

Outlook



Parish Magazine

December 2023/January 2024



Vol: 23 | No: 2

£2



BIRD & LOVIBOND
SOLICITORS

**YOUR FRIENDLY,
LOCAL LAW FIRM**

Probate, Wills, Power of Attorney, Property, Family, Employment.

01895 636037

11-15 High Street, Ruislip
www.bird-lovibond.co.uk

Welcome from the Outlook Editor

Miranda Reading

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Outlook!

It's been a busy time at St Martin's, with Harvest Festival, St Martin's Day and the Martinmas Fayre behind us – although you can read all about it in this edition of Outlook! It's a time to celebrate our service to the church – whether that's helping out at the Fayre, pouring wine at St Martin's Day or boiling eggs for the Harvest Supper. St Martin's would not be the wonderful church it is without the generosity of time that so many people give. It's easy to overlook who makes your coffee on a Sunday, so let's pray for those who serve us in large and small ways.

The annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham has also taken place and you can read Janet Tippet's account on page 33. It was an exciting time for those who attended and enabled them to look more deeply into their faith.

As we begin the season of Advent and look forward to the coming of Christ now is the time to rediscover our faith in quietude, away from the busy days of preparation for the Christmas season. Advent is a season of penitence and as we watch each Advent candle being lit, we know we are closer to seeing God, not as a mighty being but in the shape of a tiny baby, lying in a manger, a vulnerable symbol of hope.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of Outlook, which has its usual array of interesting and thoughtful articles, as well as Parish news of events that have taken place. Is there something that you would like to see in the Parish magazine? Outlook is always looking for new writers and contributors! Do send us your thoughts, your prayers and your stories. All contributions and feedback by 16th January 2024 please to MirandaAtStMartins@gmail.com. Thank you.





Fr Robert Writes..

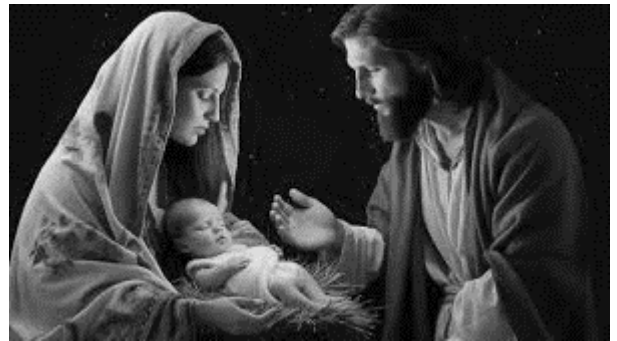
Dear Friends,

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only son...”

These are perhaps some of the most famous words in the Bible and the accompanying verse reference probably the most famous – John 3.16.

Christmas is the constant reminder of love coming down to earth, and love forms the focus of many of the reflections and scenes of the season. In October I confessed, from the pulpit, that that was the month when the televisual viewing in the vicarage changes. Out goes the usual diet of blockbusters and critically acclaimed cinema and in comes formulaic, romantic kitsch. Sarah and I hunker down on the sofa and watch

tales of highflying city-slickers finding true romance and the true meaning of Christmas in a small town. By mid-November the censorious expressions and incredulity of our children is matched by our constant asking of the question, “haven’t we seen this one before?”. At which point Alexander and Izzy let out a lamentation that would



startle the birds in Eastcote, Harrow and Pinner, and we simply resign ourselves to saying, “oh well, we can always watch it again”. Of course, this low-grade cinematic experience doesn’t stand up to critical analysis, *Jean de Florette* it ain’t, and we know it is pure comfort watching; the filmic equivalent of cream of tomato soup! However, we all need a bit of romance.

Perhaps, where it becomes most problematic, is when I think about the content of the film's understanding of love. In these films (and it isn't restricted to the purveyors of this mediocre spectacle) love is a magical thing. What we are presented with is a view of love which is always exterior until it is received and embraced. This understanding of love, although encountered joyously in life, is very different from how the Bible generally understands love and how it is experienced. The Bible, and particularly the New Testament, shows that love is a deliberate act, sometimes even despite ourselves. For Jesus and St Paul love was an act of will, a determined commitment to ensure the fullest life for another person.

St Thomas Aquinas, writing 750 years ago from his monastic community, writes of such an act of will as resulting in peace; the fruit of love. He observes that, when we choose to will what God wills, and love our neighbours as ourselves, "we wish to fulfil our neighbours' will, as though it were ours" [*Summa Theologiae* II.II Q29, A3].

Interestingly, St Thomas acknowledges that a uniting of wills does not necessarily mean a meeting of minds. Rather, it is the commitment to action, an action that brings us together.



Peace and love are compatible with differences of opinion, not least because, as St Thomas rightly puts it, "opinion is in the intellect and love is in the will in action".

This is also the thrust of St Paul's famous first letter to the Corinthians, in Chapter 13. I believe it is often helpful, and more consonant with the meaning of this chapter, to replace 'love is' with the phrase '*the will to be*'. With this amendment, the passage reads:

"⁴ [The will to be] patient; [the will to be] kind; [the will to be] not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Such an act of will is celebrated at Christmas as God takes the radically loving step of being born on Earth. His intention, like ours at its best, was that of loving service. Thus, we see how Christmas presents us with both aspects of love. First, love coming to us in the hope of being welcomed and received and secondly love being deliberately shared and nurtured, sometimes even through gritted teeth, under a paper hat and across the dinner table!

It is this inclination, this willing desire which we pray for, for our world, for our parish of Ruislip and in this parish church.

This year, like so many before, has seen the world torn apart by war and conflicts. What we witness is the absence of the will to love the other, the will to ensure the best for them. Of course, such a commitment requires humility and, alas, the leaders of nations feel the need to reinforce power. Christmas, of all times, remind us that the most powerful Being, person, of all – God, humbled himself for love by being born in a stable. Practically we can do very little on the world stage, but we can affect our own environment be it home, school, work, and especially, church.



At St Martin's we are determined to 'will to love' and so show that spirit of Christmas which forms the heart of our belief.

Practically, that will take many forms and importantly it will show itself most significantly in our care for one another, and especially those who are different.

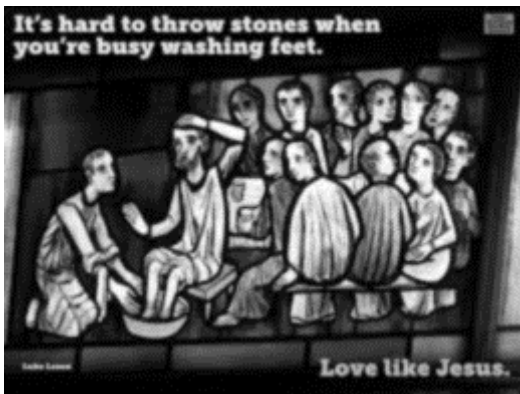
Conscious of this calling, next year in Holy Week we will be joined by our Archdeacon, Catherine Pickford, and she will celebrate Mass at various points during the week. This means that we can show our 'will to love' by showing how we can ensure the best for others. This will to love has meant us creating provisions, like the wider Church, which mean we may all flourish and celebrate our life together.

