



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



Rev'd. Noelle Taylor
The Rectory, Shakletons, Ongar, Essex CM5 9AT
01277 362173 / noelletaylor@hotmail.com

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Friends

What follows is the article I submitted to the magazine in 2016:

Song of the snowdrop fairy

Deep sleeps the Winter,
Cold, wet, and grey;
Surely all the world is dead;
Spring is far way.
Wait! The world shall waken;
It is not dead, for lo,
The Fair Maids of February
Stand in the snow!

Cicely Mary Barker



A garden offers plenty of scope for hopeful expectation at this time of year! I have planted hundreds of snowdrops over the years and spend many happy minutes in the gloomy months of January and February hunting to see how many of these flowers had reappeared. And with a new garden there is the added anticipation of looking out for what others may have planted. The bulbs I've planted never grow quite where I thought I'd put them so it really is a hunt to find them!

Hope is not usually given to us on a plate, we often have to search for it and when life gets grim that isn't always easy to do. But just as the snowdrop reminds us that winter will pass into spring, so the Bible tells us that although life can seem desperate at times, we are each held in the safest most loving hand and that we never travel life alone – however alone we may feel.

Having announced my retirement at the end of April, I thought this article was once more rather appropriate. Although I no longer have a new garden, the hunt for snowdrops is an annual one – I always feel spring is on its way when I find the first ones. One year I cheated and bought an early variety that comes up around Christmas time but sadly this did not kid me into thinking spring was on its way – but there are some proper snowdrops up now!

I know it is scary (and a bit exciting!) when we hear our current priest is leaving but it is true that God travels with us and we need not be afraid. Thank you all for your kindness and understanding. I have to say that being a priest in Chipping Ongar finally convinced me that I'd done the right thing saying yes to God all those years ago – you are wonderful and whoever follows me will be very fortunate.

POOR heart, break not, though cruel be thy wound—

This too will pass!

The weariest day will end in sunset light,
And dawn must follow e'en the darkest night!

Nor drink too deeply of Joy's honeyed cup—

This too will pass!
 Caressing hands will lose their loving touch,
 And words mean nothing that once meant so much.
 Ah, then, whate'er thy state, seek thou *content*—
This will not pass!
 True rest is found in God, He knows and cares,
 His heart of love thy every sorrow shares!

G.W. Seibht

With love ... *Noelle*



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 Sunday - 10.30 am - One Big Family for All

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

Wednesday

9 am - Morning Prayer

10 am - Holy Communion

*St. Martin's Church is open for Private Prayer
 each day between 9 am and Dusk*

Please adhere to any notices displayed

***WE LOOK FORWARD
 TO WELCOMING YOU!***

Please do remember to visit our website
<http://www.stmartinongar.org.uk> where
 you can link to our Facebook page

STREETS TO BE PRAYER FOR:

30th January - 5th February

6th - 12th February

13th - 20th February

21st - 26th February

27th February - 5th March

Stanley Place

The Gables

The Borough & Oakland Mews

Tower Court

Turners Close

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms: Hudson James Hill - 09.01.2022 - St. Martin's Church

Confirmations:

Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:

Funerals:

Internment of Ashes / Memorial Services / Cremations:

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



Shirley writes ...



I'm continuing to lead a BCP Morning Prayer service via Zoom at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings for those of us unable to attend St. Martin's at present and new folk are always welcome. Just send an email to me at shirleydudeny@btinternet.com for the appropriate link.

PLUS

If, for whatever reason, you are not able to be physically in Church on a Sunday morning, in addition to the 10.30 am BCP which Shirley Dudeny is hosting, all are warmly welcome to join the Short Morning Service hosted by Revd. Stewart Gibbs of the High Ongar Parish at 9 am.

The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/95073446203>

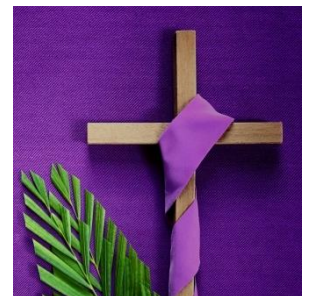
Meeting ID: 950 7344 6203

Lent 2022

Would you be interested in joining in a zoom Lent course?

If you would, please let me know and I'll forward details once they are finalised.

Shirley



As from the beginning of this year there will not be flowers in church every week. As I am the only person available to arrange them and with the numbers of our congregation dropping there is not enough money to finance an arrangement each week. However, if you would like an arrangement in memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion, I am more than happy to do one. Usually this costs about £10 - £20 according to the season - as I can usually use some of the flowers from both my own and the church garden during the summer. I am in church most Sundays or you can contact me by 'phone on 01992 523071

Best wishes to you all ... **Gill Richardson**

Memorial Concert for Frank and Daphne Hart

Christine and David would like to invite you to a concert kindly being given by Times & Seasons Chamber Choir in memory of Dad and Mum.

The concert is to be held on Saturday 26th March 2022 at 7 pm in St. Martin's Church, Ongar.

Singing was a large part of Dad's life; he sang in St. Martin's Church Choir for nearly 60 years and was a founder member of Times & Seasons and sang with them for 28 years.

Tickets are not being sold for this concert, but there will be a retiring collection to be shared between Dementia UK, the Mothers' Union and St. Martin's Church. However, in the current situation, we do need to know numbers and who will be attending, so if you would like to join us to celebrate and remember Dad and Mum would you please RSVP to Sue King (susan.roger.king@ntlworld.com or 01277 362723), thank you.

