



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

Charity No. 1214524.

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JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from The Rectory ...

And so to the last of four instalments of my abridging the book called 'Unapologetic' by Frances Spufford, and the final chapter..

Chapter 8. **Consequences** pp 211-219

"It is not always clear how well, in any given situation, you are supposed to try to be loving. Since Christianity isn't one of the law-religions, it doesn't furnish you with a list of rules. It offers instead the impossible ideal of valuing other people as absolutely as you value yourself, which does not translate straightforwardly into a code of behaviour, to say the least. You have the Christian understanding of the human landscape to guide you, and you have the wisdom embedded in tradition, as well as its prejudices and blindness, and you have the history of the earlier attempts made by all your predecessors. But none of these can wholly fix or pin down reliably for you what it is going to mean in everyday terms, this very moment, to love your neighbour as yourself. So you will have to decide, and keep deciding, what you think it means.



You will have the freedom - or, to put it another way, the unending responsibility - of working out which way you're supposed to make your imperfect attempt at the impossible task: to love people. Does that mean you should be trying to give them what they want? Does Jesus' advice about giving away even your clothes mean that your answer should always be yes when someone asks you for help? But what about the times when love requires you not to give the £10 note to the junkie but to deny them the means to their self-destruction? What about the time love requires you to lock your alcoholic husband out of the house? In that case, you're distinguishing between what people want and what they need, between the cases where love is shown by trusting someone else's desire and where it must be shown by over-ruling their desire and trying to give them what you judge they ought to have instead. But then who are you to decide? Maybe with a child the responsibility is plain, no matter how wrong your decisions may turn out to be; but what is to happen when you are an adult gazing sideways at your fellows? Who says then on which occasions it will be right for you to make presumptuous guesses about their wants and needs, or for them to do the same for you? Or what about forgiveness? When should the mercy we think all received from God mean that the worldly sanctions for an action should be withheld, and when not? When is it a mercy to someone to let them off a punishment, and when,

on the contrary, would it be love's work, mercy's work, to ensure that they are taken seriously enough to suffer their action's penalty? How with your limited knowledge, your pathetically restricted view, can you do more than guess?

And when is enough love enough? Need is endless, let alone want, and no signal is ever going to come telling you that the world is satisfied now, and that you may stop with the job of love done. Yet you are finite, and so are your resources of time and emotion, and presumably you are not supposed to damage yourself by letting the pile of need bury you. Presumably you must keep back enough of yourself for yourself so that, like the church, you can be there viably tomorrow. But how are you to know when some particular piece of need is one piece too many? It will be just as real, just as urgent, as any of the others, so how will you be able to tell that this time it is permissible to say no? The questions multiply. Accommodating impossibility within the possible world is tricky. As hard as fitting eternity within time.

If you're a Christian, Jesus offers help woven into the fabric of the universe, the offer you need when not being good becomes a problem. If you're managing to be good, great. The existence of goodness is not in doubt from the Christian point of view. And yes of course you can be good without God. The place is stuffed with atheists and agnostics doing benign things, acting on ideals of compassion and dignity and mutual aid, relieving suffering, working to save or improve the planet. There are a lot of paths to virtue, mercifully, and absolutely no way there could be a religious or Christian monopoly on it. The point of Christianity is not that it produces virtue.

Whatever Christian conservatives in America say, there is no one set of rightful opinions that follow on automatically from your belief. If you signed up for the redeeming love of God, you don't have to sign up to low taxes, creationism, capitalism, closing abortion clinics, climate change denial and grotesque economic inequality. You are entirely at liberty to believe that the Kingdom will be better served by social justice, nationalisation, universal healthcare, free education, open borders, redistributed wealth. You won't have the authoritative sanction of the gospel for believing in those things either of course. But you can. Manifestos can be built on Christianity, but Christianity itself is not a manifesto.

So you have to make up your own mind about how your religion should influence your politics. But: you don't have a completely unconstrained choice. Beneath the map of modern opinion, Christianity draws your attention to an older map of experience, which it insists takes priority if it comes to a choice. This is the reason why you can find yourself puzzling people by owning a set of perceptions which seem bizarrely jumbled, in terms of current partisan positions, as if you didn't seem able to see the obvious boundary lines on the modern map.

