



**St Martin's
Church
Christmas
Blessings**

Sergio

Sergio is a young boy who St Martin's Church support through the charitable organisation Compassion UK. We are committed in this support until he reaches the age of 18 in 2034.

He lives in a small town, Coloso, situated in the northern part of the Country, the largest major city being Cartagena.

Columbia has a population similar to Engand but occupies an area 9 times larger.



Through Compassion UK, we receive handwritten letters from Sergio, telling us about his life. In his recent letter Sergio explained that his name meant “firm guardian” and he stands 1 metre 30 centimetres (nearly 4½ ft) tall. Sergio enjoys school, and he especially likes fractions!

At his local church they celebrate special days, like children's day, love, and friendship as well as Christmas.

At this special time of the year, Sergio sends us big hugs and ask for our prayers for him and all his family too.



Christmas Greetings from Vicar Jon

Dear friends,

Welcome to our 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, along with details of the Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St Martin's Church from Friday 6th December to Sunday 8th December. This year, the profits from the Tree Festival will be divided equally between St Martin's Church and the work of Somewhere to Go in Weston-super-Mare. You will find information regarding this charity on page 15 along with details of The Mission to Seafarers who will be the beneficiaries of some very special knitted hats on our 2024 Knitted Christmas Tree.

Christmas is a great time for rejoicing and enjoying all the rituals and traditions of the season. There have been some wonderful pieces of literature written about Christmas over the years, and St Martin's is proud to be part of this tradition by hosting a Children's Christmas Poetry Competition. You can see and read the winners on pages 6 and 11, and thank you to everyone who took part.

The New Year will see the beginning of when we at St Martin's will be celebrating 900 years of our wonderful church in Worle. Initial details of the special events, are on page 7. So that you don't forget any of the key dates – why not buy one of our 900th Anniversary Souvenir Calendars at a cost of £8 or £15 for two. For more details of the Calendar or any other event happening at St Martin's Church then contact me on revjonormrod@gmail.com.

It is humbling to remember that there has been Christian Worship at our site in Worle for nine centuries, and virtually each December, Christmas will have been celebrated within the church. Join us for our Christmas and 900th Celebrations in the New Year and be part of the ongoing story and celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

With my blessings to you all this Christmas



St Martin's Church – supporting mission in Zambia

In 1978 the Diocese of Bath & Wells formed a companion link with parishes in Zambia, the main emphasis being to build relationships through prayer correspondence and visits. This has been the rationale for our acting to offer help and support to the disadvantaged in that country. The link that St Martin's has is with the cathedral of Ndola where, in recent years, we have worked together with a local grant-making registered charity known as Hands of Compassion (HoC).

Zambia is one of the poorest countries in the world with an estimated population of 20 million people. One in twelve are orphaned children living with grandparents or older siblings. Malnutrition and the AIDS virus has given rise to this situation.



Much of the land is scrub and the climate is one of extremes with drought for nine months of the year and torrential rains for the remainder. Communities outside of the major conurbations exist by feeding on the few crops they can grow. Paid employment is just not available to these uneducated souls. So, with HoC, we have looked at ways of providing some Christian based educational facilities for them – this is our mission!

St Martin's first project was undertaken to build a new church premises in the outskirts of Ndola at Ndeke. This provides a centre for worship, a community centre and a place for learning.



In 2000, 25 vulnerable children in Chipulukusu, a shanty compound on the outskirts of Ndola started to meet in the shell of a derelict building. They sat on the dirt ground and despite having no books or teaching aids

they were keen to learn. Lessons had to stop at midday as it became too hot for them. HoC provided grant support to enable a school to be built and now 600 children enjoy learning in a proper place of education.



HoC then worked with St Paul's Church in Kawama, to build a Church Primary school to benefit over 100 children who otherwise could not go to school through lack of money. Through their local fundraising and grant aid from HoC they now have two operational classrooms.

More recently, we have worked with HoC to support the REACT Project established by a local Christian leader in Chipulukusu to provide skills training for men, women and children who fall outside of the educational spectrum. St Martin's provided sufficient to install the utilities at the site.



