

# ST MARTIN'S CHURCH - WORLE

Christmas 2022



## Welcome

Dear Reader,

First let me introduce myself, for those who don't know, my name is Jon and I am the Vicar of the Parish of Worle: Saint Martin where I have been in post for about a year. Prior to being the Vicar of St Martin's I was serving in various parishes in South Wales.

Secondly, let me welcome you to our new Parish Magazine that we are re-launching since the pandemic and since a parish re-organisation.



I do hope that you will enjoy reading the magazine and seeing the various things that we are doing in St Martin's over the Christmas period. Like everyone else, I have found the last two Christmas' to be rather difficult, but we pray that this year we can once again be able to celebrate the season.

It is important for us all at St Martin's that the church should be part of the community that it serves. Consequently, we are hosting our first Christmas Tree Festival from 9th-11th December, more details of which you will find in this magazine. There is no entrance fee to see the trees and any donations received will be divided equally between Foodbank and the Church. During the weekend we will be hosting a concert by Worle Chorale and various school choirs will be coming to sing.

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord we will also be doing some special services, including a Christingle service at 10am 4th December, our Carol Service at 6pm 18th December, an All Age Crib Service at 4pm on 24th December, Midnight Communion with carols at 11.30am on 24th December and a Family Communion Service on Christmas Day at 10am.

More details of all the events at St Martin's can be found on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsChurchWorleUk>

Christmas is one of the most special times of the year. We hope to welcome you at one of our events and services to celebrate the season. Remember that at St Martin's everyone is invited and everyone is welcome: and my prayer for you all is that you will have a happy and peaceful Christmas and a good New Year.

Blessings

## Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas from our Clergy



Left to right Rev Jon Ormrod (Vicar) , Rev Gilly Bunce (Associate Priest), Paul Elliott (Church Warden), Yvonne Criddle (Reader), Jill Preddy (Church Warden)

Rev Jon, our Vicar, prior to being ordained worked as a stage manager and is married to Sheonagh who was also once a stage manager. Rev Jon enjoys going to the theatre, and cinema watching rugby (Wales off course!) and taking his Labrador – Dexter- for a walk.

Rev Gilly, is a retired GP and after being ordained in 2007, has enjoyed ministry around Worle ever since, initially as Curate in Mead Vale and then more recently as Associate Priest at St Martin's. As Diocesan Healing Advisor offers resources and encouragement to develop the ministry of healing through prayer. Unlike Rev Jon and Dexter, enjoys the company of a feline variety, Thomas, a fetching shade of apricot!

Yvonne moved to Worle in the 1990's having been appointed Youth Officer for the Diocese, and then in the early 2000's was appointed National Youth Officer for the Church of England. On leaving paid employment was licenced as a Reader at St Martin's.

Yvonne says and I am sure it is shared by all our Clergy team “ looking back I can see God's hand very much at work equipping me for the next chapter in my life....I give God grateful thanks and will continue to do so for those who have and still do journey with me, challenging my faith and think through the good and not so good times”.

### **Church Office**

Our Church Administrator, Liz Winter, is based in the Church Office at Worle Community Centre, Lawrence Road just off the High Street in Worle. Liz will normally be your first point of contact for baptisms, weddings and funerals, but also for any other enquiries you may have. Please pop into the Church Office and say hello!



# Christmas Tree Festival

**St Martin's Church, Worle**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

***There is no cost to enter a tree and there is no entrance fee for the festival. Donations would be welcome and divided equally between***



***and towards the upkeep of St Martin's Church***

## **Events for the weekend of the Festival**

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December      7pm Grand Opening with Carols, readings and Mulled wine
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 1pm Church open for viewing including at 11am performance by St Martin's School Choir
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 3pm Worle Chorale Concert
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December    10am Service with Nativity Play
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December    12noon - 4pm Church open for viewing including at 2pm performance by Worle Village School Choir
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December    5pm Evening Service with Carols & Hot Chocolate

