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Welcome* February/March 2026

**THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARTIN'S WEST DRAYTON**

# Challenge

May all who enter the Church find the peace of Christ and feel welcome.



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## *From the Vicar, the Revd Rosy Barrie*

A recent survey stated that a noticeable proportion of children are not 'book ready' when they begin school: they are not familiar with books and don't know how they work. This struck me as very sad, as books and reading were always my happy place as a child. It was a great treat when my sister and I were taken to the library, even though in those days it was strictly Silence! and, compared to now, the choice of children's books was small. My parents prized books, and I in my turn came to think of my books as friends.

This year has been designated as the National Year of Reading: Go All In (you can read about this on-line). The simple aim is to encourage all of us to read more, to enjoy reading, and to be enriched by reading. Reading has many positive benefits, such as helping us to understand the world, become more creative, curious and confident. It expands our minds, helps us to explore our emotions and to gain an insight into people whose experience of life is very different from ours. We can lose ourselves in a book, be it a novel, history, a life story, about classic cars, or recipes, and come back to reality refreshed.

We have a church library, and anyone is welcome to borrow anything. We are fortunate to have a public library in West Drayton, and I hope we will make good use of that opportunity. Perhaps we should remember it is a privilege to be free to choose what we read: many oppressive regimes, past or present, seek to restrict reading, they burn or ban books.

Of course at the centre of our faith is a collection of books, the Holy Bible. In the past people learnt to read using the King James Bible, and it still remains a popular translation. Not to be sniffed at are children's Bibles, which can, in simpler English, help us understand the flow of the Bible, and to use our imaginations to enter into the Bible stories. I believe that if we read the Bible frequently, ideally daily, we will find many positive benefits. It will encourage and stretch our faith, guide our footsteps in new directions and bring us hope and joy. May we make Bible reading part of the pattern of our days, and prize with thankfulness that holy book which we are fortunate enough to be able to hold.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Ash Wednesday** 18 Feb at 6.30pm, Sung Eucharist with the opportunity to receive ashes as together we begin our journey through Lent

**Confirmation** 22 Feb at 10.15am with the Bishop of Willesden

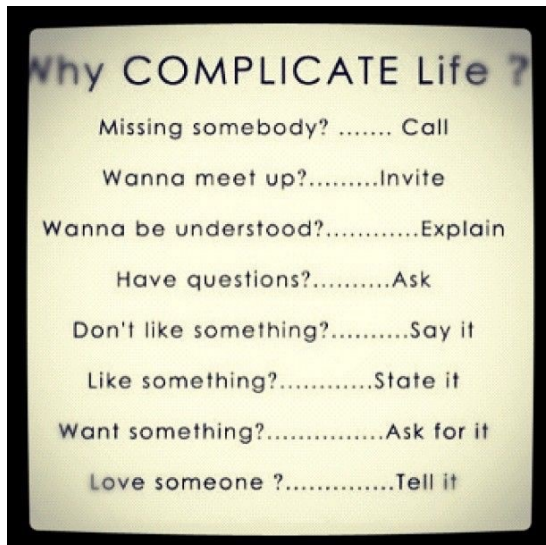
**Still Waters** Saturday 28 Feb at 4.30pm See poster for more details.

**Mothering Sunday** 15 March at 10.15am, Sung Eucharist

**Still Waters** Saturday 28 March at 4.30pm

**Palm Sunday** 29 March at 10.15am, Sung Eucharist with Palms  
*Summer time begins. Don't forget to put your clock forward one hour*

**Save the Date! Saturday 6 June Summer Fair**



# PRAYER PAGE

ity  
O come, let us sing unto the LORD:  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,  
and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.  
For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all  
gods. In his hands are the deep places of the earth:  
the strength of the hills is his also.  
O come, let us worship and bow down:  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.  
For he is our God; and we are the  
sheep of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.  
ur!  
Today if ye will hear his voice,  
harden not your heart... (Psalm 95)



O my God, fill my soul with holy joy,  
and the courage and strength to serve you.  
Kindle your love in me and then walk with me  
on the next stretch of the road before me.  
I do not see very far ahead,  
but when I have arrived  
at the point where the horizon closes down,  
a new prospect will open before me,  
and I shall meet it with peace. Amen.  
(Edith Stein)



