

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

August 2013

50p

***Summer –
when the sun
shines
brightly,
and the sea is
blue.***



Woolacombe beach in Devon

St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens, Acton W3 9SQ

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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Please ring the Parishes Office.

Articles for the next month's magazine should be sent to

Clive Davis (email: clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com)

They should reach the Editor by **13th August**.

The September magazine will be on sale by 25th August.

August the forgotten month



Named after the Roman Emperor Augustus in the year 8 BC, August was originally the sixth month of the old Roman ten-month year when in 45 BC Julius Caesar gave it 31 days. For complicated reasons it is a month which starts on a different day to all others in the year excepting in leap years and it ends on the same day as November every year, this year Saturday).

It is a month about which the hapless vicar writing in his parish magazine a few weeks ahead in 1914 said: 'August is a quiet month when nothing seems to happen'.

The epoch changing events of the First World and the first use of an Atomic bomb in warfare started respectively on 4th August for Britain and 6th August for Hiroshima. The 6th of August is poignant because it is for Christians the Feast of the Transfiguration where Jesus appears in light and glory and is transformed before his disciples on the mountain – see: Matthew 17 vv 1-9, Mark 9 vv 2-8, Luke 9 vv 28-36 and 2 Peter 1 vv 16-18.

It is however a holiday month and 26th August is a late August Bank holiday as usual this year.

So writing this article in the exceptionally hot days of mid July what is this vicar to make of it?

One good point is to give thanks that many people are able to take a holiday. For those who are able to take a break it should be a time of rest and refreshment in the midst of what is so often a very busy world.

Secondly, it could represent an opportunity to get some spiritual refreshment as well. Congregations traditionally go down during August as people are away. If you are one of those, don't take a holiday from church, why not visit another church somewhere and see what they are up to there? I for one am always keen to hear your accounts of what other churches do.


Lastly, there is an opportunity to think reflectively about what lies ahead. In our own case from the Autumn onwards we for the first time for many years will be on our own as the relationship between All Saints and St Martin's will have come to an end. I am hoping that this will trigger an upwelling of life and activity with fresh ideas and new forms of ministry. The Church Council will be having a day together to discuss the future in October and your thought and ideas will be welcome.

Interestingly towards the end of August we celebrate the Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle. His day falls this year on Saturday 24th of the month. In fairly recent history his day is associated with the St Bartholomew's Day massacre of Protestant Huguenots in 1572 in France. However, I don't wish to end on the same kind of note that I started with, so I'll note that St Bartholomew's miraculous legends are often associated with weight, the lifting of burdens and the imposing of them.

Perhaps August isn't such a different month after all?

Nicholas.






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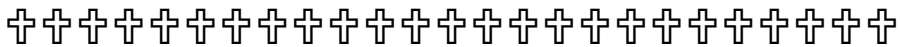
News of past parishioners.... Linda Oliver



Whilst on holiday in Switzerland, I worshipped at St Bernard’s Anglican Church in Wengen. This church has services in English which are conducted by volunteer chaplains who come to Wengen for 2 weeks in the summer and winter seasons.

When I spoke to the minister after the service, I told her that I was a Reader at St Martin’s, West Acton. To my surprise, she told me that she knew our church well as she had attended it and been a member of the Brownie pack until she left the area at the age of ten. Her name was Linda Rowe (nee Oliver). She is now a Reader in the Guildford diocese. I wonder if anyone remembers her?

Margaret Jones



Flower Rota for August

2nd – 14th August Liz Barnes

16th – 28th August Camilla Reid

Please call the next person on the list to remind them it is their turn once your fortnight is over. Don’t forget to water your flowers every 3-4 days.

Camilla

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For your information.....

The St Martin's Band is starting up again – on drums Maria Jones – bass the Vicar and hidden from view on piano – Ken Bartram.



Also a picture of our two churchwardens, Liza Ambridge and John Trussler

..... and our Safeguarding Officer, Bryony Franklin



Baptism last month...



Juliet Elsa Jones was christened at St Martin's on Sunday 7th July. Here she is with her parents Jonathan and Maria (who played the drums for us at the morning Family Service!). Best wishes to them and to Juliet's godparents Alan Martin, Elizabeth Corless and Sarah Jones.



KINGDOM SEASON LECTURE

Thursday, 21st November

Details available soon

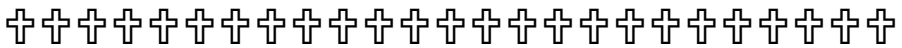
Peter Miller – R.I.P.



Sadly Peter Miller one of our longstanding members died in June. His funeral was held in the church on Friday 12th July.

Our love and prayers go to Sara his wife and Eden and Saul his sons.

Nicholas



The Transfiguration (August 6th)

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) & Luke (9:28-36).

