

# ST MARTIN'S CHURCH – WORLE

## Christmas 2023



Congratulations to our winners from St Martin's School and Worle Village School for their Christmas Magazine Cover Designs. Details on page 5 of magazine

# A WELCOME FROM JON

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our magazine for the Parish of Worle: St Martin's. In this magazine you will find information of our special services and events for Advent and Christmas on page 11, along with details of the Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St Martin's Church from Friday 8th December to Sunday 10th December. This year, the profits from the Tree Festival will be divided equally between St Martin's Church and Weston Hospicecare and you will find information regarding Weston Hospicecare on page 10 along with an article about a very special place associated with the local churches - Clarence House - on page 8.

Christmas is a great time for rejoicing and enjoying all the rituals and traditions of the season. One of these is of course singing Christmas Carols and there is a special article on a favourite Carol on page 3 and poem on page 9. We also really enjoy hearing the "bells ring out for Christmas Day" and you can find out more about the Bells at St Martin's on pages 6 and 7.

As well as favourite Christmas Carols, Handel's glorious oratorio Messiah is often a feature of people's Christmases. One of my favourite choruses in Messiah is based on Isaiah 9.6:

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,  
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God coming to earth and being born in a stable in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. As we prepare ourselves for the season of joy and goodwill, let us also take time to remember those places where there is no peace, remembering the situation in Israel and Gaza and also in Ukraine and other places in the world where there is conflict and persecution. We also remember those who find this time of year difficult for whatever reason.

May you all find peace this Christmas and may the celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus, our Prince of Peace, bring you joy and hope.

With my blessings to you all this Christmas

Jon Ormrod, Vicar of the Parish of Worle: St Martin's Church

# My Favourite Christmas Carol - O Holy Night from Margaret

The words to the carol 'O Holy Night' were written by French poet Placide Cappeau in 1843 and Adolphe Adam set the words to music in 1847.

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born  
O night, O holy night, O night divine.*

This carol transports me back 2000 years to that lowly stable and as a silent observer I marvel at the events as they unfold. The Holy family, the angels, the shepherds and the Magi created the start of my journey to my faith and what I believe today, halleluiah!!



## NAME THAT CAROL

In which carol does this line appear?

1. While shepherds kept their watching
2. Let nothing you dismay
3. Calls you one and calls you all
4. Jesus, our Emmanuel
5. Then let us all rejoice again
6. Come to Bethlehem that night
7. Herod the King, in his raging
8. Offer him incense, gold and myrrh
9. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
10. He is Alpha and Omega

*For answers, see page 5*

## St Martin's Church Christmas Tree Festival For the Whole of the Community



Following on from the success of our first Christmas Tree Festival last year we are pleased to announce that we shall be having our second Christmas Tree Festival this year.

**The order of events will be:**

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

7pm Grand Opening with Carols, Christmas readings and refreshments

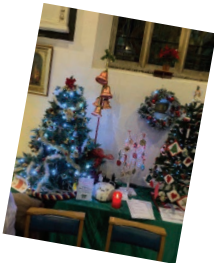
### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

10am – 5pm Church open for viewing with school choirs and entertainment taking part during the day

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

10am Advent Communion Service with Nativity Play

3pm Christmas Concert with Worle Chorale followed by Refreshments



4.30pm Raffle Draw

5pm Compline, Carols

We very much hope to build on the success of last year's festival where we had over twenty trees from individuals, organisations, local schools and local businesses.



There was also the knitted tree – where people knitted “leaves” which after the festival were turned into blankets for the homeless and those in need in the locality. In total there were 550 leaves which made up 10 blankets. We will be doing something similar this year so come and see our “Knitted Showstopper”!



There is no cost to enter a tree and entrance is free. We welcome donations and last year raised £1084 which has been divided equally between Westonsuper Mare Foodbank and St Martin's Church. This year donations will be divided between St Martin's Church and Weston Hospicecare.



*Thank you to everyone for supporting this fun event for the whole community last year – and we look forward to receiving your trees and welcoming you to this year's Festival.*

Should you require any further information then contact Jon on: [revjonormrod@gmail.com](mailto:revjonormrod@gmail.com)

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### **Competition for the Front Cover of the Magazine**

The Church Magazine Committee ran a competition at St Martin's School and Worle Village School to design the front cover of this Parish Magazine. The cover consists of the winners of KS1 and KS2 from each school. Well done! Thank you to all the children who took part. The competition was very difficult to judge as they were all great.