Our latest project with HoC has been to build two classrooms on land adjoining St Andrew's Anglican Church in Chipulukusu. 47 children are already registered and being taught by a volunteer Christian teacher in the church building. HoC has grant aided the building and we are looking to provide the educational materials for the pupils.



Christmas Poem Competition

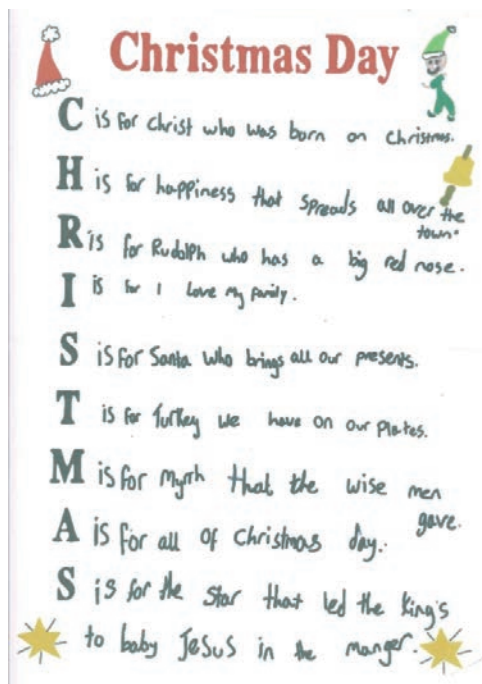
Earlier in the year we invited the pupils of St Martin's School and Worle Village School to take part in a Poetry writing competition. The Children were invited to write a poem about what Christmas means to them. There were two categories: Category One – Reception, Year 1 and 2, Category Two – Years 3,4,5 and 6.

Every entry was so good and it was very hard to decide which poems to publish

Below are the two poems we have published in the older category.

*From St Martin's School
Lyla with Christmas Day*

*From Worle Village School
Christmas Day by Efat*



Christmas Day
There's something special in the house.
It happens Christmas day.
The toys are out.
The coffee's on
It's time for rest or play.
All the Christmas running done.
The gifts were bought
The battles won
The goose was cooked and eaten up.
The coffee's hot inside Dad's cup
The snow is out side.
The home is warm
The miracle of life appears to bless our family
every year.
And so I give my wish to you to bless
your happy family too! Merry Christmas



CHURCH DIARY - DECEMBER 2024

Friday 6th December 7.00 pm

Opening Concert of Christmas Tree Festival with a Festival of Favourite Carols as voted for by the congregation.

Saturday 7th December 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Christmas Tree Festival with entertainment and refreshments.

Sunday 8th December

10.00 am All Age Christingle Service

3.00 pm Concert by Worle Chorale
followed by refreshments

4.30 pm Christmas Tree Grand Raffle Prize Draw

5.00 pm Christmas Compline with Carols

Sunday 15th December

6.00 pm Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Waiting for Jesus - All Age Christmas Service
Come dressed as a character from the Nativity Story and be part of Worle's biggest ever impromptu Nativity Play

11.30 pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00 am Sung Communion

Pop on your Christmas jumper, bring your favourite present and come and celebrate!



Church Diary January 2025 – March 2025

Film Nights



Free Family Film Nights in Church, Doors Open at 5-15pm

Saturday 25th January

“The Great Escaper” In the summer of 2014, a World War 2 veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Saturday 22nd February

“Matter of Life and Death”, a 1946 British fantasy - romance film set in England during World War 2.

Saturday 22nd March

“Local Hero” An American oil company fixer is sent to Scotland to buy an entire village to build a refinery, but the company man finds himself having a change of heart.



Messy Church at St Martin’s school. Come and join Vicar Jon and his friends on a Thursday for activities, crafts, games, songs, food and stories. Spaces are limited so please contact Vicar Jon to register your interest and for any further information.

