

November 2021

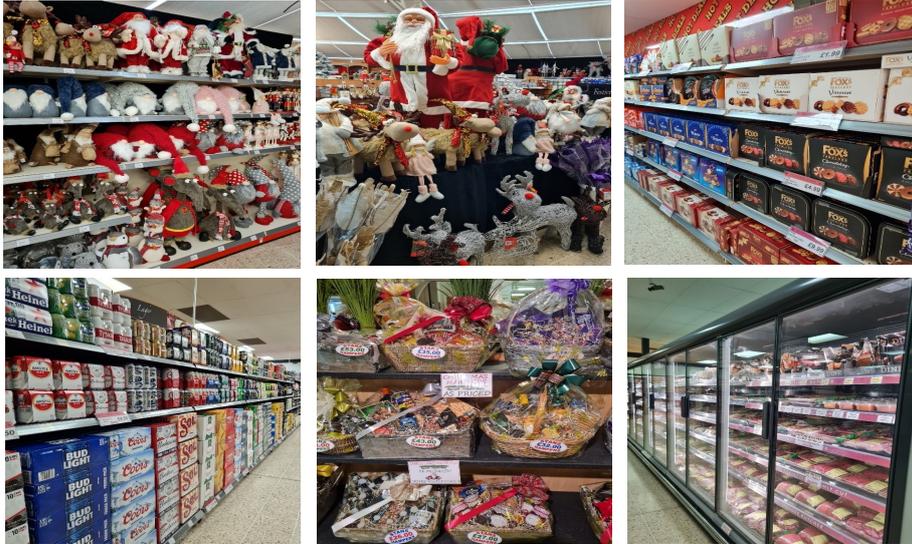
St Martins

Village Life



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Parish Council

FROM THE CHAIR

Hi everyone, I feel that it is only a few days since I last compiled a letter to you all, but time stands still for no-one.

Our poppies are up, we have had our Remembrance days, and our wreaths have been laid, but still we need to remember our members of the Armed Forces, who are there for our country every day of the year. We are fortunate in our village that we are able to have a parade of young people, and have the junior school choir to join us, as by joining us they learn why we have a Remembrance Day.

St Martins Volunteers - so many of you - a Big Thank you. We have St Martins Chatter and Parish Council Facebook pages, and so many of you communicate via electronic devices, that many of us "oldies" have trouble keeping up but you all contribute to our community in so many different ways; litter pickers, picking up after others, opening doors, welcoming people, looking after a neighbour or friend, organising walks or meals for others, putting a village magazine together, growing vegetables and giving them away. There are lots of volunteers out there, THANK YOU. I often hear "they are so thoughtful" and "so kind" and there are so many of you out there.

We will be advertising for a new Parish Councillor soon, we have a vacancy, so if you have time to help us then consider joining our Parish Council.

St Martins Centre is looking for volunteers for the Centre to be open each weekday morning, for the free book library, so if you have a spare morning, like to organise books, make coffee or tea for visitors, then pop in to the Centre on a weekday morning and share your availability with whoever is there.

We aim to have the centre open 5 mornings a week, have computer drop-in sessions and group meetings, so we can become a real community hub.

Our sporting recreational facilities are moving forward; we have been given 12 acres of land by Iain Hill Trevor and Brynkinalt Estates for our future football provision, a multi use games area, and a cricket pitch, along with running track, rugby field, and archery area, so now the hard work begins. We do need to raise the funds for all this to proceed, so anyone with ideas for fundraising is invited to think of our community for the future. We have already seen Divine Escapes with a raffle in favour of the Recreation Project, so anyone with a wish to raise funds for our own locality is asked to think of The Recreation Project. The facilities will enhance school sports provision, and enable our football teams to be truly this part of North Shropshire.

This has been a mix-up month of weather, but I have been watching the trees turn into autumnal colours, and sometimes out on my walks I enjoy kicking the fallen leaves, the colours are so varied and lovely.

Our next Parish Council meeting is December 9th, and then again January 14th. If you have any concern within the parish you are able to contact any Parish Councillor or if you wish to speak about your concern at a Parish Council meeting, then come along. 7.00pm at The Centre.

Happy Christmas,
from Helen Williams
Chair of St Martins Parish Council.