*For more details and entry forms contact Jon on [revjonormrod@gmail.com](mailto:revjonormrod@gmail.com)*

## Monthly Sunday school

On every Second Sunday of the month, we hold a Sunday School which starts at 10am in Worle Village School and lasts approximately 45mins when we join the service in St Martin's Church. The sessions are full of fun, with craft activities, Bible Stories – often acted out! – songs and snacks. So far this term we have learnt about the Lost Sheep and had the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. On 11th December we will be doing an impromptu Nativity Play so all are welcome to come dressed as your favourite Nativity character. We will then be starting again on the following dates in the New Year:

12th February 2023, 12th March 2023

Do come and join us (and Goldie!)

For more details contact Vicar Jon on [revjonormrod@gmail.com](mailto:revjonormrod@gmail.com)



## How we support “Sergio Rodriguez”

### **Our boy Sergio.**

Following a talk by Compassion UK at a Sunday service, St. Martin’s Community Café, started to sponsor Sergio Rodriguez.

Their mission is to relieve poverty and suffering amongst children to give them education and training to help them develop socially and spiritually



Sergio will be 7 on the 18<sup>th</sup> December. and lives in Coloso, NW Colombia with his mother, sister and grandmother. St. Martin’s Church send him encouraging letters and paper gifts during the year, marking events that are special to him – his birthday, Christmas and Easter. Occasional gifts of money are also sent to him or his family or his community.

### **Christmas Traditions in Colombia.**

#### *7<sup>th</sup> December*

Christmas traditions begin with the festival called The Day of the Little Candles. Lit candles are displayed in windows and in the streets. This is accompanied with fireworks, welcoming Christmastime. Houses and streets are decorated with colourful flags and lights.

#### *16<sup>th</sup> December*

The tradition of praying “Novenas” begins, commemorating the expected birth of Jesus. The last Novena, on Christmas Eve, remembers that Jesus came to earth. Mary and Jesus are very important to Colombians, at this time, more so than Father Christmas is to us.

#### *Christmas Eve*

Families share a special dinner on Christmas night, then give out gifts from baby Jesus.

#### *New Year’s Eve*

At New Year, the tradition is to eat 12 grapes at midnight making a wish with each one eaten, hoping that the wishes will come true in the coming year.

**Happy Christmas Sergio**

A warm welcome awaits you at all of these events

### **Community Cake and Coffee**



St Martin's holds a Community Cake and Coffee Morning every Thursday, in Church, at 11am. Cake and coffee are free. Please come and join us and bring your friends. Take the opportunity, whilst you are here, to look around the church.



### **Free Film Nights**

These Film Nights are open to the Community to come and enjoy the film and company. Film Nights are only held during the winter months because of the dark nights. Church will be warm and comfortable and you will receive a friendly welcome.

Doors Open at 5.15 and films start at 5.45pm

#### *Dates and Films for the New Year*

*21 January - Groundhog Day*

*25 February - The Impossible*

*25 March - Chocolat*

There is no need to book and admission is free and there will be tea and coffee available.

### **Men's Fellowship**

Our Men's fellowship meet on a Thursday evening 7-30pm onwards at the local pub, so please feel free to drop by at any time and have a chat with one another.



Please keep an eye on our facebook pages for times and venues for meetings in the New Year.

## A History of Worle

You don't have to be a rambler to appreciate the countryside. You don't even have to be an historian to appreciate an old building. We can all be moved by the beauty of nature, the atmosphere of a certain place, or the connection to the people who inhabited this land many years ago.

The first visitors to our island in the marsh, the Nomadic hunter-gatherers of the Middle Stone Age who sheltered in a cave at the entrance to what is now Worle quarry, would have found it to be very hospitable, being mild, south facing and sheltered from the north and west winds. There was fresh spring water and plenty of wild animals. More importantly, it should have been relatively safe, being isolated by the surrounding marsh, the surging tides and set in a remote part of the Somerset coast. But it was never an easy place to live.