Email revjonormrod@gmail.com

Thursday 6TH February , Thursday 27th March, Thursday 8th May

Church Diary January 2025 – March 2025



Our meetings are usually held at the Lamb on Worle high Street and we meet on the third Thursday of each month except August and December. The next three dates are:

Thursday 16th January , 20th February, 20th March

Activities have included:

Skittles, Crown Green Bowling and Fish and Chip supper.

For more information please contact Paul Elliott 07725 016805

Concerts

Saturday 29th March 7.00pm Concert in church

Concert by the Bristol Ensemble to celebrate our 900th anniversary . Music from the centuries 1100 - 2000 will be performed by this well renowned local group of musicians. Refreshments will be served during the interval. Tickets £15 will be available in church or tel 07808 823530.

Saturday 21st June 3.00pm Concert in church

Midsummer concert with Richard Lennox, in church Tickets £10, to include tea and cake, will be available in church or tel 07808 823530

-----*Everybody is welcome*-----

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH
Christmas Tree Festival



PRESENTS

Worle Chorale

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Accompanied by Richard Lennox

Sunday 8th December, 3pm
St Martin's Church, Worle

Followed by tea and cake

FREE ENTRY

Donations welcomed to be split between
Somewhere To Go and St Martin's Church

stmartinsworle.org.uk • worlechorale.org.uk



Christmas Poem Competition - Reception, Years 1 and 2

We have also decided to publish three poems in this Category

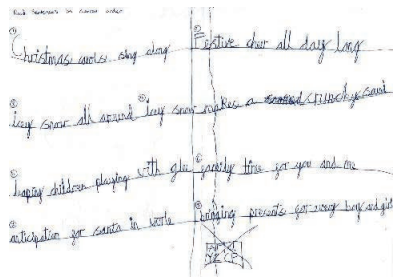


Emily from Reception in St Martins – Ginger Bread

I love eating sprouts at Christmas
 Rudolph the Reindeer comes to visit
 I love eating Ginger Bread,
 It's made of biscuit
 Also the entry was very nicely decorated

From Aria in Yr 2 in Worle Village

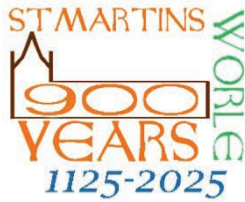
Christmas carols sing along
 Festive cheer all day long
 Icy snow all around
 Icy snow make a crunchy sound
 Leaping children playing with glee
 Family time for you and me
 Anticipation for Santa in Worle
 Bringing presents for every boy and girl



Christmas to me by Ivan Yr 2 St Martin's

Christmas to me means joy,
 I don't know why,
 It's just a feeling
 Presents Santa, Gifts
 And being grateful for the things you love
 And then we all shout Hurray
 Because its Christmas Day

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part – You are all Winners this Christmas



Next year, 2025, marks the 900th Anniversary of St Martin's Church. Since 1125, Christian worship has taken place on this site in Worle.

To commemorate this remarkable anniversary, we are planning various different services and events. For the first half of the year, these will include:

January

Saturday 11th January – Sunday 12th January

A Festival of Baptisms - Come along to see a special exhibition of Baptism at St Martin's and take the opportunity to look through some of the ancient baptism registers.



Saturday 11th 10am-4pm Exhibition open *Refreshments 12-2pm*

Sunday 12th 10am Service with Baptism and renewal of Baptism vows

Sunday 12th 12noon-4pm Open

February

Sunday 2nd February there will be a special service of light at 10am to celebrate **Candlemas** and to receive a special blessed candle to commemorate our 900th anniversary

March

On Shrove Tuesday – **4th March** - we will have our annual **Beetle Drive and Pancakes** evening, including the competition of who can make the most tosses of a pancake in 30secs. Come along and see if you can win the cup!

