded by creation. This has grown my passion for the earth and for justice issues relating to climate which led me to a dissertation combining learning from Genesis with the crisis of soil degradation.

When I am not at church or in the garden you might see me cycling or walking in and around Bristol. I love swimming and all things related to food, football, art and music - particularly live music.

RICHARD HENSMAN



Hi, I'm Richard one of the churchwardens here at St Martin's. I have been worshipping here with my family, Clare, Bethan and Ben, since 2004 and have variedly been a dad pushing a screaming baby (now 19) up and down the south aisle during services, a shepherd in the Christmas Eve Nativity play (I hasten to add with a young child), occasionally sung in the choir and with the singing group, been a member of the PCC and have now graduated to being a churchwarden.

I enjoy the friendship and fellowship of St Martin's, the music and variety of services, the opportunities to learn and grow in faith and the time for peace and reflection that St Martin's offers.

Outside St Martin's I am an IT Consultant. In my spare time I am a bellringer and enjoy watching Bristol and Wales play rugby and Bristol City play football.

ROGER BAILEY

I am Roger the new churchwarden at St Martin's. I was born in Brislington and grew up in Hengrove until the age of 16. I was christened at Christchurch Hengrove.

At 16 I joined the Royal Air Force as an apprentice for 12 years' service, not realising my 12 years did not start until my 18th birthday.

My time in the RAF was challenging, different and at times scary. I learnt that I could chat to God anytime anywhere and it gave me a calmness and peace.

My last posting was in London and on leaving I went back to college to qualify as a Safety Officer, my first job was site Safety Officer at the Barbican Arts centre in the City. I progressed through different companies including a major scaffolding company who in the 1980's scaffolded Salisbury Cathedral I was lucky to help inspect that scaffold and I climbed to the top of the spire, what a view. I stayed with Taylor Woodrow for over 10 years who sponsored me at Surrey University on a post graduate course "Substances and the interaction with the human body" and I subsequently designed and wrote The Groups COSHH Manual.

In 2003 I was privileged to be awarded my Fellowship.

My wife and I also moved back to Wells Road permanently in 2003 where we live today. My wife Joan loves to sing and joined the choir at St Martins I supported and joined the congregation and found the companionship in this new family, so much so that I made the commitment to be Confirmed with help and guidance from Becky and Laura.





JANET COOMBES

I have been the safeguarding officer for St Martin's Church since November 2015. My role is ensuring our safeguarding policies and procedures are in place to keep children and vulnerable adults safe and to respond to protection concerns that may arise. I am a registered nurse and trained as a midwife in 1979. I worked as a midwifery sister at St Michael's hospital and the community since 1990.

Safeguarding has always been a priority in my life. I am also part of the Diocese Steering Safeguarding group and the Diocesan Risk Management team for Bristol Diocese. I have two grown up daughters, both are married and have given me six wonderful grandchildren. Watching them grow into individual little people is now one of the highlights of my life.

REBECCA WEARNE

My name is Rebecca Wearne. I am Pastoral co-ordinator here at St Martins and gift aid co-ordinator. I am a teacher at the local primary school and have a certificate in counselling.

I love nothing more than spending time chatting with a variety of people from all backgrounds and ages. I am married with 5 children, so life is busy and fun! Most fun moments are when we are all squashed into our touring caravan for six weeks during the summer holidays. I've always got a tale to tell!!!



MARTIN TURNBULL



Martin is a Piano teacher and musician, with two children and a grandchild. He has been passionate about green issues all his life, and done lots of related activities, particularly lobbying, writing articles and running a fairtrade stall.

He was involved in Quakers and Universal Peace Dancing before becoming a committed Christian, and has been attending church since 1992.

His musical performance has been in various bands and duos, and now includes a music-theatre act called Street Surprise. This involves supporting evangelism teams in Bath and Bristol, and you can get a flavour of what he does on his YouTube channel (search for the channel "Street Surprise"). He also busks with Piano and Voice, sometimes doing Christian songs supporting the evangelism again, sometimes doing pop/rock/jazz songs.

He has had a varied role in St Martin's. He came as the Organist and Choir director in 1996, then shared the musical responsibility while starting up the St Martin's band, and then the Singing Group. He has been involved in the prayer ministry, the youth groups, the PCC, and now is focussing on green issues.



CLARE HENSMAN

My name is Clare and I work alongside Lynn teaching our under 11's in Sunday School.

I have followed a family tradition of being a teacher, a bellringer, being involved in Youth ministry and being on the PCC. I am also the hall manager/emergency drain unblocker.

I love the range of worship we have at St Martins which allows me to escape with the children on high Sunday's, sing in the music group for Rise and Shine and share in family worship and actually sit with Richard and my dad and occasionally Bethan and Ben. I have also enjoyed exploring the less formal types of worship.

I spent time in the Taize community in France in my 20's and the large Taize cross we sometimes use was made by Peter, my dad, with a print of the cross from the community.

I'm one of the team which serves you at Cafe Connect and it's my fault if there isn't any chunky pickle as I'm in charge of shopping!

Let's pray we will soon be back sharing worship, music and food together.



CHRISTINE DURSLEY

I first started worshipping at St. Martin's in 1998, having spent a number of years, not being part of a church community and just having been given the huge privilege and responsibility of setting up and opening a brand new primary school, as its first Headteacher!

The familiarity of the liturgy, combined with the warmth of the welcome I was given from the people of St. Martins at that time, made me feel immediately that I had 'come home!' Some 21 years later, having become very involved in different aspects of the life of St. Martins and during that time exploring God's call on my life, I was licensed by Bishop Lee in Bristol Cathedral, in September of last year, as a Lay Minister.

Although I have now retired as a Headteacher, my passion and interest for working with children, young people, and their families, has not diminished! This is the focus of my ministry at St. Martins, alongside, preaching and taking part in leading worship and small discipleship groups. I am also still very involved in education and the work of schools, as a member of the Diocese of Bristol Board of Education and as a Director of the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust.

Life post retirement is certainly still very interesting and indeed quite busy, especially some weeks!

For rest and relaxation, I enjoy walking, particularly in the Chew Valley area or along the coastal paths around the Severn Estuary. I also enjoy going to the theatre, cinema and to concerts and just simply meeting up with friends and family for a coffee or a meal!

FRANK TUCKER

'I am Franklyn (Frank) Tucker, a Knowle boy born and bred, married to Carol and we are now in the 'older' group of St. Martin's Church Family.

My association with this church began, as a baby, in 1946 and I have recently returned after a 30 year break in the Chew Valley Churches.

I Felt called to lay ministry and was Licensed in Wells Cathedral in 2000, then re-affirmed in Bristol Cathedral in 2022.



I have had many local connections in Knowle including cricket, football and table tennis.

My education includes junior school in Brislington, Cotham Grammar and further education including extensive ministerial training, whilst my main career years were spent at the Port of Bristol (from 1963).

My Life and history are entrenched here at St. Martin's and it feels good to be back.

It is a privilege to be able to serve both the church and community and to welcome newcomers who wish to explore with us.

A close-up portrait of Beth Herbert, a woman with long, wavy brown hair and sunglasses perched on her head. She is smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a patterned fabric with various fish designs in blue, yellow, and white.

BETH HERBERT

Hello, I'm the Parish Administrator at St Martin's.

I've lived in Knowle since 2016. My young family especially enjoy Bears & Prayers and Messy Church at St. Martin's.

I also enjoy being creative and family time on camping trips or exploring the local area.

