

**Donations
Welcome**

December/January 2023/4

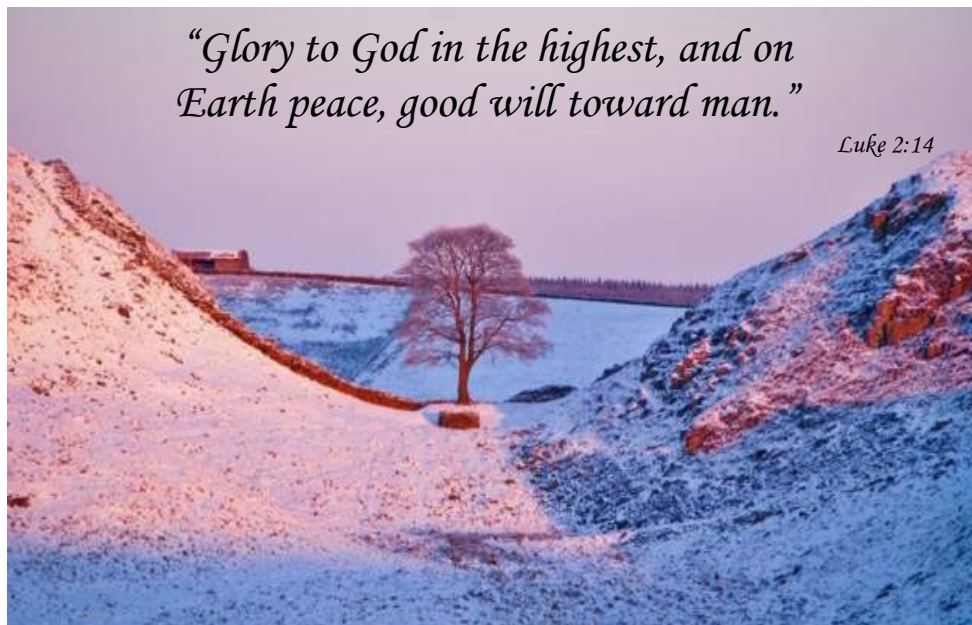
THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARTIN'S WEST DRAYTON

Challenge

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

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on
Earth peace, good will toward man."*

Luke 2:14



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joy 'n delight...
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be merry and bright!

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From the Vicar, the Revd Rosy Barrie

Did Herod have secret policemen as his ears and eyes and spies? Perhaps we need to rewind, and remind ourselves who Herod was – the ruler of Judea at the time of the birth of Jesus. Known as Herod the Great, he appears in Matthew's stories of the birth and infancy of Jesus and has a reputation for being cruel and ruthless. It is to Herod's court in Jerusalem that the Magi (wise men or kings) go, looking for the new born king of the Jews. They have followed a unique star that arose in the east, and now seek further guidance, which they accept from Jewish scriptures: they will find the child in Bethlehem as the prophet foretold. Assisted now by star and text, the Magi continue until they find the child, an overwhelmingly joyful experience. They remain as symbols of hope for all who struggle to God by strange routes, who wander the world until they find him. But back in his palace, Herod is agitated and angry, at this possible upstart who potentially could topple him or his heirs from the throne. With deceitful tongue, Herod had asked the Magi to return with the child's location. Their failure to do so leads to the massacre of the innocents, all infant baby boys in and around Bethlehem. Did Herod have secret police to commit such atrocities? The charity *Open Doors* (*serving persecuted Christians worldwide*) has produced a humorous and colourful Christmas book and video imagining there were secret police (opendoorsuk.org/herod). Secret Policeman Number 3 is sent to follow the Magi. Disguised as a shepherd, he disappears into the night. There's a twist in the end, as the policeman discovers finding this baby is a life changing event. Rather than betraying them to Herod, he offers to take Mary, Joseph and the baby to where they can cross the border into safety in Egypt without being seen. "How do you know the way?" asks Joseph. "I...used to be a secret policeman." "And what are you now?" "I don't know. Somebody different. Somebody better." This Christmas, encouraged by the example of the Magi, I hope that all of us will make coming to church our priority, that we might kneel and pay him homage and be filled with joy. I hope that we will come to church excited to be able to freely celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and leave as somebody different, somebody better. And I hope that we will remember to pray for our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters who must disappear into the night, but above whom, as for us, the bright star still shines.

Revd Rosy Barrie

Ever thought about renting out your spare room?

Did you know that if you did, you could be paid by the Council (via Housing Benefit).

And you can draw up a License agreement as a live in landlord, which sets out the house rules!