Saturday 29th March, we will be hosting the **Bristol Ensemble** for a special concert at 7.00pm to celebrate our anniversary and 900 years of music making. *There will be refreshments at the concert.*



April

Sunday 13th April

Thursday 17th April

Friday 18th April

Sunday 20th April

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday



May

Friday 16th May - Sunday 18th May Flower Festival with a celebration of Weddings and Marriage

Friday 16th May 7.00pm Opening of Flower Festival

Saturday 17th 10am-4pm Church open for Flower Festival

With Refreshments from 12-2pm Sunday 18th 2pm-4pm Church open for Flower Festival

Sunday 18th 4.30pm Special Service to conclude Flower Festival



June



Sunday 8th June Pentecost 3pm-5pm A special **Birthday Party for the Church** with strawberries and cream and birthday cake at 4pm

Saturday 21st June 3pm **Concert by Richard Lennox**

followed by tea and cake

July

Festival of Bell Ringing – See Facebook page for details

August

Friday 15th August and Saturday 16th August – Art Exhibition

10am-4pm Art Exhibition with *refreshments from 12-2pm*

Further details of these and all our services and events can be found on our facebook page:

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



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

We will once again be hosting our annual Christmas Tree Festival for the local community

The order of events will be:

Friday 6th December

7pm Grand Opening with Carols, Christmas readings and refreshments

Saturday 7th December

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

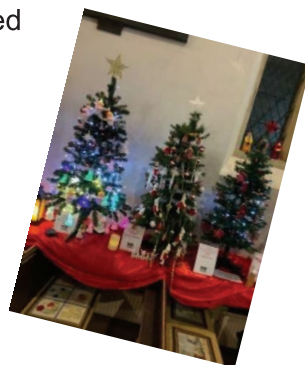
Sunday 8th December

10am Christingle Service

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 the previous festivals where we have had over twenty trees from individuals, organisations, local schools and local businesses.

There is no cost to enter a tree and entrance is free. We welcome donations and over the last two years we have raised over £2000 for local charities and St Martin's Church. This year all donations will be split equally between *Somewhere to Go* the local charity in Weston and St Martin's Church.

Thank you to everyone for supporting this fun event for the whole community over the last two years – 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

Supporting Somewhere to go



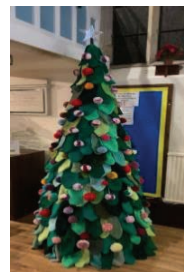
Somewhere to Go is a charity, based in St. John's Church Hall in the Boulevard, which began in 2000 to provide a space where those who are homeless vulnerable and disadvantaged could go for support. A place which would provide a safe warm refuge, with a listening ear.

It is now very much part of Weston's support and care for the many who find themselves without a home. A place where people know they will be welcomed, supported and listen to in a non-judgemental and caring manner. As they say it is a place which provides "A hand Up, not a hand Out!"

Recently Ellie Lloyd has taken on the role of Service Manager for the charity having previously worked in the criminal justice sector and more recently with the YMCA homeless outreach team who work closely with Somewhere to Go. As Service manager Ellie has oversight of both the drop in centre and the charity shop. The latter helps to support the project. Her role includes spending time with those who drop in, supporting the volunteers as well as the fund raising and political aspects of the role.

As Ellie says "I am privileged to be able to work for an amazing charity which supports hundreds of people who are experiencing being disadvantaged, marginalisation and poverty every year. However, like most people in this line of work we are all trying to 'work ourselves out of a job' and hope that one day the world gets to a place where there isn't homelessness, poverty and deprivation and our jobs are no longer needed."

St. Martin's Christmas Tree Festival will be supporting *Somewhere to Go* both financially and through the 'leaves' of our knitted Christmas Tree which at the beginning of the New Year will be turned into warm woollen blankets. If you are able please do support this amazing local charity either through a donation or offering your Time as a volunteer.



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

Vicar: Rev Jon Ormrod 07596995061 revjonormrod@gmail.com

Associate Priest:

Preb Dr Gilly Bunce 01275 810610
gill.how@blueyonder.co.uk

Reader: Yvonne Criddle 01934 515912 ycriddle007@btinternet.com
Grace Rubery 07759585946 gracerubery@gmail.com

Church Office: 07008832530

Church Wardens

Jill Preddy 07592686209 Paul Elliott 07725016805

safeguardingstmartinsworle@gmail.com 07443303712

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