And here are the provisions:

- On Sundays and Holy Days of the Church there will be a celebration of Mass offered by a male priest.
- If someone attends a mass celebrated by a female priest they will have the option of receiving a prayer of blessing from her, or
- The sacrament in one kind (bread) set aside at an earlier Eucharistic celebration offered by a man.

This is not about different 'tracks' or 'status', and it comes without judgement, for we all approach the altar as we are confident of a God of love and welcome. It allows those who accept the ministry of women, and those who in good conscience cannot, to flourish within our life together.

Practically, I will say that if you wish to avail yourself of the provision set out above, particularly receiving in one kind, do please speak to me so that I can ensure that the blessed sacrament is administered in an unobtrusive way and that the focus is, rightly, on that great love which comes down.



Once again, we see *the* Christmas gift: both aspects of love; love coming to us and love being willingly shared with those around.

All this may lack the cosiness of my beloved Christmas Romance Movies, but it is altogether more real and transforming.

As your vicar, I pray that this year love will come down upon you and your homes and that you will 'will love' in the places and with

people around you.

Have a very blessed Christmas and peaceful new year from us all at St Martin's.

Your friend and priest,

Fr Robert

Dates for the coming weeks and months....

December 2023

2 nd December	Advent Quiet Morning, 10am – 1pm Youth Trip to Carnaby Street Lights. Leaving Ruislip Station at 4pm. Contact Fr Robert or Alison Cummings
16 th December	Church Clean, 10am-1pm
9 th December	Coach Trip to Windsor
15 th December	Christmas Meal at Browns, 7.30pm
17 th December	Carol Service, 6.30pm
24 th December	Christmas Eve 8am Mass 10am Sung Mass 4.30pm Children's Carols 6pm Nativity Mass with Christingles 11.30pm Midnight Mass
25 th December	8am Mass 10am Mass
31 st December	8am Mass 10am Mass

January 2024

27 th January	Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper
--------------------------	-------------------------------------

BWI Primary School Nursery

- Spaces available **today!**
- Book your tour of the school today by calling **01895 633520** or visiting **www.bwicofe.co.uk**
- Government funding is available for the term following their 3rd birthday - free 15 hours per week
- Ability to pay for more hours if needed
- Half and full day sessions available
- We offer 30 hours provision for those eligible
- Varied activities and fantastic outdoor spaces to offer extensive outdoor learning.

Apply for your
Nursery place
today! Visit
www.bwicofe.co.uk
to find out more.

Bishop Winnington Ingram

Church of England Primary School

Southcote Rise, Ruislip, HA4 7LW

Our vision - 'My Cup Overflows' Psalm 23:5



Ask S. Martin



Dear Parishioners,

I am taking my Christmas Break, but I'll be back in the next issue!

Sanctus Martinus Turonensis

- Saint Martin of Tours (with a little secretarial help from Jenny Bushell)

Prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen





MAIL BOXES ETC.®

Photocopying & Printing

including

Invitations & Orders of Service

Stationery

Office Supplies

Packing Materials

Postal & Courier Services

MAIL BOXES ETC.

113 High Street, Ruislip HA4 8JN

01895 630436

www.mberuislip.co.uk info@mberuislip.co.uk

printers of Outlook - the St Martin's parish magazine

Help wanted....Help wanted....Help wanted...Help

Outlook is looking for writers/contributors!

Have you got something to say? It can be a prayer you have said, a class you have been to, a reminiscence about your religious life, an account of a parish event, some fundraising you have done or anything you feel would fit in the parish magazine.

Simply write your contribution in 200-500 words and send it to MirandaAtStMartins@gmail.com. Don't have access to a computer? Drop your contribution in to the Parish Office. Proposals for longer articles – anything up to 3,000 words – can be sent to the same email address.

Please send your contributions as Word Documents or JPEGs. PDFs are extremely difficult to work with!

We want to hear from you!



Remembering

By Dr Jide Menakaya

Why are you wearing that cloth? Jessica, the youngest member of the choir asked the Vicar. Our Vicar was resplendent in a rich purple coloured gold embroidered vestment very different from his usual dress. It was very striking in its beauty and Jessica could not resist asking the question that was uppermost in the mind of all the choristers, why is he wearing that?

'I wear this cloth when we are sad', the Vicar said. An appropriate vestment to wear on the National Remembrance Sunday. But she was not finished. Do you wear other clothes? Yes, the Vicar replied. I wear a Green Vestment during Ordinary Time – to celebrate life around us. What do I wear during celebration festivals such as Christmas he asked? Red? Jessica suggested. Not quite, I wear Gold vestments.



I don't know if you felt the same but there was something fresh, youthful, and energetic about the Festival of Remembrance held at Royal Albert Hall this year. Old classic songs, Fields of Gold was refreshed by Katie Melua, young X-factor contestant sang a poignant song to a hall full of the grown-ups, the athleticism of the combined able and disabled gymnastic display was remarkable, and Malakai sang his heart out with a rendition of Fauré's Pie Jesu (I do hope his voice does not break for a few more years!).

This year I was touched by the focus of the Remembrance Weekend on the young. The Nation asks our grown-ups to leave home and go to areas of conflict for months on end. They leave behind their spouses, family members, and in many cases their children, some unborn, some babies, some toddlers, some school age children, some teenagers, some young adults.

Many mothers end up delivering their new babies on their own as their partners are away at a conflict thousands of miles away. Many unique life experiences such as the first speech, the first smile, baby's first steps are missed by the absent parent. Birthdays are missed, parent's evenings are missed, Chats with other parents at the school gates are missed, support for the child when they are unwell are missed,

Christmases are missed, daily routines in the family homes are missed, the list of unique missed family experiences goes on and on.....

I listened to the two children during the festival who spoke quite eloquently about the daily experiences of missing their father. It feels lonely, they reminisced, when at school drop off or pick-ups, other mums and dads are talking to each other and we don't have that. It was beautiful to watch the re-uniting of the family once again even if for a short time before duty calls once again. Every moment together is treasured.



During the Remembrance Sunday Service, we shared the gospel of the bridesmaids with their lanterns waiting for the bridegroom. The Vicar reminded us that even in the depths of our sorrows, we should through faith, hope and love acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ. His presence makes it possible to cope with all that we miss when our loved ones are away either temporarily or permanently.

There is always an air of expectation each year when the remembrance season is on us. The annual sale of millions of poppies for the Royal British Legion, the military and civilian march pasts, the two-minute silence at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month across the nation, the aerial flypasts, the pomp, and pageantry of the Festival of Remembrance in the presence of Their Majesties, The King and Queen at Royal Albert Hall and the gradually diminishing numbers of veterans from the first and second world wars. For many of us, it is an annual event frozen in a few minutes before we get on and continue our daily struggles.

But for many in our communities, especially the young, they remember every day.

