



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

Charity No. 1214524.



**The Reverend Hazel Aucken
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JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from The Rectory ...

I do love coincidences. And one I am noticing at the moment links

1. the sense I've had for some time that one obvious role for our historic church buildings is to become places of pilgrimage for anyone seeking peace and quiet, rest and relaxation, healing and joy, or answers to they know not what
2. the recognition that both St Martin's and St Peter's are well-placed to offer this, both geographically and in terms of their church culture
3. the launch this summer of the Church of England's Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives resources 'centred around pilgrimage – places and stories that help us feel part of something bigger on our journey towards God.'



Shirley Dudeney has already been distributing these booklets amongst the Church@Home congregation, and I have now ordered more as we shall be exploring 'pilgrimage' at our One Big Family services in July and August. The booklets will be available from 5th July at both churches. Until 18 Sep, it's also possible to find them on the Everyday Faith App's calendar for 25 May to 20 June:



Download the app free via
cofe.io/EverydayFaithApp



Download for
Android



Download for
iOS

EverydayFaith.  THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

With 24 daily readings over 4 weeks, the booklets explore eight early English saints, four from the north-east, three from the south-east, and one who started in Lindisfarne in the north and moved south, to Bradwell. His name is of course St Cedd. Most of them, and certainly all those in or from the north were Celtic saints.

Celtic Christianity



Celtic saints such as Aidan and Cuthbert brought Christianity to the north of England from Ireland and Scotland. Theirs was a culture that valued 'nature and community, the equality of men and women, and their vibrant and poetic imaginations', and these values heavily influenced their spiritual practices. The early Celtic Christians experienced the presence of God in the whole of the natural world and the whole of human living. They would have found the idea of living with no thought for the health of the land and sea and sky, as western Christians came to do, utterly barbaric. They majored on prayer and meditation,

hospitality and caring for those in need, alongside beautiful images expressed in poetry and art. Interestingly, the Celts 'believed men and women are equally able to inspire, lead, and participate in all aspects of community and spiritual practice.' Whether women should or should not be ordained would clearly not have been an issue for them! They also had 'a wonderful tradition of cultivating soul-friends who took caring responsibility for assisting in the development of and sustained journey of a spiritual life well lived.' I love that idea of soul-friend - so much more than a mentor or counsellor. If that were a tradition that had been cultivated instead of forgotten, I suspect our collective mental health and our discipleship would be much improved.

Celtic v Roman Christianity



So what happened? Whilst Celtic saints planted the gospel in the north, Roman saints like Augustine were bringing it to the south of England. Sadly, Roman and Celtic monks and clergy had completely different tonsures, so were all too easily recognisable. Furthermore, they calculated the date of Easter differently. The Celts used an older method which they believed originated with St John. The Romans used a

later one, which had the support of the Pope, and so was linked to St Peter.

Put together two groups of Christians whose faith had been birthed in completely different cultures, who could readily be identified by hairstyle and the Sunday on which they celebrated Easter, and who followed two different disciples of Jesus, and you have a recipe for disaster. It came to a head in the 7th century when the Celtic Christian king of Northumbria sometimes found himself celebrating Easter when his Roman Christian wife was still fasting in Lent. He called a meeting of all interested parties, known as the Synod of Whitby and after a formal debate decided to side with the Pope. Over time Roman Christian spirituality prevailed in this land of ours and Celtic practices were largely lost.

Celtic Spirituality Rekindled



Over the years, there have been many re-awakenings of Celtic Christianity, starting way back in the 8th and 9th centuries. Each looked back to a golden age of the early saints, often as a contrast to Roman Christianity, let's join those early saints in seeking God in creation, care for those in need, hospitality and art. Twentieth century rekindling's initially centred on the island of Iona, off the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides, which became the home of the exiled Irish prince and priest St Columba in 563AD. He

founded small communities of monks across Scotland to share the Gospel with the native Picts.*

Let's spend this summer then, joining those early saints in seeking God in creation, care for those in need, hospitality and art.

With blessings for a joy-filled July

Rev. Hazel

*The Scots came from Ireland like Columba, but didn't turn up in any great number until the 9th century.



