

St Martin's Church Autumn & Harvest 2024



Poem

The Burning of Leaves

by Laurence Binyon

Now is the time for the burning of the leaves,
They go to the fire; the nostril pricks with smoke
 Wandering slowly into a weeping mist.
Brittle and blotched, ragged and rotten sheaves!
A flame seizes the smouldering ruin and bites
On stubborn stalks that crackle as they resist.

The last hollyhock's fallen tower is dust;
All the spices of June are a bitter reek,
All the extravagant riches spent and mean.
 All burns! The reddest rose is a ghost;
Sparks whirl up, to expire in the mist: the wild
Fingers of fire are making corruption clean.

Now is the time for stripping the spirit bare,
Time for the burning of days ended and done,
Idle solace of things that have gone before:
Rootless hopes and fruitless desires are there;
Let them go to the fire, with never a look behind.
The world that was ours is a world that is ours no more.

They will come again, the leaf and the flower, to arise
From squalor of rottenness into the old splendour,
And magical scents to a wondering memory bring;
The same glory, to shine upon different eyes.
Earth cares for her own ruins, naught for ours.
Nothing is certain, only the certain spring.

Overall, The Burning of Leaves is a powerful and moving meditation for the cyclical nature of life and the inevitability of change. The poem explores themes of loss, decay and the search for meaning in a world that is constantly in flux.

A Welcome from Jon

My dear friends,

Welcome to our Autumn and Harvest Edition of the Parish Magazine for St Martin's Church, and if this is your first time with us, welcome, we are so glad that you have taken time to join us in our beautiful ancient church. At St Martin's we believe in being a Church that is open for all, where everyone is invited, and everyone is welcome to join us for any of our services and/or activities.

Whilst being the ninth month of the year, September is often thought of as a time of fresh beginnings as we look forward to the rest of the year and beyond. It is a time for harvesting and also a time for planting and at St Martin's we aim to be doing both as we go through Autumn and Winter into the New Year.

In this magazine you will see details of the various activities we have going on for the next few months and then on into next year.

We will be having our Harvest Festival on Sunday 6th October when we will give thanks for the wonders of Creation and will be considering the needs of the Earth and the effects of Climate Change on communities around the world.

On 3rd November at 6 pm is our Service of Remembrance for the lives of those we hold most dear and are no longer with us. December will see Advent with special services along with the Christmas Tree Festival from 6th to 8th December before we come to Christmas.

In addition to the above we will be having some wonderful concerts, Film Nights, Study Groups and St Martin's Fayre details of which are given in this magazine.

2025 will be a very special year for St Martin's as we celebrate our 900th Anniversary. There will be events of celebration throughout the year. See outline later in the magazine. At this time of renewal and looking forward, I do hope to be able to share some time with you.

Do contact me on revjonormrod@gmail.com if you would like a chat.

With Blessings to all

Jon

Victorian Harvest

Harvest Festivals

The harvest season started on Lammas Day, August 1st, when the first ripe grains from the fields of wheat would have been baked into bread and consecrated, a thanksgiving for the harvest. Michaelmas Day, the festival of St Michael and All Angels on September 29th, marked the end of the harvest season, the beginning of autumn, and the start of a new cycle of farming. In the agricultural year, Michaelmas – and all of late September and early October – was the time for “wakes”, for time off, time out, celebration after the hard work of harvest; the time for harvest suppers, Michaelmas fairs, the dedication feasts of parish churches; for feasting, drinking and dancing. The tradition of a communal meal after harvest stretches back to medieval times at least, and it was always a good knees-up on the village green and in the local tavern.

That was until the Rev Robert Stephen Hawker arrived in Morwenstow, a tiny hamlet in north Cornwall. This was in 1834. He always strode the lanes in a bright purple or red cassock. It was a harsh life on the farms back then, and if the harvest was poor it meant starvation for the villages. But the summer of 1843 was perfect and the harvest that year was exceptionally good. The people of Morwenstow were getting ready for the usual drunken party when Hawker stepped in and asked, 'Who did they think gave them the harvest?' Feeling a bit guilty, the people came to his church. Hawker led them in giving thanks to God for his rich blessing upon them, on the model of the Anglo-Saxon festival of Lammas.

The word lammas – meaning “loaf mass” – first occurs in its Christian context in the writings of Alfred, although the Anglo-Saxons may have adapted it from an older Celtic festival. In medieval times, strip-farming was the way of life, even here in Worle, and Lammas was the date by which crops must be cut from strips of land rented at Candlemas which at Lammas reverted to their owners.