Bookworm

By Valery Cowley

Bookworm looks further back



Our parish magazine began in the 1870s as a monthly booklet jointly produced with Pinner, price one penny. It was sold by advertisers, ED Rowe, draper, stationer, etc. of Pinner and John Howard, tailor and clothier, Ruislip. It gave service times. The Ruislip section was followed by the Pinner one.

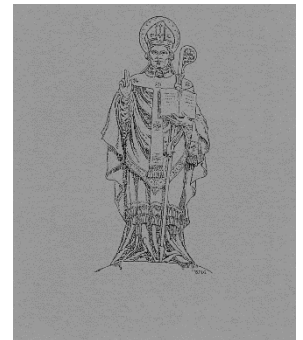
In March 1874 a history of the parish and church was continuing, referring to Sperling's 'Church Walks in Middlesex' (1845) which described 'a particularly offensive west gallery erected in 1754, half by parishioners and the other by a company of Psalm singers'. The north aisle mural of the Weighing of Souls is mentioned. The articles on St Martin's were written by Rev. Christopher Packe's curate, John Joseph Roumieu. He developed them into a booklet the following year, 1875.

June 1874's list of confirmands at Pinner includes familiar local surnames such as Weatherley, Weeden (sic) and Woodman. The National Schools were to be inspected (rated Good). Baptisms, marriages and funerals were listed, including a Lavender, a Weatherley and an Ive. Hymns used during the month were to be published, sung to the tunes accorded to them in 'Hymns Ancient and Modern'.

Flower paintings and pencil drawing were advertised as taught by Miss Urquhart of Ruislip.

The Church Choir defeated High Grove at cricket by 186 runs to 63, with non-players entertained with croquet by Lady Hume-Campbell and friends. Tea under a tent followed at 6 p.m. with singing.

In August, at High Grove, a violent storm compelled schoolchildren to abandon games and conjuring in favour of indoor tea, 'part-songs and other innocent amusements'.



Local postal arrangements featured in September when 'Simple Chemistry' articles continued. All Saints, Woodridings was advertised.

October 1874 recorded the choir annual treat, by rail to Kensington International Exhibition in September.

In November the parish and church history of Ruislip continued, noting that 'the Church is well warmed by Bacon's Patent Hotwater Apparatus' but the peal of six bells was wrecked.

Pinner Young Men's Institute had a series of lectures on subjects of special and general interest. Monthly Prayer Meetings continued in the National Schoolroom. There was a Coal Club.

In February 1889 Ruislip Church Monthly was announced. In June a double line of new lamps was recorded as being introduced on Easter Eve, supplementing those installed on the Vicar's marriage in 1884. December 1889's main news was the death of Sir Samuel Morton Peto of Eastcote House.



April 1892 featured the external niche figure of the Charity of St Martin by Fountain of Eton (stolen in 1994). It was designed by AG Nutt of Windsor, as was the figure of Bishop Martin, over the porch. July's issue wrote that Bishop Martin was donated by Colonel Hugh Warrender of Highgrove in memory of his eldest brother. November 1892 recorded that the Sunday evening service was held at 3.30 p.m in winter for the benefit of those who had a long distance to come on unlit roads. On one Sunday monthly the service would be a 6.30 p.m. to coincide with the full moon.

In October 1896 the parish library in its oak bookcase was opened, with the Vicar's wife, Mrs Marsh Everett as librarian. Various building repairs had been undertaken.

October 1897 saw the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Vicar and Churchwardens gave a Press Frontal for holding the set of altar cloths.

Harvest Festival

By Miranda Reading

The Harvest Festival was celebrated on the 1st of October with the Harvest Supper being on the 30th September. The church was beautifully decorated with Harvest flowers and congregants were very generous with their donations of food, all of which went to the Hillingdon foodbank.

The Harvest Supper saw a jolly crowd gather for a ploughman's supper. A quiz on the London Underground saw everyone very quiet and thoughtful. Congratulations to Ian and Grace Keys for their remarkable score of 49/50! Finally we were entertained by a piano interlude by our Musical Director, Viktoria Goncharova. Many thanks to Sarah Jacob, Chris Edwards and Paul Thwaite for providing a hearty supper for us all.



St Martin's Day Sermon

By Rev Professor Simon Oliver

Van Mildert Professor of Divinity, Durham University

Isaiah 61:1-3
Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13
Matthew 25:31-40

As we know, the most famous story of St. Martin, Roman soldier turned hermit and Bishop, concerns his cloak. In deep winter, meeting a beggar outside the gates of Amiens in what's now northeast France, St. Martin used his sword to cut his cloak in two. He gave half to the beggar. That night, Martin dreamed of Jesus wearing the portion of the cloak he had given away. St. Martin, eventually Bishop of Tours, reminds us of Christ's call to care for the abject poor. I'd like to offer you some thoughts on how radical the Jewish-Christian



tradition is when it comes to a concern for the abject poor and to offer you some encouragement following the example of St. Martin, your patron. So that we get a sense of just how radical ancient Judaism and Christianity were in their concern for the poor, I'd like you to imagine taking a flight over a large Roman city. What do you see?

There are many public buildings erected from charitable bequests. They include a public theatre, the baths and several basilicas devoted to government departments. These are enormous and very expensive buildings, but they're not for the poor. Why? Because the poor have nothing to give in return. In ancient Greece and Rome, benefactors gave to the public to gain esteem and power. To give to the poor was wasteful.

Now imagine flying over a great medieval Christian city – Paris or London. You'd see a very different picture. Rather than theatres and baths, you'd see the roofs of convents, hospices, orphanages and soup kitchens for the poor. Historians tell us that charitable giving to the poor left an enormous and visible footprint on the evolving Christian city. Christian generosity was very different to its pagan counterpart in ancient Greece and Rome in at least two ways. First, Christian charity had a religious basis not a political basis, and, secondly, it was focused on the abject poor.

Christian charity had a religious basis because giving to the poor was a sacred and sacramental act. What does it mean to say that charity is a sacred act? It means that when we give to those who are in need, any kind of need, we are expressing something of the character of God. To say that charity is a sacramental act is to say that when we give to those in need our gift is a sign of God's gift of life and love to all people. It's a sign and means of God's grace. To give to the poor in body or spirit is also to give to God from all that we have received from God as his children. All of this is based on Christians reading countless teachings in scripture about God's care for the poor, not least these haunting words of Jesus in today's gospel: "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."



When we think about our own charity and generosity to those in need, we're often focused, I think, on an idea that's actually quite alien to Judaism and Christianity, the idea that our giving must be purely altruistic. This will strike you as very odd, but historically the idea of altruism is very recent and not Christian. By altruism we mean a pure and one-way donation which expects no return, perhaps not even an acknowledgement of the donation. But giving to the poor in ancient and medieval Christianity was not an act of pure one-way altruism. When people gave to the poor, they expected something in return, even if it was only gratitude to begin with. What was most important was this: charity was a sacred act designed to increase social bonds and the unity of society. It was a sacred act intended to build relationships of exchange with the poor, to show that they had something to offer in return, to bring them back into the body politic and the body of the Church.