On this day, Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the 4th century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (there is a great church up there today). Some believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before his friends. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses suddenly appeared, and talked with him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. Peter was staggered and suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?*

These two represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. *Why on top of a mountain?* In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

Alec Griffiths

For newer members of St Martin's, Alec was Bruce's predecessor who retired some four years ago after serving ten years as Nicholas's Assistant Priest.

On a recent trip to Scotland, Margaret and I visited Alec at his home in Largs on the West Coast. Alec's first-floor flat enjoys splendid views across the water to the islands, and has been adapted for his needs. Carers attend him three times a day.

Despite his disabilities, Alec remains cheerful and optimistic. As usual, he was full of jokes, stories and reminiscences, and made light of his many difficulties. He manages to get to church each week, to attend social events at the church and to attend the meetings of the local Rotary Club. A great sadness is his inability to preach any more. We were able to take him out for lunch, and we also got him some ice-cream to put in his freezer, and this made him as happy as a sandboy.

Alec wanted to know about all that was going on at St Martin's. He asked after everyone and wanted to be remembered to everyone.

Alec's fortitude and cheerfulness are an object lesson to us all. We remember him in our prayers.

Alan Jones



As seen on a church notice board.....

Will ladies responsible for making tea
kindly empty teapots and kettles
then stand upside down on the sink.

Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

(a joint event with CARA)

