



**The Parish of
St. Martin's, Chipping Ongar
with St. Peter's, Shelley**

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OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

To be a growing church, God's gift to the community

Letter from The Rectory ...

At the time of writing, I have completed two of the three harvest services I am responsible for this year, with the Moreton service and Bobbingworth community lunch at Blake Hall still to go.

Moreton and Bobbingworth Harvest

These two churches each have a monthly communion service so share a traditional annual harvest communion. The church will be decorated with autumn fruits, flowers and foliage plus wheat sheaves from the neighbouring farmer (whose wife has just become our treasurer – please pray for her!), and we will sing the traditional harvest hymns accompanied by our regular organist. However, because life doesn't stay still, I'm introducing a new harvest hymn I learned a couple of weeks ago at Launde Abbey, and the harvest gifts will be imperishable foods and toiletries for 3Food4All now at The Budworth Hall. Financial gifts will be welcome too – these will go to Tearfund's Harvest Appeal to provide seeds and tools and training to rural region of Nepal, badly hit by climate change floods and landslides, where the people were already living in poverty.



Chipping Ongar Harvest

St. Martin's was a non-traditional service, though based on the new One Big Family tradition of ACTS prayers:

Adoration (saying praise to God)

Confession (saying sorry to God)

Thanksgiving (saying thank you to God)

Supplication (saying please to God)

We sang newer songs and introduced a Confession acronym based on four different vegetables:

Potato (have **eyes** reminding us that God is all-seeing)

Onions (bring tears reminding us that God weeps all the wrong-doing he sees in the world)

Peas (in a pod are all alike reminding us that we have all gone wrong cf Romans 3.23)

Ears (of wheat reminding us that God hears our sorry prayers and forgives us cf 1 John 1:9)

We reflected on the third day of creation, when God separated out the land from the sea and commanded it to produce all kinds of plants. And we cut out paper fruit and wrote our thanks on the back before pinning them to our Creationtide tree and bringing up our harvest offerings which were piled up high on the communion table or placed in Pig. They will go to 3Food4You and The Leprosy Mission respectively, so those living with leprosy who have to beg for food will be able to grow their own. And we enjoyed the harvest decorations of autumn flowers and pumpkins.

Shelley Harvest

St. Peter's continued their new Festival Church tradition of a seasonal Songs of Praise after a bring and share lunch that had to be inside this year because of the weather. Monies were raised by selling home-made bread rolls and honey, fresh produce and the beautiful flower arrangements from the windows. Rather than traditional harvest readings, this year we chose a pilgrimage in the pews. Our guide was a set of six small 'Being A Pilgrim' cards created by faithinthenorth.org to help explore Anglo-Saxon Spirituality. Each included a bible verse, thought and prayer, and they took us on a journey from 'Enjoying the Wonders of Creation', via 'Living and Learning' about God and his world, both by 'Journeying to Special Places' and by an 'Inner Journey' of prayer and meditation, so we end by 'Finding Forgiveness and New Life' and 'Finding Where We Belong' amongst God's people, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Gratitude and Generosity

Three very different services, but all helping us to express our gratitude to God for his generosity to us, and give us an opportunity to express our thanks by giving to others far less fortunate than ourselves. God has called us to live in such a way that we are good stewards of our environment, our skills and abilities, our experiences and our time. If you have any thoughts and suggestions on how we might do that better, whether as individuals or as church communities, please do share them with me or with any of your representatives on the Parochial Church Council aka PCC!

With Autumn blessings ...



Rev. Hazel



A REMINDER THAT ...

Clocks go back on the last Sunday in October (26th)



*Morning Prayer each
Wednesday at 9 am in
St. Martin's Church*

STREETS TO BE PRAYER FOR:

| | |
|--|--|
| 28 th September - 4 th October | Clare Mews |
| 5 th - 11 th October | Coles Close, Abigail Court and Finch Court |
| 12 th - 18 th October | Cripsey Avenue and Cripsey Court |
| 19 th - 25 th October | Crossbow Court |
| 26 th October - 1 st November | Elstar Road |

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms:

Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

Funerals / Internment of Ashes / Memorial Services / Cremations:



***“We are called to give regularly, as we receive.
Not as an afterthought”.***

Have you noticed the new trend of rounding up your card payment at the checkout with a gift to charity? Clearly it's a great idea for the charities who use it - it makes giving easy and a few pennies here and there quickly mounts up. However, it might encourage us to fall into the trap of approaching our giving as an afterthought. Our giving is something we do with our spare change, what we have left over. This reading reminds us that if we look at things from the right perspective we should recognise that everything we have comes from God, that everything is a gift and not to be taken for granted. We therefore first consider what God wants us to do with what we have been given. It's about not offering God our left-overs, but in the language of Deuteronomy, offering God our first-fruits. And then considering who God would want us to share it with. The law specifies that the first fruits should be shared with those who have little (the immigrant and the Levite who have no land to grow a harvest on). So our thankfulness to God for all we have received is then expressed in intentional generosity. We are called, instead, to plan to give regularly, as we receive, not as an afterthought with what we have left over, and as we give we can consider carefully who are the people in our context with whom we are called to share our abundance.

Leah Vasey-Saunders is currently serving as Vicar of Lancaster in the Diocese of Blackburn. Previously she has served in a variety of different contexts both parishes and Cathedral from city to town and suburbs, predominantly in former mining communities. Leah is also Chair of On Fire Mission; a charity working to support and enable renewal in the catholic tradition of the Church of England.”



CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

All Services are in St. Martin's unless otherwise stated

| | | | |
|-----|----|----------|--|
| Wed | 1 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Communion in the Chancel |
| Sun | 5 | 8.00 am | Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | One Big Family Service |
| | | | There is no <i>Church@Home</i> Service today |
| Wed | 8 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Communion in the Chancel |
| Thu | 9 | 2.00 pm | Julian Meeting in St. Peter's, Shelley |
| Sat | 11 | 7.00 pm | Desert Island Discs in St. Martin's Church Rooms, Castle Street |
| Sun | 12 | 10.30 am | Communion with Hymns |
| | | | There is no <i>Church@Home</i> Service today |
| Wed | 15 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Communion in the Chancel |
| Sun | 19 | 8.00 am | Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | One Big Family Service |
| | | 11.00 am | <i>Church@Home</i> Service of Morning Prayer* |
| Tue | 21 | 8.30 pm | The Tuesday Club meets at The Cock |
| Wed | 22 | 10.00 am | Communion in the Chancel |
| Thu | 23 | 1.00 pm | until 3pm - SmartyCraft meet in the Church Rooms |
| Sun | 26 | 10.30 am | Communion with Hymns |
| | | 11.00 am | <i>Church@Home</i> Service of Morning Prayer* |
| Wed | 29 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.30 am | Communion in the Chancel |

Also some other events in the MMU in October which you might enjoy ...

| | | | |
|-----|----|---------|---|
| Sat | 18 | 7.00 pm | tor 7.30 pm start - Quiz Night in Willingale Village Hall (in aid of St. Christopher's, Willingale). Tickets (to include Ploughman's' Supper) £15 from Ian Kerwin 07837170816 |
| Sun | 19 | 3.00 pm | All Saints', Norton Mandeville – Special Full Choral Evensong with the Ongar Singers – Come and enjoy this popular service in their 14 th Century Church out in the fields |

A date for your Diary in NOVEMBER

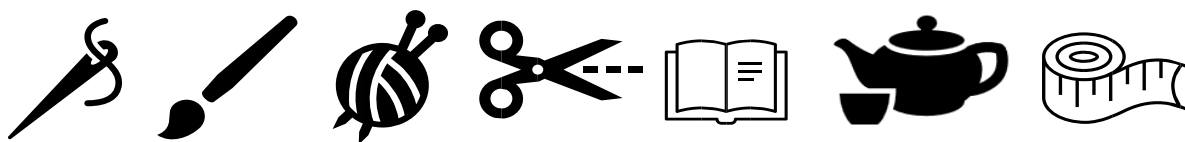
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|-----|---|---------|------------------------------------|
| Sun | 2 | 4.00 pm | All Souls' Service in St. Martin's |
|-----|---|---------|------------------------------------|

**If you haven't attended Church at Home before and would like to attend, please contact Shirley Dudeney (shirleydudeney@btinternet.com) for the necessary link*

Are you holding an event?

If you don't tell Peter Dudeney it won't appear in the Calendar.

His contact details are email peterdudeney@btinternet.com - Phone: 01277 364143



SMARTYCRAFT FOR OCTOBER

Why not join us at our SmartyCraft session in the Church Rooms on **Thursday 24th October** from **1 pm until 3 pm**.

Please come, relax and chat with our craft project; we will be designing our Christmas crackers for the Advent Fair. Jill will provide a short Bible reflection for you to ponder on and Rita will provide refreshments.

