



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

Charity No. 1214524.



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AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

Letter from The Rectory ...

Zoe's Mini-Fair



Didn't Zoe (and her family and friends 😊) do well! She not only raised approximately £350 at her mini-fair on 19th July but also created a lovely fun event, that all present enjoyed. As always the cakes were very good, and Rebecca's amazing iced biscuits were a feast for the eyes as well as the tastebuds! I can't remember who got closest to the number of buttons in the jar (ask Rita) but I was staggered to discover I scored the highest in the



knocking down the tin can pyramids challenge. I'm usually pretty rubbish at that sort of thing, so can only assume not many people had a go 😊

Celtic Mini Bible Studies

I hope you are enjoying the 'Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives' daily studies as well as the related One Big Family services. I certainly am finding it fascinating, and learning things about our English heritage that I didn't know before. I'd never heard of St Bertha of Canterbury nor St Frideswide (pronounced 'frieds-wide') of Oxford so didn't know it was the former who paved the way for St Augustine who brought Roman Christianity to Britain, nor that the latter founded a priory in Oxford that later became Christ Church College, whose chapel is Oxford Cathedral. Reflecting on her life as its Prioress, with all the practical and spiritual responsibilities that involved, made me think about what sustains me in my everyday life, as I do my best with my practical and spiritual responsibilities as Vicar of St Martin's and St Peter's.

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 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

You can follow studies using the CofE's Everyday Faith 'phone app (see above for QR code to take you to the app or search the web for 'Everyday Faith app'). When you open it, you'll need to use the calendar to access the studies. The first one (day 1 of St Bede) is on 25 May. I've asked Sue to circulate the list of dates and saints as an appendix to this Newsletter so you can find them easily, or look here: [pilgrim-places-daily-readings-overview.pdf](#)

For the Lo-Tech option, most of you should already have a copy of the booklet but last time I looked there was still one available on the table near St Martin's church door – free to a good home! If you've already got one, how about asking God to let you know which friend, neighbour or family member might be interested and passing it on when you have completed it?

I'm also reflecting on how best to complete the challenge I've set everyone, particularly to those with children or grandchildren, to travel to at least one of the Pilgrim Places over the summer. My main problem is finding a free day in my diary!

Let's spend this summer joining those early saints in seeking God in our everyday lives.

Deciding to Follow Jesus

I'm planning to run another series of baptism and / or confirmation preparation this autumn. They are open to anyone who has made a personal decision to follow Jesus in the way they live their life and would like to do so as part of our St Martin's and St Peter's family. If that's you, then please do get in touch with me.

With blessings for an awesome August



Revd Hazel

**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**



CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

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

Sun 2	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Wed 5	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Sun 9	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Wed 12	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Thurs 13	2.30 pm	Julian Meeting today at St. Peter's
Sun 16	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service
Tues 18	8.30 pm	The Third Tuesday Club meet at The Cock
Wed 19	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Thurs 20	1.00 pm	SmartyCraft meets in The Church Rooms
Sun 23	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Church@Home *
Wed 26	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 am	Holy Communion in the Chancel
Sun 30	10.30 am	Holy Communion with Healing
	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: -

02/08/2026	Bansons Lane and Bansons Court
09/08/2026	Bansons Yard and Bansons Mews
16/08/2026	Barkers Way
13/08/2026	Barons Close
30/08/2026	Battle Court
06/09/2026	Betjeman Way

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

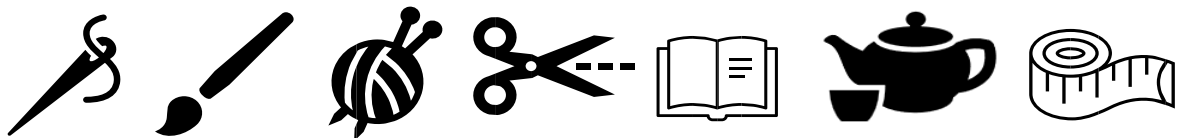
FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms / Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

Funerals:

Internment of Ashes / Memorial Services / Cremations:



SMARTYCRAFT

Why not join us at our SmartyCraft session in the Church Rooms on **Thursday 20th August** from 1 pm until 3 pm.

Our projects for 2026 are:-

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)

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**

Ongar & Shelley Ladies' Thursday Group

The 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.



August News from St. Peter's Church, Shelley

We held our Patronal Festival on July 5th.. those attending the bring & share lunch were few in number but high in enthusiasm.

A few more people came to the service which was beautifully led by Shirley Dudeney, and followed by refreshments.

We are looking forward to our annual Summer Fair on Saturday 8th August and then our Harvest Festival on September 13th.

The 3rd Shelley Loops walk to Moreton will take place on September 12th.

Monica Richardson

SUMMER FAIR

At St Peter's Church,
Shelley
Saturday 8th August
10am-4pm



Raffle ★ Wood Turning ★ Craft Items ★ Art
Local Honey ★ Games ★ Plants ★ Various stalls
Ploughman's Lunches ★ Cream Teas

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO RESPOND TO SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

IT'S NOT JUST POLICY, IT'S PERSONAL



Introduction

Safeguarding is not just about following procedures. It is about how we respond when concerns are raised, and how we make sure that people are protected, supported and taken seriously.

At the centre of every safeguarding concern is a person. Someone who has taken a difficult step in sharing what they know or what they have experienced. How we respond to that moment matters enormously.

The [Reporting Safeguarding Concerns and Allegations Code of Practice](#) sets out clear expectations for how concerns must be handled across the Church. Keeping people safe is everyone's responsibility. Anyone in the church community may find themselves receiving a safeguarding concern, which means that everyone should feel confident in how to respond.

Safeguarding concerns can arise in many ways

Safeguarding concerns can arise in many ways. They may come through something someone shares with you directly, something you witness or observe, information passed on by another person, or concerns that emerge over time. They may relate to recent events or to things that happened many years ago. Whatever the circumstances, the same four steps apply.



Recognise. Respond. Record. Refer.

You are not expected to investigate. You are not expected to have all the answers. Your role is to take what you hear seriously, make a record and pass it on to the right people. The process is there to support you as much as anyone else.

If you are unsure about any part of this, your Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) is there to help.

A reminder for you

Receiving a safeguarding concern can be difficult. It is okay to find it hard. Once you have referred the concern, make sure you seek support for yourself too. Your DSO or a trusted colleague can help with this.

For more information, visit the [Reporting Safeguarding Concerns and Allegations Code](#) in the Safeguarding E-Manual.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION



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.**