Now, you may be thinking, 'Simon, you're surely mad. Doesn't Jesus tell us to give without expectation of reward or return?' Not quite. For sure, that's a common reading of the gospels. What Jesus actually teaches is this: "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly

I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

So what’s going on here? Think of it this way. If you were to ask a wealthy medieval Christian to give to the poor and then you were to tell him that he wouldn’t get anything in return, he’d think you were daft. The reason he’d expect something in return is because the purpose of charity was to build bonds of friendship and belonging with those in need, and those bonds were expressed by the poor eventually giving something back in return. But what about the abject poor who have absolutely nothing to offer in return. ‘Don’t worry’, says Jesus, ‘because God will give you a gift of blessing in return. God will ensure that bonds of friendship and association are built through your charity, even charity to those who have nothing whatsoever.’



So the point of Christian charity is not to give so that we can salve our consciences and forget the poor. Quite the reverse. The aim of Christian charity is to build up relationships with those who are alienated from society and the Church because they have nothing, or because the world tells them they have nothing to give. We can link that idea to St. Paul’s teaching that we heard in our second lesson. He teaches that the Church is not simply an organisation of the like-minded and a club of the faithful, but as a single body, a living and organic whole. The Church is the living body of Christ. We are the body of Christ and belong to one another. But the poor are alienated from that body because they apparently have nothing to contribute to its life. The poor are alienated from the body politic too, and we’re living through the bitter consequences of that sense of alienation in our national politics at the moment. The call to be united as one body, supremely as Christ’s one body the Church, is a call to restore those who are alienated by their poverty of body or spirit, to restore them to the body of Christ by creating bonds of friendship and love. And when those who are poor in body or spirit seem to have nothing to offer, God ensures that the gift of his grace will ensure the bonds of friendship and love will be strengthened. By God’s grace, even the poorest will have something to give in return.



One last thought. When we think of the story of St. Martin and the beggar, it's very natural for us to picture ourselves in the place of St. Martin. We have enough financial and material resources and we give some of that to the poor, to those who do not have enough. But what if we see ourselves in the place of the beggar to whom St. Martin gave his cloak? All God's saints have a deep sense of their own interior poverty and their need of God's love and grace. We are all clothed with God's gracious blessing, kept warm from the world's piercing wind and cold that can chill our souls. We are enveloped in God's blessing and love. Having been so blessed, having realised our own inner poverty, we can follow the example of

St. Martin and give to the poor in body and spirit to make us one in Jesus Christ our Lord. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

St Martin's Day Hymn Competition

For our Patronal Festival, Fr. Robert challenged the congregation to pen a hymn to St Martin, with the winner being sung as the opening hymn during the Patronal service. The winner was Paul Bevis-Knowles, closely followed by Valery Cowley and Mark Stimpson. We reproduce their entries here. Happy singing!

Paul Bevis-Knowles

Tune: Immortal Invisible God only Wise

St Martin the swordsman and our patron saint,
the church here in Ruislip a picture we paint,
of Martin the soldier who rended his cloak
to beggar and needy, our souls they awoke.

In that globe of fire we all meet as one,
for merciful Martin his kindness was done.
And now midst our laughter, and geese at the feasts,
St Martin of Tours, our people and priests.

A modern day worship for all days in seven,
our reluctant bishop looks down from the heaven.
And must surely take all the pleasure to see,
St Martin of Tours shine for you and for me.

Our friends all around us and churches close by,
For missionary people we laugh and we try
To sow as we reap, and to gather all in
with St Martin people our treasures begin.

So let's all rejoice to support rich and poor.
With sincere worship our hearts can ensure,
that Martin's example will live on and on,
and then in thy mercy to go where he's gone

Valery Cowley

Tune: Christ is made a sure foundation 'Westminster Abbey'

Holy Martin, God's appointed,
Patron of our church, we pray
That those gifts that God has given
May inspire us every day.
Catechumen, conscript, convert,
Hermit then at Ligugé.

With the cross's, sign, defended,
follower of Hilary,
Missioner, by him commended,
Setting captive spirits free,
Goose – betrayed, bishop elected,
Famed for Amiens' charity.

Hirsute, pale, without possessions,
Cave, not Palace, was your home.
Silent prayer and intercessions;
milking – stool instead of throne.
Pagan shrines you often toppled,
Exorcist through Christ alone.

Finally, to Candes you journeyed,
taunted veteran, loathed by Brice.
Feverish, among the ashes,
Clothed in sackcloth then you died.
Now with Christ we celebrate you,
Risen, ascended, glorified.

Mark Stimpson

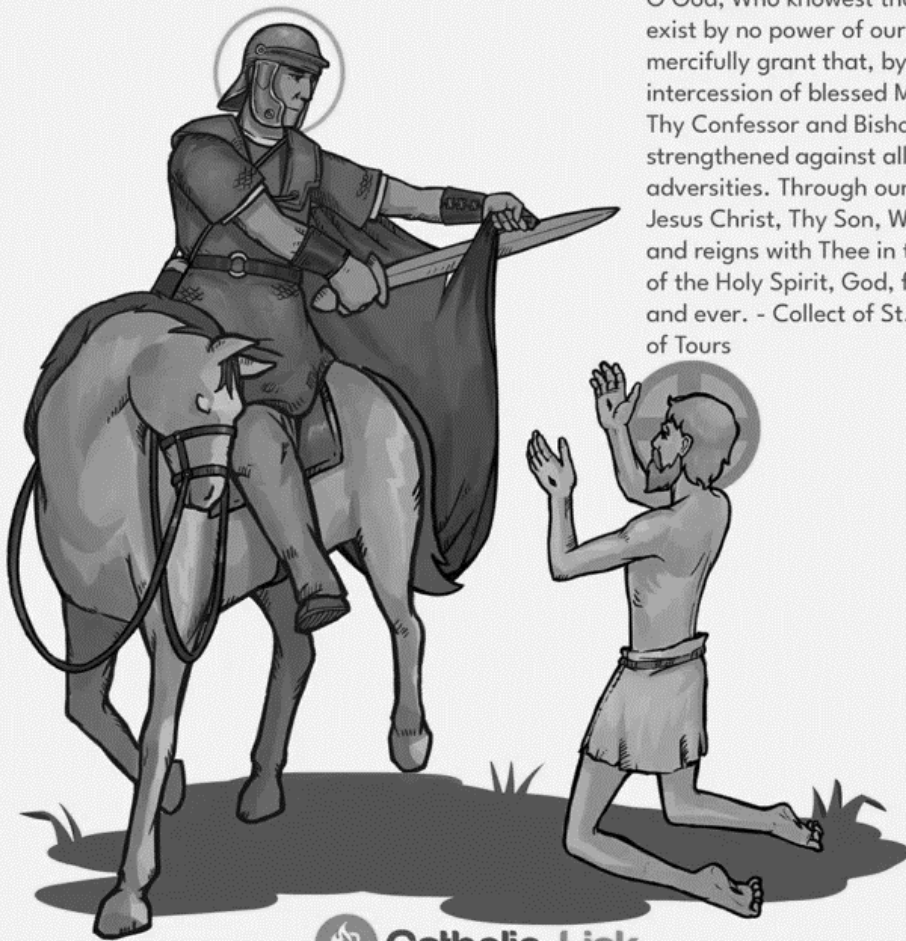
Tune: Jerusalem (And did those feet)