on Friday 4th October, 8pm – 11pm

in St Martin's Church Hall,

Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ

Music by *Scrape the Barrel*

Tickets available soon

~~~~~

## QUIZ NIGHT

It is to be held in October

Details will be in the magazine next month!

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Looking ahead....

It is hoped to stage a *REVIEW*.

If you are interested let the Vicar know.

Possible date is Friday, 6th December.

So you think English is easy?

If you think English is easy, read on:

The bandage was wound around the wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

We must polish the Polish furniture.

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

They were too close to the door to close it.

After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.

Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.



The Talking Centipede

A man decided to get an unusual pet. So he went to the pet shop and after some discussion, finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. The man took the box home, put it carefully on the table, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So next morning he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered the man, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, and decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me, or not?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box: "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

Guest preacher from CMS for Sunday 4th August

Faith Gordon will be our Guest Preacher on Sunday, 4th August. Faith is a CMS mission partner in training, preparing to work in Brazil. She is hoping to work with local churches developing business and training programmes that meet the spiritual, social, educational and employment needs of the various slum communities in a holistic and sustainable way.



Currently, Faith works and worships at the Chinese Church in London.


A longer article about Faith Gordon appeared in last month's magazine. If you missed it you can read the magazine on our website.

<http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk/monthly-magazine/>



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Inside stuff

- **Hanging things:** blinds, curtains, curtain rails, doors, pictures, mirrors, shelves, wallpaper, TV brackets
- **Fixing things:** toilet and cistern repairs, unblocking sinks/ drains, tap washer replacement, reseal shower tray, reseal kitchen drainer. Window repairs
- **New things:** replacement taps, showers, baths, extractor fans
- **Hiding things:** boxing in pipe work, pipes, wires and cables. Cupboards and storage. Painting and decorating
- **Making things:** flat pack furniture assembly, carpentry, kitchen fitting, bathroom fitting

Computer stuff

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- Anti-virus
- Hardware & software upgrades
- Hardware & software maintenance
- Software & OS installs/ rebuilds
- Tuition
- Networks
- Backups/ Archiving

Call or text Phil on 077-88-66-1791

References available

Beware, the church organist!

Church organists, it seems, are no longer as innocent as they look. After centuries of playing hymns for congregations and anthems for choir boys, it seems that church organists are now playing tricks – on their congregations.

A recent survey by Christian Research has found that perhaps up to half of all church organists may be slipping secular tunes into church services – when least expected. The tunes can range from snippets of heavy metal classics to advertising jingles to nursery rhymes to popular pop songs.

Among the examples cited was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders in the Kirk. He got his revenge by playing a thinly disguised version of 'Send in the Clowns' as they processed in for a Sunday service.

In another church, a vicar sacked an organist after he played 'Roll out the Barrel' at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink.

One very high church congregation was startled to find their elaborately dressed clergyman processing down the aisle to – the theme tune from The Simpsons.

Another congregation took up the collection – and found themselves listening to 'Money, Money, Money' by Abba.

The survey also uncovered examples of services 'livened up' with renditions of the theme tunes from the Magic Roundabout, Blackadder and Harry Potter.

Sung Evensong – normally seen as the pinnacle of English choral music – has been 'enriched' with such offerings as 'I'm a Barbie Girl' and 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'.

Stephen Goddard, of Christian Research, said: "It's an oft-repeated adage in church circles – 'What's the difference between an organist and a terrorist? - you can negotiate with a terrorist'. Hidden from view, your local church organist may appear unassuming, but like any true artist, he or she can be eccentric and mischievous. Mess with him at your peril – he will pull out all the stops to get his own back."

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Summer outing

A lorry driver had to deliver 500 penguins to the regional zoo. On his way, he broke down, and was desperate to get rid of the birds. So he waved down another lorry, and offered the driver £500 to take the penguins on to the zoo. The second driver agreed.

The next day the original lorry drove into a nearby town and to his horror saw the second lorry driver crossing the road with 500 penguins walking in single file behind him. He leapt out of his lorry and demanded: "What's going on? I gave you £500 to take these penguins to the zoo!"

"I did take them to the zoo. And I had enough money left over so that now we're going to the cinema."



The Coffee Club enjoying the hot weather in the Vicarage garden.



The Coffee Club meets every Wednesday, 11.30am, at 25 Birch Grove.

Water is getting scarcer

It's that time of the year when water is very much on our minds. Either we have been enjoying the summer sunshine too much and have to compensate with a hose-pipe ban or there's too much of the stuff and we're all complaining that summers are just not what they used to be. Well, I don't know about that – I can remember many a seaside holiday in Devon, dressed in our pacamacs and wishing we were somewhere else dry and warm.

Water is so important to our daily lives and to our worship. From the moment we enter the church there is the font where our spiritual life begins. Water is also part of the Eucharist. For other faiths it is an important part of preparing for worship.

Each year water becomes more important and there is no getting away from the fact that there is no such thing as 'new' water. Whatever rains today has rained before. There is the same amount now as when the world began, but the demands on it grow by the day. And yet we turn on a tap and assume it will start to flow – as much as we may demand.

But around the world there is an increasing awareness of the links between water and food now we know that 70% of all global freshwater is used in agriculture. That's fine if the rest of demands fit within the 30% left. But people at the United Nations are estimating that food demands will increase by 60% by the middle of this century and then the figures don't add up and the world will really be short of water. Population growth, shifts towards more water-intensive diets, not to mention rising requirements for water to produce energy for industry and homes all increase demand for limited water resources while more variable climate make their availability in the right quantity at the right time less reliable.

Latest estimates have put food waste in the world at 1.3 billion tonnes - a huge amount and if all that food has involved water then that means a lot of wasted water.

What we have to hope is that those responsible for food chains are totally committed to reducing waste and we should remember that the last link in the food chain is in our homes. If we waste food then we are wasting water too. Yes, it can be a pain if it rains on our holiday or the lawn is parched, but if we remember that water is a very special

part of our worship that should help us to realise it is something we should value - every single drop!

David Shreeve. (Environmental Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and also Executive Director of The Conservation Foundation, which he co-founded in 1982 with David Bellamy. www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/)



HE HAD A DREAM

Watching with sympathy as the Queen read a very boring speech someone else had written at the State Opening of Parliament, I fell to wondering: what has happened to oratory?

Other than Barack Obama, it's hard to think of a single English-speaking orator today of great distinction. Political speeches are either rants or lists of alleged facts, speeches at public events are often full of platitudes and clichés, and sermons in church (and I write as a regular preacher) have very largely become ten minute reflections, worthy but unmemorable.

Yet I remember in my student days any number of fine orators in our public life - my own favourite was that master of irony, Nye Bevan. Not far behind him was the man often dubbed the 'Welsh windbag', Neil

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Kinnock, who could rouse an audience to something approaching ecstasy. Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair (to balance things politically) were seldom boring and often hit on memorable phrases - 'The lady's not for turning', 'the people's princess'. And there were fine preachers - Martin Lloyd Jones, Michael Ramsey and Donald Coggan, to name but three. Where have they gone, the giants of podium and pulpit?

All of these wistful thoughts struck me when I found out that Martin Luther King made his unforgettable 'I have a dream' speech exactly 60 years ago this month. Happily, it's still available on any number of recordings, so that we can hear again its beauty, power, and passion. Speaking from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, this speech was a turning point in American history, probably as significant as Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address ninety years earlier. 'I have a dream', he cried, departing, it seems, from his prepared text, and launched into a magnificent vision of a new nation, one where children would not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. The psalms, the prophet Isaiah, even, briefly, Shakespeare became raw material for his passion. I heard it on the radio the next day, and like many people I was moved to tears.

More importantly, of course, the message as well as the oratory made an enormous impact. If one speech in our life-time has turned a whole society upside down, this was it. How wonderful that it was delivered by a black Baptist pastor. The assassin's bullet that killed him five years later turned his generation's most eloquent advocate of human rights into a modern martyr and a national hero. And the dream came true!

David Winter

It was on 28th August 1963 that Martin Luther King gave his famous 'I have a dream' speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



As seen on another church notice board.....

There will be a meeting of the Little Mother's Club.
All wishing to become Little Mothers
please meet the minister in his study.

The Parish of St Martin Hale Gardens, Acton W3 9SQ

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10am: Parish Communion

6.30pm: Evensong

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