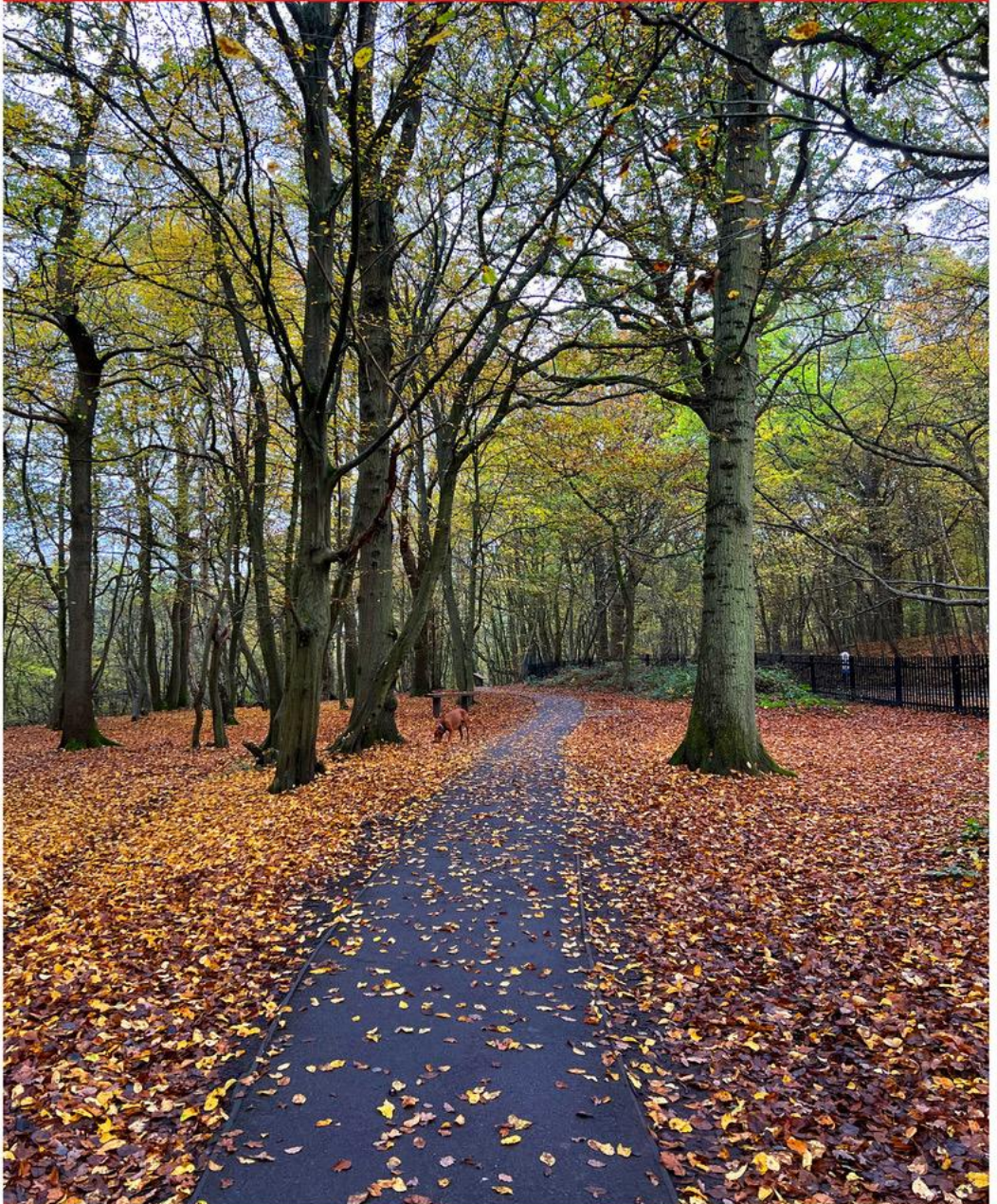


Outlook



Parish Magazine

October/November 2025



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Welcome from the Outlook Editor

Miranda Reading

Welcome to the Harvest edition of Outlook!

Summer is over and the children have returned to school. The leaves have started to turn yellow and the mornings have a crispness to them, even if the sun is still shining. At this time of the year, our thoughts turn to the shortening of days and the helter-skelter rush towards Christmas. Time seems to go faster – in a hymn from my childhood, we used to sing '*Time is like an ever-rolling stream, bearing all its sons away.*' This time of the year can often seem bittersweet. But we only have to look at the bushes, heavy with berries to know that the fruits of Harvest time are upon us.

Harvest is especially abundant this year, where some warm spring and summer days have brought out a bumper crop. This is the time when we should think of those who do not have as much as we do and for whom putting food on the table can often be a struggle. At our all-age Harvest Mass on Sunday 5th October, we have the opportunity to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves and give generously to the poor and marginalised of our parish. As Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew (26:11), '*The poor ye shall always have with you – but you will not always have me*'

Outlook is in need of some new distributors. Could you take on a delivery round of between 5-10 magazines? Outlook is a very important resource for those who are housebound or lonely. Walking is a great way to stay healthy, a fabulous way to enjoy the autumn and get those steps up! If you can help, please contact me on the email address below or speak to Gill Dargue in the Parish Office.

Could you contribute something to the magazine? Do send us your thoughts, your prayers and your stories. All contributions and feedback by 16th November 2025 please to MirandaAtStMartins@gmail.com. Thank you.



Member Editor 2025
Association for Church Editors



Fr Robert Writes..

Dear Friends,

One of the joys of this issue of *Outlook*, at this time every year, is that I am forced to reflect on our dear patron St Martin.

Our festivities will be as wonderful as ever, so please do join us for the Martinmas Fair and Patronal Festival Mass on the evening of 11th November. Our preacher that night will be an old friend of the parish, Bishop Richard Fenwick, one time vicar here. For me, this year, my reflections are prompted by my holiday in Normandy. By sheer chance, Sarah had found an Airbnb just twenty miles away from Bec Abbey. Many of you will know that Bec Abbey was a hugely influential monastic community spanning centuries. The Abbey gave us three archbishops of Canterbury (Lanfranc, Anselm and Theobald) and one (perhaps very wise!) Abbot, Roger de Bailleul, who declined the position! The Abbey at Bec also had a community in Ruislip that gave us our beloved parish church.

I paid them a visit and was thrilled to see familiar stonework on the outside walls (see picture) and the ecclesiastical connection celebrated (see pictures). I said a prayer of thanks in the beautiful and elegant chapel. This moment in the chapel also prompted more parochial thoughts



A wall at Bec Abbey

of church-life in Normandy, for there is much beauty in the churches but not much elegance. As ever, the visit across the channel stirred up within me a love of that most Church of England of things, 'faculty jurisdiction'. For the uninitiated, 'faculty jurisdiction' is the Church of England's equivalent of planning permission, aimed at ensuring that architectural liberties which destroy sacred spaces are not taken. Alas, in France, their famed love of freedom and liberty extends to taking a medieval church and filling it with ill-judged stuff or junk. One gorgeous 11th century parish church had 1960's metal-tube-framed primary school benches piled up in the sanctuary where the Blessed Sacrament was kept. It almost made me glad that the vast majority of churches were locked, to prevent me from harrumphing too much.



Famous old Chapel Tower

Well, I say 'almost made me glad', because across the road from where we were staying was a delightful parish church dedicated to our very own St Martin. Yet, despite the Angelus being rung at 7am, noon and 7pm, the doors remained firmly locked for the entire two weeks we were there. Everyday for two weeks, I was a 'sojourner in the land' of Le Faulq as I walked the 70 yards to the church's front door hoping to belt out '*Fling Wide the Gates*' from Stainer's *Crucifixion*, but everyday I was found unworthy to enter.