Report from St Martins Parish Council Clerk

At the start of September, the Parish Council were back to full strength as regards the number of filled Council Seats. However since then, Pierre Saunier has resigned from the Parish Council due to increased work commitments. This now leaves one further vacancy to fill. Further details are on the notice boards.

Despite further concerns expressed to our MP, Scottish Power and Shropshire Council (SC) regarding the outstanding faults to a number of street lights along Ellesmere Road, Shropshire Council cannot currently repair lighting at this location as they are not permitted to work on the cabling that is in place at the location. It is not possible at present to identify SC wiring and therefore wiring needs to be stripped out and replaced to enable SC to maintain. Their Street Lighting and Traffic Signals Manager has advised that they currently have a quote to replace the cabling but are securing a further quote given the high costs indicated in the first quote received. Once the second quote is received the team will be able to assess against any available budget and update the Parish Council. We continue to press SC for urgent action.

The big issue still outstanding is the proposed closure of St Martins Surgery by the current medical professionals in Chirk. We still await the results of their recent patient survey for St Martins which is now due out at the end of the November when the Chirk practice will then make a final decision on the St Martins Branch surgery.

Cornovii Developments Ltd (CDL) have now been granted planning permission to develop 35 new homes at the site in St Martins, Ifton Heath, Oswestry. Two members of the parish council and two members of the public have been appointed to sit on a Stakeholder Group to meet on a monthly basis for 18 months whilst development works are ongoing. They will support Cornovii in pre-contract matters, in particular helping to choose the build contractor, ensuring the chosen contractor delivers social value and creating a local connection criterion for the sale of new homes. This is an important group as Shropshire Council have placed 25 conditions on the approved plans which will require careful monitoring.

Around ten years ago we presented a report to Welsh Water to show that St Martins has a problem with hydraulic overflow (sewerage backflow from a combined surface water/sewerage pipe running along Overton Road in St Martins). This is now happening again. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, the Parish Council have requested that Welsh Water install sewer monitors again in the combined surface water and sewage pipe along Overton Road. In addition, the poor condition of the road surface and an increase of HGV's using Overton Road could also be adding to the condition of the pipe running through the centre of the village.

The Parish Council, through Shropshire Council, have set up a small working group to adopt a Climate and Ecological Emergency forum. Areas to be considered include reducing net carbon emissions, undertake a carbon footprint assessment of St Martins, and support and work with Shropshire Council and all other relevant agencies on initiatives towards making the entire Parish environmentally sustainable.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in St Martins Centre at 7.00pm on Thursday 9th December 2021.

Edward Davies, Parish Clerk

Current Parish Councillors

Neil Arthan	01691 777751
Andrew Cast	01691 773389
Vivienne Fisher	01691 770049
Mark Hayball	01691 770207
John Hodgson	07841 451212
Alan Langley	01691 772368
Duncan Laing	07702 991845
Nina Mistry	01691 657324
Glenn Pennington	01691 778477
Lesley-Anne Roberts	01691 776438
Natalie Rowley	07870 507509

Sophie Hughes-Saunier	01691 778806
Sue Schofield	01691 777710
Helen Williams	01691 777561

Remembrance Sunday 2021

Once again, this year the community of St Martins showed where its heart is. Well over 200 people turned out on a sunny November morning to show respect for the fallen. The Scouts and Guides attended with all of the current members of their troops.

Helen Williams, the current Chair of the Parish Council, opened the proceedings with a welcome to all. Mr Nick Heard from the Ellesmere Road Methodist Church then led the service. The St Martins School choir opened with a lovely Song of Remembrance and led the hymn singing.

The community wreath was laid by Andrew Sudlow who recently retired from the army, discharging his duty with a great deal of honour and respect. Other wreaths were laid by Helen Williams on behalf of the Parish Council, Eileen Rosamond on behalf of the WI, and a member offrom RAF Shawbury also laid a wreath (and we thank him for coming). The Scouts, Guides and children from the school also laid wreaths. Glenn Pennington, ex-army, read the names of the fallen from the two World Wars, Terry Ellis read the Exhortation (they shall not grow old....) and Julie Garrett played the Last Post and Reveille. Many Thanks to all who took part and made it a memorable and emotional act.