### **Answers to "Name that Carol"**

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Go tell it on the mountain        | 6. Mary's boy child               |
| 2. God rest you merry Gentlemen      | 7. The Coventry Carol             |
| 3. Good Christian men rejoice        | 8. O Come, all ye faithful        |
| 4. Hark! The herald angels sing      | 9. O Holy Night                   |
| 5. I saw three ships come sailing in | 10. Of the Father's love begotten |



## What Goes on in the

Occasionally, people will visit the bell tower with the expectation of taking a bell rope and participating straight away but are dismayed when they see the high level of skill required. Just think of, say, half a ton turning a full circle. It usually takes several weeks of intense instruction before a recruit can safely handle a bell rope.

Then there is the art of change ringing which involves following a mathematical pattern (although you don't have to be a mathematician - just the ability to count).

Faced with this prospect, some will dissolve into thin air. We need spirited people who are not afraid to accept a challenge - not for the faint hearted or the couch potato. One plus side is that bell ringers tend to remain active into their nineties.

At St Martin's we have a ring (or peal) of six bells - all cast at different times in history. The most senior was cast in 1683. This was just prior to the Battle of Sedgemoor (1685). Would we have rung this brand-new bell for victory had the battle gone the other way?

After years of dreaming about a major overhaul the opportunity had presented itself in 2013 - we grabbed it with both hands! The bells were lowered to the ground for the first time in 100 years; sent to the bell foundry for tuning; engineered by Nicholson's of Bridport, and returned with new headstocks, bearings and wheels etc. Fortunately, the 1909 frame was still good.

Photo 1 - The 5th bell in the "down" position

Photo 2 - The 5th bell raised in 'up' position for ringing



## St Martin's Tower by Jim Lambard

As ringers we ring regularly on a Sunday morning to call to worship and remind people of God's love. We ring for joyful occasions like weddings and special anniversaries.

Occasionally we ring half muffled for Remembrance Sunday and funerals.. This involves fitting a leather pad onto one side of the clapper. Then, as the bell comes upside down to reach balance, the clapper flies across to strike a muffled thud. The bell then turns back through 360 degrees when the clapper reverses to make a normal loud clang. The effect sounds somewhat haunting and eerie. For the death of a Monarch the bells must be fully muffled.

As a young man I learnt to ring in one of those tall decoratively carved towers so typical of Somerset. I spent weeks with my teacher trying to perfect the techniques of controlling a heavy bell turning a full circle. For part of my training, I had to start with the bell hanging down, then increasing the arc of swing until it stood mouth up. Then I reversed the procedure by gradually decreasing the arc until it hung down again.

The big day came, I stood in the circle of ropes, on number 4. The ringer of the first bell cried: 'Look-to, treble's going!' As each bell came off the vertical, I eased half a ton away from balance. The deep resonant boom of the tenor bell coming in last. My teacher stood by in case of mishap.

That first real experience was so exhilarating, as it still is 60 years later.

If you are interested in discovering more about ringing and what is involved then please contact Ray ([ramondjones@btinternet.com](mailto:ramondjones@btinternet.com)) or Yvonne (515912) or else just turn up on a Thursday night at 7.30 pm. We practice most weeks.



# CLARENCE HOUSE

**Clarence House** is run on Christian principles, which include compassion and treating individuals with dignity and respect, irrespective of their beliefs.

*Affordable independent living,  
in a friendly community*

**Clarence house has just held a local Synod meeting, it was good to renew and establish new relationships and we want to build on this to establish and maintain strong ties with local parishes.**

Clarence House was founded in 1964. It was established in the St. Pauls vicarage and its grounds. Its aim is to provide affordable accommodation to people of 'slender means' and retired clergy or their spouses.

After being refurbished in 2000, it now consists of 34 self-contained flats a communal lounge and dining room. A 3-course lunch, waitress served, is provided 364 days per year for all residents.

We have a guest room for visitors to stay over and encourage relatives to visit for lunch.

On site activities include film afternoons, puzzles, bingo and scrabble.

We also have regular days out visiting local attractions.

This Christmas we will be hosting a carol service at 5:30pm on 18th December and the Clangers – a local bell ringing group - will be visiting on 13th December for our Christmas party.

All are welcome to visit, please ring and let us know if you would like to visit.