But, crucially, one choice you can't make as a Christian is to hold that the end justified the means. You may not declare it to be a virtue to inflict suffering so that good may come of it. That's flat out incompatible with the commandment to love, and its inverse, the prohibition on treating people as instruments or conveniences or objects. You will inevitably treat people that way, from time to time, the HPtFu* being what it is. You may even have to do so, like General Montgomery ordering his divisions forward into the minefields. Means-to-end problems are intrinsic to this world, but you may not call the ill you do, or have to do, anything but ill. You may not re-label it as efficiency, or patriotism, or passionate conviction, or being scientific, or being unsentimental, or shaking off the cobwebs of the past. You are to confess it, not build a programme on it.

Or take a seemingly opposite though in fact linked political temptation. You may not, as a Christian, endorse any politics that dismisses the HPtFu*. You're committed to Jesus' kind pessimism remember. Pictures of perfection are not for you. You can believe in human betterment to your heart's content, according to whatever policy prescription strikes you as good, but you may not believe, ever, in humanity reaching a state where our wishes are all in mysterious harmony, and our hearts are all conveniently scrubbed and disinfected. It isn't going to happen so you can be a revolutionary or you can be a reactionary, and that's OK, but you can't be a utopian. Except there is of course an irony

here. The other reason you aren't available for the project of utopia is you've already got one. What inoculates against utopia is the hope of the Kingdom. The Kingdom too is a dream impossible to realise in the medium of power. The Kingdom too is an impossibility that changes the shape of the possible world by pulling and pulling at us with the promise of a fullness and a kindness beyond our limits. And as a result we discover fullnesses and kindnesses we wouldn't have believed we could manage had we not started following Jesus towards impossibility. How we are to apply this in the world of finite choices and opportunity costs, God leaves as an exercise for the reader."

* HPTfU – Human Propensity (tendency) to Foul things Up

With blessings for a joy-filled June ...



Revd. Hazel

To the One ... ♥

Take a broken and scarred body and a shattered soul.

The marks of a wandering and wondering life, make them whole

Take the storms of this heart and the wars of this mind, the life lead now, and those left behind.

Disarm this defence with your love and your kind.

Take these excuses, these walls and these prisons.

Through them into the sea, fight through them and break them..

A world led by darkness, by hatred and greed

A time of destruction, desperation and need.

But from the ashes is where hope grows, as the fiercest of fires are where your seeds are sown.

This one thing remains, you are faithful and true; Lord of the Promise, you will see it through.

For you say to your children "according to your faith, let it be done unto you".

This poem was found by Hazel in an envelope at the back of St. Martin's and she felt it should be included in this Newsletter. It has been typed as written, complete with spelling errors!

June

CALENDAR FOR JUNE

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

Wed 3	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Sat 6		Love Your Burial Ground Week – 14 th June – St. Peter's
Sun 7	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Wed 10	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Thurs 11	2.30 pm	Julian Meeting today at St. Peter's
Sun 14	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Wed 17	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Thurs 18	1.00 pm	SmartyCraft meets in The Church Rooms
Sun 21	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Tues 23	8.30 pm	The Third Tuesday Club meet at The Cock
Wed 24	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Wed 24	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Sat 27	2.30 pm	People On The Green Concert followed by tea and cakes
Sun 28	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Church@Home *

**If you haven't attended Church@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 **Sue King** it won't appear in the Calendar. My contact details are:- email: susan.roger.king@ntlworld.com - Mobile: 07887 996278



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE - The Advent Fayre this year will take place on Saturday 5th December – 10 am – 2 pm



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

STREETS TO BE PRAYER FOR:

30 th May - 6 th June	St. Martin's Mews
7 th - 13 th June	St. Peter's Avenue
13 th - 19 th June	Stanley Place
20 th - 26 th June	The Gables
27 th June - 3 rd July	The Borough and Oakland Mews

The above is taken from a newly updated list and so you may notice some recent duplication

FROM THE REGISTERS:

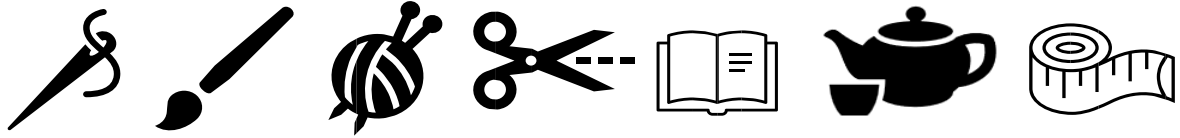
Baptisms / Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

*Funerals: **Funeral of Alec Baylis (22.05.2026)***

Internment of Ashes / Memorial Services / Cremations:

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship
And power to our witness.
Help our Church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you, in financial resources
and in love and service in our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord ... Amen*



SMARTYCRAFT

Why not join us at our SmartyCraft session in the Church Rooms on Thursday 18th June from 1 pm until 3 pm.