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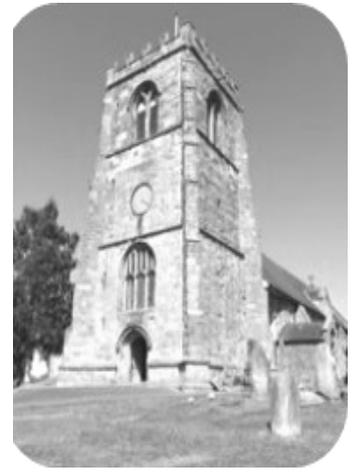
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Christmas at St Martins Parish Church



GOOSE INCARNATION

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his comments.



One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused.

"That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!"

So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then another thump. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet.

When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.



The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up and made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.



Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe. "Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

He thought for a moment and realised that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn--and one by one the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese--blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realised.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come.

Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer: "Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"



Christmas Services at St Martins

Sunday 12th Dec 10am - Carol Service - traditional carols and readings

Wed 15th Dec - Carols on the Doorstep - outside, coco and marshmallows and lots of singing round the fire.

Sunday 19th Dec 4pm - Family Christingle service - Refreshments

Christmas Eve 11.15pm - Candlelit Carol service with Communion. Best way to start the season

Christmas Day - 9:30am - Family Worship celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Boxing Day - No service

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas. Rev. Stuart Jermy 778468 or text/ WhatsApp 07766255436.

email: saintmartinjohns@icloud.com - please get in touch for more info on anything.

Please see our website: www.stmartinsparish.org.uk [for details](#)

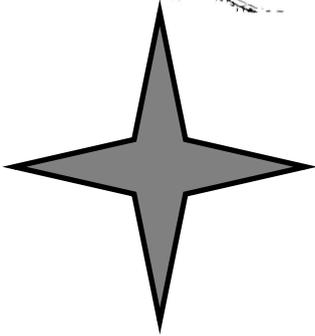


St Martins Methodist Church

(Ellesmere Road)

Minister for St Martins

Rev Julia Skitt - phone: 07810 360778



Christmas at

St Martins Methodist Church

Community Carol Service

Sunday December 19th 11.00

No services on Sunday December 26th or Sunday January 2nd

Health & Happiness to all for 2022



ST MARTINS METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Julia Skitt. 07810360778

Police Report

Since the last article we have seen Halloween and Bonfire night both passing peacefully in St Martins. Christmas is going to be upon us again before we know it.

West Mercia Police will be launching its annual Christmas drink/drug drive campaign in December, so please use a nominated driver and beware of the effects of alcohol the morning after. With new trends being identified and reported nationally, we are asking everyone to be vigilant with the new threat of being spiked with needles.



Operation SNAP

Using the Operation Snap web portal, members of the public can report and submit (via a [secure online External Link](#)) digital footage showing potential traffic offences. This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists. Submissions are sent to West Mercia Police where the evidence will be reviewed by one of our experienced road policing police officers. Offenders are prosecuted when the evidence is appropriate. Any footage submitted through the portal can also be used by us to help educate other road users and to advise on case results.

OP SNAP - <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/operationsnap>

Merry
Christmas
and
Happy New Year



For more crime prevention advice please feel free to get in contact with your local police team and please report anything suspicious to the police on 101.

Kate Le'Clere, PC 3718
Oswestry Rural North,
Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Mobile – 07870 219518

PCSO Dave Hughes – 07870 219190

PCSO Pete Roberts – 07870 219019

Please contact us on the above numbers if you have any issues you wish to discuss.

Email - oswestryrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

To report a crime please dial 101 or in an emergency dial 999



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Climate Change

St Martins Parish Council is taking it very seriously

St Martins Parish Council will undertake the Carbon Literacy Project to make sure every decision made is in the best interests of increasing biodiversity and reaching our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030 saveourshropshire.org

How our lives will be fundamentally changed in St Martins as a result of climate change and ecological collapse, if we carry on with the average British lifestyle shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-climate-action:

- Biodiversity and habitat loss
- Increased frequency of heat waves
- We'll need to allow for increased summer cooling without using air conditioning units, e.g. using mechanical ventilation, heat recovery (MVHR) and reversible heat pumps
- Water shortages
- Failure of local and global food supply chains – supermarket failure and local agriculture becomes increasingly challenging
- Increased local flooding
- Social care costs increase, with health and wellbeing impacts on both young and old people
- Healthcare costs to the NHS increase exponentially and local hospitals and GP surgeries struggle to cope
- Maintenance costs to increase for highways and property due to extreme weather events
- Maintenance of energy and communications infrastructure becomes more costly, with potential for more frequent grid outages and internet disruptions
- Increased energy, water and insurance costs for Shropshire commercial and domestic properties
- Risk of a financial collapse worse than 2008, and global financial instability increasingly likely, with local impacts
- Impact of people migrating from inhospitable areas of the UK and globally to Shropshire

A wartime effort from everyone is needed to neutralise our ecological footprint immediately if we are to save our community from extinction this century:

Switch to 100% electric vehicle wevee.uk & car share liftshare.com or use public transport, cycle & walk. Stop flying & taking cruises; offset emissions by planting trees www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Reduce your energy consumption; Switch to 100% renewable energy supplier www.greenenergyuk.com

Climate Change cont:

- Insulate your roof, walls, floors and use energy efficient doors & windows energysavingtrust.org.uk
- Replace your fossil fuel heating system with grant funded heat pump & solar panels princeslhs.ltd
- Reduce waste; Switch to an organic, seasonal plant-based diet; or at least limit animal products to local, organic, one day a week nutritionfacts.org
- Grow your own food e.g. tomtheappleman.co.uk
- Switch to an ethical bank with fossil fuel free investments e.g. www.triodos.co.uk
- Switch to an ethical pension fund e.g. www.nestpensions.org.uk
- Borrow, rent or lease items instead of buying; find & give free items www.ilovefreegle.org
- Make do and mend clothing; take broken belongings to Oswestry Repair Cafe
- Avoid plastic, palm oil, chemicals, fast fashion & fossil fuels
- Transform your garden into a wildlife haven with fruit, nut & nectar bearing hedges, trees, wildflowers, nest boxes, log pile & pond
- Lobby councils, MPs & businesses take urgent action - use your vote wisely, nothing exists on a dead planet!



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FRIENDS OF IFTON MEADOWS

Yesterday we got off to a new start when we held our first meeting at the Trotting Mare while at the same time enjoying a meal and a get together with friends we had not seen for 18 months. We are depleted in number so if you use the Meadows and are interested in the site and its Nature why not join us either by turning up on Sunday 21st November at 1.30pm at the Colliery entrance (main entrance) or get in touch with me on 01978 710327 for details of our next meet.

I wrote last month saying we could look forward to the fungi coming - well nature certainly has provided us with an explosion of colour and shape from the normal to the bright yellow of wax caps and the purple of the Amethyst Deceiver, so keep your eyes open when you are walking on site and if possible take a picture and put them on our Facebook page (it is easy to join) and could you give either a rough idea where you saw it or use your phone and let us have the g.p.s. coordinates so we can record where it is. Do not worry if you cannot ID the fungi, we can make enquiries from someone who does.



Sorry this can't be in colour, it is really beautiful.



Mike-(Shropshire council) has been on site with his new flail cutter taking out the scrub which is taking over the skylark mound - a brilliant machine would have taken the friends days to have done the amount that he removed in minutes. Thanks Mike and also Lee who arrived with a small tractor with a larger flail on the back to cut back the thicker trees. Shows how scrub can take over this area in just a short time and then there would be NO skylarks.

They will grow again but hopefully with the help of the cattle we can keep it under control.

Unfortunately I must return to the problem of dog fouling - I have been informed that the Horse field is becoming unsuitable for events due to IRRESPONSIBLE dog owners, so please do not let your dogs run loose in this area unless you clean up after them.

Friends of Ifton Meadows continued:

Just a reminder - All dogs should be under control at all times on this site which means that ALL dogs should be within sight of their owners so that you can pick up their faeces - PLEASE do not use the excuse that you did not see them do it. This means that you should not be allowing your dog on site unless you are with them. You potty train your children before they go to school, you train your cat to use a litter tray so why do you not clean up after your dogs when exercising them. For an example of good practice - Did you know that disability dogs are trained to empty themselves twice before they leave home in a designated area in their garden etc., proving that there is no need for any fouling.

One comment I had from someone who uses the site regularly was that we made things worse when we increased the Parking area because they had seen people just letting their dogs on site then going and sitting back in their car, basically using our beautiful site as a toilet which is not acceptable.