So the Christian harvest festival had arrived. The parish church windowsills were piled high with fruit and flowers. Some would bring apples from the orchards and black grapes from the greenhouse; runner beans and brown-skinned onions would be brought from the vegetable plot; some would bake bread; there would be pumpkins and prize marrows, dahlias and chrysanthemums galore. The ladies of the parish would have been busy in the village hall, laying the long centre table with two dozen different salads, piles of sausage rolls and slices of quiche, pork pies and hardboiled eggs, jugs of celery, cheese, apple pies – the white tablecloth wreathed with ivy leaves. At the celebration, the band would have played so loudly that the pints of beer vibrated on the table! Old men and tiny children danced hand in hand, mothers danced with small sons, sisters with each other, while the teenagers hobnobbed outside, swapping gossip. A celebration of village life and a harvest gathered in.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 19th September 7.30 pm

Men's Fellowship Curry night at Tandoori Masala on Worle High Street. For more information contact Paul Elliott 07725016805.

Thursday 26th September 10.45 am – 12.30 pm in church

Macmillan coffee morning. Come and enjoy coffee or tea and cake, All donations to support the care of people living with cancer.

Saturday 28th September - Doors Open at 5.15 pm

Free Family Film Night in church, showing 'Dream Horse'. The film tells the true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely race horse bred by a Welsh barmaid.

Saturday 5th October 3.00 pm in church

Afternoon Concert with Hollie-Anne Bangham, Mezzo Soprano, accompanied by Richard Lennox, pianist. Tickets £10 including tea and cake. Tickets available from the church wardens, church office 07808 832530 or on the door.

Sunday 6th October 10.00 am

All Age Service with activities for children, celebrating Harvest.

Thursday 10th October 3.30 pm in St Martin's School

Messy Church for primary school age children. Come and join Vicar Jon and his friends for activities, crafts, games, songs, food and stories. Spaces are limited so please contact Vicar Jon to register your interest and for further information.

Email: revjonormrod@gmail.com

Saturday 26th October - Doors Open at 5.15 pm

Free Family Film Night in church, showing 'Death on the Nile'. The film tells the story of Hercule Poirot's Egyptian vacation.

Sunday 3rd November 2024 - 10.00 am in church

All Age Service with activities for children.

6 pm Service In Remembrance of Loved Ones.

Saturday 9th November 10.00 am - 12.00 midday in church

Coffee morning and Fayre in church. Entry 50p to include unlimited coffee or tea and biscuits. Browse our varied stalls, you might even pick up an early Christmas gift for family or friends!

Sunday 10th November 10.00 am in church

Remembrance Service.

Thursday 21st November 3.30 pm in St Martin's School

Messy Church for primary school age children. Come and join Vicar Jon and his friends for activities, crafts, games, songs, food and stories. Spaces are limited so please contact Vicar Jon to register your interest and for further information.

Email: revjonormrod@gmail.com

Thursday 21st November 7.30 pm

Men's Fellowship. For more information please contact: Paul Elliott 07725016805.

Saturday 30th November - Doors Open at 5.15 pm

Free Family Film Night in church, showing 'Shackleton'. The film begins in 1914 when Shackleton and his crew set sail for Antarctica.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH - WORLE

presents

An Afternoon concert with

Hollie-anne Bangham

Mezzo-Soprano



&

Richard Lennox

Pianist



Saturday 5th October

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Followed by refreshments

Hollie-anne Bangham has performed as a soloist up and down the country as well as internationally, recently touring to Luxembourg and singing with many Opera companies including; English Touring Opera, Garsington Opera, Opera Holland Park and Buxton Opera. Alongside performing, Hollie-anne has opened 'The Note Warehouse', a Music School and Coffee Shop in the village of Yatton, Bristol.

Richard Lennox is an emerging innovative classical crossover Pianist and Organist, whose skills range from performance to musical direction: having performed in the West End Production of 'Wicked'; the annual prom praise event at the Royal Albert Hall; appearing on the BBC's Songs of Praise Show, along with multiple Corporation & Charity events.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH WARDENS PAUL & JILL
or CHURCH OFFICE (07808 832530)
or JOHN BANGHAM (07400 660042)**

**TICKETS @ £10 (to include teas, coffee & cakes)
ALL PROCEEDS TO ST MARTIN'S CHURCH**

Schools in the Parish of Worle: St Martin



In our Parish we are blessed to have three wonderful Primary Schools: Mendip Green School, St Martin's C of E School and Worle Village Primary. Strong links have been forged between St Martin's Church and the schools over many years. This has been built on recently with the Church being involved in many assemblies (with Goldie joining Vicar Jon!) in all three schools along with other services and activities both in the schools and the church. As you will read in the magazine, we are also establishing a Messy Church as a once a term activity in St Martin's School. As well as these activities members of the congregation are involved in various activities including acting as School Governors, which Mark Preddy writes about below.