Our projects for 2026 are:-

June 18 th - Embroidery / Tapestry	September 17 th - Knitted Project
July 16 th - Mosaic Coasters ?	October 15 th - Craft for Advent Fair (TBA)
August 20 th - Summer Scent Jars	November 19 th - Craft for Advent Fair (TBA)

Please come and relax and chat with our latest craft project. 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**

News from St. Peter's Church, Shelley



We had a moving Ascension Day Communion with 16 present, 12 of whom shared Communion.

We have the launch of the Shelley Loops walking trails on **June 6th** this will start from St. Peter's at 9.30 am.

It is also the start of the "Love Your Burial Ground" week - so we will be celebrating that on 6th June as well - there will be our usual high quality refreshments!!

Our **Julian Meetings** continue on the **second Thursday of each month at 2 pm**. These are gentle, reflective afternoons including a short reading, music, **45 minutes of silent meditation**, and then time for tea, cake and conversation. Newcomers are always very welcome — do come along and try it.



Finally, for your diaries, we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival on 5th July with a bring and share lunch at 1 pm followed by a Songs of Praise service at 2.30 pm.

If you have a favourite hymn or song that you would like included, please let me know!

Monica Richardson (07717 877575)

Shelley Loops Trial Walk – Saturday 6th June

After months of planning and preparation, we are delighted to announce the first **Shelley Loops Trial Walk**, taking place on **Saturday 6th June**, starting from **St Peter's at 9.30 am**.

Our inaugural route will be round Shelley Common, giving walkers the chance to experience part of the proposed Shelley Loops network and help shape how the project develops in future. This will be a relaxed and informal walk, suitable for a range of ages and abilities, and a chance to enjoy the countryside on our doorstep.

The Shelley Loops project aims to create a series of clearly promoted local walking routes linking St Peter's with the beautiful surrounding countryside around Shelley, Ongar, Moreton and Greensted. The idea is simple: to encourage people to get outdoors, enjoy nature, improve wellbeing, and rediscover the footpaths, lanes and landscapes close to home.

St Peter's is wonderfully placed at the centre of several important local and long-distance walking routes, including the Essex Way, St Peter's Way and the Three Forests Way. Shelley Loops hopes to build on that special position by creating routes that start and finish at the church, offering both gentle shorter walks and, in time, longer countryside circuits for more confident walkers.

This first trial walk is an important step. As well as giving people the chance to enjoy the route, it will help us understand what works well, what could be improved, and how the Shelley Loops project can best serve the local community. Feedback from those who join us will be very welcome.

The walk will start at **9.30 am from St Peter's Church, Shelley**. Please **park at the school and walk up to the church**. The church location is **CM5 0HQ**, What3Words **///reach.area.waving**, coordinates **51.4335N 1.4915E**.

After the walk, there will be **refreshments and time to mingle** — an opportunity to chat, share ideas, and spend time together as we look ahead to the future of Shelley Loops.

Everyone is welcome, whether you are a regular walker, someone who would like to explore the local countryside more, or simply interested in supporting a positive community project. We hope this will be the beginning of something valuable not only for St Peter's, but for the wider Shelley and Ongar community.

Please put **Saturday 6th June, 9.30 am** in your diary. We look forward to seeing you there.



Could you help? ...

The PCC has been made aware of the need to renew our hearing loop in St. Martin's and to that end we asked Chris Chant to investigate for us. He has kindly sourced the necessary equipment for us at a cost of approximately £260. If anyone feels that they can contribute towards the cost of this equipment, it would greatly assist our cash flow! Please speak to Hazel or Andrew if you can assist. Thank you ...

St Peter's Church, Shelley

Shelley Loops TRIAL WALK

Saturday 6th June

After months of planning and preparation, we are delighted to announce the first Shelley Loops trial walk. Part of the purpose is to shape the future of the Shelley Loops project.



Starts from
St Peter's Church, Shelley

This relaxed and informal walk gives you the chance to experience part of the proposed route and help shape the project as it develops.

