

St Martin's Weekly Bulletin



Prayer & Growth 2026

SUNDAY 4 JANUARY

FEAST OF EPIPHANY

SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

Sunday 8.00am Said Eucharist
10.00am Sung Eucharist

Thursday 9.30am Said Eucharist

OPENING HOURS

CHURCH: Monday to Friday 10am-3pm

TEAM OFFICE: Weekdays (except Wednesday) 10-1pm

ZOOM SERVICES THIS WEEK

(please contact the host to join the mailing list)

Morning Prayer Monday to Friday at 8.30am

Hosted by Mike Bunclark mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk

Compline Monday to Friday at 8.30pm

Hosted by Mike Bunclark mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk

Prayers for Peace & Justice on Saturdays at 4pm

Hosted by Joan Hazzard joanhazz@gmail.com



**Parish of St Martin with St Peter
in the Worcester South East Team**

www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk

01905 358083

NOTICES

Advent Appeal for YMCA

Thank you for your donations. There is still the opportunity to give today if you wish, using the envelopes provided. The total raised will be communicated in due course.

Bible Study, Mainly Music, and PopIns resume this week. For details of Kids Club and Light Club this term, please contact Debra Hill on 07424 726597.

Team Council meets on Wednesday 7 January, 7.30pm in the Lower Vestry

Open Church – Saturday 10 January, 10.00am, Lower Vestry

St Richard's Hospice Christmas Tree collection

If you have a real tree, you can register your tree for collection by volunteers for a donation to St Richard's Hospice. They are collecting from all VVR postcodes on 9th and 19th January. You will have the opportunity to donate to St Richard's Hospice when registering your collection. Register your collection here before 10am on Monday 5 January: www.strichards.org.uk

New Bishop of Worcester service of welcome - Saturday 17 January, 2pm

You are warmly invited to attend this service of welcome and installation of the Right Reverend Hugh Nelson, who will become the 114th Bishop of Worcester.

The Team Office and the Church are open at the usual times this week.

Next week's readings: Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end

10.00AM SUNG EUCHARIST FOR EPIPHANY

The **Order of Service** is in a separate booklet, large print copies are available.

This **Bulletin** contains the words of the hymns and readings, as well as notices and prayers for the week. You are welcome to take it home. If you would like a kneeler, or a gluten-free wafer during Communion, please ask a member of the Welcome Team.

Celebrant & Preacher **Revd Peter Hart**

Organ **John Swindells**

Today's Eucharist setting is by Andrew Millington

Hymn NEH 47 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.

W Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

**See pages 1-2 in the Order of Service,
then follow these words for the Gloria:**

Gloria Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer, receive our prayer.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Collect O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

- 3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- 5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.
- This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Second Reading Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

- 1 I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus
for the sake of you Gentiles -
- 2 for surely you have already heard
of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,
as I wrote above in a few words,
4 a reading of which will enable you
to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- 5 In former generations
this mystery was not made known to humankind,
as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles
and prophets by the Spirit:
- 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,
members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- 7 Of this gospel I have become a servant
according to the gift of God's grace
that was given me by the working of his power.

/Continued...

- 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints,
this grace was given to me
to bring to the Gentiles
the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
9 and to make everyone see
what is the plan of the mystery
hidden for ages in God who created all things;
10 so that through the church
the wisdom of God in its rich variety
might now be made known
to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose
that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God
in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn NEH 48

Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us incarnate bear.

Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Seen in fleshly form on earth.

By its lambent beauty guided
See the eastern kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.

Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
To the Gentile world displayed,
With the Father and the Spirit
Endless praise to thee be paid. Amen.

Prudentius (348-510)

Gospel Matthew 2.1-12

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Please join the Choir in the sung Gospel Acclamation after the words

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

ORGAN



- 1 In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
- 2 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.'
- 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him;
- 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:
- 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
- 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men
and learned from them
the exact time when the star had appeared.
- 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
'Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him,
bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'
- 9 When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

- 11 On entering the house,
they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure-chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country by another road.

Please join the Choir in the sung Gospel Acclamation after the words

This is the Gospel of the Lord



The Sermon follows, then see pages 5-6 in the Order of Service

Offertory Hymn *NEH 36*

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night: *Nowell...*

And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wheresoever it went: *Nowell...*

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay: *Nowell...*

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense: *Nowell...*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought: *Nowell...*

Traditional

**See pages 6-11 in the Order of Service
and join in singing the opening of the Eucharistic prayer here (Sursum Corda)**

President PEOPLE President PEOPLE

The Lord is here His Spi-rit is with us. Lift up - your hearts. We lift - them to - the Lord

President PEOPLE

Let us give thanks to the Lord - our God It is right to give - him thanks - and praise

And then after the words:

Great is the mystery of faith

ORGAN

Christ - has died, Christ - is ri - sen Christ will come a - gain.