CALENDAR FOR JULY

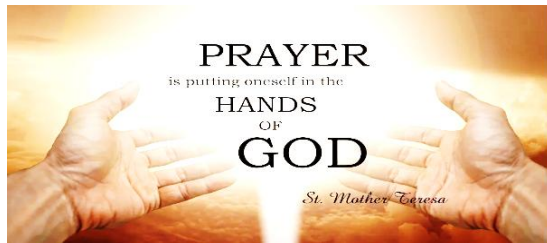
All Services are in St. Martin's unless otherwise stated

Wed 1	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Sat. 4	9.30 am	Shelley Loop – Trial Walk 2 from St. Peter's
Sun 5	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
	1.30 pm	St. Peter's Patronal Festival Bring & Share Lunch followed by Songs of Praise at 2.30 pm
Wed 8	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Thurs 9	2.30 pm	Julian Meeting today at St. Peter's
Sun 12	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Wed 15	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Thurs 16	1.00 pm	SmartyCraft meets in The Church Rooms
Sun 19	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service followed by Zoe's Fund Raiser
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Tues 21	8.30 pm	The Third Tuesday Club meet at The Cock
Wed 22	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Sun 26	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*



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

STREETS TO BE PRAYER FOR week beginning: -

28/06/2026	Victoria Road
05/07/2026	Walter Mead Close & Weighbridge Court
12/07/2026	Acres Avenue and Hastingwood Court
19/07/2026	Aukingford Gardens and Aukingford Green
26/07/2026	Bansons Way and Frank Bretton House
02/08/2026	Bansons Lane and Bansons Court

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

FROM THE REGISTERS:

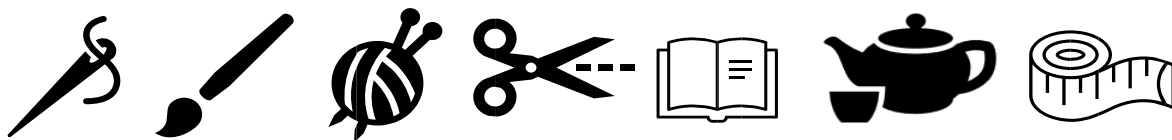
Baptisms / Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

*Funerals: **Funeral of Peter Carter (05.06.2026)***

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 16th July** from 1 pm until 3 pm.

Our projects for 2026 are:-

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



July News from St. Peter's Church, Shelley

Shelley Loops Gets Off to a Wonderful Start

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the inaugural **Shelley Loops** walk in June. After many months of planning, it was a real pleasure to see some new faces gathering at St Peter's to enjoy our beautiful local countryside together. In spite of the weather the feedback from those taking part was overwhelmingly positive. Walkers enjoyed not only the route itself, but also the opportunity to discover paths and views that many had never explored before, despite living locally for years. There was a wonderful sense of community throughout the morning, and the refreshments afterwards gave everyone the chance to share ideas for future walks.

Shelley Loops is about much more than walking. It is about encouraging wellbeing, celebrating our local heritage, reconnecting people with nature and helping St Peter's become a welcoming starting point for exploring the countryside around Shelley. We are delighted that the first walk proved such a success and has given us a strong foundation on which to build.

Our **second Shelley Loops Walk** will take place on **Saturday 4th July at 9.30 am**. This time we will be following a figure-of-eight route around Church Lane and Shelley Common, suitable for most ages and abilities, taking around an hour to complete. Everyone is very welcome, whether you joined us in June or are thinking of coming along for the first time.

Celebrate St Peter's Day

The following day, **Sunday 5th July**, we invite everyone to celebrate **St. Peter's Day** with us.

The afternoon begins with a **Bring & Share Lunch at 1.30 pm**, followed by a **Songs of Praise service at 2.30 pm** where we are delighted to welcome back Suzannah Brooks to play for us. It promises to be a relaxed and joyful occasion as we celebrate our patron saint, enjoy good food and fellowship, and give thanks for our church and community.

Whether you are a regular member of the congregation, a local resident, or simply curious to visit St Peter's, you will receive a very warm welcome.

We hope to see many familiar faces—and perhaps some new ones too—as we continue building St Peter's as a place of worship, friendship, heritage and community for everyone.

David Irving

St Peter's Church, Shelley

Shelley Loops

WALK • DISCOVER • CONNECT

WALK 2

A FIGURE OF EIGHT

Saturday 4th July

After a successful trial walk, please join us for our second walk, a figure of eight route around Church Lane and Shelley Common.