Shelley Loops aims to create accessible local walking routes linking St Peter's with the beautiful surrounding countryside around Shelley, Ongar, Moreton and Greensted.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Gentle, welcoming local walk
- Enjoy nature and beautiful countryside
- Suitable for a range of ages and abilities
- Help shape the future Shelley Loops routes

All welcome

LOCATION



What3Words: ///reach.area.waving
Postcode: CM5 0HQ
Coordinates: 51.4335N 1.4915E



Please park at the school
and walk up to the church.

Starts at 9.30am

The Next Person

A poem by Dan Pierce, vicar of Great and Little Waltham *et al*

Love the next person.
It's a simple refrain. A simple prayer.
It is however an incredibly tough practise.
Loving the next person we encounter.
Yet, whatever you do next, love the next person.

If you're not sure what else faith requires.
Love the next person.
If you're finding scripture impenetrable.
Love the next person.

If you feel like giving up.
Love the next person.
If you have no energy or strength.
Love the next person.
If you're confused about life's next step.
Love the next person.
If you're not sure what church is about anymore.
Love the next person.
If the world frightens and unsettles you
Love the next person.
If you're stuck for what to say.
Love the next person.

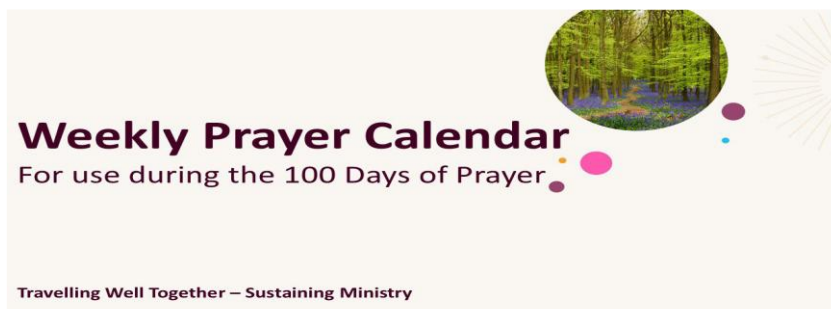
Whoever it may be.
Love the next person.
Whatever their issues.
Love the next person.

If they drive you up the wall.
Love the next person.
If they are busy bodies and judgmental.
Love the next person.
If they're apathetic and nonchalant.
Love the next person.
If they're smug and conceited.
Love the next person.
If they are flippant and abrasive.
Love the next person.
If they're softly spoken or brash.
Love the next person.
If they are corporate and elitist.
Love the next person.
If they align with your values or otherwise.
Love the next person.
If they are disorganised and scatty.
Love the next person.
If they are flaky and unreliable.
Love the next person.
If they live in a way you find objectionable.
Love the next person.
If they are hostile towards you.
Love the next person.
If they are bigoted and intolerant.
Love the next person.

Our role is not to garner universal approval for our ideals.
We are to love the next person.
Our role is not to build global consensus about theology, politics and social norms.
We are to love the next person.

Lord, how might I love the next person?
Whenever, wherever, whomever they may be.

© Dan Pierce 2024; published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 2024 in *Earlybird & Nightfulness: prayers and poems for the beginning and ending of the day*, pp126-128.



Continuing the 100 days of prayer ...

Week 5 beginning Wednesday 3rd June

Theme for the week: Vocations

Vocation is where our God-given gifts and passions meet the needs of the world. It is about who God is calling you to be and what God is calling you to do. For some, this is a specific calling to ministry. For others, it could mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life. Everyone has a vocation. Our churches, schools and local communities are full of people who faithfully respond to God's call and who share in ministry alongside others. Our parishes and communities are blessed by many people serving as Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery officers, Licensed Lay Ministers, Pastoral Assistants, Spiritual Directors, Authorised Local Preachers, Funeral Ministers and School Governors. We long for all people to have the space and resources to explore their calling and find fulfilment and purpose in loving and serving God.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12: 2)

This week, we give thanks...

- for the call that God has placed upon each of us: who God calls us to be and what God calls us to do
- all of those who serve in a variety of lay ministries across our diocese
- our Diocesan Vocations Team and our area vocations advisors

We pray that...

- we may encourage others to explore their calling
- our churches and worshipping communities would be spaces and places where all people can respond to God's call on their lives
- more people would be called into all forms of lay ministry across our diocese

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit
the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Common Worship Collect for Embertide

Week 6 beginning Wednesday 10th June

Theme for the week: Vocations

Our parishes and worshipping communities are faithfully sustained by their clergy, whether they are retired, self-supporting, house for duty, ministers in secular employment or full-time stipendiary clergy. Stipendiary ministry remains the cornerstone of the Church of England, used to measure current and future resource needs. The cost of ministry is directly related to the parish share request with built in support for parishes in areas of deprivation.