We celebrate St Martin of Tours
And the example that he set
Choosing to tear his cloak in two
To warm a poor wretch in despair
Heeding the wisdom Jesus taught
That when the strong cede to the weak
We sense God's love suffusing them
Both those who give and who receive

As we survey this troubled world
Give us resolve, Lord, give us faith
Compassion too - oh clouds unfold!
Give us humility and grace
To share our wealth as Martin showed
A warming cloak, a helping hand
For those nearby and far away
From Ruislip's green and pleasant land

St. Martin of Tours

O God, Who knowest that we exist by no power of our own: mercifully grant that, by the intercession of blessed Martin, Thy Confessor and Bishop, we be strengthened against all adversities. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. - Collect of St. Martin of Tours



Catholic-Link



St. Helen's College

Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX
Independent School for boys and girls aged 2 - 11



A Centre of Excellence

AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL

Please telephone **01895 234371** to make an appointment
Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX - www.sthelenscollege.com

Ray Baxter

Action Pianos



Experienced Piano Tuner - full and partial restorations undertaken. Pianos Bought and Sold

9 Greenacres Avenue, Ickenham

Tel/Fax: 01895 635328.

email: rbaxter@actionpianos.com

website : www.actionpianos.com

Girlguiding UK

Be part of our history
Be part of our future
Be part of us
Interested in Girlguiding?

Contact Lin Gregory: 01895 905511

H.C. Grimstead

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

62 High Street

Ruislip

Telephone 01895 623000

A.J.B. Services

Carpentry and General Building Work
Fitted wardrobes, Kitchens, Bathrooms
All Insurance work undertaken
No job too small
Free no obligation estimates
Friendly Service
Tony Bamfrough 07584 851561

SPECIALIZES IN REPAIRS
TO DOUBLE GLAZING

THE WINDOW WIZARD

FULL RANGE OF NEW WINDOWS
DOORS AND CONSERVATORIES
Phone 020 8582 0618

Mobile: 07789 860920

Meanwhile, in America.....



Contributed by Jack Sheen

Pathways in Spirituality

By David Hudson

Spirituality

There have been many attempts to follow the ways of Jesus and the early Christian communities to find the right combination of praying and living, which is Spirituality. The Rule of Benedict offered one such balanced framework in which periods of leisure, private prayer and manual work were interspersed around the Divine Office six times each day. The monks in the monastery, over time, became juxtaposed as the parish church in our society. For example, the Benedictine Abbey of Bec in Normandy, influencing St. Martin's in Ruislip with their rules of living and worship:

The Abbot (Priest) "holds the place of Christ in the monastery".

"Scripture is the truest of guides for human life"

"Prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ"

"welcome visitors as you would Christ"

"see the world with the eyes of Christ"

"love the world with the heart of Christ"

Benedictine spirituality continues to reach out across time to speak afresh to each generation about life's core values. Listening to them draws people deeper into God's love, a love that refines and integrates our all our prayers, actions and living.

The Rule of Benedict remained the major Rule for monasticism but in the 13th Century there became an alternative way to the Benedictine Rule in the solitude of the monastery when the Franciscans stepped out of the monastery into the way fares and cities to walk in the footsteps of Jesus – preaching, earning alms and getting involved with the world.



Franciscan Spirituality

A spirituality of being involved with creation and the world that contains vestiges, or traces of God. Francis, Clare and Bonaventure's lives followed in the footsteps of Jesus, a life of hardship, poverty, preaching but also a life of being close to God, experiencing God giving, revealing, leading, guiding, motivating, inspiring. To appreciate the true Francis and Clare, we look at their lives through the lens of their early writings.

Francis Spiritual Experiences

Our most profound and remembered experiences in life are our experience of God. Some experience God mainly through traditional religious practice. For others, God is experienced in everyday life but both can be rooted in strong feelings, passionate desires and deep understandings. For many it is a heart-felt inner

knowledge that God is always with us. Francis experienced gifts that were from God that touched him deeply, revealing something, calling, guiding, inspiring. Some people find it useful to jot down these experiences when they occur and review them in times when God seems absent and for remembering that God is always with us. For Francis, his spiritual experiences were profound – deep-rooted – and part and parcel of his life. Francis conversion took place over a number of years beginning in Spoleto in 1205. After his initial experiences, Francis was to renounce his wealthy family, social-standing, material ambitions and embark on a journey of being captivated by the love of God.

1206 was to be a year of critical importance to Francis life – a year when God came bursting into his life. Francis recalls his most profound experience of God in his *Testament*:

“The Lord gave me to begin doing penance, for when I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I showed mercy to them. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body.”

Young Francis reviled lepers, they were ‘*bitter*’ (repugnant) to him. In his earlier days, he would ride miles out of his way just to avoid the possibility of meeting them. In this experience, Francis does not speak of seeking out or avoiding lepers, but of being ‘*led*’ among them – by the Lord – an encounter lying beyond his own power – it was something given – ‘*the Lord gave me*’. It was an experience that changed the course of Francis life. The Lord ‘*giving*’ and ‘*leading*’ leaves little doubt that Francis knew this to be a very real experience of God’s grace. It was obviously a profoundly transforming event – acknowledging his sinfulness, beginning a life of penance, his behavior, attitudes and values changing and turning radically towards God – a very deep and personal transformation. This was apparent after his period of reflection ‘*when he delayed a little*’.

In the same year, 1206, when Francis was 24, Thomas Celano, a contemporary writer, informs us that Francis renounced his family and possessions, broke away from his previous life, overcame his fear of lepers and subsequently cared for them ‘*showing mercy*’ – an act of love. But something much more happened, something that penetrated the very core of Francis being and which was to become the source of everything he did.



It is difficult to understand deep movements in a person, but somehow, in embracing the leper, Francis found himself embracing the least, the last, the lost – the most marginalized people in society – the minors – the very people who were the object of

Jesus compassion and ministry – the very people whom Jesus embraced. As Jesus accepted God’s will and chose a life of poverty, humility and self-giving love, so too Francis embraced that very same life of Jesus:

“to live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.... To follow the teaching and the footprints of Christ” (Earlier Rule, 1.1)

In embracing the leper, Francis embraced the very life of Jesus from which grew revelations from the artistic Creator Father and the true Spirit that guided and inspired. Francis had found the ‘treasure in the field’, ‘the pearl of great price. And in embracing the leper, we can catch a glimpse of a total falling-in-love with God, Francis placing himself totally into the hands of God - having total dependence on God – a God who dwelt in his heart and who ‘gave’ ‘led’, ‘revealed’, motivated and permeated everything Francis did – he was fired by this experience – a person passionately in love with God who wanted to follow in Jesus footsteps.