 Starts and finishes at St Peter's Church, Shelley

**DISTANCE**
3.5 km
(2.2 miles)

**TIME**
Approx.
60–75 mins

**DIFFICULTY**
Easy / Moderate
Mostly level

**TERRAIN**
Paths, lanes
and field tracks

**SUITABLE FOR**
Most ages & abilities
Pushchairs
(where possible)

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

SCAN ME
For route map,
what3words,
information
& updates



LOCATION

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

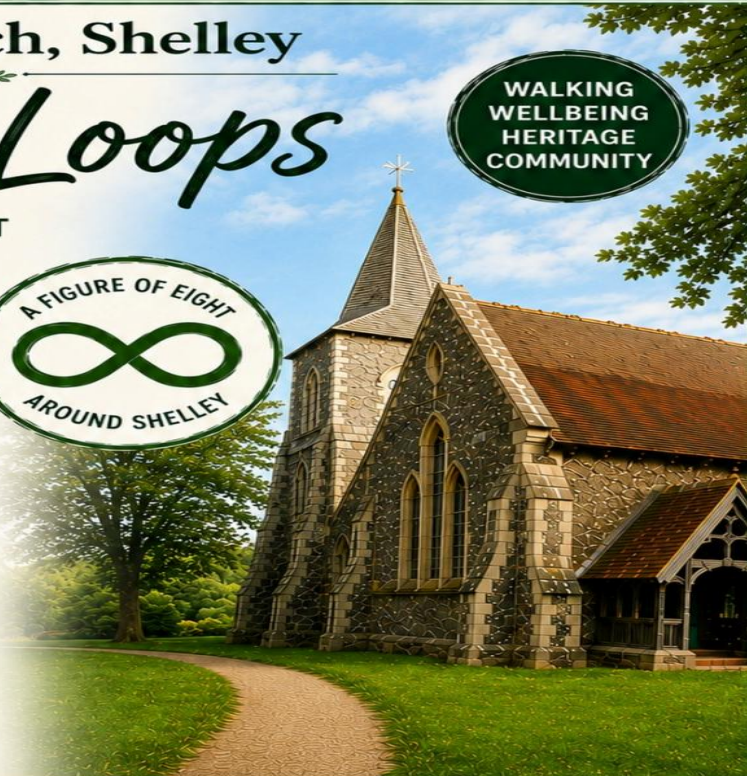
 Please park at the school
and walk up to the church.

 The second of a growing network of countryside walks from St Peter's Church, Shelley.

 Follow Shelley Loops on Facebook

Shelley Loops is a community initiative supporting health, heritage and our local area.

MORE LOOPS COMING SOON!





ECO PRAYER OF THE MONTH

July — Tread Lightly

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” - Psalm 24:1

God of creation,
As July brings longer days, warmer weather,
and the beauty of summer around us,
we thank you for the countryside, gardens,
footpaths, birdsong, flowers, and open spaces
that lift our hearts and remind us of your goodness.
Teach us to enjoy your world with gratitude,
not carelessness;
to tread lightly on the places we love,
to waste less,
to use only what we need,
and to notice the life that shares this earth with us.
Help us to make wise choices in small everyday things —
in the journeys we take,
the food we buy,
the water we use,
and the waste we leave behind.
May our summer days be filled not only with enjoyment,
but with thankfulness, care, and respect
for the fragile beauty of your creation.
Guide us to live gently,
to protect what is vulnerable,
and to pass on a greener, kinder world
to those who come after us.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.

This month’s eco action:

Tread lightly this summer - take a reusable bottle or bag when you go out, reduce single-use plastic, and choose one local journey to walk, cycle, or share.

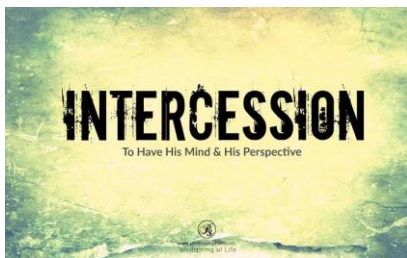
ST PETER’S DAY

At St Peter's Church, Shelley
SUNDAY 5 JULY



Bring & Share lunch at 1.30pm followed
by a Songs of Praise service at 2.30pm

ALL WELCOME



Leading the Intercessions

Because of my deteriorating eyesight, I reached the sad decision around 12 months ago to step down from the ministry of leading intercessions. I was sorry to do this as we are already short of intercessors.