Returning to the house, I resumed my holiday reading, which included a fabulous chapter in a book called, '*Catholic Life in the Church of England*'. The chapter was written by Bishop Rowan Williams, who was once dubbed, co-incidentally, 'the second Anselm'. Williams was reflecting of the place of the Eucharist, the Mass, in the life of the parish church. He declares at one point, that, 'a Church without the Eucharist ... is a Church that is somehow selling us short, a Church that is not promising the fullness of a restored humanity'. (p. 12) He goes on to focus on the presence of God, saying, 'One of the most important things we can say about the Eucharist in the language and practice of the Church is that, whoever else turns up, God does.' (p. 15) From here he argues for the need for churches to be open and the Blessed Sacrament visible to all who enter. This leads to a wonderful section which reminded me of the precious gift of our open church and visible tabernacle in Ruislip.

He says:

For so many people, the presence of the Sacramental Christ on our altars is in all sorts of ways and degrees an assurance of hope, of not being forgotten. The person

who casually drops in to – that rarity – an open church and finds the Sacrament on the altar, is likely to discover or rediscover something of this transforming faithfulness, this not-walking-away, that is part of the Christian gospel, whether or not they have the words for it. (p. 16)

For Williams (and us at St Martin's!) the open Church is reminder of the God who does not desert us, who is here waiting, and us as the people of God, the Body of Christ, not walking away.

I realised in France that it is this aspect I missed. It was not incongruous bits of furniture clumsily introduced, or art work incompatible with the sacred surroundings, that bothered me most, but rather those churches with locked doors. In a world that excludes and shuts out those who need welcoming most, the outstretched arms of God on a cross embracing the world needs to be seen.



Current Chapel

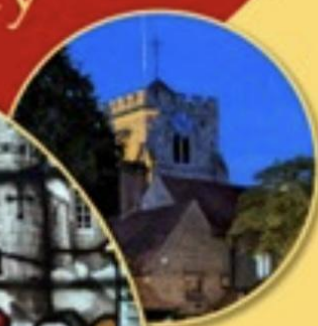
I doubt the brothers at Bec who occupied a land with only farms as neighbours had any idea of what Ruislip would look like in 2025. Yet I suspect they understood the need for a place, a building, which spans time, and says God is here, and he is not moving. Therefore, as we celebrate St Martintide we do so conscious of that which has gone before, but mindful of the real need for this place in the future. For here is a place of shelter and encounter, so come, all are welcome.

Your friend and priest,

Fr Robert

PATRONAL FESTIVAL MASS

followed by Party



PREACHER:

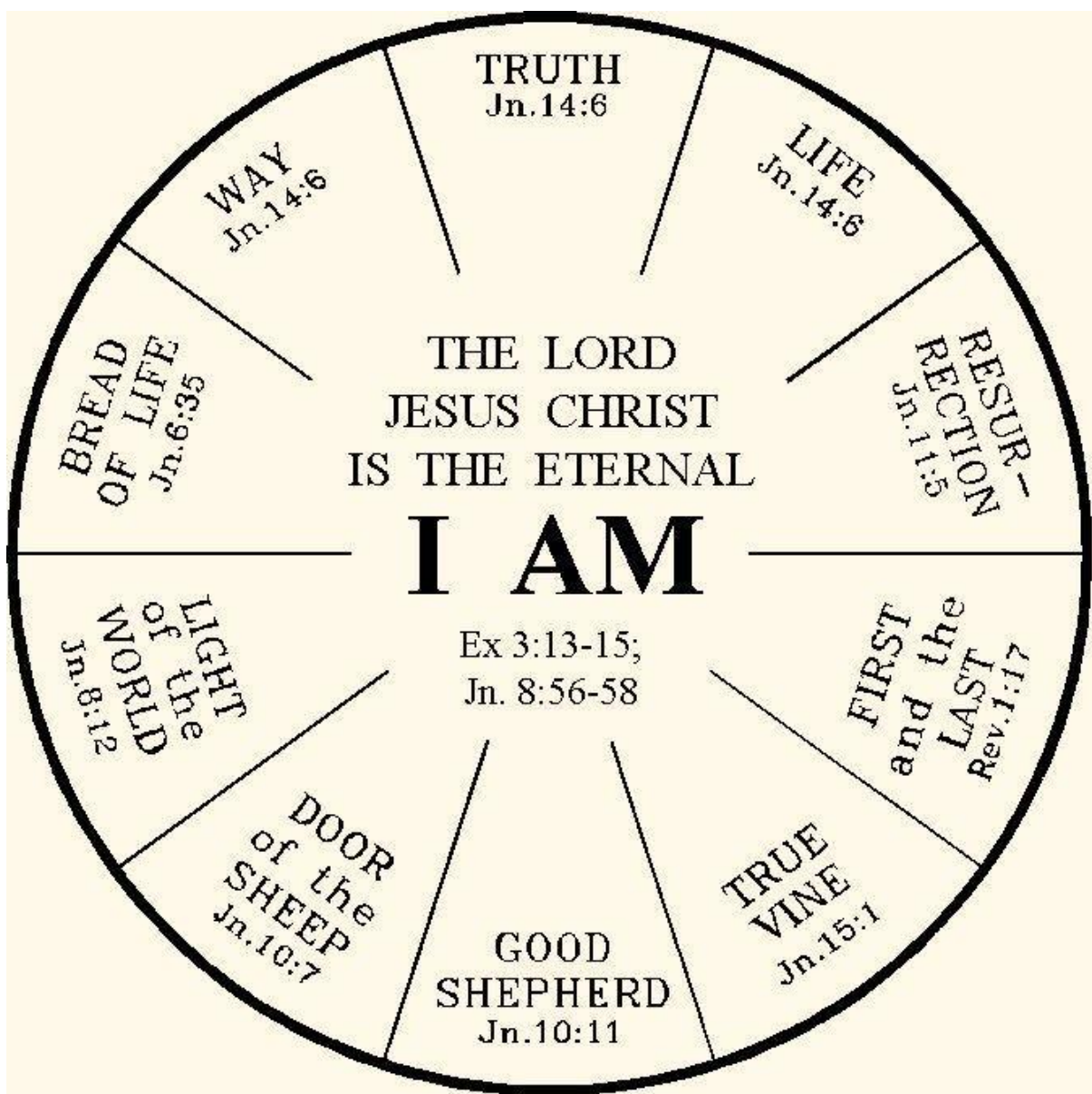
**BISHOP RICHARD
FENWICK**

Former Bishop of St Helena &
Vicar of St Martin's, Ruislip

11th November
at 7.30pm



St Martin's



Contributed by Pawprint

Thursday Lunches!



Fancy some conversation and conviviality on a Thursday?
Then Thursday Lunches are for you!

Come and join us in the Small Hall at the Church Hall from
11am – 1.30pm every Thursday for hot soup, delicious filled
rolls, home-made cake, tea and coffee and biscuits.

We URGENTLY need more volunteers, either to help out or bake a cake. If you can help, please contact Sweelin Cunliffe on 07931 134507.

Dates for the coming weeks and months....

