



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



**We are now in an Interregnum**

**For enquiries, please contact our  
Church Wardens via email or 'phone**

**Peter Dudeney - [peterdudeney@btinternet.com](mailto:peterdudeney@btinternet.com) or Jill Bowtle - [info@ongarwools.co.uk](mailto:info@ongarwools.co.uk)**

**Peter – 01277 364143 or Jill – 07894 050663**

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**JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER**

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

**'Looking to the future.....'**

Well, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations are just around the corner, and I do hope it will be a time of blessing for the Queen, who for me, has been a wonderful role model – with her gentle but stoic resilience and her immense and dedicated sense of duty. Having been the longest ever reigning British monarch, I'm sure that, like me, the majority of us have only ever known Queen Elizabeth II as our sovereign. And so a future without her is very strange to think about.

As I write for this month's Newsletter, I have just attended a gathering at Chelmsford Cathedral that was headed 'Looking to the future'. Admittedly the conference I attended had nothing to do with the Queen, but was specifically for clergy and lay leaders, with the focus on the state of the church, particularly in this Diocese. But of course, whatever is happening in our world effects the church. Because the mission of the church *is* to be there for each other – not just those who come to church, but everyone. Because God's love is not exclusive, but for all.



And so what with escalating energy prices and general costs to living, war still raging in the Ukraine, climate issues more and more evident, and the continued effects of a global pandemic, we are living in times of increased uncertainty and anxiety where the future may not be looking particularly rosy. So more than anything, this is a time when we need to be there for each other.

Indeed, on behalf of the church (myself included) I would just like to say here and now 'sorry' .... Sorry for the times we have got it wrong over the years; sorry for those times we have been far more concerned with what's going on inside the church rather than the needs of those outside; sorry for not being the open, accessible, inclusive church that shows the love and grace that Jesus Christ exemplified.

Elton John penned the famous song: 'Sorry seems to be the hardest word'.... Indeed, it is only a small word, but it is also a very important and powerful one, that when it is honest and heartfelt, can hopefully begin to build bridges.

Because we are all in this together. And in looking to our future, in what is a precarious world at the moment, we need each other.

So, as well as some sunshine for the Platinum Celebrations (!), more importantly I am praying for God's continued help in the reconciliation of His world - that we may know and live in the peace and love that He created us for, together, with each other, and for each other, in whatever the future may hold.

With love and blessings ... *Rev. Jane* x



**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*

*Third Sunday - Morning Prayer with Hymns (non-Communion)*

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

#### *Wednesday*

*9 am - Morning Prayer*

*10 am - Holy Communion*

*St. Martin's Church is usually open for Private Prayer each day between 9 am and 5 pm*

*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



Dear All

Just a note to say 'thank you'. My final service and the bring and share meal were a joy and having had time to sit and read the St. Martin's card properly I marvel at not just the kind words but the effort that went in to getting all the signatures. Effort also went in to getting the splendid cake and Jill's masterpiece of sewing which considering all the work she was involved in moving premises at the time is staggering. Individual cards and of course the generous cheque have been very much appreciated. Thank you all for such loving generosity, we have squeezed into

Maldon and are gradually settling but you all have a special place in our hearts.

Much love to you .... *Noelle & Paul* x

**STREETS TO BE PRAYER FOR:**

29<sup>th</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June      Bowes Drive & Bowes House  
5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June      Brookfields  
12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> June      Bushey Lea  
19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> June      Castle Street  
26<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July      Chelmsford Road

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**FROM THE REGISTERS:**

*Baptisms:*  
*Confirmations:*  
*Weddings / Renewal of Weddings Vows:*  
*Funerals:*  
*Internment of Ashes / Memorial Services / Cremations:*

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





## **A report on the process taking place following the PCC's resolution to close St. Peter's Church**

Representatives from the Church Buildings Council visited St. Peter's Church on 19<sup>th</sup> April and met with Jill Bowtle and Peter Dudeney. The Representatives stayed for several hours and made a thorough appraisal of the building and its contents as well as taking photographs.

They will produce a Church Buildings Report, a copy of which we shall receive. This evaluates the historic, architectural and aesthetic interest of the building, its contents and churchyard and looks at the potential for change in them.

It will be assessed by the Archdeacon and Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) in the next few weeks and it is expected to be considered by the Area and Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committees in June and July.

If the Bishop then proposes closure the Church Commissioners will start the formal legal process and this will include advising all interested parties, and public notices (including publications such as the Ongar News) and is the time when written comments and objections can be made to the Commissioners. If any are received, they would be considered by the Commissioners Mission and Pastoral Committee (made up of bishops, clergy and laity from all over the country), and this can be a lengthy process.

Even if St. Peter's church is eventually closed, the PCC will still be responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard and this will also remain open for burials and public access.

We shall continue to update you as the process continues.