September is a time for new starts and new terms, and there will be something 'new' for everyone in school. New classrooms, new teachers and members of staff and the chance of making new friends. My prayers go to all starting school in September whether for the first time in that school or as a "returnee" and I look forward to seeing you all when I pop into your schools or see you in church.

Prayer for the New Term

Loving God, as we return to school at this beginning of the school term, be with all pupils, families, staff and volunteers associated with our schools and help everyone to come together bounded in a spirit of unity and support to help one another. Through our Servant King Jesus. Amen

Mark writes as a governor at St Martin's School, and for the past few years the "chair", I have been delighted to visit the school at different times and feel the "buzz" of learning around the building. We are investing in improvements to the playground and signage to make the pupil experience even more enjoyable. A new class structure has been embraced by the staff for 2024/25 building on our successes of last year and I am sure that our new Reception year will love their "new school".

Messy Church & Harvest Home

MESSY CHURCH AT ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

Before the summer holidays Messy Church met twice. Each session has a theme and it is a mixture of a variety of activities, interactive story time and food. In May we explored Pentecost and in June Daniel (known for being thrown into the lion's den).

We are pleased to be able to work closely with the After School Club.

During the Autumn, we will be meeting at 3.30 pm on Thursday 10th October and Thursday 21st November. Keep an eye open for details in school or contact revjonormrod@gmail.com.

HARVEST HOME

Harvest Home is a traditional English harvest festival that dates back to ancient times and is typically celebrated in more isolated rural areas. It particularly celebrates the last day of harvest in late September by decorating the village with boughs and late summer flowers. Traditionally there is a lot of singing, shouting, eating and drinking. The last sheaf of corn, the cailleac, represents the spirit of the field and is made into a harvest doll. This is soaked with water to represent a rain charm. The doll is saved until the spring planting. In ancient times the festival also included the symbolic murder of the grain spirit, as well as enacting rites to expel the devil. Throughout the world, the harvest of the main cereal crop, wheat, corn or rice has always been an occasion for celebration. Many harvest-related customs owe their beginnings to the belief in a spirit such as the Corn or Rice Mother. The semi worship of the last harvested sheaf provides one of the main features of the Harvest Home.

Harvest Home is still celebrated in the area, usually August, in surrounding villages.

900th Anniversary of St Martin's Church in 2025 Come and Join the Celebrations!

In 2025 we will be celebrating 900 years of Christian Worship at St Martin's Church. We are planning to hold a rich variety of events to celebrate this unique event. So far our planning includes:

January	Sunday 12th	Baptism Exhibition in Church with an opportunity to renew your Baptismal vows at the 10 am service which is the Feast Day of Baptism of Christ.
February	Sunday 2 nd	At the 10 am service we will be celebrating Candlemas (Service of Light) with candles to commemorate our 900 th anniversary.
April	Sunday 20 th	Special Celebration for Easter Sunday
May	Friday 16 th - Sunday 18 th	Flower Festival
June Summer	Sunday 8 th Dates to be confirmed	Pentecost Birthday Party for Church A Festival of Bells and Bell Ringing
September	Friday 26 th - Sunday 28 th	Celebrating Michael and All Angels with a festival of Angels.
October	Sunday 5 th	Harvest Festival
November	Saturday 8 th Sunday 9 th	10 am to 12 noon St Martin's Fayre Proposed Festival of Remembrance Concert details TBC
December	Friday 5 th - Sunday 7 th Thursday 25 th Sunday 28 th	Christmas Tree Festival Christmas Day Service giving thanks for the year

This is only an outline of special events that we are currently planning. More details of these and other events will be advertised on our Facebook page closer to the time.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsChurchWorleUK>

St Martin's Church, Worle

Ministry Team

Vicar: Rev John Ormrod 07596995061 revjonormrod@gmail.com

Associate Priest:

Preb Dr Gilly Bunce 01275 810610
gill.how@blue-yonder.co.uk

Reader: Yvonne Criddle 01934 515912

Church Wardens

Jill Preddy 07592686209 Paul Elliott 07725016805

Church Administrator

Liz Winter 07808832530 stmartinschurchworle1@gmail.com

Regular Services in St Martin's Church

Sunday	8 am	Said Communion
	10 am	All Age Worship 1 st Sunday in month Sung Communion (rest of month)
	6 pm	Prayer and Reflection - <i>1st Sunday in the month</i> Sung Evensong - 3 rd Sunday of the month
Thursday	10 am	Said Communion

Other Regular Activities

Tuesday	2 pm	House Group or Social in Church
Thursday	10.45 am – 11.30 am	Community Cake and Coffee morning
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice
	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
	7.30 pm	Men's Fellowship (3 rd in month)
Friday	8.30 am	Cleaning Team

Everyone is Invited  **Everyone is Welcome**

Journeying together in the love of Jesus