October 2025

- | | |
|---|--|
| Saturday 4 th October | Harvest Supper, 7pm |
| Sunday 5 th October | Harvest Festival. All age masses at 8am and 10am |
| Friday 17 th – Sunday 19 th October | Walsingham Pilgrimage. Two spaces remaining!
Please speak to Gill in the parish office. |

November 2025

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 11 th November | 7.30pm - St Martin's Day mass with procession
followed by a party. |
| Saturday 15 th November | Martinmas Fayre, 10.30am – 2.30pm |

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Ask St Martin



Dear St Martin,

I have been reading about early Christianity. Why did the Western and Eastern churches split?

We are living in a time of great political upheaval, and people around the world are fighting for power. This was much the same in the 1050s. I'm sure you can appreciate that there is often much that comes into play when we look at politics, both now and in the past. The final straw that broke the camel's back and ultimately led to the split between the Eastern and Western churches was the mutual excommunication of the two churches by the Pope and the Patriarch in 1054. In a short one-word answer of what led up to this position, it is 'Filioque'. Filioque is the Latin word for 'and the son', which we say during the Nicene Creed on Sunday Mornings.

To understand more about this, we need to think a little about some of the differences we find between Eastern and Western churches and a little bit more about what was going on at that time in history. Whilst this is a very complex boiling pot, I will try to draw out a simple understanding of what was going on.

If we go back to the start of when the churches in the East and the churches in the West actively worked together, where the bishops gathered to discuss theology and came to solutions on theological problems that existed at the time. These meetings were known as the ecumenical councils. The first of these meetings was in Nicea in the year 325 (1700 years ago this year!) And the last of these was in 787. It was through these councils that we received much teaching on the church and things like the Nicene Creed.

However, because the East had its theology based on Greek philosophy and the West had its theology based on Roman Law, there came a point where the two churches could no longer find their meeting point and agree at these councils. These

two starting places gave rise to two widely different views on one important doctrine, the procession of the Holy Spirit. In the East, they said the Holy Spirit came from the Father, and in the West, they said the Holy Spirit came from the Father *AND from the Son*. The Western churches had added that small but important statement to their creed without consultation with the Eastern churches.

This, along with many other points of disagreement, built up to the final mutual excommunication, and the split between the East and the West became official.

There were attempts over the centuries to reunite, but as these were on the terms of the Western Church, they were always rejected. And the rift between the two churches grew larger through various actions; in particular, the Latin capture of Constantinople in 1204, which bitterly antagonised the Eastern Churches.



Following the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, the mutual excommunication was lifted by both churches. And in 1979, the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church was established. Terms between the Eastern and Western Churches have been greatly helped by the Anglican church for a great number of years through organisations such as the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, founded in 1864 and the Fellowship of Saint Alban and Saint Sergius (the protomartyr of England and the patron saint of Russia), founded in 1928.

Whilst the Eastern and Western churches still have their differences, we are starting to come back together and work together, such as calls for a common date for Easter between the two churches. But such large changes take a long time to come to fruition.

I hope this helps as you read and learn further on early Christianity, as there is a wealth of knowledge and spirituality we can learn from them even today.

If you have any burning questions about Christianity or the Church and her life, you can pass these through the editor who will anonymously pass them on.

Sanctus Martinus Turonensis

Saint Martin of Tours (with a little secretarial help from Fr. Joe Grogan)

Prayer for Harvest

Lord, we thank you for the abundant harvest,
for the fertile earth, and for the bounty of the seasons that sustains us.

We are grateful for the gift of food and
for the people whose labour Lord brings it to our tables.

As we celebrate this rich harvest,
we ask you to help us share these gifts fairly with all your people,
ensuring that no one goes hungry.

We also pray for a spiritual harvest,
that we may be agents of your transformation,
shining your light in our communities.

Guide us to act with compassion and to serve our neighbours joyfully
and faithfully, that we may all experience the fullness of your love.

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The Cemeteries of Valparaíso

By Tim Rollin

Valparaíso is a city that has been built literally from the ground up; it is built on a number of hills, with port facilities, offices, warehouses and residences reaching further and further up them. The only free space has been towards the tops of the hills, and that is where the cemetery had been placed. This is the background of the tale below.

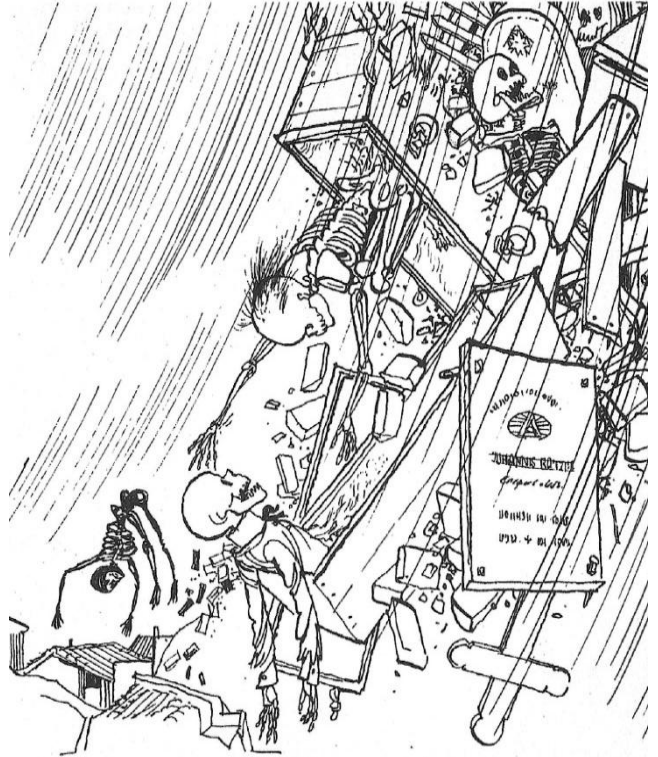
A true Halloween tale of 1855 by 'Lukas':

Throughout the world, the dead are generally BELOW, near the entrails of the earth, but here they are ABOVE. One lives with the knowledge that the dead are there, in the hills above our heads, like so many raisins in a giant cake.

On one occasion, in April 1855, they did fall:

'A few days after the storm, there occurred a misfortune of a sort to fill all with fear and terror. The ground in the cemetery had been so saturated by the heavy downpours, that a sector comprising more than 50 tombs, mostly recent, slid down and fell on houses in Elías Avenue 150 feet below. What a terrible sight! Some houses were destroyed, others buried and although many inhabitants of the buried houses were saved, most were brought out dead or gravely injured. But what made the most terrible impression were the many broken coffins and putrefying bodies which were all around giving off a terrifying smell.'

This seems a precursor of the Last Judgement.



The skeletons and tombs falling

The cemetery had been founded in 1825. Part of it was sold to the British Consulate to establish a cemetery for Dissidents (*effectively non-Catholics*). For several years, wealthy protestants who died in Santiago, were brought down to Valparaiso to be buried there. Before then, people were buried in church grounds. The poor were tossed into 'quebradas', (ravines or cuttings nearby), and the 'gringos' (mainly English speakers or 'dissidents') were left somewhere on the beaches more or less as carrion.

Until 1870, people were buried at night, between midnight and three am, the mourners having eaten and drunk well in the house of the deceased:

'Suddenly there is a surprising sound for such a tranquil night. A procession can be discerned, which in the light of burning torches is bearing a coffin to the cemetery. If the thought of a burial at midnight is macabre, the impression one gets is made even more disagreeable when one sees that the coffin bearers, instead of walking with solemn and respectful steps, are hurrying along at the trot. At the same time, one can see that they are in a state of such inebriation that one fears they may fall at any moment. And indeed, hardly have they passed by, than the sound of shouting tells that they have let the coffin fall and the body is on the pavement.'