**Jill Bowtle and Peter Dudeney**  
*Churchwardens*

### **Officers and PCC Members for the year 2022 / 23**

Vice-chair:	Andrew Bowtle
Churchwardens:	Jill Bowtle*, Peter Dudeney*
Treasurer:	Viv Chant
Standing Committee:	(Rector), Jill Bowtle, Peter Dudeney, Viv Chant & Sue King
PCC Secretary:	Karen Jessop
Electoral Roll Officer:	Sue King
Safeguarding Officer:	Lisa Wickstead
Health and Safety Officer:	Vacancy
Fabric Co-ordinator:	Jill Bowtle
Churches Together in Ongar:	Rita Osborne
Deanery Synod Representative:	Shirley Dudeney* & vacancy

\*ex-officio members of the PCC

### **PCC Members**

Andrew Bowtle  
Annie Crawley  
Vance Crawley  
Vivienne Chant  
David Irving  
Karen Jessop

Daniel Kryst  
Sue King  
Rita Osborne  
Peter Richardson  
Diane Stratton  
David Sweeting

## The Vacancy

Things are moving remarkably fast in the recruitment of a new priest for our parish.

A small working group within the PCC has produced the Parish Profile (the document that tells applicants all about the Parish) and this is currently being reviewed by our Area Dean, Lee Batson.

It is expected that the post will be advertised very soon.

We shall let you have a further update next month.

**Jill Bowtle & Peter Dudeney - Churchwardens**

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

Wed 1	10.00 am	Communion <i>Revd Neil Taylor presiding</i>
Sun 5		<b>PENTECOST</b>
	8.00 am	Communion <i>Revd. Stewart Gibbs presiding</i>
	10.30 am	One Big Family Service <i>Revd. Liz Horwell leading</i> followed by Bring and Share Lunch in Church Rooms for <b>Platinum Jubilee</b>
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
	3.00 pm	Ongar Churches Together <b>Queen's Jubilee Service</b>
Wed 8	10.00 am	Communion <i>Revd. Neil Taylor presiding</i>
Sun 12	10.30 am	Communion <i>Revd. Neil Taylor presiding,</i> <i>Shirley Dudeney LLM preaching</i>
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
Wed 15	10.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Revd. Neil Taylor presiding</i>
	TBA	Visitation Service for Churchwardens at St. John's, Epping
Sun 19	8.00 am	Communion <i>Revd. Albert Watson presiding</i>
	10.30 am	Morning Prayer led by our LLM <i>Shirley Dudeney</i>
Wed 22	10.00 am	Communion <i>Presiding priest to be advised</i>
Sun 26	10.30 am	Communion <i>Revd. Neil Taylor presiding</i>
	10.30 am	Book of Common Prayer Morning Service on <i>Zoom*</i>
Tue 28	7.30 pm	Churchwardens' Meeting at 64 Kettlebury Way
Wed 29	10.00 am	Communion <i>Revd. Liz Horwell presiding</i>

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

**Please advise Peter Dudeney on 364143 or [peterdudeney@btinternet.com](mailto:peterdudeney@btinternet.com) of details of any events / meetings taking place or cancellations / amendments.**

**If you don't tell him, nothing happens 😊**

## 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 [shirleydudene@btinternet.com](mailto:shirleydudene@btinternet.com) for the appropriate link.

## PLEASE could you help us?

Back in December 2020 a chance conversation led to the birth of a new worshipping community, a new form of church.



You would have difficulty finding it as it has no church building, but it attracts a congregation similar in size to the 8 o'clock or mid-week communion services.

I'm talking about the 10.30 BCP Morning Prayer service which Peter and I host via Zoom each Sunday.

It was started as we gradually came out of the Coronavirus Lockdown, for those in our congregation and beyond who, because of their clinical vulnerability were unable to leave their home environment; and it continues to attract a loyal group of people who for one reason or another, are unable to attend church in the traditional way.

However, with Noelle and Paul's departure it's future is in jeopardy.

In order to support the other members of the ministry team, I have agreed to lead a service in St Martin's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month; and I shall also be preaching at Greensted and St. Martin's on another Sunday in the month (usually the 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Whilst Peter is willing to lead the online services on these occasions, we do have a problem. He is the (only) reserve Sidesperson, and he will need to cover for a vacant slot on the third Sunday, which Paul Taylor used to do, and soon also on the second Sunday (whilst Gill Richardson recovers from a major operation). This would mean that the Zoom service could not take place on those Sundays.

### Can you help? Would you be willing to act as a Sidesperson on one of these Sundays?

It is not too arduous, and as well as being fully trained you will always be working with an experienced person.

If you would like to help, please contact Peter Dudene on 01277 364143 or email him at [peterdudene@btinternet.com](mailto:peterdudene@btinternet.com)

what are other words for sidesman?



verger, usher, guide, attendant, escort, assistant, help, helper, supporter



### Would you enable these online services to continue their ministry?

Please, please consider whether God is calling you to this role.

Thank You

**Shirley Dudene** - Licensed Lay Minister



Now that we are in Interregnum, if anyone feels that they would like to write an article for the Newsletter under the heading – ‘A Church Warden / Member of the Congregation Writes’, please e-mail me (susan.roger.king@ntlworld.com) to let me know – I shall watch this space with anticipation !

You can be anonymous if you wish, but nothing too controversial please! The Editor’s decision on articles will be final !!! **Please do think about this request** ... and have a word with me.

Sue

### 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.

**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