After Francis experience of embracing the leper, he sought solitude to reflect on his experience. One such place was the dilapidated church of San Damiano. Whilst praying there, before a crucifix of suffering Jesus, Francis heard the words “Francis, go and repair my house that is falling into ruin”. Not thinking of the state of the Catholic Church of the times, he took the words literally and began repairing the church of San Damiano, a chapel that would later be occupied by St. Clare and the ‘Poor Clare’s’. Whilst there in 1206, Francis also wrote what became

known as the “Prayer before the Crucifix”:

*“Most high, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith, certain hope,
and perfect charity, sense and knowledge Lord,
that I may carry out Your holy and true command.”*

As soon as Francis finished rebuilding San Damiano, he went on to repair the Oratory at Portiuncula, which was close to two leper houses. According to St. Bonaventure, Portiuncula was the place Francis loved most. It was there that a final act of Francis initial transformation took place but this time God spoke through the voice of a priest reading from Matthew 10:

‘Go, said Jesus, and proclaim everywhere that the Kingdom of Heaven is upon you. You received without cost; give without charge. Take no gold, silver or copper in your belts, no pack for the road, no second coat, no sandals, no stick, for the worker deserves his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, look for some worthy person

in it, and stay with him until you leave. And when you go into a house, salute it by saying: 'Peace on this house'.

To which Francis cried: “that is what I want, what I am looking for, what I desire to do from the bottom of my heart.” Brimming with joy, Francis removed his shoes, threw away his staff and kept only a single tunic, which he tied with a rope instead of his belt. Francis received this gospel call in 1209 at the age of 27.

Francis seemed to live his life with the presence of God very close to him – leading, revealing, giving, guiding – a contemplative life of witness, preaching and prayer. The ultimate spiritual experience for Francis came at La Verna, a high spot on Mount Penna, north of Assisi – a place given to Francis by Count Orlando in 1213 as a retreat favorable for prayer and contemplation. Orlando built a chapel there in 1218 where Francis received the stigmata, a bodily experience of Jesus wounds on the cross, wounds attested to by Brother Leo, who was with Francis on La Verna at the time – and also the Sisters who cared for him afterwards and during his last days and burial. He died in 1226 at the young age of 44, a short 20 years of transformation and life devoted to following the footsteps of Jesus.



There is much more to tell of Francis life but what can we learn from Francis spiritual experiences? In the next issue of Outlook, we will explore this further.

The Walsingham Pilgrimage

By Janet M. Tippetts

I hated Walsingham! Having first heard of it in 1972 when I moved into the Parish, I called in on my way to York. It was weird – all I hated – the church, a mixture of Gothic Revival, tiny Chantry chapels (one of the Ascension with bare feet in the ceiling!) and icons and lamps etc. My next, with two Parish friends whilst staying in Norfolk – same result. Then the May Pilgrimage Day for the Diocese with the then Bishop of London, Graham Leonard. It was not only cold, it snowed! I wondered round with Mo Griffiths trying to shelter between the noon Eucharist and 3pm Benediction which were all outdoors. The two tiny cafes were jammed, the few shops packed. Pure misery that did not improve my view of the place.

Finally I was persuaded to join a St Martin's Pilgrimage weekend. It was there I found the true Walsingham. It was the picture of Our Lady holding the baby Jesus in the Shrine by Giovanni Antonio Bazzi. It was the utter serenity of the Virgin's face, peaceful and tranquil, there I understood. The rest just fell into place, the little house built by the spring, then sheltered by the church. The prayerful atmosphere has been created by thousands of pilgrims down the centuries – people of all ages and nationalities bringing their hopes and fears, anxieties and joys to Mary.



I have taken part in every Parish Pilgrimage since then, seeing Walsingham grow from Stella Maris House with its steps and creaking floorboards and tiny refectory where you queued in the open to the present Milner Wing reception and spacious refectory and Richeldist St Joseph's for accommodation, some rooms en-suite for the disabled. Some eighteen of us drove up in cars, met for lunch at La Hogue Farmshop with very good café. What is a Pilgrimage? It is a mixture of services, time for private prayer, walking the beautiful countryside, shopping in the Shrine shop and farmers market, eating vast meals of local food, socialising in the Norton Room and gathering in one of the houses' sitting rooms in the evenings. You have to come to really know the camaraderie, the unity in prayer and fun of sharing with fellow pilgrims from all over the country. I hated it....but you really try for yourself and see what you think.

The Martinmas Fayre

By Miranda Reading

On Saturday 18th November we had our Martinmas Fayre, which was kindly sponsored by Coopers Estate Agents, who provided the raffle first prize of a £150 Waitrose voucher. Over fifty people took part over the 17th-18th and we were ably led by Gill Collins, Sarah Jacob and Chris Edwards, with Sweelin Cunliffe leading the kitchen. There were many different stalls from the perennial favourites like the Silent Auction, Cakes and Preserves, Toys, Books, Church ware and Chocolate and Bottle Tombolo's to newer stalls like the Football Memorabilia and Jewellery Stall.

People began queuing from 9.45am (we opened at 10.30am!). The Fayre was opened by Fr. Robert, performing his role for the first time. During the morning crowds built up with queues for Santa's Grotto and our famous bacon rolls, which were sold out by 1.30pm.

The Fayre made approximately £5,300 for Church funds and Outlook extends a massive thank you to everyone who helped, not only at the Fayre itself but also in the setting up and taking down. Well done everyone!