Illustrations by 'Lukas'

Words by 'Lukas' quoting unnamed sources in 1973 and translated from the Spanish by me, Tim Rollin.

'Lukas' was a popular Chilean cartoonist with a sardonic sense of humour. His sketches appeared in many of the local papers – I thought he was brilliant.

Raising the Roof for the Future!

After years of service to the community, the time has come to ensure our church remains a safe, welcoming place for community activities, marking key moments in family life, worship, fellowship, and service. But we can't do it alone – we need your support - help us to raise the roof!



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- Our roof is showing signs of wear and tear, risking potential damage to our church
- Protecting our church is essential for continuing our mission and serving the community
- Your contribution will fund the necessary repairs, ensuring the safety and longevity of our space
- We have already been awarded a grant from the diocese for £30,000 and are able to fund £20,000 from reserves, but this still leaves £74,365 to raise.

How You Can Help:

- We will continue to seek additional grants towards this shortfall, but please do consider a generous donation to help ensure the future survival of our ancient church building
- Spread the Word – Share this campaign with friends and family to help us reach our goal

Ways to Give:

- Donate [here](#) via the website
- Donate directly at the Parish Office with reference to fundraising for the chancel roof

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Sort Code: 40-11-58

Reference: Chancel Roof



The Passion of the Gussfoss

By Dr Jide Menakaya

The 2025/26 academic year has just gotten underway. Every school aged child, young person and adult in education has moved up one year. There is excitement and anxiety in the new classrooms. New friends, new subjects, new classes, new teachers. The learning is getting harder and more complex. But for our teachers, the curriculum remains the same though I'm sure they are always challenged to consider innovative methods of delivering the same information to their new batch of learners.



One of such ways is by immersing students into the details of their subjects - perhaps by composing a poem, creating an artwork, practicing a language, engaging in a debate or dramatising aspects of their course work. Another popular model for learning is the school trip. A visit to the outdoors, to experience a physical phenomenon that can be hard to grasp within the walls of any classroom

During the summer I visited a waterfall described by a royal visitor in this excerpt from a book written to record their visit as, “No waterfall in Europe can match Gullfoss. In both ferocity and fury, it outdoes Niagara Falls in the United States”. The viewing platform was constructed in such a way that I could literally touch the force of the water thundering from the upland glaciers to the gorge below. The water sprays were everywhere. I got quite wet. An awesome sight to see, hear, touch, and experience. For a student of natural phenomena, nothing immerses you into this form of learning than the dramatic roar of water cascading at tremendous speed down to the deep ravines hundreds of meters below.

But my experience and that of millions of other visitors to the Golden Circle may not have been possible if it were not for the passion of a farmer's daughter from Brattholt who was born and lived on the land around the waterfall and died at the ripe old age of 87 years. She is immortalised as the country's first environmental campaigner

Sigridur was made aware of a business proposal to divert the force of the waterfall to build a dam that will provide power to thousands of homes in South West Iceland. A noble idea based on hard nosed economic rationale. But her passion to protect the environment saw her rally the nation, create awareness and follower-ship of like

minded citizens to advocate that the waterfall is left untouched. When all seemed to fail, she threatened to throw herself down into the waterfall.

Fortunately the government, the investors and the financiers of the dam relented and withdrew their proposal. Today the Gussfoss waterfall is a legally protected site to be enjoyed by all the nation and the 2 million visitors that travel to Iceland each year for eternity.



In her directive to the Icelandic people she wrote, "I command that this waterfall shall never be sold, leased, or bound by any contractual restrictions that give a party the power to harness the waterfall or make use of it in such a way that is different from how it has been put to use since time immemorial. All such measures are strictly prohibited, be it in my lifetime or after my death.

It could not have been easy for Sigridur to fight big business, government bureaucrats and hard working well meaning inhabitants of the country who wanted to use the earth's natural resources to improve the life of its people-power factories, heat up homes, and light up houses and streets at night. In deed she lost her case against the powerful investors in the law courts. But it's amazing to experience today how far her passion got her, the mountains it flattened , the gorges it filled, the investors it contained, and the people it moved, to do the right thing.

This autumn as our future leaders settle into their new academic year, I pray that they are blessed with the courage and determination to assimilate new information from their teachers, parents and carers to grow their minds and intellect and are imbued with the passion to do the right things now and always. Just like Sigridur, the passion of the Gussfoss.

Bookworm

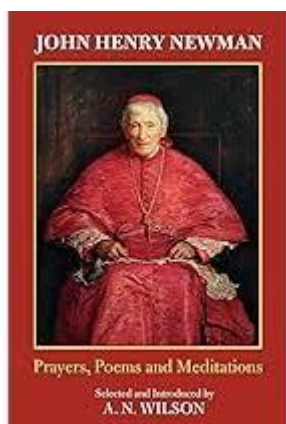
St John Henry Newman, Doctor of the Church

‘Heart speaks to heart’, Newmans armorial motto

By Valery Cowley & Fr Joe Grogan

Re-visiting Newman in order to write this article Eamon Duffy’s ‘John Henry Newman, A Very Brief History’ (SPCK, 2019) has been invaluable.

Educated at Trinity College, Oxford and later a Fellow of Oriel College, Newman became Vicar of the University Church of St Mary, 1828-1843. He had an Evangelical conversion in 1816 but rejected Calvinism and came to distrust tendencies to subjectivism as leading to unbelief. During 15 years of writing parochial and plain sermons, he realised that Christ’s incarnation, redemptive death and resurrection divinised human nature and so he became part of the Tractarian movement to re-catholicise the Anglican church, emphasising the importance of sacraments.



In October 1845 Newman was received into the Roman Catholic Church and was re-ordained priest. However, advocating that doctrine developed and changed led to him being suspected of heresy. Newman wrote ‘To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often’.

‘The Idea of a University’ advocated a liberal, practical education, with the laity as transmitters of Catholic truth. Newman’s model and patron was St Philip Neri and thus in 1849 he established a branch of the brotherhood of St Philip Neri at the Edgbaston

Oratory, now the site of Newman’s shrine.

‘The Apologia pro Vita Sua’ was Newman’s vindication, ‘a History of my Religious Opinions’, which continues in print. Newman fought extreme subservience to the papacy: ‘conscience first and the Pope afterwards’. Logic was inadequate as a basis for life-changing beliefs. Newman saw Rome as a continuation of the early Fathers: ‘The Fathers made me a Catholic’. Christ was God made man, ‘who is a seeing, feeling, contemplating, acting animal’. Rome’s temporal power was repudiated.

Conscience was 'the aboriginal Vicar of Christ'. Newman wanted to give Catholic scholars room to explore and resolve issues of freedom and intellectual integrity.

Eventually made a Cardinal in 1879, Newman wrote poetry and novels, notably 'Loss and Gain', the story of a convert. Newman is best known to those using The English Hymnal as the author of 'Lead Kindly Light' and the two choruses from "The Dream of Gerontius", 'Firmly I believe and truly', the final statement sung by the dying 'old man' entering Purgatory, and 'Praise to the Holiest'.

Father Joe writes:

When Elgar was approached to write a sacred work for the Birmingham Triennial Festival in 1900, he had a major project in mind, a setting of Newman's epic *The Dream of Gerontius*; however, Elgar feared this project would be too catholic but was reassured by the festival directors.