Make me more like the lark: singing because it is morning;  
like the deer: leaping for the joy of being alive;  
like the dolphin: taking life playfully;  
like the seabird: trusting the power of the invisible.  
(A Child's 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Prayers, Lois Rock)

St Martin's Parish Church,  
Church Road, West Drayton  
[www.stmartinwestdrayton.org.uk](http://www.stmartinwestdrayton.org.uk)

## Mini Martins (MMs)



All ages from toddlers to teenagers  
are most welcome

to meet in our church hall for a  
Bible Story and craft activity at 10.15am  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

**February 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**



# ST MARTIN'S CHURCH IS OPEN FOR WORSHIP ON

## **Sundays 10.15am - Sung Eucharist**

*all ages are welcome.*

**Mini Martins Club** (*for toddlers to teenagers*)  
*meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month for a  
Bible story & a craft activity.*

## **Mondays 9.30 am - Morning Prayer**

a said service of Bible readings and prayer for about  
20 mins, all welcome.

## **Wednesdays 10-11am - Peace and Quiet Hour**

*Pop in and out any time to light a candle, sit, think, read, or  
pray.*

*Everyone of all Faiths or none are welcome to  
enter and enjoy the tranquility of this ancient holy place.*

## **Still Waters 4.30pm last Saturday of the month**

a time to be calm and reflective, using music, silence  
and some words from the Bible.

Anyone of any Faith or none is welcome.

**Holy Days** *as announced.*

“

A blink is like a teeny,  
tiny clap for your face.  
So even if no one else is  
cheering you on today,  
your eyelids are.

St Martin's Parish Church, West Drayton  
The ancient spiritual heart of West Drayton

# Still Waters

A time to be calm and reflective  
using music, silence and some  
words from the Bible

If this event appeals to you, do come along.  
Anyone of any Faith or none is  
Welcome here.



4.30 pm Saturday  
31 January, 28 February, 28 March

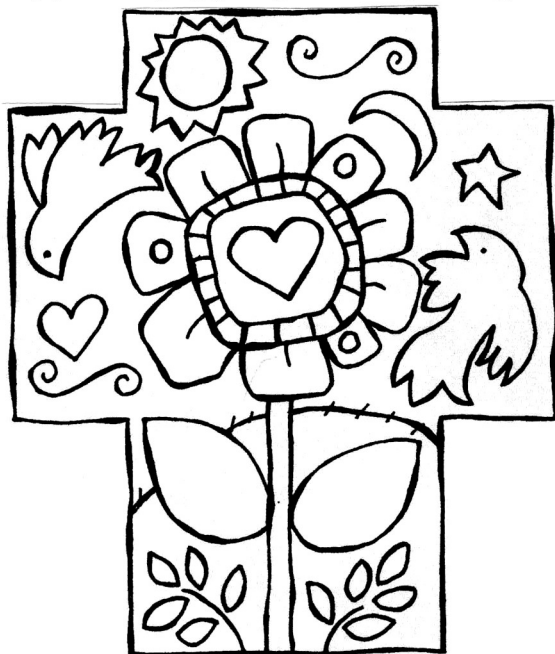
*St Martin's Parish Church, Church Road  
The ancient spiritual heart of West Drayton*

## *Ash Wednesday*

*18 February at 6.30pm*

### *Eucharist with Ashing and Music*

*The gift of a new start and the beginning of Lent,  
a 40 day journey of prayer, study and generosity.*



*You are Welcome here  
to worship or to sit in peace.*

During 2026, Arocha has provided us again with tips to be inspired throughout the year.

## **FEBRUARY**

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. You may find that without church heating you are already carbon fasting, but there is much more to this. If you sign up, beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at [climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/](https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/)

## **MARCH**

Take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13 - Sunday 29 March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. If London Borough of Hillingdon joins as a local authority (you can find out from 14 February), you can check if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it.

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean>

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email:

[arocha.org.uk/wild-christian](https://arocha.org.uk/wild-christian)

# Together in Lent: Looking at the Lord's Prayer.

Jesus gave us this prayer as a gift, to help us through life and to help us feel closer to his heavenly Father. Over Sunday coffee all are welcome to discuss the Lord's Prayer using resources from the Church of England's project *Faith in the North*.

