

# Church Matters



The growing Benefice of All Saints' Martock, Holy Trinity Ash,  
St Martin's Kingsbury Episcopi and St Peter & St Paul Muchelney

All Saints' Martock registered charity no: 1160333  
Holy Trinity Ash & St Martin's Kingsbury Episcopi have charitable status

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**All Saints' Martock**

**9.30am Morning Worship**

with Sally Howells

SIDESMEN: Val Ford

READERS: Sara Cranfield & Andy Palmer

INTERCESSOR: Iris Chapple

**HYMNS: MP 493, 1201, 162, 605**

**St Martin's Kingsbury Episcopi**

**10am Holy Communion**

with Revd Paul Fillery

*surrounded by the  
Christmas Tree Festival  
open until 4pm*



**All Saints', Martock**

**6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service**

## The Collect :

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist  
to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Post Communion Prayer :

We give you thanks, O Lord,  
for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

**We remember those who are sick** including Richard Scrivener, Geoff Lucas, Vivienne Brissett, Mavis Hook, Tracey Fillery, Jane Caddell, Nova Witcombe

**We remember those who have died** including Julia Jackson, Daphne Pope, Linda Makin, Gary Hillard

**In Memoriam:** May Grainger, Lily Hodder, Shirley Epps, Violet Gillard, Frederick Clarke, Carole Way

## NEXT SUNDAY – 21 December 2025: Advent 3

9.30am Holy Communion in All Saints', Martock



**Old Testament – Isaiah 35 verses 1 to 10 :**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;

no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Gospel – Matthew 11 verses 2 to 11 :**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup> Jesus

answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## NOTICES

**Bridget Jones**, our licensed Lay Reader, says: *"Thank you to all of you from the Benefice who contributed to my amazing birthday presents and signed the lovely cards. I'm overwhelmed by your generosity."*

**Ash Christmas Fayre** – Saturday 13 December from 10.30am in the function room of The Bell Inn, Ash with Christmas gifts & treats for sale + mince pies to nibble & a Grand Draw to win! All welcome!

**Toy Service** – we invite you to remember those who have less at Christmastime by bringing an unwrapped present for a child and singing some carols together on Saturday 13 December at 3pm in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi. All gifts will be taken by the Salvation Army.

**All Saints' Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 14 December at 6.30pm. Please let Sally know if you can bring some mince pies to share afterwards!

**Christmas Concert by Kingsbury Episcopi Band** on Sat 20 December at 7pm in St Martin's Church, KE. Tickets £12 on the door or £10 in advance from community shop or from Graham 01935 823 678; raising funds for St Martin's!

**Carol Singing & Mince Pies** on Saturday 20 December from 8pm in The Bell Inn, Ash – all welcome!

**Merry Martock** – A free community lunch is to be held on Tuesday 30 December 2025 from 12noon in Martock Parish Hall. To book your place contact Caroline Bennett on 07946 121 612 or [caroline.bennett@martock-pc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.bennett@martock-pc.gov.uk). Numbers limited. Transport available.

**Next Benefice Service** – SUNDAY 28 December 2025 in Holy Trinity church, Ash, a Service of Holy Communion beginning at 11am. All welcome!

**Christmas Market at All Saints'** - many thanks to everyone who helped and supported in so many ways to make the Christmas market last Saturday such a success. Sally says that the provisional total is £1760!! Very impressive!

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Sat 13 Dec	10am to 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival in St Martin's, KE
	3pm	Toy Service for Salvation Army Appeal in St Martin's, KE
Sun 14 Dec	11am to 4pm	Christmas Tree Festival in St Martin's, KE
Sun 14 Dec	6.30pm	Carol Service in All Saints', Martock

### CHRISTMAS EVE:

Wed 24 Dec	11.00am	Carol Service in St Peter & St Paul, Muchelney
	4.00pm	Crib Service in All Saints', Martock
	4.00pm	Christingle Service in St Martin's, KE
	10.00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Communion of Christmas in Holy Trinity, Ash
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass in All Saints', Martock



### CHRISTMAS DAY:

Thu 25 Dec	10.00am	Benefice Christmas Holy Communion in All Saints', Martock
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## Next Week

Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	10am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi
		10.30am	Ash Christmas Fayre & Raffle in The Bell PH, Ash
		3.00pm	TOY SERVICE in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice in All Saints', Martock
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee 'n Chat in the Pavillion, Ash
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Tiddlers, toddler group at All Saints', Martock
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Carol Service for Martock School in All Saints', Martock
		2.00pm	Funeral Service for Linda Makin in Holy Trinity, Ash
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Concert by KE Band in St Martin's, Kingsbury Episcopi (tickets £12 on the door)
		8.00pm	Carol Singing in The Bell Inn, Ash

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Vicar:** Revd Paul Fillery. The Vicarage, 10 Water Street, Martock TA12 6JN  
Tel: 01935 826113 Email: [pltcfillery@gmail.com](mailto:pltcfillery@gmail.com)

**Benefice Administrator:** Mrs Sarah Nicholas  
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**Benefice Office:** The Vicarage, 10 Water Street, Martock TA12 6JN

**CHURCH WEBSITES:** For the latest information, pew sheet, links to all benefice churches and more go to our benefice webpage: [www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-254BR](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/01-254BR)

*Email Sarah if you would like to join the mailing list to receive weekly information!*

+ All Saints', Martock <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11008/>

+ Holy Trinity, Ash <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11007/>

+ St Martin's, KE <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11270/>

+ St Peter & St Paul, Muchelney <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11004/>



**Tiddlers** – for toddlers with their mums, dads or carers in Martock in TERM TIME

All enquiries to [tiddlers.martock@gmail.com](mailto:tiddlers.martock@gmail.com)

**Follow us on Facebook: "Churches of Martock, Kingsbury Episcopi and Ash, Somerset"**

## PSALM for All Saints', Martock

### Psalm 68 verses 1 to 19 :

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.

<sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.

<sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—  
his name is the Lord—  
be exultant before him.

<sup>5</sup> Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.

<sup>6</sup> God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

<sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
you restored your heritage when it languished;

<sup>10</sup> your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord gives the command;  
great is the company of those who bore the tidings:

<sup>12</sup> 'The kings of the armies, they flee, they flee!'   
The women at home divide the spoil,

<sup>13</sup> though they stay among the sheepfolds—  
the wings of a dove covered with silver,  
its pinions with green gold.

<sup>14</sup> When the Almighty scattered kings there,  
snow fell on Zalmon.

<sup>15</sup> O mighty mountain, mountain of Bashan;  
O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan!

<sup>16</sup> Why do you look with envy, O many-peaked mountain,  
at the mount that God desired for his abode,  
where the Lord will reside for ever?

<sup>17</sup> With mighty chariotry, twice ten thousand,  
thousands upon thousands,  
the Lord came from Sinai into the holy place.

<sup>18</sup> You ascended the high mount,  
leading captives in your train  
and receiving gifts from people,  
even from those who rebel against the Lord God's abiding there.

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be the Lord,  
who daily bears us up;  
God is our salvation.