It was a project Elgar had been wanting to do for around a decade, but he had fears about such a public declaration of his Roman Catholic faith; this was possibly exacerbated by his father's view that all religious affiliation was deeply troubling. But some say this risk was precisely what he needed to invest in so personally and deeply. Elgar wrote to his publisher saying, "I have written it out of my inmost inside" and again to a close friend, "I have written my own heart's blood into the score". Once he had finished, he inscribed at the top of the score "A.M.D.G" (*Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*, "To the greater glory of God"); whilst this is also the motto of the Society of Jesus, it had nothing to do with them, but instead, it echoed the inscription Bach would put on his sacred works, that it was for God and for no other.

When 'Gerontius' was finally premiered, it was a public disaster, despite Elgar's publisher having declared it a work of genius upon first seeing the manuscript. Expectations were high after his recent successes, such as the *Enigma Variations* and *Sea Pictures*.

The premiere was not without its own problems. One such was the chorus master dying, leaving the choral parts only half learnt. At a rehearsal shortly before the premiere, Elgar had some unusually stern words for the chorus, particularly after

hearing the fiendishly difficult double fugue of the Demons' Chorus, "The whole colour is Gone". Rather than the furious taunting the chorus should have sounded like, it was "like a ballad in a drawing room".

Elgar was so mortified and upset after the poor reception of his heart's work that it felt like an attack on his beliefs. He wrote, "I have allowed my heart to open once - it is now shut again against every religious feeling, of every soft, gentle impulse forever".

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'Apologia pro Vita Sua', various editions.

'Loss and Gain', various editions.

Ian Bradley, 'The Penguin Book of Hymns', pbk Penguin 1990.

'An Annotated Anthology of Hymns', edited with commentary by J R Watson, pbk OUP 2003.



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Help wanted....Help wanted....Help wanted...Help wan

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!



Meanwhile in America.....



Contributed by Jack Sheen

Diary of a Church Mouse

By John Betjeman

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes... it's rather odd.

This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's seat),
 And prosperous mice from fields away
 Come in to hear our organ play,
 And under cover of its notes
 Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
 Am too papistical, and High,
 Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
 To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year through,
 Must share my food with rodents who
 Except at this time of the year
 Not once inside the church appear.
 Within the human world I know
 Such goings-on could not be so,
 For human beings only do
 What their religion tells them to.
 They read the Bible every day
 And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's own house,
 But all the same it's strange to me
 How very full the church can be
 With people I don't see at all
 Except at Harvest Festival.

www.allpoetry.com

Curate's Corner

By Fr. Joe Grogan



With all the wonderful weather we have been having of late, I have spent much time sitting in my garden, often under the parasol to avoid the worst of the sun, as I work away with emails, planning, or even just studying, it always reminds me of one of the old Carols which I love but is rarely sung *King Jesus has a Garden, full of diverse flowers*. As some of you may know by now, I am a very keen gardener. Often, my keenness far exceeded my ability.

And just as I have many times this month, I am sitting in my garden as I write this. But as I sit here, I wonder what I can talk about. Having only moved in a matter of months ago, there is very little in my garden at present; however, I am very proud of the few small dahlias I have, which are producing excellent colours and are covered in flowers.

As I mused on these lovely flowers, I was struck with a small thought. A little link to what has been going on in church recently, seen through our readings and our feasts. I promise that as you read on, it will make sense.

Dahlias were originally cultivated as a food source, primarily for their tubers, rather than for their ornamental value or variety of flowers. Much like potatoes, this was certainly the case for the Aztecs, and they are still used today in some dishes in South America. Even though they were a food source, they also had many other properties and uses; hollow stems could be used for transporting water, they can be used as a food flavour, a medicine (before insulin, diabetes was treated with Dahlias!), and even a substitute for coffee, although if anyone tries to replace my coffee with this I will be rather upset.

This change in use through history got me thinking about the recent feasts we have had, thinking about the transformation and the change of Jesus that the disciples saw on a mountain. The Assumption of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary, as she was changed and taken up to heaven. And many of our readings throughout August have been thinking about the change required in us to be prepared for when it is our time to be taken into heaven.

One of the lovely things about change is how it doesn't change us into something we are not. Like the myth of changing lead into Gold, it physically can not change

nature, but rather change, develops or grows something that was always there. One example that we can use to think about this sort of change is a dahlia; they always had flowers, but now we see something different in them, we see an ornamental flower that beautifies our homes, gardens, and parks, rather than seeing them as a food source or means of transporting water.

In my last article, I mentioned that Terry Pratchett was one of my favourite authors; I failed to mention that I have a deep love of C.S. Lewis too. One thing I particularly love about C.S. Lewis is his vivid analogies and allegories, which have often helped me to understand ideas and concepts. None quite so remarkable, in my opinion, as the ones found in *Mere Christianity*. In that work, C.S. Lewis, gives a way to think about change.



“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

Change can be scary, change can be painful, it can be joyful, we may understand it, we may not. But what we need to remember is that God changes us; He transforms us into the people He wants us to be, even if we cannot understand it.

So over the next few weeks and months, why don't you think about how God can change you, what new things can you offer in the Garden of the kingdom of heaven? Maybe helping with something at church, maybe offering five minutes a day to pray for the world around us, maybe it's simply saying Good morning to those you meet each day.

With every blessing,

Fr. Joe

The Martinmas Fayre!

By Miranda Reading

It's that time of the year again! Time for the Martinmas Fayre! It will be held on 15th November from 10.30 am to 2.30pm.

The Fayre is an opportunity for everybody in the church to come and work together to produce an enjoyable day and also to raise much needed funds.



Once again, our Fayre will be sponsored by the generosity of Coopers Estate Agents. They have provided the first prize for the raffle – a £150 Waitrose voucher – and will be helping us to advertise the Fayre through their signboards. We are very grateful to them for their support.

A number of people have come forward to do stalls and there have been other offers of help but there is still room for new ideas.

There will be a need for a lot of help setting up on the 14th and clearing up after the Fayre on the 15th so if you are able, please offer your help!

The Martinmas Fayre will be a success with all of your support.

We would be grateful for any donations for the tombola, raffle, auction or bric-a-brac stalls including:

- Wine, spirits and beer
- Chocolate, sweets, boxes of biscuits
- Packaged gifts
- Nearly new toys, games, Books
- DVD's and CD's

Please kindly leave all donations in the donation box in the church hall foyer or with Gill Dargue in the office.

Also on the day we would be grateful for donations for the cake stall Homemade cakes, scones, cookies, biscuits and sweets or any preserves of jam, marmalade or pickles!

There will be a raffle with tickets being sold on the day and two weeks before at Thursday lunches and after the masses on a Sunday. There will also be a silent auction. Any donations of prizes for these would be appreciated.

