

# St Martin's Weekly Bulletin



## Prayer & Mission 2025

**SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### SERVICES IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

**Sunday 8.00am** Said Eucharist  
**10.00am** Sung Eucharist  
**6.00pm** Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

**Christmas Eve 4.00pm** Crib Service  
**11.30pm** Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day 10.00am** Christmas Morning Eucharist

---

### OPENING HOURS

**CHURCH:** Monday to Wednesday 10am-3pm

**TEAM OFFICE:** Monday & Tuesday 10-1pm

---

### ZOOM SERVICES THIS WEEK

*(please contact the host to join the mailing list)*

**Morning Prayer** Monday to Wednesday at 8.30am  
*Hosted by Mike Bunclark [mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk)*  
**Compline** Monday & Tuesday at 8.30pm  
*Hosted by Mike Bunclark [mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk)*

**Prayers for Peace & Justice** on Saturdays at 4pm  
*Hosted by Joan Hazzard [joanhazz@gmail.com](mailto:joanhazz@gmail.com)*



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

[www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk)

01905 358083

## NOTICES

**Junior Church today** – meeting today downstairs during the 10am service for activities. Leave the service after the Collect prayer, with a parent/carer.

The children are invited to stay after the service today to decorate the Church Christmas Tree – decorations provided!

**Congratulations to Mike & Anne Bunclark**, who have each turned 80<sup>yrs</sup> old this year. You are all invited to stay for wine and cake after the service to join with them in celebrating their special birthdays.

### **Advent Appeal for YMCA**

Please donate to our Advent Appeal using the labelled donation envelopes. There are Gift Aid forms if you are a tax payer, please place in the envelope with your donation. This charity was keenly supported by Anthony Glossop.

### **Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols – Sunday 21 December, 6.00pm, Church**

Do join us this evening for our carol service. There will be two new carols to St Martin's this year, as well as plenty of congregational singing, including 'While shepherd's watched...' to a different tune! See page 10 for details of all special services.

**Bible Study, Mainly Music and Kids Club and PopIns take a break from the usual routines for two weeks**, resuming week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> January. However, there will be an extra holiday Mainly Music on Saturday 3 January at 10am.

### **Crib Service – Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December, 4pm, Church**

For all the family! Come and be part of our crib service this Christmas Eve. We will have out newly formed Family Choir, along with our children participating in the nativity. If you have primary school age children who would like to be involved, they can come dressed as a Shepherd, Angel or Wise Man. Pre-school children may wear green for a Christmas Tree, or come dressed as a Star.

### **Twelve Joys of Christmas – 12 days of Meditations from Christmas Day**

This booklet produced by the Church of England, is available at the back of Church for anyone who wishes to take one.

### **Sunday 28 December – Team Eucharist, 10am, St Martin's**

We look forward to welcoming members of our Team Churches for a joint service on the 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. If you would like to join a 'Team Choir' to sing a carol during communion, please come to the Lady Chapel at 9:30am, on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, for a run-through of 'Rejoice and be merry'. A link to the version being sung is in the Bulletin email. Please wear clothes you are comfortable in - Christmas jumpers welcome!

**The Team Office will close for Christmas** on Tuesday 23 December and reopen on Monday 5 January.

The Church will only be open this week from Monday to Wednesday, 10am-3pm, and for services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Church will be closed Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

## 10.00AM SUNG EUCHARIST

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**

The Communion setting is by Bach (available from the Welcome Team).

### **Hymn SP15**

People, look east to see at last  
hopes fulfilled from ages past:  
now in the promise of the morning,  
see, a brighter day is dawning,  
rich with the visions long foretold,  
prophets' dreams from days of old.

God reaffirms the gracious call:  
words of welcome meant for all;  
comfort enough for all our sorrows;  
justice shaping new tomorrows.  
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored,  
freed to praise and serve the Lord.

Now, with the coming of the light,  
darkest fears are put to flight;  
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing,  
blown aside by hope's appearing.  
Jesus, the Light of all our days,  
comes and sets our hearts ablaze.

