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Welcome* February/March 2024

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARTIN'S WEST DRAYTON

Challenge

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



*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us
our sins, and to cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9,*

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From the Vicar, the Revd Rosy Barrie

Some days I hear the world news and don't quite know what to do with the information: it's all so upsetting. Sadly this is nothing new: each generation throughout history has had to deal with heart stopping bad news, the consequences of choices made, the fall out of human cruelty. We see this long ago in the Bible. Take the prophet Ezekiel as an example. After the capture of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BC he was one of the Jewish exiles forced from their homeland. Despite all the news being bad, and life bitterly hard, he was a man of deep faith and imagination, who heard the voice of the LORD and saw visions, including one of a valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37). Ezekiel sees very many very dry human bones scattered over the landscape, symbolic of how God's people feel: dried up, with no hope and no future. But then the LORD tells him to speak, and with a great rattling the bones begin to reconnect and to be re-fleshed. Finally God's breath fills these bodies, and they come to life and stand up. Ezekiel is given the message that however dreadful, desperate and dry life is, there is always the promise of new life, energy and a different future, because God is always present, and where God is, there life can burst out and flourish again, especially when people soften stubborn hearts and choose to be obedient to God.

There is an echo of this in the message of Easter Day, when God raises his Son from the dead. How much greater is the resurrection of Jesus, even than a vision of rising bones, for it happens as a reality in our human world. Those who saw in despair Jesus cruelly crucified encounter him gloriously alive again, he breathes into their broken bodies, and a new unexpected life for the community of his friends begins.

As we travel through the dusty desert rocky road of Lent and into the spring time of Easter, may we discover this for ourselves: God's new energy, new breath, and a new future, for us and for others.

Revd Rosy Barrie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ash Wednesday 14 Feb 6.30pm Sung Eucharist with Ashing
This is the beginning of the Season of Lent. Watch and Pray is the Church of England's Lent theme. You can pick up a daily reflections booklet in church or access resources on cofe.io/watchAndPray

Mothering Sunday 10 March 10.15am Sung Eucharist

Palm Sunday 24 March 10.15 Sung Eucharist with Palms

Maundy Thursday 28 March 6.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday 29 March Noon-2pm Church open for private silent prayer and reflection, 2.15 we Worship together with hymns and music

Easter Sunday 31 March 10.15 Sung Eucharist followed by an Easter egg hunt for children *Don't forget! Summer time begins today*

Summer Fair Saturday 8 June

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralysed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.



PRAYER PAGE

Make in us new and contrite hearts, O God,
that we may turn our money
into bread for our neighbour
as we journey towards Easter, and
prepare to kneel at the foot of the cross.
(From the charity USPG)



*The lamps of our souls will no more burn out:
the flame of grace, divine and spiritual,
burns in the body and soul,
nourished by the resurrection of Christ...*

*We beg you, O Christ, Lord God,
eternal king of the spiritual world,
stretch out your protecting hands
over your holy Church and over your holy people,
defend them, keep them, preserve them...*

*Raise up your standard over us and
grant that we may sing with Moses
the song of victory, for yours
is the glory, and the power, for all eternity!
(Easter hymn, Hippolytus of Rome)*

God is waking the world again
new green leaves are growing.
God is waking the world again
warmer winds are blowing.
God is waking the world again
springtime flowers are growing.
(Lois Rock)



*The pessimist
complains
about the wind.*

*The optimist
expects
it to change.*

*The leader
adjusts the sails.*

- John Maxwell



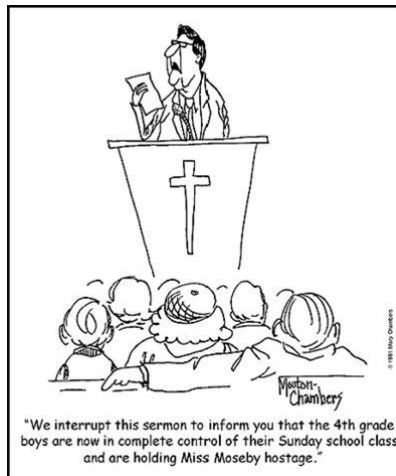
Mini Martins (MMs)



**All ages from toddlers to teenagers
are most welcome
to meet in our church hall for a
Bible Story and craft activity at
10.15 am on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month**