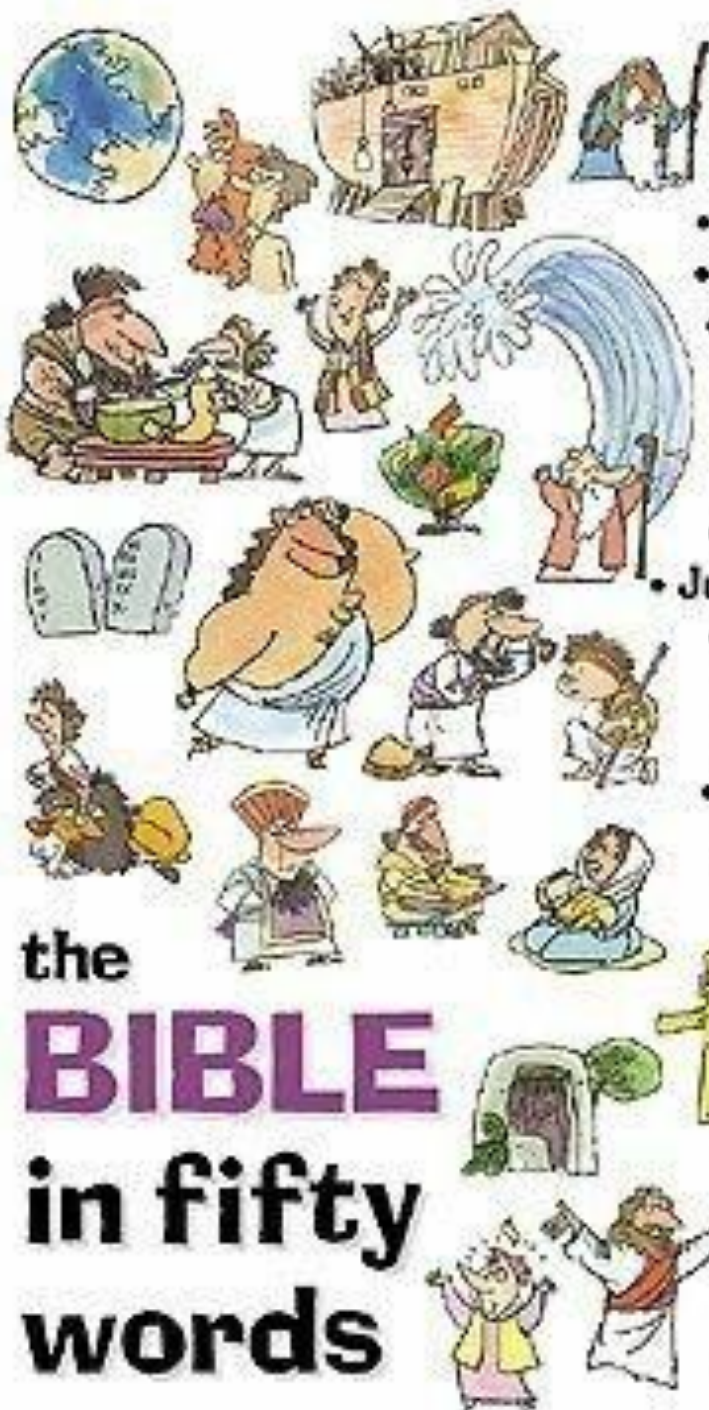
Refreshments will be available. This will be a cash only event.

Alison Cummins is leading the organisation of the Fayre so if you would like to offer your time to help on a stall or set up on Friday 14th November and/or help clear up on Saturday after the Fayre please e mail her on alisoncummins@live.co.uk or call or text her on 07702 839793.



So please put the date in your diary and tell your friends, family and neighbours!

We look forward to seeing you there!



- God Creates
- Adam Ate
- Noah Floats
- Abraham's Oath
- Jacob Schemes
- Joseph Dreams
- Bush Lit
- Sea Split
- Law Spoken
- Tablets Broken
- Judges Appointed
- Kings Anointed
- God Forgotten
- Rulers Rotten
- Kingdom Broke
- Prophets Hope
- Mary Favored
- Baby Savior
- Crucified
- Jesus Died
- Third Morn
- World Reborn
- Spirit Glows
- Love Grows
- Earth Awaits
- God Creates...

the
BIBLE
in fifty
words

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Contributed by Pawprint

Where are.....? By Janet Tippetts

Even if you have been coming to St Martin's for years, have you spotted the following things?

- 1) The 'Wild Man of the Woods', his face like a leaf with two further leaves sprouting from his mouth: an ancient fertility symbol often called the Green Man.
- 2) The angel with two left feet.
- 3) A memorial to a member of the aristocracy who defended her castle while her husband was fighting for King Charles I during the English Civil War. It was only taken during the third siege, said to be due to treachery.
- 4) A memorial to a Mother who had four sons, all named individually, and 'six daughters' (unnamed). I think the woman deserved a knighthood to raise ten children.
- 5) The only remaining fragment of medieval stained glass in this church
- 6)
 - a. a pigeon
 - b. two eagles
 - c. two doves
 - d. a goose
 - e. two devils
 - f. flowers – a lily of the valley and a Madonna lily.
 - g. two St Christophers
- 7) Father Christmas

Answers in the next edition of Outlook!



Rowland's Farewell Party

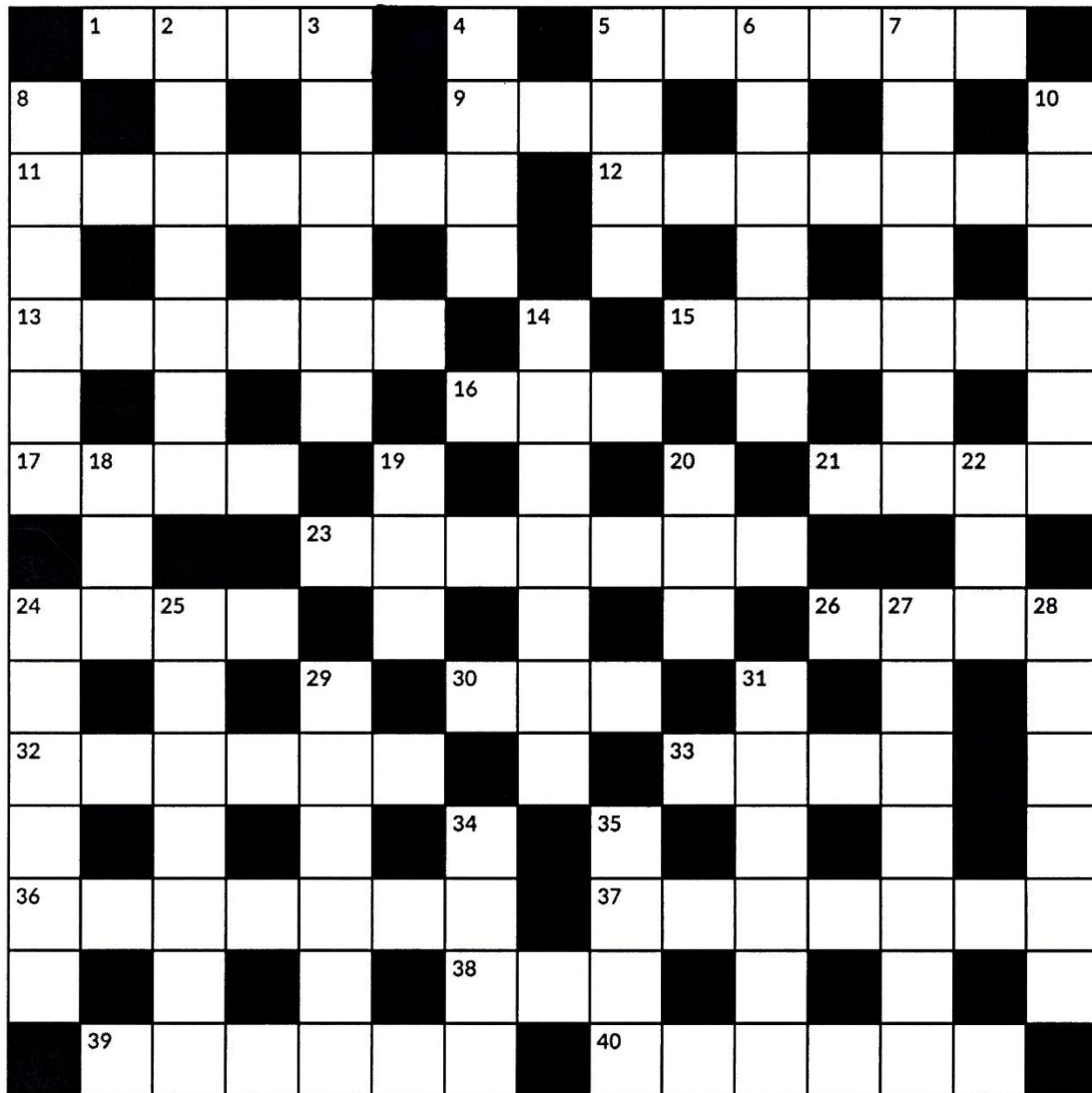
On Sunday the 27th of July, we said goodbye to Rowland Linder who has been our Parish intern for the past year. An outdoor party was held and Social Committee excelled themselves by producing cocktails! We are all very grateful to Rowland for the hard work she has done during the year and her bright presence among us will be missed. Please pray for her as she starts her new role as a Parish Assistant in Hanwell.