Born of our race, a child so small -  
hail the promised Lord of all!  
Nailed to a cross for our salvation,  
he shall rule God's new creation.  
Lift up your eyes and look again:  
see, he comes in power to reign!

Martin Leckenbusch (b1962)  
© Kevin Mayhew Ltd

**See pages 2-4 in the Order of Service**

**Collect**     God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our Saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Junior Church recessional**

When the winter day is dying,  
and the wind is blowing wild,  
listen for a lonely crying.  
It may be a wand'ring child.

*Light a candle in your window,  
let the night know that you care,  
light a candle in the window,  
it may guide the Christ-Child there.*

© 1990, Arthur Scholey

### **First Reading** Isaiah 7.10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

- 10 The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,  
11 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God;  
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.'  
12 But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask,  
and I will not put the Lord to the test.'  
13 Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David!  
Is it too little for you to weary mortals,  
that you weary my God also?  
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.  
15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time  
he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.  
16 For before the child knows  
how to refuse the evil and choose the good,  
the land before whose two kings you are  
in dread will be deserted.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Second Reading Romans 1.1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
- <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand  
through his prophets in the holy scriptures,
- <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son,  
who was descended from David according to the flesh
- <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power  
according to the spirit of holiness  
by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- <sup>5</sup> Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship  
to bring about the obedience of faith  
among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,
- <sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
- <sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gradual Hymn NEH 161 (Tune: NEH 385, St Botolph. Vv 1-3 & 6)

For Mary, mother of our Lord,  
God's holy name be praised,  
who first the son of God adored,  
as on her child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word  
she should Christ's mother be;  
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,  
made answer willingly.

The Heav'nly call she thus obeyed,  
and so God's will was done;  
the second Eve love's answer made  
which our redemption won.

Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,  
above all women blest;  
and blest your Son, whom your embrace  
in birth and death confessed.

*J R Peacey(1896-1971)*

© 1991 Hope Publishing Company

**Gospel**      Matthew 1.18-25

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All sing*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you O Lord**

- <sup>18</sup> The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
- <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man  
and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,  
planned to dismiss her quietly.
- <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
'Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,  
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'
- <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord  
through the prophet:
- <sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,'  
which means, 'God is with us.'
- <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep,  
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;  
he took her as his wife,
- <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her  
until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*All sing*

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ**

***The Sermon follows, then see pages 5-7 in the Order of Service***

## Offertory Hymn (Tune: NEH 376 Kingsfold)

When out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with heads held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day,  
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart:  
Be blest: prepare the way!'

When people wander far from God,  
forget to share their bread,  
they find their wealth an empty thing,  
their spirits are not fed.  
For only just and tender love  
the hungry soul will stay.  
And so God's prophets echo still:  
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

When God took flesh and came to earth,  
the world turned upside down,  
and in the strength of women's faith  
the Word of Life was born.  
She knew that God would raise the low,  
it pleased her to obey.  
Rejoice with Mary in the call:  
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

*Kathy Galloway (b 1952)*

© Kathy Galloway, admin. Wild Goose Publications

## See pages 7-12 in the Order of Service

*Then sing the acclamations after the words:*

Great is the mystery of faith

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Great is the mystery of faith'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Christ has died, Christ is ris - en Christ will come a - gain'. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

**Anthem**    The Angel Gabriel - *Traditional Basque Carol*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail" said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary  
most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be  
all generations laud and honour thee.  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

*Rev S Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

**After Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**See page 13 in the Order of Service**

**Final Hymn** (*Tune: Advent ring*)

*'Christmas is coming!'  
the Church is glad to sing  
and let the advent candles  
brightly burn in a ring.*



The first is for God's promise  
to put the wrong things right,  
and bring to earth's darkness  
the hope of love and light. *Christmas is coming!...*

The second for the prophets,  
Who said that Christ would come.  
With good news for many  
And angry words for some. *Christmas is coming!...*