Over the centuries, the villagers of Worle have rubbed shoulders with the Romans, battled with the Vikings around 1086, watched while a local Norman landowner became involved in the murder of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1170, worked with the monks of Woodspring Priory, endured the devastating flood of 1607 in which thousands of local people died, found themselves involved in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685, tried a bit of smuggling, mined a higher quality of calamine (an ore of zinc) during the 16th to 19th centuries than that unearthed in Germany, and more recently, suffered in the Nazi bombing raids of World War II.

Worle has streets and buildings full of character, a conservation area, a scheduled ancient monument, and seven listed buildings of which the Church of St Martin is the oldest. Since 1150 the villagers have centred their lives on the church, and their history is there in the grave yard below the church and in the many memorials on its walls and windows.

Worle does not have the glamour and the grand ancient buildings of places like Bath but it is a real, hard working village with an exciting history going back thousands of years, enough to get a group of locals to meet together in 2009 to form the Worle History Society.



## By the local History Society

We may all see Worle very differently. It can even be very personal. But take a walk around a part of Worle you love and see if you can identify the spirit that has kept it going through good times and bad. Maybe sit somewhere quiet, look at the views, listen and soak up the essence of the place. We are the latest part of its layers of history and one of the stories for future generations to tell.

Worle History Society has stopped to consider who, why or what in Worle has caused this area to affect us so deeply. In our studies of Worle we try to feel, identify and record the spirit of the people and the place that has carried it through all those years of turmoil and change. Come and join us at 7.00pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Community Centre in Lawrence Road (except January) for a fascinating programme of talks, walks and fun based on our favourite subject.

In 1863, George Bradshaw wrote about Weston-super-Mare as having none of the picturesqueness arising from old streets and buildings. The best thing about it, in his opinion, was the delightful neighbourhood, especially Worle Hill and its village. We definitely agree!

Find us at [www.worlehistorysociety.net](http://www.worlehistorysociety.net) or on Facebook.



High Street 1965

## Reflections for Christmas



The words of this carol were written by Reginald Heber in 1811 based on words in Isaiah. An Anglican Bishop, Heber (1783-1826) wrote it to be sung at Epiphany.

For me the second verse:-

‘Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all’

evokes what Christmas is all about. Our Lord coming to earth with nothing but the Love of God. A babe wrapped in swaddling bands, adored by his mother, no heat, no hundred pounds spent on presents just a stark cold stable.

Barbara

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### **Christmas Tree Blessing**

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colorful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.



— *Author unknown*

## 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*

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
10am Christingle Service



Friday 9<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 10<sup>th</sup> December

10am-1pm Church open to see the Christmas Trees  
3pm Free Concert by Worle Chorale



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

10am Communion Service with Nativity Play by Sunday School  
12noon-4pm Church Open to view Christmas Trees  
5pm Service of Compline with Carols and Hot Chocolate

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
6pm Community Carol Service



Saturday 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  
11.30pm Midnight Communion with Carols

Sunday 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



# The Parish of Worle: Saint Martin

## St Martin's Church

Church Road  
Worle  
BS22 9EL

[www.stmartinsworle.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsworle.org.uk)



StMartinsChurchWorle



@MartinsWorle

## St Martin's Church Office

Worle Community Centre  
Lawrence Road  
Worle  
BS22 6TS

Open Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri  
9am to 12noon

## Ministry Team

### Vicar

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

### Associate Priest

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

### Reader

Yvonne Criddle 01934 515912

## Church Wardens

Paul Elliott 07725016805 Jill Preddy 07592686209

## Church Administrator

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

*See additional contact details and opening times for Church Office above*

## Would you like to receive this magazine quarterly?

If you would like to receive copies of the parish magazine for 2023 then please cut out this coupon and return it to Rev Jon Ormrod, St Martin's Church, Church Road, Worle. BS22 9EL or drop it in to the Church Office, at the Community Centre.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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