

## Ramblings about the Parish Church

I was doing my duty at the Music Festival when across the field, St Martin's caught my eye - what a magnificent building! And from the Severn Vale, our church and monument can be seen for miles. Much of it was built in the fourteen hundreds and it has 'witnessed' so much history and it stands on the site of a much earlier church.

In days gone by Sunday church attendance was pretty much obligatory and in my mum's time it was twice on Sunday plus Sunday School. By the time I came along it was just twice on Sunday, but the village still had two shops, one of which was a post office, a garage, our own policeman who lived in the village, a garage, a village nurse and most important of all, four pubs: yes, four, which opened twice a day! Whoever would have believed that drinking in a pub would go out of fashion? We also had seven milking herds of cows scattered around the parish.

Times have changed and we must expect that because society itself has changed out of all recognition this past fifty years or so. Supposing that the church closed, which it might, it would be stripped of all the good bits, locked up and we might be allowed into it once a year or so for a special service. This would suit the bats and other wildlife that live in various parts of it, but it would be

the death knell for the school children who get so excited when they come in for services. It would be the end for Christmas services like Christingle and the carol services. It would be the end for people wanting to get married, buried, christened in the 'family church' and it would be the end of Sunday worship for the congregation.

But, God has been busy in the village and has sent us a number of new, youngish, forward looking people who have joined the group who make decisions about the church. These people, along with us oldies, are open to all sorts of ideas to keep the money coming in to fund the upkeep of such a magnificent building. I've seen churches around the country doubled up as a village shop, café, indoor glamping and village hall and all sorts.

So, with that in mind, we are organising Strawberry Cream Teas at Hunt's Court on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 4 – 6pm with the aim of having a good time, raising funds for the Children's Society and getting ideas, however wild, to find an income for the church, and modern uses for the oldest village building, so that we can use it rather than have it locked up and decaying!

Have a good summer!

*Peter*

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**Strawberry Cream Teas**  
**at Hunt's Court**  
**Saturday 20th August**  
**4pm – 6pm**  
**Everyone invited!**  
**Donations welcomed for**

For details Please contact: Sue Devine  
Telephone: 543748 [suedevine@hotmail.com](mailto:suedevine@hotmail.com)



**SAVE the DATE! Saturday 15th October**  
**Harvest Supper/Curry Night**  
**Eat In/Takeaway – Profits to Christian Aid**

## St Martin's Church

Rev'd Lesley Hewish,  
Priest in Charge,  
01453 842175  
[vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)

### Services in August:

**SUNDAY 7th TRINITY 8**  
9.30am Informal Service of the Word  
With Rev'd Lesley Hewish

**SUNDAY 14th TRINITY 9**  
9.30am Holy Communion  
With Rev'd Sue Phillipson-Masters

**SUNDAY 21st TRINITY 10**  
9.30am Informal Service of the Word  
With Rev'd Lesley Hewish

**SUNDAY 28th TRINITY 11**  
9.30am Holy Communion  
With Rev'd Peter Marsh

Services in September: for details,  
please see Church noticeboards

**SUNDAYS 4th and 18th**  
9.30am Informal Service of the Word

**SUNDAYS 11th and 25th**  
9.30am Holy Communion

**Audio-services continue  
every Sunday on YouTube —  
the link is via our website  
[www.northnibleychurch.uk](http://www.northnibleychurch.uk)**



## Rev'd Lesley is curious.....what does St Martin's Church mean to you?

The Church is not just a building it's US, as a community,  
working together and supporting each other.

So let's do some blue-sky thinking!!!

What more could our building be?

What more could we be as a faith community?

We don't care how wacky those ideas are...let's hear them!!!!

Please get in touch by email [vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk](mailto:vicar@tyndalebenefice.co.uk)

I am going to be in T&Cakes in Nibley from 2 - 4pm on Thursday 18th August ...  
.....why not come and join me for a cuppa? I'll be at the Strawberry Cream Teas  
at Hunt's Court on the 20th August 4-6pm as well ..... do come along then!