Future plans - Mike hopes to continue removing scrub hopefully with the use of volunteers. If you know of a company who would like to help with this, please get in touch with Mike or Shaun on 01691 624448.

We are all happy to be getting back into the swing of tackling normal management tasks such as coppicing which helps maintain diversity. If you are interested remember we will be on site on 21st November at 1.30 p.m. so come and join us.

Friends of Ifton Meadows

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ST MARTINS CENTRE



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Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry. SY11 3AY

Tel:01691770204 (answer machine on)

Email: stmartinscentre@mail.com

We are gradually reopening, watch for details:

Face Book pages: St MartinsVillageCentre

St MartinsChatter

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POSTERS around the village.


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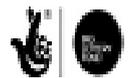
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November's Quiz -

Answers on page 37

1. Who is England's T20 wicket keeper?
2. What did Tonga's Vaer Vaer say they used as a rugby ball when he was a boy?
3. Which Polish-born chemist discovered radium and polonium?
4. Which Labour politician was the UK's Prime Minister from 1964 to 1970 and 1974 to 1976?
5. In which country is the port of Gdansk?
6. Which son of a former England footballer has been announced in the line up for Dancing On Ice?
7. In which county is Dartmoor situated?
8. In which UK country is Ardrossan?
9. What nationality was the soprano Dame Nellie Melba?
10. What sauce is served with Pear Belle Hellene?

Leslie Younger

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St Martins School



Brilliant performances from both the year 9 and year 11 boys' football teams this week. On Tuesday, the year 9s beat Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen at home with an impressive performance from Theo Polly. On Wednesday the year 11 boys lost to a strong Ellesmere College team and Jay Thompson was named player of the team with some excellent defending.

Congratulations to Molly Edge who very recently has been selected to play for Academy football team- Airbus in the Welsh league. She plays centre forward and recently drew in a game against Brickfield Rangers in Wrexham.



Wednesday 20th October the year 7 and 8 Netball squads played in a training night of coaching matches here at St. Martins School with Dinas Bran School. It was a hive of netball activity where new players learnt about netball in a competitive environment. It is planned that these teams will play competitive matches in the future against each other. St. Martins' netball teams are already entered into the North Shropshire Netball Tournaments and School League. St. Martins' girls were professional, showed their knowledge of the game to other players and were fantastic ambassadors of school. Mrs Hamm-Jones could not be prouder of them!



The primary phase are gearing up to Christmas with many lovely events and activities lined up including:

- A Nursery and Reception Nativity
 - A Year 1 and 2 Nativity
 - A 3,4,5 & 6 Christmas Show
- Our drama group will be visiting the Derwen College for their Pantomime Beauty and the Beast
- Jane Webber the Schools Christian Worker will be working on 'Christmas in a Box' with Years 2 and 4.
 - Our choir will be taking part in the Oswestry Christmas Parade on Saturday 4 December
 - The whole school will take part in a 'Crafternoon' session on Wednesday 8 December

On Friday 10 December we will have our Church Service and our Christmas dinner. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we will be unable to invite parents/carers into school to watch our performances, but we will post some videos on our website so that we can share the Christmas festivities with others.

SIX THINGS TO DO WHEN THERE IS A CARDIAC ARREST

In this order:

1. Check that the patient is not breathing

Don't panic

For 10 seconds look at them and see if they take a breath, put a hand on their chest and feel for a rise, listen for sounds of breathing

2. Shout for help – LOUDLY!

... if the patient is not breathing at all or not properly

3. Call 999 straight away ...

Ask for Ambulance

Listen to what the Controller is saying and do it

Once you have given the Controller your location the ambulance is on its way on blue lights

4. Start chest compressions

As soon as you can. The Controller will guide you

Put your phone on loudspeaker so you have two hands free

Don't stop

5. Send for the defibrillator ...

... if somebody is with you to help

They must take with them the key code for the defibrillator cabinet so write it down when the Ambulance Controller reads it out

6. Use the defibrillator

When it arrives, take it out of the case and press the power button to switch it on.