## CLARENCE HOUSE

17 Clarence Road North,  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 4AS

01934 626134

[www.clarencehouse.org](http://www.clarencehouse.org)



# My Favourite Christmas Poem from Rosie

**The Oxen** is a short poem about Christmas, which the author recalls from his childhood. Thomas Hardy was one of the greatest novelists of the 19th century but preferred to write poetry. In 1895, Hardy decided to write poetry, rather than novels, for his own pleasure. As a child, Hardy lived in rural Dorset, and this poem has its origins in the simple beliefs of country people.

This poem means so much to me as I spent my childhood in rural mid-Wales in a small market town on Offa's Dyke where I was brought up in the Christian faith. I have many happy memories of family life there and realise how privileged I was to have the beauty of the countryside around me.

## THE OXEN

by Thomas Hardy

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.  
"Now they are all on their knees,"  
An elder said as we sat in a flock  
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where  
They dwelt in their strawy pen,  
Nor did it occur to one of us there  
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave  
In these years! Yet, I feel,  
If someone said on Christmas Eve,  
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb  
Our childhood used to know,"  
I should go with him in the gloom,  
Hoping it might be so.

# Season Greetings from Weston Hospicecare



Dear Friends of St Martin's Church and our brilliant supporters in Worle.

This Christmas season holds a special place in our hearts, and we want to express our sincere gratitude for pledging 50% of the proceeds from your Christmas Tree Festival to Weston Hospicecare. Your contribution goes a long way in helping us provide essential care and support to those in need within our community.

I'd also like to share some exciting news with you. We are delighted to announce the opening of our new state-of-the-art Day Services facility within our main site at Uphill.



As we prepare for the festive season, we invite you to join us in celebrating Christmas at the Hospice. Our calendar is filled with many ways to get involved further.

To learn more about how the hospice may be able to help you or a loved one or to learn more about how to get involved to support or volunteer for the hospice, visit [westonhospicecare.org.uk](http://westonhospicecare.org.uk) or call 01934 423900 for further assistance.

Merry Christmas and wishing you all a happy new year for 2024.

Warmest wishes,

**Kirsty Simmons, Senior Community Fundraiser.**

## Special Services and Events at St Martin's Church for Christmas

*In addition to our regular service pattern everyone is invited to join us for one of our special services and events that we are hosting for Christmas*

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

7pm-9pm Opening of Christmas Tree Festival including a short presentation of readings and carols with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

10am-5pm Church open to view the Christmas Trees with entertainment throughout the day.



### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

10am Communion Service with Nativity Play by Sunday School

3pm Free Concert by Worle Chorale followed by refreshments

4.15pm Drawing of Grand Raffle

5pm Service of Compline with Carols and Hot Chocolate

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

6pm Community Carol Service



### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

4pm Crib Service – come along dressed as an angel or shepherd and be part of our giant Nativity Play – Tinsel Crowns and Tea Towels can be provided

11.30am Midnight Communion with Carols

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10am Christmas Morning Communion with Carols – bring along your Christmas toys – and jumpers! – to join in the Festivities at church



### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

10am Christingle Service for Epiphany



*More details of all events and services can be found on*

*Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsChurchWorleUk/>*

*Website: <https://www.stmartinsworle.org.uk/>*

**St Martin's Church, Worle**  
**Ministry Team**

**Vicar:** Rev Jon Ormrod 07596995061 [revjonormrod@gmail.com](mailto:revjonormrod@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:**

Preb Dr Gilly Bunce 01275 810610 [gill.how@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gill.how@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Reader:** Yvonne Criddle 01934 515912

**Church Wardens**

Jill Preddy 07592686209 Paul Elliott 07725016805

**Church Administrator**

Liz Winter 07808832530 [stmartinschurchworle1@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinschurchworle1@gmail.com)

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**Regular Services in St Martin's Church**

Sunday	8am	Said Communion
	10am	Sung Communion <i>followed by refreshments</i>
	6pm	Evensong (on the third Sunday of the month)
Thursday	10am	Said Communion
		<i>Following the Thursday morning Services there is a Cake and Coffee Session from 10.45am-11.30am</i>

Every Thursday	10.45am	Community Cake and Coffee Mornings
	6.15pm	Choir Practice
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Third Thursday	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship
Every Friday	8.30am	Cleaning team



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***John 1.14***

*<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

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**Donations**

We are very pleased to receive donations towards the Church Magazine. This can be done through the dedicated collecting box in church.

Thank You.