Anthem In Dulci Jubilo - Traditional

In dulci jubilo, let us our homage shew:
Our heart's joy reclineth in praeseptio;
And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio,
Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule, my heart is sore for Thee!
Hear me, I beseech Thee, O puer optime;
My prayer let it reach Thee, O princeps gloriae.
Trahe me post te.

O patris caritas! O Nati lenitas!
Deeply were we stained. Per nostra crimina:
But Thou for us hast gained Coelorum gaudia,
O that we were there.

Ubi sunt gaudia, If that they be not there?
Angels there are singing Nova cantica;
Sweet bells the while are ringing, in Regis curia.
O that we were there.

After Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

See page 11 in the Order of Service

Final Hymn

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign: *O star of wonder...*

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him God most High. *O star of wonder...*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a stone-cold tomb. *O star of wonder...*

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Heaven sings 'Alleluia'
'Alleluia' the earth replies. *O star of wonder...*

John Henry Hopkins 1820-91

See page 12 in the Order of Service

Voluntary Epilogue on Dix – William Henry Harris (1772-1841)

Hymns and music reproduced under CCLII 145602

PRAY FOR THOSE IN ST MARTIN'S PARISH

People in sickness or need

Sandra Giles	David Dale	Veronica	Stephen Clarke
Michael Campbell	Eglé Tumanova	Terry Dillingham	Ruth Kirwan
Jolanda Simmonds	Ann Stallard	Hannah Cocksworth	Gail Stone
Thelma Bushell			

The recently departed

John Daynes

Jan Wheatley

Anniversary of death

Diana Green	Pat Hodgson	Dorothy Robinson	Peter Hill
Samantha Currie	Margaret Benson	Rita Lee	

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYERS

Mon 5 I John 3.22 -4.6

Matthew 4.12-end

At the start of a new year, pray for all those for whom the New Year does not offer the promise of great joy or hope. Pray for the lonely and the isolated, those in difficult or violent relationships. Pray for the homeless, the unemployed, those in financial difficulties. Pray that they should find strength to carry on.

Tue 6 I John 4.7-10

Mark 6.34-44

On the feast of the Epiphany, and as the Christmas season comes to an end, pray for all who visited St Martin's over this Christmas. May they have found our church a place of welcome and peace, and may they have met Christ within its walls.

Wed 7 I John 4.11-18

Mark 6.45-52

Pray for our children, our hope for the future. Pray for all who work with them in our nurseries, schools, colleges and centres of higher education, and also in sports club, youth groups, and community centres.

Thu 8 I John 4.19 -5.4

Luke 4.14-22

Pray for the emergency services, police, fire and ambulance. Pray for rail and highways agencies working to keep our transport systems working. Pray for city and county council workers, and all those who serve our local community.

Fri 9 I John 5.5-13

Luke 5.12-16

Pray for all those who will have spent Christmas and/or the New Year in hospital. Pray for the doctors, nurses and hospital staff who will have cared for them, and for their families and friends who will have watched and waited.

Sat 10 I John 5.14-end

John 3.22-30

Pray for all those who work in Social Services, for those who work with vulnerable adults and children. Pray for foster parents and carers, who offer places of love and safety to children in need.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

The full Church diary for this week, and next week, is displayed on the noticeboard in the Lower Vestry. Please speak to Rebecca if you have any queries, or to book your event or meeting into the diary, to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 3 January

10.00am Mainly Music Church

Sunday 4 January

8.00am Said Eucharist Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist Church

Monday 5 January

2.00pm Safeguarding Meeting Lower Vestry

Tuesday 6 January

2.00pm Prayer Meeting Lower Vestry

7.00pm Piano practice Lower Vestry

Wednesday 7 January

9.30am Mainly Music Church

11.15am Bible Study Lower Vestry

7.30pm Team Council Lower Vestry

Thursday 8 January

9.30am Said Eucharist Lower Vestry

10.00am Poplns Lower Vestry

7.30pm WSO Rehearsal Church

Friday 9 January

5.30pm Organ Practice Church

7.00pm Choir practice Lower Vestry

Saturday 10 January

10.00am Open Church Lower Vestry

Sunday 11 January

8.00am Said Eucharist Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist for Epiphany Church

6.00pm Choral Evensong Church