Photos by Alison Rollin.

St Martin's Crossword

By Jude



Across

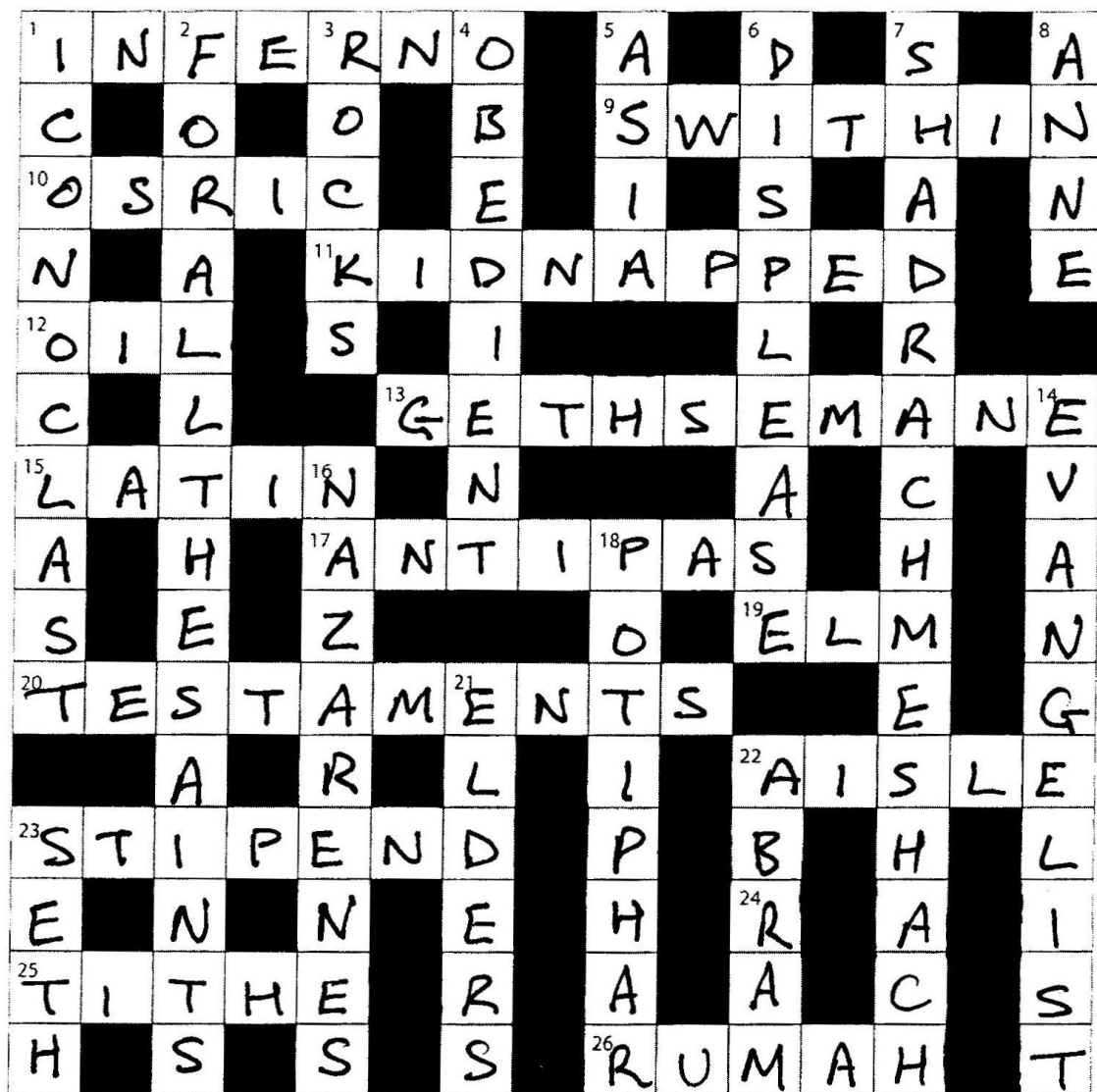
1. Fifth book of the New Testament. (4)
5. Old Testament character whose donkey spoke to him. *Num.* 22-24 (6)
9. First woman. (3)
11. Sayings attributed to Jesus but not found in the Canonical Gospels. (7)
12. Cecil Blount __, American director-producer of epic films including 'The Ten Commandments', 'The King of Kings' and 'The Sign of the Cross'. (7)
13. Container for 37 Across. (6)
15. Minor prophet, whose prophesies called for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. (6)
16. Son of Noah, father of Canaan. (3)
17. Dull pain. (4)
21. Benjamin's portion was __ times larger than his brothers'. *Gen* 43:34 (4)
23. With 3 down, A Church feast! (6, 6)
24. Domed semi-circular recess in a Church, typically containing the altar. (4)
26. "Doth the __ fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?" *Job* 39:26 (4)
30. Noah's construction. (3)
32. Jeremiah's secretary; the Book of __ is included in the Apocrypha. *Jer.* 32:13 (6)
33. With 29 Down, partition between the chancel and the nave of a church. (4,5)
36. More of 3 Down! (7)
37. Material used to produce a fragrant odor when burned, typically in a religious ceremony. (7)
38. Assyrian king to whom King Menahem of the Israelites paid a tribute of silver. *2 Kings* 15:19 (3)
39. In Hinduism, physical postures to aid meditation. (6)
40. Jacob dreamt of one that lead to Heaven. (6)

Down

2. Southern Greece city in which Paul stayed on his second missionary journey. (7)
3. See 23 Across. (6)
- 4 "He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the __" (1662 Book of Common Prayer) (4)
5. Author of "The Ecclesiastical History of the English People", c. AD 731 (4)
6. Festival celebrating the first fruits of the harvest with a loaf of bread. (6)
7. *Miserere* by Italian composer Gregorio __ is a setting of Psalm 51. (7)
8. Easter, especially in the Orthodox Church. (6)
10. Member of the priestly tribe of Israel. (6)
14. Site of Jesus' crucifixion. (7)
18. "And He took the __ and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it." (3)
19. Son of Jacob and Zilpha, founder of one of the twelve tribes. (3)
20. Third king of Judah, he reigned for 41 years, promoting true worship and removing idols. *1 Kings* 15:9-24 (3)
22. Solemn promise. (3)
24. Head of a community of nuns. (6)
25. Highest-ranking celestial beings. (7)
27. In music, moderately slow tempo. (7)
28. 'And the Lord said unto Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" And he said, "I know not. Am I my brother's __?"' *Gen.* 4:9 (6)
29. See 33 Across. (6)

31. "As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They _ him to carry his cross." *Matt. 27:32* (6)
34. "He shall suck the poison of _; the viper's tongue shall slay him." *Job 20:16 KJV* (4)
35. The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not _ . (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 November 2025.