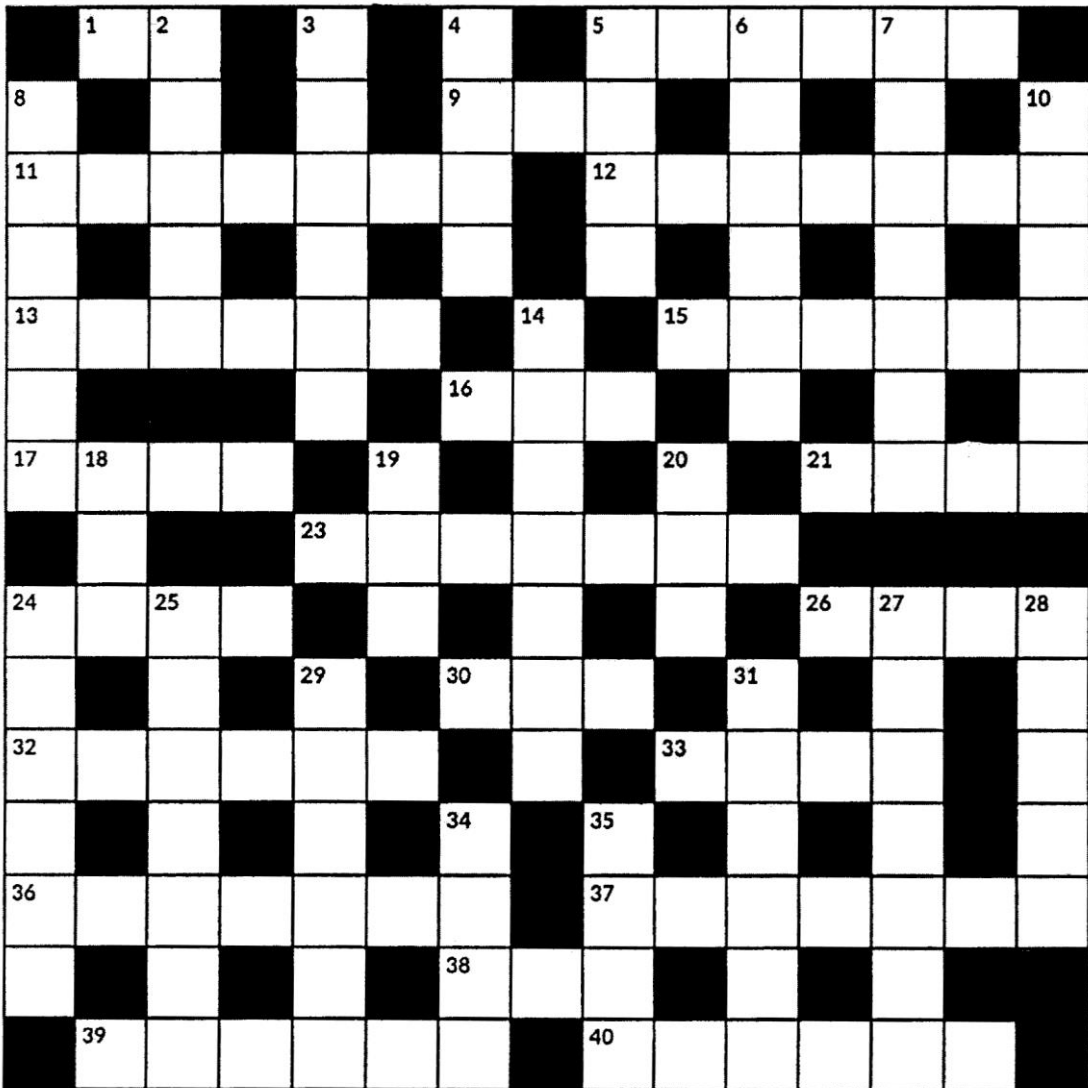
Photos by Alison Rollin/Gary Collins

Businesses that Supported the Fayre 2023

Coopers Estate Agents
Plush Hair & Beauty
The Lovely Hair Studio
Red Onion Café
Odds Farm
Boots the Chemist
Hop & Vine
The Glow up
Bekonscot Village
Vito's Café
Beverage Boutique
Daisychain
Sainsburys
C. S Bedford the Jewellers
Wenzels
Browns Restaurant
Home Instead
Lukes Barbers'
Thai Massage
David Simmons, MP
HomeFlair
Arens Bar
Miller & Carter the Plough
Lucy Seven Barbers
Waitrose Ruislip
Linen Chest
Woodman Pub
Bird & Lovibond
John Saunders
Thirtyone Hair Studio
Metro Italia
Ruislip Frame Works
Zaza
Sushi Futomaki Restaurant

St Martin's Crossword

By Jude



Across

1. The years before the birth of Jesus. (2)
5. *With 4 down.* The multitude were fed with these. (6, 4)
9. *See 24 Across.* (2,1)
11. Passionate expressions of grief or sorrow. (7)
12. *With 37 Across.* "We have followed too much the _ and _ of our own hearts." (7, 7)
13. *With 26 Across.* Parents of Jesus. (6, 4)
15. To smear or rub with oil; to confer divine or holy office. (6)
16. Father of Hophni and Phinehas, who failed to rebuke them sufficiently. (3)
17. Song of praise. (4)

21. "For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green _." *KJV Ps. 37:2* (4)
23. Angel who announced to Mary that she would conceive and bear the Son of God. (6)
24. *With 9 Across and 29 Down*. Christmas Carol, ranked joint second in popularity in a 1996 poll. (4, 2, 1, 6)
26. *See 13 Across*. (4)
30. "...this do ye, as _ as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." *KJV 1 Cor 11:25* (3)
32. Prophet and advisor to King David. (6)
33. The three kings. (4)
36. Bartholomew of _ was a 14th century Dominican missionary. (7)
37. *See 12 Across*. (7)
38. *See 20 Down*. (3)
39. Paul sends greetings to Herodion of _, later bishop of that place, in Romans 16:11 (6)
40. Sister of Lazarus and Mary of Bethany. (6)

Down

2. "Blessed is he who _ in the name of the Lord." (5)
3. An ornamental cloth covering. (6)
4. *See 5 Across*. (4)
5. Chapel dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus. (4)
6. Season anticipating the coming of Christ. (6)
7. Follower of a 4th century heretical Christian sect, also called Messalians. (7)
8. Major Prophet who warned King Ahab of years of drought. *1 Kings 17:1* (6)
10. Small Old Testament Syrian kingdom, part of Aram. *KJV 2 Sam. 10:6* (6)
14. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and _ your Father which is in heaven." *Matt 5:16* (7)
18. Tree often found in churchyards. (3)
19. One of the twelve tribes of Israel, a son of Zilpah. (3)
20. *With 38 Across*. Moses parted this. (3, 3)
24. Algerian seaport, formerly Hippo Regius and home to St. Augustine. (6)
25. Modern-day name for a city on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, visited by Paul. *Acts 14:25-26* (7)
27. High officials in Roman Asia. *ESV Acts 19:31* (7)
28. "...I shall break there the _ of Egypt: and the pomp of her strength shall cease in her:" *KJV Ez 30:18* (5)
29. *See 24 Across*. (6)
31. "Render therefore unto _ the things which are _'s." *Matt 22:21* (6)
34. Collective act of worship. (4)
35. Man formed by God from the dust of the ground. (4)

Solution to Last Edition's Crossword



KIDS ZONE



Kids Zone....Kids Zone....Kids Zone.....Kids Zone.....Kids Zone.....Kids Zone....

Hello! Welcome to the zone for the Kids of St Martin's! This is intended to be *your* space with things that interest *you* as well as things relating to you and your doings. This space will encompass BWI news and Young Church.

We'd also like to welcome contributions to the Kids Zone from our younger readers. It can be something you've done at school, a favourite pet, something that you've done at school or simply your feelings about God and the Christian world. Send your contributions of 50-300 words to MirandaAtStMartins@gmail.com by the 16th of January 2024.

Kids Zone....Kids Zone....Kids Zone.....Kids Zone.....Kids Zone.....Kids Zone....

Word Search



All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. After you have found all the words, arrange the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer.

Christ, Gabriel, Gentiles, Herod, Jesus, John, Joseph, Light, Manger, Mary, Myrrh, Simeon

Credit: <https://www.christianbiblereference.org>
Contributed by C Reeves.