Please prayerfully consider whether this might be something you could do. Understandably the prospect of leading the prayers on behalf of the congregation can be a daunting prospect, especially if you have never done such a thing before and don't know how to do it. Hopefully this article might be of some help.

Whilst many people with practice and experience can then pray extempore prayers (i.e. on the spur of the moment without preparation or notes) it is *always* best to start by spending time in prayer beforehand, considering what we want to cover and then writing it all down. There are various tools that can make this easier:

Many of us structure the prayers in this traditional pattern.

We pray for

- The Church
e.g. for the worldwide church, or the Diocese, our MMU, Churches Together, our clergy, PCC etc
- The World
e.g. for peace, justice, world leaders and areas of crisis, disaster or poverty
- The Local Community
e.g. in our cycle of prayer (a dated list is available in the Vestry) we remember the people who live and work in a particular street. We might also remember local schools -teachers and pupils, or the medical and administrative staff at the Health Centre.
- The Sick and Suffering
e.g. for those facing physical, mental or spiritual trials. Always invite and allow a period of silence for people to remember before God those personally known to them
- The Departed
e.g. we remember and give thanks for those who have recently died, whose anniversaries of death fall at this time and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one
- Finish with
Rejoicing in the fellowship of St Martin and St Peter and all the saints. We commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

The suggestions in italics are just to show what might be included, but I personally think it is best to concentrate on one issue under each heading; and prayers do not have to be long. The Church of England also gives further very helpful guidance not only on the above, but also on other ways of leading the prayers

[Leading prayer through intercessions | The Church of England](#)

Alison Uttley once said

“I can’t invent; I only copy”. I have read quite a few of her books and I reckon she was being very modest! But if, like me, you get stuck composing prayers i.e. you know what you want to say, but can’t find the words – the web can be very useful 😊

The Church of England has a number of topical prayers on this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers?page=2>

It is also worth looking at intercessions published on the web by other parish churches and quite often they are related to the readings for a particular Sunday which can be useful. But do take a critical look at the language – I often like the content, but I reword what is being said to suit my own style.

There are books on how to lead prayers

The book below is one I have used most often and found very helpful. It gives lots of examples and suggested prayers for various occasions

The Intercessions Handbook by John Pritchard. Publisher SPCK

Available new from various sellers for around £10 or second-hand from around £4 on World of Books depending on edition

Another book that I have used occasionally:

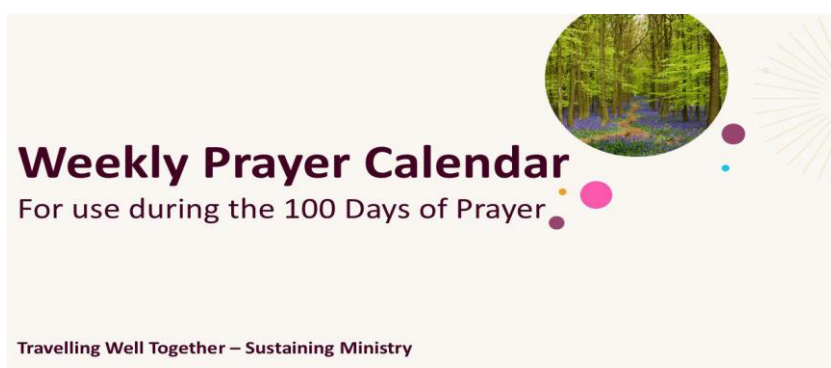
Leading Common Worship Intercessions by Doug Chaplin.

Supplied and published by Church House Publishing for £8.99 as a ‘Print on Demand’ book and it is despatched after approximately three weeks.

Finally

Leading prayers in church for the first time is a wonderful, sacred milestone. Try not to be anxious, but remember the congregation is praying with you – not judging you!

Peter Dudeney ...
with my grateful thanks to Hazel for editing as appropriate



Please see separate attachment

Ongar & Shelley Ladies' Thursday Group

Cecil Rhodes – Diamonds, Africa & The Empire.