It will give you all the instructions you need and you still have the Controller on your phone – they won't hang up until the crew arrives, so you are not alone

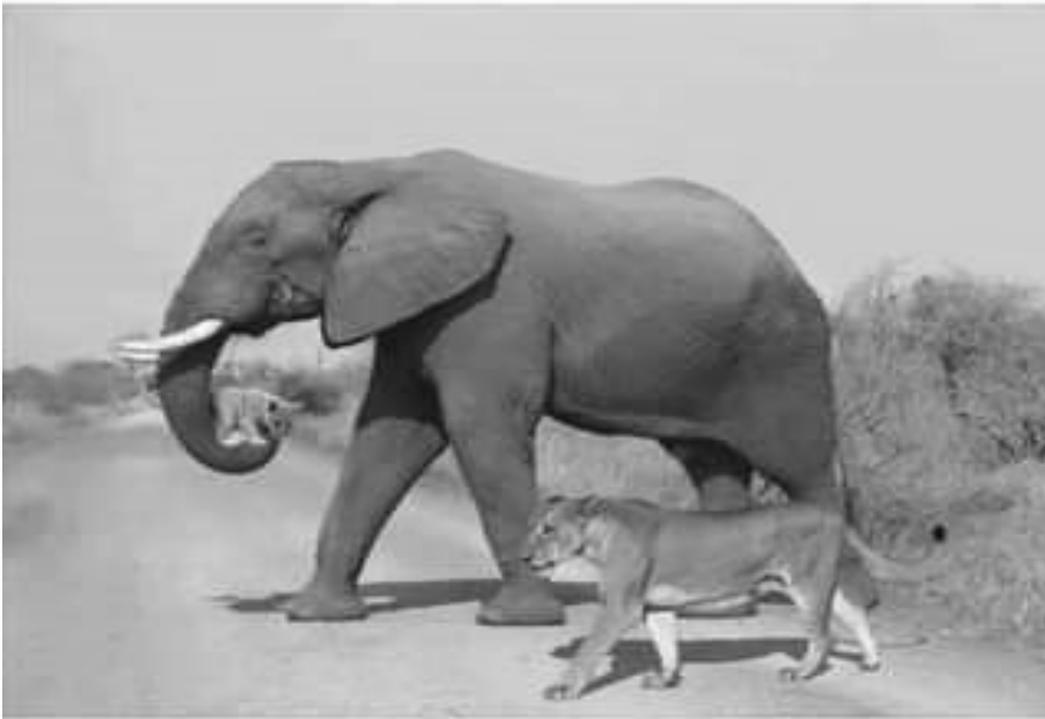
If you haven't got a defibrillator, do what the Controller tells you until the crew arrives

Defibrillators can be found at the following locations: RING 999 FIRST

- On the front corner of St Martins Centre Building Available 24hr
Lock code required from West Midlands Ambulance Service via 111.
- At Ridgway Rentals, phone **770171** Available Mon-Fridays 8am – 6pm
Can be delivered within the village by trained operator.

Rip this page out and put it on your fridge

or somewhere handy should you ever need it in an emergency.



Francois Lottering is at Kruger National Park.

- Phalaborwa, South Africa · 🌍

Got this from one of my ranger friends in S.A.. Kruger National park; elephant helps lion cub after she and her mom got tired walking for miles to a water hole. The elephant- from nowhere- came out of the Bush and carried the lion cub for more than 2 miles to the nearest water spot. Nature is just awesome.

ST MARTINS YOUTHIE

St Martins Centre, SY11 3AY

Indoors or outdoors, we are back!

Watch our Facebook page: [STMartinsYOUTHCLUB](#) for details.

All school years 6 & older welcome.

Thanks to our funders:

St Martins Parish Council, Arnold Clark Community Fund

Three Parishes
Big Local
Weston Rhyn • St Martins • Gobowen



What's on in December!

Sun 7th	Sunday Social	Chapter House Parish Church	3:30pm
Tues 2nd	WI	Annual Dinner	
Sat 4th	Christmas Tree Lighting	Memorial Garden Opposite Stan's	6pm
Wed 8th	Friends of Parkies	St Martins Centre	11am-1pm
Sat 11th	Noel! Carols with Cantiones	Christ Church, Oswestry Tickets £12	3:30pm
Wed 10th	Christmas Flower Demonstration by Izy Liston	Weston Rhyn Gardening Club at Weston Rhyn Institute	7:30
Thurs 11th	St Martins Parish Council	St Martins Centre	7:00pm