Come and join us on

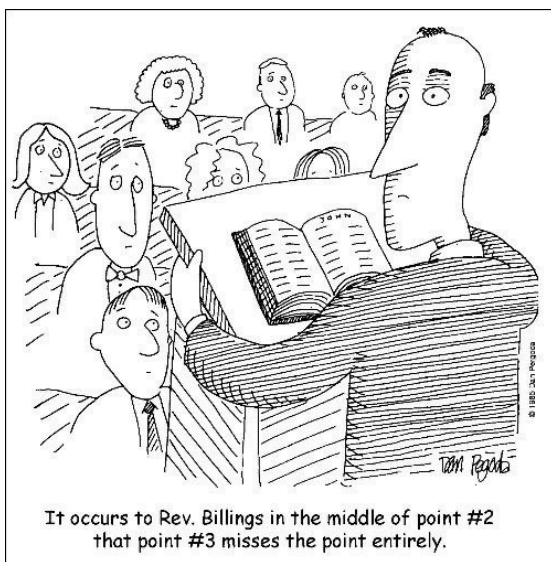
February 11 & 25, March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28



A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2024 Calendar Welcome to A Rocha UK's tips for a prayerful approach to looking after our earth! For the next six editions, every Challenge is going to contain tips. We hope you enjoy them; let Eco Champions Ann Stephens or Astrid Weinmann know if anything inspires you in respect of our church life.

FEBRUARY Go green for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living? Explore some of these changes at arocha.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

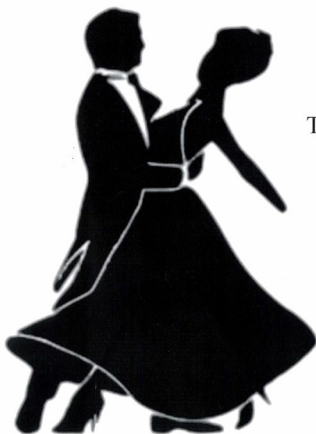
MARCH Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/



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Lateral thinking puzzle

Six pieces of coal, a carrot, and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn but there is a perfectly logical reason why they should be there. What is it?



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

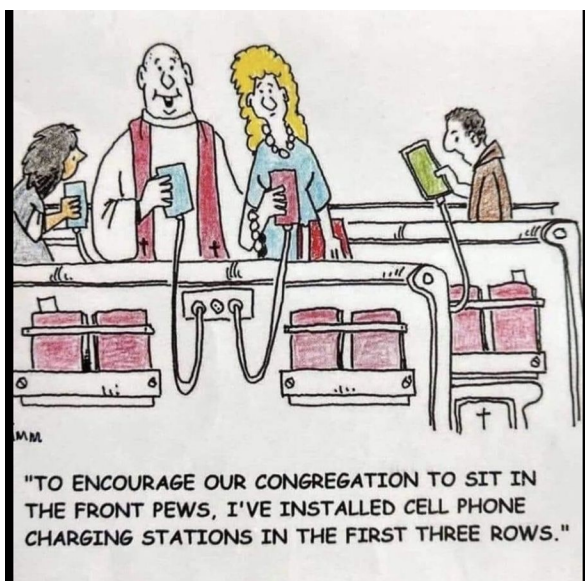
COFFEE MORNING

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

Friday 22nd March 2024

12th April 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

Craft Group 13:30—15:30

History Society 19:30 - 21:00
(Last Tuesday of the Month)

Wednesday

Irish Dance 19:00 - 21:00

Thursday

WI 14:15 - 16:15
3rd Thursday of the Month

Friday

Tae Kwondo 17:30 - 20:30

Saturday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00

Items for inclusion in the April/May issue of Challenge must be with the Editor by Sunday 24th March 2024. Items not received by this date will, if appropriate, be included in the next issue.

Email: stmartinschurch@live.co.uk

A Winter's Tale

D. H. Lawrence 1885-1930

Yesterday the fields were only grey with scattered snow,
And now the longest grass-leaves hardly emerge;
Yet her deep footsteps mark the snow, and go
On towards the pines at the hills' white verge.

I cannot see her, since the mist's white scarf
Obscures the dark wood and the dull orange sky;
But she's waiting, I know, impatient and cold, half
Sobs struggling into her frosty sigh.

Why does she come so promptly, when she must know
That she's only the nearer to the inevitable farewell;
The hill is steep, on the snow my steps are slow –
Why does she come, when she knows what I have to tell?

**Quote of the Week: "God is in control, but
He doesn't expect you to lean on a shovel
and pray for a hole."**





Who's Who

VICAR	Rev Rosy Barrie rosybarrie1@btinternet.com	01895 442194
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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



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