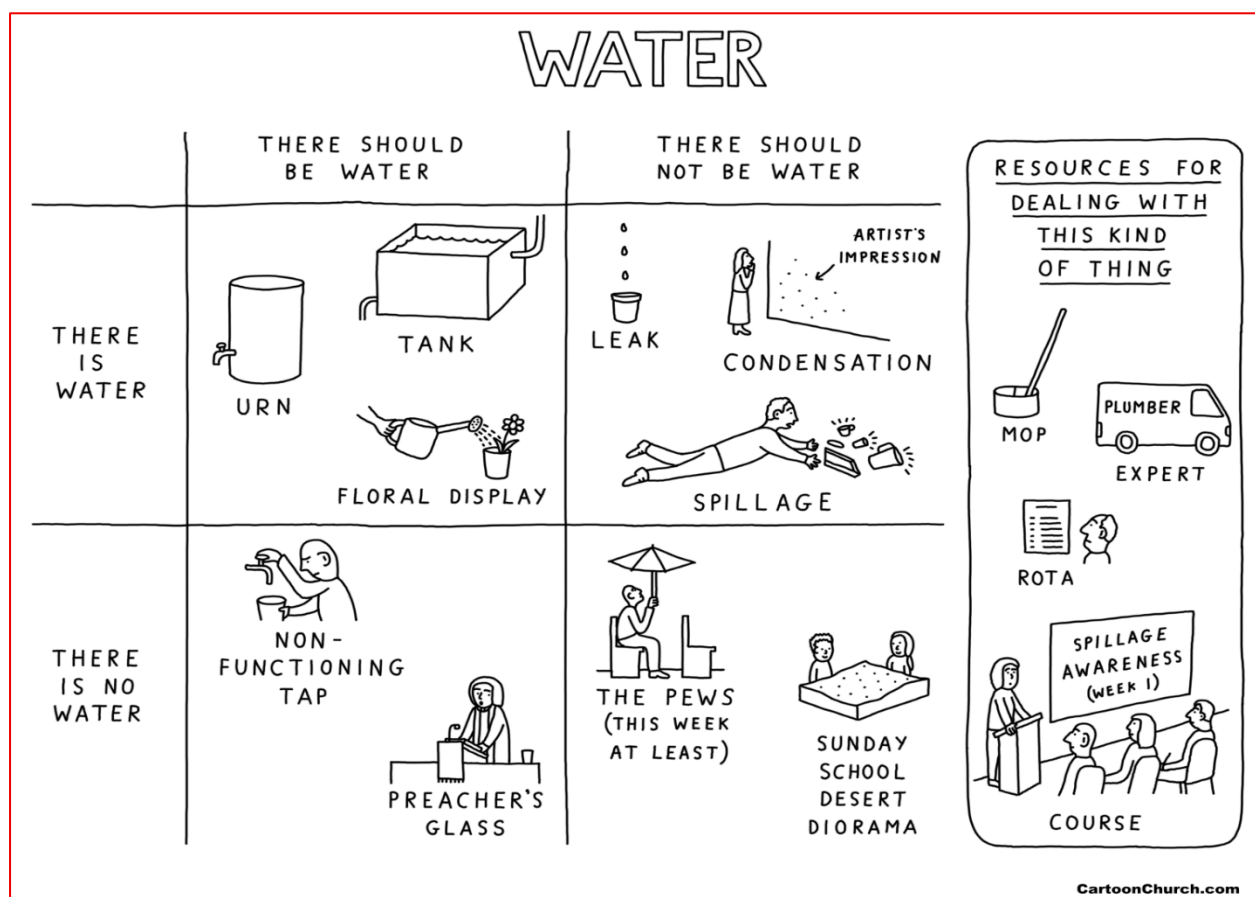
Linda introduced Jef Page who came to give a talk and slide show about the life of Cecil Rhodes. Cecil was born in Bishops Stortford in 1853. At the age of 19 he had already suffered a heart attack and it was decided he go to Southern Africa to help his brother who had a cotton farm. When he arrived, his brother had left the farm to go diamond hunting. This appealed to Cecil who joined him in Kimberley. He didn't make much money to start, but did eventually, and later created the diamond company De Beers, controlling 90% of the world's diamond production, plus another mining company which the British government authorised to "settle" large areas of central and Southern Africa. Some of the areas of land had holes which spanned about 42 acres. He also instigated building railways to connect the diamond mines.

In 1881, he became Prime Minister and took land from the black Africans. He was eventually forced to resign due to ill health and died at the age of 48. At his request, he was buried in Zimbabwe.

Linda thanked Jef for an interesting talk.

There will not be a Club meeting in July as it is the Club's outing. Our next Club meeting will be on Thursday 6th August at the URC Rooms. Entry at 2 pm for a 2.30 pm start. New members welcome with their first visit being FREE.

Jan Turnbull - June 2026



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

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.**