The third is for the Baptist,  
Who cried 'Prepare the way,  
be ready for Jesus,  
today and every day' *Christmas is coming!...*

The fourth is for the Virgin,  
Who mothered God's own Son,  
And sang how God's justice  
Was meant for everyone. *Christmas is coming!...*

*John L Bell (b 1949)*

© 1992 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland

**See page 13 in the Order of Service**

**Voluntary** Fugato on *The Magnificat* - J S Bach BWV 733

*Hymns and music reproduced under CCLI 145602 & One Licence A-739853*

---

**Next week's readings:** *Jeremiah 31.15-17; 1 Corinthians 1.26-29; Matthew 2.13-18*

---

## **6.00PM FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

*See separate booklet*

# Special Services for Christmas & Epiphany

## SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

*usual Sunday morning services at 8am & 10am*

**6.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols  
by candlelight**

*The Christmas story is told with traditional readings  
and carols for choir and congregation*

## WEDNESDAY ~ CHRISTMAS EVE

**4.00pm Crib Service** for all ages

*Informal service with well-known Christmas songs*

**11.30pm Midnight Mass** - *the first Communion of Christmas  
with carols for choir and congregation*

## THURSDAY ~ CHRISTMAS DAY

**10.00am Christmas Morning Eucharist** *with carols*

## SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

*(no service at 8am)*

**10.00am Team Eucharist** *with carols*

## SUNDAY 4 JANUARY ~ Epiphany

**8.00am** Said Eucharist

**10.00am** Sung Eucharist



# 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			

## For those in continued trouble

Marilyn Daly	Adam	Chris Dale	Donna Vickers
Sheila Sergeant	Roderick Dovey		

## The recently departed

Rita Hands	John Daynes	Brian Ferris
------------	-------------	--------------

## Anniversary of death

Syd Taylor	Susan Stringer	Francis Yarker	Phyllis Dilks
Eric Matthews	Pat Thomas	John Power	

## DAILY READINGS AND PRAYERS

### Mon 22 1 Samuel 1.24-end

### Luke 1.46-56

Pray for police and paramedics patrolling our streets and highways during the Christmas period. May they have patience and an empathetic ear for the homeless.

### Tue 23 Malachi 3.1-end

### Luke 1.57-66

Pray for all our local supermarket and independent vegetable stores keeping produce fresh and available, give thanks for all their hard work.

### Wed 24 Christmas Eve

### 2 Samuel 7.1-16

### Acts 13.16-26

### Luke 1.67-79

Pray for the many who are finding these days so tedious and unhelpful to their faith. May they be given some time to have peace and wisdom to see through the glitz and glamour, to see the real meaning of the nativity story.

### Thu 25 Christmas Day

### Isaiah 62.6-end

### Titus 3.4-7

### Luke 2.1-20

Pray for all families coming together bringing joy throughout the day.

### Fri 26 St Stephen, first martyr

### Acts 7.1-51

### Galatians 2.16b-20

### Matthew 10.17-22

Pray for hospital staff and care home workers giving up their own Christmas to care for others.

### Sat 27 St John, Apostle and Evangelist

### Exodus 33.7-11a 1 John 1

### John 21.19b-end

Pray for all friendship groups who may be unaware of God's grace and love. May we show a measure of God's spiritual fruit to all. Pray for peace and justice in the world.

## 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 20 December

---

### Sunday 21 December

8.00am	Said Eucharist Church
10.00am	Sung Eucharist Church
4.00pm	Choir rehearsal Church
6.00pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols Church

---

### Monday 22 December

---

### Tuesday 23 December

2.00pm	Prayer Group Lower Vestry
--------	---------------------------

---

### Wednesday 24 December

4.00pm	Crib Service Church
11.30pm	Midnight Mass Church

---

### Thursday 25 December

10.00am	Christmas Morning Eucharist Church
---------	------------------------------------

---

### Friday 26 December

---

### Saturday 27 December

---

### Sunday 28 December

	No Said Eucharist
10.00am	Team Eucharist Church

---