We have a number of single people in our congregation looking for accommodation, short term or for longer.

They would really appreciate having a place to stay. Interested in finding out more? Please speak to Revd Rosy.



@PEANUTSSPECIALS



PRAYER PAGE

A Celtic Christmas Chant

(This was sung in Gaelic probably as people moved from house to house.)

*Hail to the King, hail to the King,
blessed is he, blessed is he.*

*Blest be this house and all herein,
health and long life to all herein,
hail to the King, hail to the King,
blessed is he, blessed is he.*

*This is the night of Christ the King,
born is the Son of Mary pure,
hail to the King, hail to the King,
blessed is he, blessed is he.*

*The soles of his feet have reached the earth,
illuminated the sun on the mountains high,
hail to the King, hail to the King,
blessed is he, blessed is he.*

*He shone on the earth, he shone on the land,
shone on the wave as it beat on the shore,
hail to the King, hail to the King,
blessed is he, blessed is he.*



Man of the Night.

*I am the Gift, I am the Poor,
I am the Man of the Night,
I am the Son of God at your door,
asking gifts from you.*

*Bride the gentle cradled me,
Great Mary was my mother,
here I stand, and bear my cross,
open the door to me.*

*I see the hills, I see the shore,
and angels massed on high.*

*The dove of peace comes swiftly down,
bringing the word of love. 5*

St Martin's Parish Church,
Church Road, West Drayton
Mini Martins (MMs)



**All ages from toddlers to teenagers
are most welcome**

**to come to the church hall for
a Bible Story and craft activity
on Sunday mornings at 10.15am
2nd and 4th Sundays of the month**

***Come and join us
on Dec 10, Jan 14 & 28!***

***Please check our notice board or website for future dates
www.stmartinwestdrayton.org.uk***

WORSHIP AT CHRISTMAS TIDE

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME HERE



Christmas by Candlelight Sunday 10 Dec 4pm

*Christmas readings and music to listen to, carols to sing,
all in the magical softly lit atmosphere of this unique ancient church.*

Christmas Eve Sunday Dec 24

4.30pm Quiet Christmas

*A simple telling of the Christmas story, with some gentle Christmas carols.
An ideal moment to experience some peace in a busy time,
or to remember loved ones no longer with us.*

11.15pm Midnight Mass

A beautiful tranquil traditional service in candlelight with Christmas carols

Christmas Day Eucharist Monday Dec 25

10.15am Noisy Christmas!

Lots of music and singing as we joyfully celebrate Jesus' birthday!

Sunday Sung Eucharist 7 Jan 10.15am

The Feast of the Epiphany

*We tell the story of the visit of the Magi (or Wise Men or Three Kings)
to Jesus, remembering Jesus has come to bless all nations of the
world with God's peace.*

Lastest from Iran

Today, I discussed a critical and complex issue—the mass protests in Iran in November 2019, a chapter that significantly impacted the nation's history.

One noteworthy action during these protests was the nationwide shutdown of the internet, restricting access to information and communications. Citizens faced numerous challenges in sharing protest-related images and information.

We also witnessed threatening text messages sent to citizens' mobile phones, urging them to disperse from gatherings—an effort to suppress and control the population.

The direct shooting of protesters using military-grade weapons was a distressing aspect, resulting in the death and injury of many demonstrators. Reports suggest that more than 1500 individuals lost their lives during these tragic events.

Forced confessions on television added to the distress, aiming to instill fear and control the flow of information.

In the face of such challenges, let us remember the words of Jesus Christ: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." This reminder calls upon us to seek justice, uphold human rights, and strive for a world where freedom and dignity prevail.

In conclusion, As we reflect on these events, let the memory of those who lost their lives in pursuit of justice and freedom remain cherished forever.

Thank you all for being here. I hope that, united, we can achieve clear and humane goals.

Dear Mrs Rosy and My Friends at ST Martin's Church
in West Drayton,

I have been asked to leave my current accomodation and
join the Bibby Stockholm Vessel where other refugees are
being sent. Today is my last day at St Martin's Church
and I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and
everyone of you. You helped me find my way in life and
my path to God. Even though I was a foreigner here and had
no one in this country, you accepted me as part of a family
and have stood by me and have helped me with kindness.
Whenever I go, I will remember you as family and hopefully once
I have my asylum application approved I will return to be with
you again. You taught me kindness and how to love others
and I thank God our paths crossed and I got to know
you all.