Also, given the continuing situation and in line with St. Martin's current practices, we will be asking those attending to wear a mask whilst in the Church building and also to take a lateral flow test prior to attending, thank you.



On Sunday 1st May it will be Ongar Festival in town and there will be lots of events going on. We would like to join in as a Church and would like some volunteers to help.

The Church will be open as usual to welcome visitors. We will have some music playing and a plant stall set up with donated plants to raise much needed funds. We also plan to have some people to meet and greet. If you would like to help with this, please contact Jill, Sue or Rita.

We would also like to offer some refreshments – but would need some volunteers for this as well. So, if you think this might be something you could help with in some way, please contact Jane or Sue.

Thank you ...



Sunday 6th February 2022



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

| | | | |
|-----|----|----------|--|
| Tue | 1 | 8.00 pm | PCC Zoom Meeting to discuss Parish Profile |
| Wed | 2 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 6 | 8.00 am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | One Big Family Service for All |
| | | 10.30 am | Book of Common Prayer Service on Zoom* |
| Wed | 9 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 13 | 10.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | Book of Common Prayer Service on Zoom* |
| Wed | 16 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 20 | 8.00 am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | Book of Common Prayer Service on Zoom* |
| Mon | 21 | 7.15 pm | Fellowship Group meet at The Rectory |
| Wed | 23 | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 10.00 am | Holy Communion |
| Sun | 27 | 10.30 am | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 am | Book of Common Prayer Service on Zoom* |

**If you haven't attended a Zoom service / event before and would like to attend please contact Shirley Dudeney – shirleydudeney@btinternet.com for the necessary link*

Please advise Peter Dudeney on 364143 or peterdudeney@btinternet.com of details of any events / meetings taking place or cancellations / amendments



Ongar News needs some help!



For many of us the Ongar News is the only publication that keeps us all up to date with what is happening in our community. We greatly value this journal as the Editorial Team also publish free of charge our Church's monthly calendar of events and the various reports we send in.

The only form of income Ongar News receives is from the adverts submitted by businesses each month and in this connection they desperately need someone to assist in the management of this area. Karen, the Editor, can't do it all by herself and her colleague Julia, has a full-time job and can no longer continue. If Ongar News is unsuccessful in finding a suitable person its future is uncertain.

We show below the advert that Ongar News is currently running and if you know of anyone who might be able to assist please do show it to him / her. The only requirements really are that the person is trustworthy and regular.

Many Thanks

ONGAR NEWS needs a Treasurer / Advert. Person Please

If you would like to help keep ONGAR NEWS going, please contact Karen or Julia at ongarnews@btinternet.com to discuss the requirements and what skills are needed. Would possibly suit a recently retired person who can use a computer. This role only requires a couple of hours a week to keep on top of advert requests, send out invoices and occasionally set adverts. Julia will go through with you how the system works and make sure you are comfortable with all that it entails.

The only other requirement is having to get on with Karen and to make sure she does what she is supposed to be doing!

Peter Dudeney

NEW CLASS STARTING MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021!

STAY ACTIVE STAY STRONG

BOOST YOUR ENERGY AND IMPROVE YOUR STRENGTH, BALANCE & POSTURE IN THIS FUN ACCESSIBLE CLASS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!

EXERCISES CAN BE ADAPTED FOR EVERYONE AND ARE A MIXTURE OF CHAIR BASED YOGA & STRENGTH AND BALANCE EXERCISES

EVERY MONDAY 10-11AM

AT ST.MARTIN'S CHURCH ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, ONGAR
JUST £5.00 PER CLASS!

CONTACT LUCINDA ON 07775796549 TO BOOK OR FOR MORE DETAILS



WWW.LIVEHAPPYYOGA.COM



FREE!
ALL AGES WELCOME

ONGAR PUZZLE & GAMES CLUB

**St Martin's Church Rooms,
Castle Street, Ongar**

**Starting from Thursday 16th September,
every Thursday from 10am - 12noon**

Come along for a chat and a cup of tea over a jigsaw puzzle and a few friendly rounds of your favourite board games.

 Epping Forest District Council
 For more information please contact Samuel Price, Cultural Development Officer. Tel: 01992 564442 Email: sprice@eppingforestdc.gov.uk





VOLUNTEER WITH US make a real difference in the fight against poverty

Epping Forest Foodbank provides three days' emergency food and support to local people experiencing crisis.

As soon as lockdown restrictions ease, we will be opening a new distribution centre in **Chipping Ongar** every **Thursday** between **10am** and **11.30am**.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the running of the food bank, from collecting and sorting donations to processing vouchers and helping to create a welcoming space for people in crisis.

To find out more about how you can join our new team,
email
volunteer@eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk

Epping Forest Foodbank
eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk
Registered Charity in England & Wales (1182270)



**THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN ON THURSDAY MORNINGS BETWEEN 9.30 am & 12.30 pm
IN THE CHURCH ROOMS, CASTLE STREET.**

If you need a referral for the Food Bank, please contact our Rector, Revd. Noelle Taylor, on 01277 362173

Bereavement
HELPLINE
01279 967670

Call our Helpline to access:

- A listening ear & emotional support
- Guidance on what to do after a death
- Sign-posting to support in your area

St Clare Hospice

Free, local support

OUR 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.