What's on at Bishop Winnington-Ingram Primary School



Our vision: 'My Cup Overflows' Psalm 23:5

A community that gives each child an outstanding spiritual, academic and practical education and instils an awareness of the overflowing joy, love and peace that comes from God's love for us, so that they are able to achieve their potential and truly experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Welcome to your regular update from BWI Primary School!

We can't believe it is almost December already! Thoughts in school are turning to nativities, carols and christingles - and the writing of lists to a special someone! However, Christmas will have to wait as we have already had a packed school year and there is only so much space to fit all our news into.

Firework Fun!

A big thank you to all our families who joined us for our Fireworks Fun Night. It was a great evening with the local community also joining us. We made £2,500, a huge amount of money for the school and a wonderful time was had by all. Thank you to the PTA and staff for their organisation and their time given to make the event so successful.

Lights! Camera! Action!

Some of our children in Year 5 had the opportunity to take part in filming for 'Call the Midwife' this term. We were asked to provide children for a choir scene and it will air in March next year. We were told that the children's behaviour was exemplary and that they were a credit to our school.

Next Generation Leaders

It was fantastic to have Mrs Blake presenting the badges to our New Head Boy and Head Girl, Pablo and Sophia and to the Deputy Head Boy and Girl, Kynan and Karina. Our Head Boy and Head Girl met with Mr Gallup, our Chair of Governors to discuss the changes and improvements our School Council would like to make. These include creating a buddy bench, taking part in more charity work, having our library open at lunchtime to promote a love of reading and having regular updates in our weekly newsletter. If you can help our Student Leaders meet these goals, please let us know.

Remember to keep an eye on our website for all upcoming events and we hope to welcome you to our school in the near future. God Bless you all.



www.bwicofe.co.uk

St Martin's Church
Parish Directory

VICAR	Rev Dr Robert Chapman	13 Eastcote Road, Ruislip HA4 8DG. Tel: 01895 633040 Frrobertbchapman@gmail.com
CURATE	Vacancy	
ASSOCIATE	Fr Michael Bedford	Tel: 020 8866 4332 Mabedford7cr@waitrose.com
All clergy can also be contacted through the Parish Office		
LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS	Nina Gibbins	59 Kingsend, Ruislip, HA4 7DD Tel: 01895 639494
	Alison Rollin	149 Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7TQ Tel: 01895 675493
LICENSED LAY MINISTER	Chris Hoppett	76 Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7TE Tel: 01895 672463
WARDENS	Jacqueline Alderton	Tel: 07944 878203
	Peter Golby	Tel: 07908 408108 pgolby@live.co.uk

PCC Secretary	Catherine Tugnait	Tel: 07902 613854
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Hutchinson	c/o Parish Office
PCC Electoral Roll Officer	Jo Wild	Tel: 01923 820331
Parish Clerk/Admin/Webmaster	Gill Dargue	Tel: 01895 625 456
Bible Reading Fellowship	Alan Seymour	Tel: 020 8868 5557
BWI School	Rachel Blake	Tel: 01895 633 520
Brownies (2 nd Ruislip)	Viki Hallahan	Tel: 020 8429 4007
Brownies (9 th Ruislip)	Fiona Sweet	Tel: 07946 521997
Children's Society	Peter Trott	Tel: 01895 675760
Christian Aid	Jack Sheen	Tel: 01895 634755
Church Grounds Upkeep	Malcolm Roberts	
Church Hall Bookings	Gill Dargue	Tel: 01895 625 456
Church Watch	Vacancy	
Cursillo Representative	Chris Hoppett	Tel: 01895 672463
Director of Music	Viktoria Goncharova	
Flower Arranging	Jan White	Tel: 07747 463646
Friends of St Martins	Jacqueline Alderton	Tel: 01895 676194
Guides (2 nd Ruislip)	Lin Gregory	Tel: 01895 905 511
Holiday Club	Kay Craigie	Tel: 01895 630 154
K@SM	Gina Glossop	Tel: 07904 030161

PARISH OFFICE	Gill Dargue	smartinsruislip@btinternet.com Tel: 01895 625 456
Outlook Editor	Miranda Reading	mirandaatstmartins@gmail.com Tel: 07979 645451
Outlook Distribution and Advertising	Gill Dargue	Tel: 01895 625 456
Parish Archives	Alan Seymour	Tel: 020 8868 5557
Prayer Support Group	Deirdre Davis	Tel: 020 8429 1291
Rainbows (2 nd Ruislip)	Gina Glossp	Tel: 07904 030 161
Rainbows (9 th Ruislip)	Cat Reid	Tel: 020 8866 1988
St Martins Outlookers	Vacancy	
Sacristy Team	Diane Roberts & Alan Seymour	Tel: 020 8868 5557
Safeguarding Officer	Judith Kaplan	Tel: 01895 672 619
Servers	Gill Dargue	Tel: 01895 625 456
Sidespeople	Sarah Jacob & Alan Seymour	Sjacob325@gmail.com Tel: 020 8868 5557
Thursday Lunches	Sweelin Cunliffe	Tel: 07931 134507
Toddler Group	Vacancy	
Tower Captain	Judith Roberts	Tel: 01895 638143
Young Church 9.15am	Vicky Golby	Tel: 07770 782922

Please submit all items for the February/March issue to MirandaAtStMartins@gmail.com by 16th January 2024.

Don't forget to include your contact details if sending material by post.

Outlook is published on a bi-monthly basis. The next edition will be February/March 2024.



 **Home
Instead**
To us, it's personal

WWW.HOMEINSTEAD.CO.UK/RUISLIPANDHARROW

HOW ELDERLY CARE AT HOME CAN SLOW THE PROCESS DOWN

01895 624 230

PLEASE CALL US TO BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

Most people associate care with residential care homes and the end of independence. However, there is the option to stay at home whilst receiving dignified, professional elderly care.

Some people have lived in the same house for decades and it can be heart-breaking to leave it for an unknown place that might not feel as welcoming, familiar and have the cherished memories as your home does. It can also be extremely confusing to move someone with dementia out of familiar surroundings.

If you or your family member is struggling with day-to-day tasks, feeling lonely, need someone to take them shopping, attend medical appointments, or just need someone they can count on to provide care and help that is needed. That is exactly what we do at Home Instead. We provide bespoke, flexible older person's care that is dignified thanks to our compassionate, friendly CAREGivers.

We have found that when you start providing a little help at home to older people, it can help prevent accidents and delay the need to move out of their own house. Our CAREGivers build a strong relationship with their clients which allows them to spot any changes in their health or behaviour and take the necessary actions to prevent the situation from getting worse.

A long-exposure photograph of a street at night. In the foreground, there are blurred light trails from cars in shades of blue and yellow. In the background, a large, dark building with a prominent timber-framed gable is visible. The building has several windows, some of which are lit up. A sign above the entrance of the building reads "coopers" in a blue, glowing font. To the left of the main building, there is a modern, curved structure with a glass facade and a blue light trail. The sky is a deep, dark blue.

coopers
est 1986

**Personable, Professional
& Proactive**

**Successfully moving people
since 1986**

01895 625 625 ruislip@coopersresidential.co.uk