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

Word Search

T	R	H	T	U	R	T	U
C	L	O	O	H	C	S	S
O	S	N	L	E	A	R	N
M	U	E	P	E	U	R	T
F	S	S	E	L	I	M	S
O	E	T	E	R	A	H	S
R	J	Y	G	O	D	E	T
T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R

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. The theme is ‘Friendship’.

Comfort, God, Honesty, Jesus, Learn, Real, Respect, School, Share, Smiles, Together, True, Truth

Credit: Albino
<https://www.christianbiblereference.org>

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 fulness' (John 10:10).



Welcome to your regular update from BWI Primary School!

It is my privilege to return as Head of School here at BWI, with Mrs Hale leaving us to go on maternity leave. The relationship between our school and the community of St Martin's is an important part of what makes BWI a warm and supportive place where every child can thrive.

It has been such a joy to welcome all of our children back after the summer break, as well as extending a very warm welcome to our new Reception children and to those joining our 2-year-old and 3-year-old nursery provision. Already, the children have been settling into their new classrooms, taking part in their Forest School activities, learning new skills at community club and making the most of our newly designed digging and construction area in the playground.



We are really looking forward to the busy and exciting term ahead, with highlights including our annual Fireworks evening on 9th November 2025 – always such special events in our school community. Please look out for our promotional boards around the local area or the upcoming events on our website.

As always, we remain dedicated to providing a nurturing Christian environment overflowing with love, joy and peace, so that all our children flourish academically, socially and spiritually.



Our blessings and prayers to all the community at St Martin's,

Mrs Rodenas

www.bwicofe.co.uk

St Martin's Church

Parish Directory

VICAR	Rev Dr Robert Chapman	13 Eastcote Road, Ruislip HA4 8BE. Tel: 01895 633040 Frrobertbchapman@gmail.com
CURATE	Fr. Joe Grogan	Tel: 07505 477203 fr.joe.grogan@gmail.com
ASSOCIATE	Fr Michael Bedford	Tel: 020 8866 4332 Mabedford07cr@gmail.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	Vacancy	
WARDENS	Jacqueline Alderton	Tel: 07944 878203
	Peter Golby	Tel: 07908 408108 pgolby@live.co.uk

PCC Secretary	Catherine Tugnait	Tel: 07902 613854
PCC Treasurer	Danny Dartnail	Tel: 07932 604042
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 (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 Welcome	Mary Coulthurst	c/o Parish Office
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

PARISH OFFICE	Gill Dargue	stmartinsruislip@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	Fr. Robert Chapman & Alan Seymour	Frrrobertbchapman@gmail.com
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 October/November issue to MirandaAtStMartins@gmail.com by 16th November 2025.

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

Outlook is published every other month. The next edition will be December/January 2025/26.



WWW.HOMEINSTEAD.CO.UK/RUISLIPANDHARROW

HOW ELDERLY CARE AT HOME CAN SLOW THE PROCESS DOWN

01895 624 230

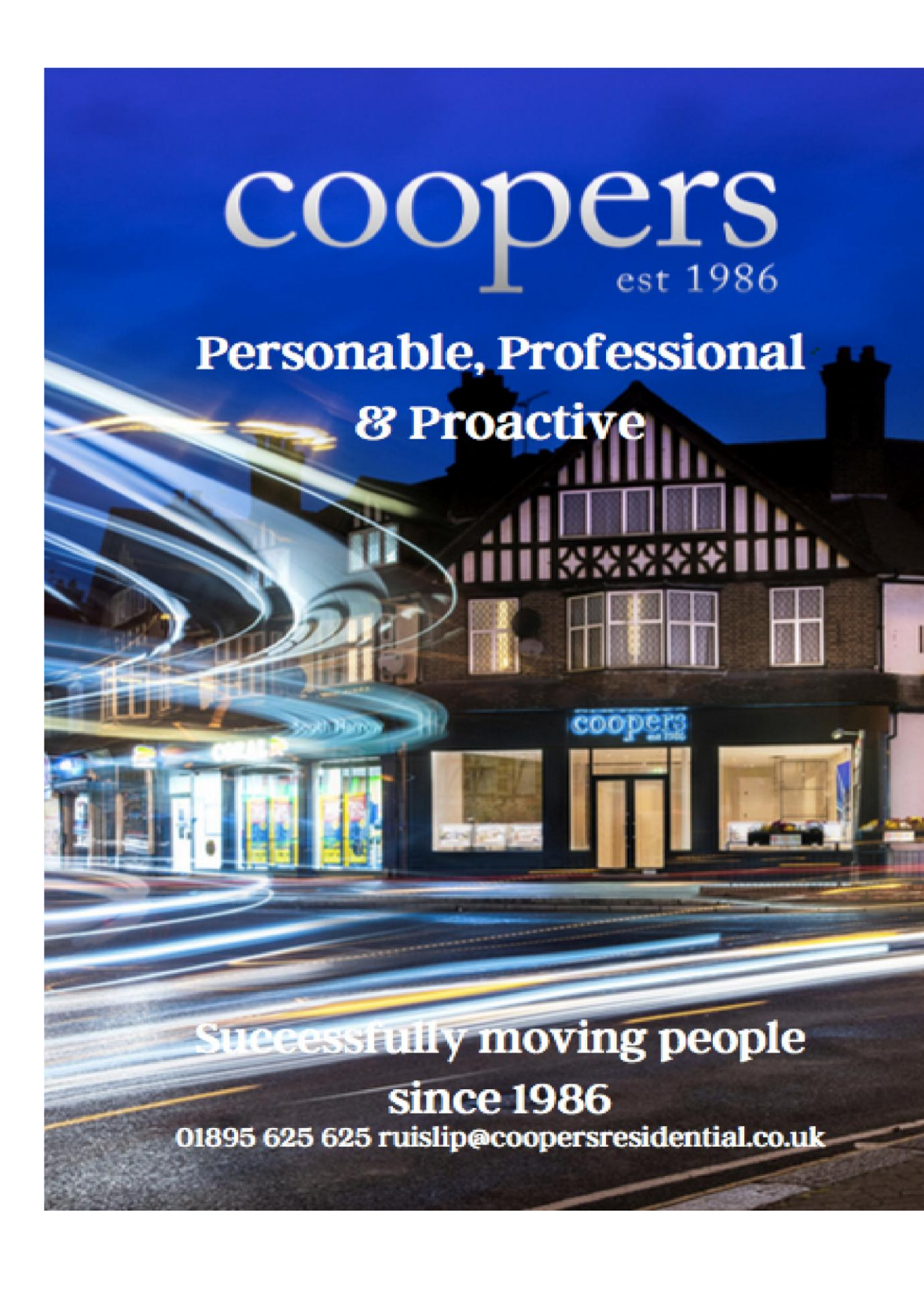
PLEASE CALL US TO BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

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.

The background of the advertisement is a long-exposure photograph of a street at night. On the right, a traditional Tudor-style building with dark timber framing and white plaster is visible. The ground floor of this building houses a 'coopers' residential branch, with its name illuminated in blue above the entrance. To the left of the Tudor building is a modern, curved structure with glass panels and interior lights. Light trails from passing vehicles create vibrant streaks of white and yellow across the lower half of the image. The sky is a deep, clear blue.

coopers

est 1986

**Personable, Professional
& Proactive**

**Successfully moving people
since 1986**

01895 625 625 ruislip@coopersresidential.co.uk