Kind Regards

Saeed Talare Sayed Ayaz



YIEWSLEY AND WEST DRAYTON BAND CAROLS ON THE GREEN

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

7:30-8:30PM



**BREWERY TAP COTTAGE
THE GREEN, WEST DRAYTON**

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The Editor's Christmas Quiz

- 1: Which Christmas song opens with the following lyrics, "Come they told me, Pa rum pum pum pum"?
- 2: In the song "Winter Wonderland", who can we pretend the snowman is?
- 3: The carol "Joy to the World" is based on which Psalm?
- 4: What is the name of the father of Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters ?
- 5: What is the name of Aladdin's brother ?
- 6: What is the most popular panto ?
- 7: In which year was the last English football league match played on Christmas Day?
- 8: Which England football manager was famous for his use of the "Christmas Tree" formation?
- 9: The Suppression of Unlawful Games Act of 1541 banned all sports in England on Christmas Day except for which one?
- 10: What was special about the Chelsea team that took the field against Southampton on 26th December 1999?
- 11: Which sporting event takes place in Hyde Park each Christmas Day over a course of 100 yards?
- 12: Often sung at New Year, who wrote "Auld Lange Syne"?
- 13: What was the title of the "B" side to 1985's "Do They Know It's Christmas"?
- 14: From which side of the stage do the "goodies" in a panto normally appear?
- 15: In which pantomime do Robin Hood and Maid Marion appear?
- 16: Holst wrote a well known tune to which Christmas Carol?
- 17: What is Jack's mother normally known as in Jack & the Beanstalk ?
- 18: In pantomime who is Princess Marcella ?
- 19: What told Dick Whittington to "turn again" ?
- 20: Which singer tried to trademark the name "The Queen of Christmas" in 2022?



The Editor's Christmas Quiz



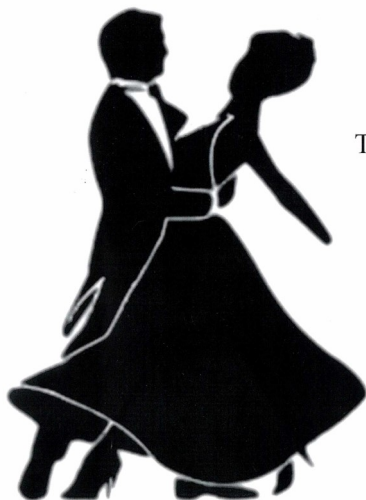
Christmas Dingbats

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	SENFRA N KSE		FIR _____ HERE HERE HERE
5	6	7	8
	+ OUTLET		NOE
9	10	11	12
Grrrr + 2.54cms	<u>Jingle</u> → ← <u>Jingle</u> <u>Jingle</u> → <small>END</small>	HORROR Dec 24th	
13	14	15	16
	EVE EVE EVE HOLLY HOLLY → CAROL	CARIBBEAN OFFSPRING HEY HI HELLO	CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS
17	18	19	20



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Lateral thinking puzzle

There are a dozen eggs in a carton. Twelve people each take a single egg, but there is one egg left in the carton. How?

Answer: The 12th person takes the egg and the carton, leaving the egg inside.



The Editor's Christmas Quiz Answers

1. ***Little Drummer Boy".***
2. ***Parson Brown.***
3. ***Psalm 98.***
4. ***Baron Hard-up.***
5. ***Wishee Washee.***
6. ***Cinderella.***
7. ***1965 (Blackpool vs Blackburn).***
8. ***Terry Venables.***
9. ***Archery.***
10. ***First starting line-up to contain no British players.***
11. ***The Serpentine Swimming Race (Peter Pan Cup).***
12. ***Robert Burns.***
13. ***Feed the World".***
14. ***Stage Right.***
15. ***Babes in the Wood.***
16. ***"In the Bleak Midwinter".***
17. ***Dame Trott.***
18. ***Sleeping Beauty.***
19. ***The Bells of London.***
20. ***Maria Carey.***

Christmas Dingbats Answers

- 1- Little Donkey
- 2 - Driving Home for Christmas
- 3 - Snowman
- 4 - Wrapping Paper
- 5 - Snowball
- 6 - Frankincense
- 7 - Tinsel
- 8 - Presents Under The Tree
- 9 - Festive Cheer
- 10 - Advent