Under the national Renewal and Reform programme which started in 2015 the goal was to have created a stable pool of about 7600 full-time clergy by 2035. In September 2024, the Church Times reported that the number of stipendiary clergy in the Church of England will fall to 5400 in 2033, a 40% reduction since the year 2000. The number of people going forward to train for ordained ministry has fallen by 38% since 2020. As we look to sustaining ministry in our diocese and the availability of stipendiary clergy, new models of ministry need to be explored in our different parish communities.

16 *You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...*
(John 15: 16)

This week, we give thanks...

- for our clergy: retired, self-supporting, working in secular employment or in stipendiary roles
- our Diocesan Vocations Team and our area ordination advisors
- our ordinands and all of those in the discernment process

We pray that...

- more people would be called to serve as deacons and priests
- we would be open to reimagining our models of ministry across our diocese

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts,
by your Holy Spirit you have appointed
various orders of ministry in the Church:
look with mercy on your servants called to be deacons and priests;
maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness,
that by word and good example they may faithfully serve you
to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church;
through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Common Worship Collect for Embertide

Week 7 beginning Wednesday 17th June

Theme for the week: Wellbeing and sustaining healthy rhythms

Wellbeing is about human flourishing and functioning well. One of the seven shared Diocesan Values articulated in Travelling Well Together is “sustaining healthy rhythms”. We are invited to live life in all its fulness. This requires us to take personal responsibility, making time for leisure, recreation, prayer and service. It also requires us to support one another, sometimes carrying those who are struggling most. We also recognise that there are particular pressures facing those who serve in leadership roles in our churches, lay and ordained.

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, ♦ so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is a thirst for God, even for the living God; ♦
when shall I come before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my bread day and night, ♦
while all day long they say to me, ‘Where is now your God?’

4 Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: ♦
how I went with the multitude and led the procession to the house of God,
5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦ among those who kept holy day.
6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦ and why are you so disquieted within me?
7 O put your trust in God; ♦ for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God. (Psalm 42)

This week, we give thanks...

- for those who support us and enable us to flourish in our lives and ministries
- for all that brings us joy, all that energises us, all that inspires us
- for those people whose ministry is to support and enable others to flourish in their lives and ministries

We pray that...

- we would be wise in the decisions we make that impact our own wellbeing
- our churches and worshipping communities would be places of mutual support and healing, witnessing to Christ's healing presence in the world

Come, creator Spirit, source of life;
sustain us when our hearts are heavy
and our wells have run dry,
for you are the Father's gift,
with him who is our living water,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Common Worship Collect for Psalm 42

Week 8 beginning Wednesday 24th June

Theme for the week: Wellbeing and sustaining healthy rhythms

Leading in Christian ministry can be deeply rewarding and joyful; it can also at times be costly and demanding for ministers and their families. Physical, financial, emotional and spiritual health, together with personal and professional relationships, within the wider context of vocation, all contribute to an overall sense of wellbeing for clergy and licensed lay ministers. Ordained and licensed ministry is inextricably interwoven with other aspects of life and with other people's lives. Ministers are often sustained by a very strong sense of personal calling, but the work can be lonely, and some ministers feel isolated in their ministry or in their personal lives.

The population in our diocese has increased over the past ten years, but over this same time, the number of clergy posts has reduced from 300 to 235. By 2025, each clergy post in our diocese was serving a smaller congregation (an average of 108 adults) but a larger average population (13, 964). Whilst we are moving away from "one vicar, one parish" and multi-parish benefices are more common, we need to actively explore new models of ministry that are sustainable and that enable the flourishing of all God's people.

28 *'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'* (Matthew 11: 28-30)

This week, we give thanks...

- for spiritual directors, pastoral supervisors, counsellors, prayer partners, coaches and mentors who support our lay and ordained leaders
- the Clergy Support Trust, the Charity for Licensed Ministers in the Diocese of Chelmsford (LMDC) and other charities that support clergy and licensed ministers in particular need
- for our Deanery Wellbeing champions and our Diocesan Wellbeing Steering Group

We pray that...