You can also access them at home on-line:  
[Faithinthenorth.org/explore-the-lords-prayer](http://Faithinthenorth.org/explore-the-lords-prayer)

Sun March 1 *Our Father*

Sun March 8 *Three Hearty Praises*

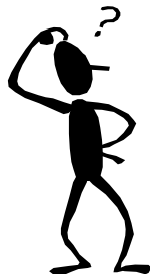
Sun March 15 *Three Humble Petitions*

Sun March 22 *Amen*



# COMMUNITY PAGE

# QUIZ



# NIGHT

**Saturday 11th April 2026**

**St Martins Church Hall  
Church Road, West Drayton**

**Quiz starts from 6.30pm.**

Tickets £10 per person including a Ploughman's Supper

Book teams in advance Julia Bennett  
on 07816 840029

Please bring your own drink, glasses and cutlery.

**(Note Teams of no more than 6 players please)**



St Martin's Church  
Church Road, West Drayton UB7 7PA

## COFFEE MORNING

Friday 20th March 2026

Friday 13th March 2026

Friday 10th April 2026

10 to 12 noon

**Come and Join us for a Coffee and  
a Chat in the Church Hall**





## Yiewsley & West Drayton Foodbank

Serving Yiewsley, West Drayton & the Heathrow Villages

Did you know it is possible to donate to our local foodbank in Church or at Tesco's in Yiewsley. A box sits in the Link between the Church and Hall where donations of food or toiletries can be placed and collected each week.

Similarly at Tesco's donations are collected by volunteers every Tuesday.

The local foodbank serves clients mainly from the UB7 area and the need for assistance continues to grow.

Volunteers are always needed so please speak with Doris if you or anyone you know may be interested.

Thank you for all your support.





**Why do we close our eyes  
when we pray? When we cry?  
When we dream? Or when  
we kiss? Because we know  
that the most beautiful things  
in life are not seen, but felt by  
heart.**



## Hall Activities

### Monday

Community Payback  
09:00—16:00

Flower Club  
Every other Monday

Tae Kwondo 17:45 - 19:15

### Tuesday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00

Craft Group 13:30—15:30

### Wednesday

Irish Dance 19:00 - 21:00

WI Craft Group 14:00 –16:00  
1st Wednesday of the Month

History Society 14:00 - 15:30  
(Last Wednesday of the  
Month)

### Thursday

WI 14:00 - 16:00  
3rd Thursday of the Month


AA 7-10pm

### Friday

Tae Kwondo 17:30 - 20:30

### Saturday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00



Items for inclusion in the April 26 issue of Challenge must be with the Editor by Sunday 22nd March 2026 Items not received by this date will, if appropriate, be included in the next issue.

Email: [stmartinschurch@live.co.uk](mailto:stmartinschurch@live.co.uk)

# FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

*Laid to rest in our Churchyard*

*Lisa Twitchen*

*May she rest in peace, and rise in glory,  
and may God console all those who mourn her passing*





## WHO'S WHO

<b>VICAR</b>	Rev Rosy Barrie rosybarrie1@btinternet.com	01895 442194
Church Warden	Mark Stanley	01895 434949
Hall Bookings	Marie Tampin	07742 757377
PCC Secretary	William Fairchild	01895 434949
Stewardship	Julia Bennett & Mary Davie	01895 434949
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mary Davie & Ann Stephens	01895 434949
Mini Martin's	Uche Obi	01895 434949
Church Treasurer	Emeka Obi	01895 434949
Eco Champions	Ann Stephens and Astrid Weinmann	01895 434949
Editor of Challenge	Kevin Stephens	01895 434949
Flowers	Contact Pat via the Office	01895 434949



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Email: [smartinschurch@live.co.uk](mailto:smartinschurch@live.co.uk)

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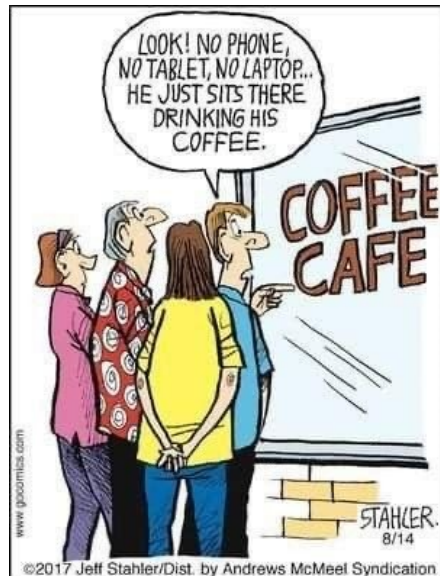
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