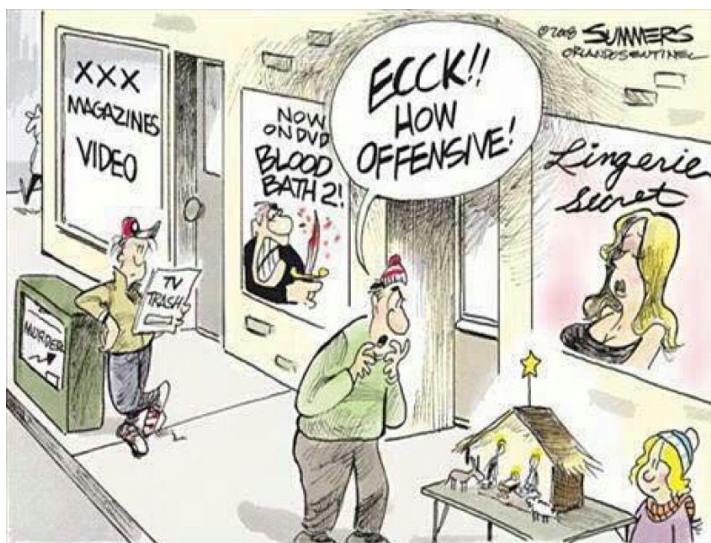
Round 2 - Christmas Movies

- 11- Home Alone
- 12- Noel or Noelle
- 13- The Grinch
- 14- Jingle all the Way
- 15- The Nightmare Before Christmas
- 16- Jack Frost
- 17- The Nutcracker
- 18- A Christmas Carol
- 19- Season's Greetings
- 20 - Last Christmas



when
you
CHOOSE
joy

You feel good
& when you feel
good, YOU do good
& when YOU do good
it Reminds others
of what joy feels like
& it just♥
might inspire
them to do
the same.



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

COFFEE MORNING

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

Friday 15th December 2023

Friday 19th January 2024

Friday 16th February 2024

10 to 12 noon

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 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for a
Bible story & a craft activity.*

Mondays 9.30 am - Morning Prayer

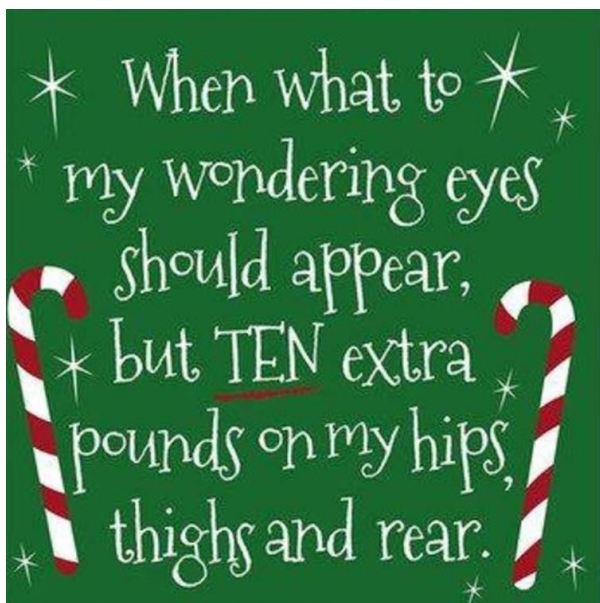
a short time of Bible readings and prayer, all welcome.

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.*

Holy Days *as announced.*



Hall Activities

Monday

Tae Kwondo 17:45 - 19:15

Tuesday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00
Drama Group 16:00 - 18:30

History Society 19:30 - 21:00
Christmas Social
5th December
(Last Tuesday of the Month)

Craft Group 13:30—15:30

Wednesday

Irish Dance 19:00 - 21:00

Thursday

WI 14:15 - 16:15
3rd Thursday of the Month
(16th June & 21st July)

AA 7-10pm

Friday

Tae Kwondo 17:30 - 20:30

Saturday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00

Items for inclusion in the February/March issue of Challenge must be with the Editor by Sunday 21st January 2024 Items not received by this date will, if appropriate, be included in the next issue.
Email: stmartinschurch@live.co.uk

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Bill Brazil, 17 October 2023

LAIID TO REST

Michael Lee, 29 October 2023

*We give thanks for their lives and continue
to pray for those who mourn their passing.*

*May the
Miracle of
Christmas
fill your heart
with joy.*



WHO'S WHO

VICAR	Rev Rosy Barrie rosybarrie1@btinternet.com	01895 442194
Church Wardens	Yvonne Barrabas	01895 434949
Hall Bookings	Marie Tampin	07742 757377
PCC Secretary	William Fairchild	01895 434949
Stewardship	Julia Bennett & Mary Davie	01895 851269
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



PARISH OFFICE

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