Hope to see you there ... **Jill and Rita**

Ongar & Shelley Ladies' Thursday Group

Coco the Clown

Linda introduced Tania who is the granddaughter of Coco the Clown. His real name was Nicolai Poliakov and was born in 1900 to a Russian Jewish family in Latvia. His father was a cobbler and the family were poor, so at a young age he went to a theatre to earn a little money to help ends meet. At his first appearance, he was asked to wear a wig, but on entering the stage, it fell off and the audience laughed. He liked to make people laugh, and this was the start of his career in the circus's that travelled the world, including the Soviet State Circus. He met his wife after the war, and they had 6 children. He went to Germany and got to know Bertram Mills. Coco's family joined him and later they moved to England and later became British Citizens.

Coco stayed with Bertram Mills Circus and on one occasion visited one of Bertram's children in hospital, but dressed as a clown. All the children on the ward loved it, so, wherever the circus visited, he would go to the local hospitals dressed up to entertain the children.

He also appeared on the television programme This is your Life, where many of his family & friends came for the occasion. He died at the age of 73.

Apparently, the make-up a clown used, was preserved on a round stone, and no-one else was allowed to have the same features.

Linda thanked Tania for a very interesting talk.

Our next club meeting will be on 2nd October at the URC. Entry at 2 pm for a 2.30 start. New members welcome.

Jan Turnbull – September 2025

St. Peter's Church, Shelley

News from St. Peter's



We held our annual Harvest Festival on Sunday 14th September. We had a cosy indoor bring and share lunch at 1 pm with home-made sausage rolls and courgette cake and a variety of other tasty foods.

A congregation joined the Thanksgiving for our planet and listening to readings on the theme of Being a Pilgrim. The service explored an Anglo-Saxon Spirituality theme and we learnt more about St. Cuthbert, St. Bede and St. Hild and how Christianity came to these Islands from the North as well as the Romans from the South. Jolly tunes accompanied hearty singing of Harvest hymns and during the final refreshments, donations were received for some of the harvest foods and plants. A further £66 was raised.

We are continuing to raise funds for providing a permanent accessible compostable toilet in the churchyard as well as other exciting plans for this beautiful old church.

The next Julian Meeting is on Thursday 9th October at 2 pm.

All are very welcome.



For any queries about our events or about St. Peter's, please contact Monica Richardson on 07717-877575.

Monica Richardson



A Service will be held at 4 pm on Sunday 2nd November 2025

DESERT ISLAND DISC EVENT



Saturday 11th October 7pm Tickets £ 15 each in advance from Jill 07894 050663 or Rita 01277 364921

Tell us your 3 discs that you would take to a desert island and why. (in advance) We will play at least one for you during the evening as we relax with a meal in the Church Rooms. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Unable to get to church?

Well why not go to?

A Church @ Home



Want to know more?

Well, contact Shirley Dudeney

shirleydudeney@btinternet.com

**for more information
and the Zoom Link**

HOME COMMUNION ... Is there anyone who, for one reason or another, cannot be in Church as they used to be? For those of you who would like it, we can offer home communions. If this is something you would like, please contact either myself, Sue on 01277 362723 or Shirley on 01277 364143, and we can arrange a convenient time to bring the sacrament to you.



ST. MARTIN'S, CHIPPING ONGAR

Times for Services & Private Prayer



Sunday Services

First & Third Sundays - 8 am - Holy Communion

**First & Third Sundays - 10.30 am - One Big Family for All
(non-Communion)**

**Second, Fourth & Fifth Sunday - 10.30 am - Holy
Communion**

Wednesday

9 am - Morning Prayer

10 am - Holy Communion

St. Martin's Church is usually open for Private Prayer each day between 9.30 am and 5 pm or until dusk whichever is the earliest (12 noon on Saturdays).

Please adhere to any notices displayed

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

Please do remember to visit us on the 'A Church Near You' website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

OUR 2025 TEXT TO REMEMBER



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



THE TUESDAY CLUB



... meets at ...

The Cock
on the

Third Tuesday of the month at 8.30 pm

Come along and enjoy good conversation and banter

ALL WELCOME !

PARISH VISION

To be a growing Church, God's gift to the community.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

In the light of God's call and our situation here, our mission is:

to be a more evident presence in our community, witnessing to God's love for all;

**to be God's hands and feet within the Church and beyond through
worship and prayer;
listening and serving;
acceptance and welcome;**

**to be a people who are growing towards a closer relationship with God,
creation and each other.**