- all our clergy and licensed lay ministers would receive the support that they need to enable them in their ministries

- we would be bold and imaginative in our exploration of new models of ministry that will enable all God's people to flourish

Creator and lover of our souls:
teach us to release our burdens and accept your love.
May your love be the deepest reality of our lives,
and may we offer real love to others.
Amen.

Taken from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, introduced by John Pritchard

Ongar & Shelley Ladies' Thursday Group

There was no speaker in May as it was our AGM. Our next club meeting will be on Thursday 4th June at the URC rooms, 2 pm for a 2.30 pm start.

New members welcome and their first visit will be FREE, or become a member which is only £17 for the year. There will not be a meeting in July as we have our club outing.

Jan Turnbull – May 2026



Hope Grows

The Leprosy Mission wishes it could take each one of us to Odisha, "to see the hive of activity in the leprosy communities you are helping to transform. For many residents, decades of harsh survival have meant enduring the indignity of begging for their next meal. But because of your generosity, life is flourishing in every way.

These families don't want handouts, they want the chance to provide for themselves. And thanks to you they now have the tools and support they need. The fruits of their labour are emerging, and they are bursting with pride.

A total of 1,338 Kitchen gardens have been started with great enthusiasm! Along with seeds and plants commerce you have provided families with the tools to cultivate the land. Community farms are also taking root, with 63 acres now planted with fruit trees and vegetables. Eventually, these communities hope to sell any surplus produce. Creating a small income while ensuring everyone in their colony is fed.

Your kindness has funded thousands of nutritious saplings, including mango, guava, papaya, coconut, banana, and Curry leaf plants. A total of 126 goats, cows, and chickens have also been distributed.

We can only imagine the joy and excitement that fresh produce brings to people who have survived for decades on little more than a small cup of rice offered through begging. Through you, God's provision is bringing nourishment, hope, and dignity to these communities."

In its recent edition of 'New Day' magazine, The Leprosy Mission also reports on the 45 families who now have brand-new homes, and 115 homes now under construction. Homes that keep out the wind and the rain, with secure doors and windows, and most significantly, homes that have their own toilets. 'which is such a blessing to the ladies in particular, who had to venture into fields and night. The joy these homes have brought is immeasurable.'

[Will you keep hope alive in Odisha? | The Leprosy Mission](#)



PRAYERLINE

The Prayerline is open to anyone who wishes to ask for prayers for a friend or family member. No details are required – it is enough to know that someone needs our prayers. The Prayerline is best for times of crisis, when short periods of concentrated prayer are required (for example, when someone is undergoing an operation or waiting for an appointment). We always suggest that permission is asked before anyone is added to the Prayerline.

I administer this area of our common ministry and can be contacted either by email (susan.roger.king@ntlworld.com) or by phone (07887 996278). I will ensure that any request is actioned and will also check monthly to ensure that names are removed when situations change.

If you would like to join the Prayerline Distribution List and commit to praying regularly for those who need our prayers, then please contact me.

Sue King

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

IT'S NOT JUST POLICY, IT'S PERSONAL

Building confidence in reporting safeguarding concerns

"Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

- Micah 6:8

We know that reporting safeguarding concerns can feel difficult

[Scan here for resources to help you](#)

When someone shares a concern, it is important they are listened to and taken seriously. You are not expected to investigate. Keeping people safe and ensuring concerns are recorded and referred appropriately is all of our responsibility.

- Recognise**
Be alert to signs or disclosures of abuse.
- Respond**
Listen carefully and take what is being said seriously.
- Record**
Make a written record of what has been shared.
- Refer**
Share the concern with the Safeguarding Officer and relevant authorities.



People of the Green



**Songs Sacred and Secular
including
Songs from the Shows**

Saturday 27th June at 2:30 pm

Book tickets via e-mail at:

tickets@cooksmillgreenchurch.org

or

<https://www.ticketsource.com/st-martins-church>

or

telephone 01245 248208 or 07894 050663 (Jill)

Tickets £15 including Tea and Cake after the concert.

St. Martin's Church

Off the High Street

Chipping Ongar

CM5 9HY

All proceeds to go towards

St. Martin's Church General Fund

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 07887 996278 or Shirley on 01277 364143, and we can arrange a convenient time to bring the sacrament to you.



ST. MARTIN'S, CHIPPING ONGAR

Times of 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
*With Healing

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 2026 / 2027 TEXT TO REMEMBER



For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life.

John 3.16



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.**