

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

September 2013

50p

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.*

Hymn 53



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

www.stmartinswestacton.com

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

Skype: smartins.westacton

Vicar

The Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson
(also Chaplain to Acton Care Centre)
020 8992 2333

SS Associate Priest

The Revd Bruce Barnett-Cowan
020 8896 3065

Assistant Priest

The Revd Canon Dr Alyson Barnett-Cowan

Commissioned Lay Minister to the Japanese Anglican Church UK

Mrs Yuki Johnson (07572 324107)
yukifunakawa@btinternet.com

Parish Secretary (9.30am – 1.30pm weekdays)

Parishes Office, 25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP
020 8992 2333 (Fax: 020 8932 1951)

Reader

Dr Margaret Jones (020 8997 1418)

Reader Emeritus

Mrs Lynne Armstrong (020 8992 8341)

Churchwardens

Lisa Ambridge (020 8992 3029)
John Trussler (020 8992 4549)

Director of Music

Kenneth Bartram (c/o Parishes Office)

Magazine Editor

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

The Vicar is available for consultation and enquiries by appointment.
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 **16th September**.

The October magazine will be on sale by 29th September.



Back to school!

I rather like September. It's got some of the characteristics of a summer month whilst at the same time there can be a distinctly autumnal feel in the air. Mostly however it's good to be back into normality as it were – I suppose that really means back to work for most people.

That's a strange sentiment but for many people life as an endless holiday wouldn't really be that attractive. There's something to be said for the routine of 'normal' day-to-day existence.

Having said that we're in for what will be a busy period from now until Christmas – when we might be glad of another holiday!

At St Martin's we will need to face up to some new realities. The very longstanding partnership with All Saints church will have ended; the Church Council will be considering the next stage of our mission and ministry, our finances and stewardship will need reviewing and we've got an exciting autumn programme of events ahead. No need then to feel that we are just coasting.

In this context and because this is after all the Vicar's letter you'll expect some theology so I offer you a text from St Paul.

2 Corinthians 9 verses 6 to 8 "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Everyone should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

This is a sentiment that we're going to hear quite a lot of in the next few months because it sets what is a kind of benchmark for the Christian life. I suppose that it could be summarised as 'you get back what you put in' only 'do it cheerfully'.

... and there is every reason to be cheerful about this new term as it were.

Nicholas

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Spotted in the Vicarage garden.

Perhaps it is waiting for the
Coffee Club
to start at 11.30am every Wednesday

or is it booking the best place to watch the
Annual Bonfire Party
on Tuesday 5th November
starting at 6pm.

QUIZ NIGHT

**24 October 2013
7:00pm to 10:00pm**



**Church Hall
St Martins Church
Hale Gardens
London W3 9SQ**

**Do you know who wrote Beethoven's Fifth Symphony? Or what is the capital of England?
If so, then you are off to a good start!**

**Join in the fun on tables of six people.
Make up your own table with friends or make
new friends by joining a table.**

**£10 Entry includes Ploughman's Supper.
Liquid Refreshments available for purchase**

**Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church
Or**

Let the Parishes Office know on 020 8992 2333

St Martin's Messenger Group



This Group meets after the 10am Parish Communion on the second Sunday of each month in the Coffee Corner, we finish at about 11.45am. It discusses questions left in the 'On Message' box at the back of the church. Anyone may attend and anyone submit questions either by name or anonymously. It doesn't matter how difficult the questions are, in fact the more difficult the better!

The Group's general thoughts and conclusions will be published monthly in the magazine.

The group opened with its first session on Sunday 21st July after the 10 am service.

We started with a question about a line from the hymn 'God is working His purpose out', words by A. C. Ainger, 1841-1919 – *who incidently lived for a while in a house bordering Ealing Common, (Tune 'Benson' by Millicent Kingham 1866-1894).* The 'mystery' line is: 'as the waters cover the sea.' – what does that mean?

This was explained as a possible reference to ancient pre-Copernican times when the world was seen as having a heaven above (where the waters are), our earth (with its sea) and hell below. 'As the waters cover the sea' would refer to the waters of heaven enfolding the sea on

earth as a kind of divine blessing. (See: *Genesis 1 vv 6-8 which states that on the second day of creation God 'divided the waters that were on the earth from the waters that He placed above the earth when He made a 'firmament' (Hebrew: raqiya, meaning 'expanse') between those waters. See also: Habakkuk 2 v14 'For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea'. Also see: Isaiah 11 v 9 'They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea'.*

Another question discussed was why Jesus described himself as the *Son of Man* and not the Son of God? We noted that although others do of him (For example Matthew 27 v 54 where the centurion guarding Jesus on the cross says 'Truly this man was the Son of God!') Jesus never describes himself in this way. The term is used in all four gospels and 'Son of man' can be found in the prophetic Book of Ezekiel where it is used no less than 93 times! *Son of man* here appears to be a title referring to the humanity of the author. It also appears in the Book of Daniel see Chapter seven where the 'Son of man' figure takes on a more divine status.

Perhaps Jesus was referring to himself as the Son of Mankind, a kind of everyman son being reborn from generation to generation. However, although 'Son of Man' is a distinct from 'Son of God', some gospel passages do equate them, for example in the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of Mark during the trial of Jesus when the high priest asks: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed one?" Jesus replies "I am: and you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

The discussion then broadened into a general interchange of ideas before closing just before midday. It is surprising how much we know collectively!

Next session Sunday 8th September at 11.15am.

Chairs await any new messengers!

Notes by Gill Hull, analysis by the Vicar

Gill Hull, Convenor

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Sunday 6th October

Harvest Festival

10am Family Service

6.30pm Festal Evensong

Harvest produce (non perishable please)
will go to the Ealing Women's Refuge

And please don't forget

THE GIFT DAY Sunday 6th October

This year we are holding our Annual Gift Day on the same Sunday as Harvest Festival. This is an opportunity for you to give a financial gift to St Martin's as a special one off donation.

Friends have been very generous in past years and we hope that you will be able to be so again this time. Gift envelopes and a letter from the Vicar will be available soon.



The PCC wants your thoughts!

The PCC will be having a working Saturday in October. The purpose is to discuss the future of your St Martin's. This will take place on Saturday 19th October. If you have any thoughts or observations that you would like share, then write them down and send to the Vicar.



KINGDOM SEASON LECTURE

Thursday, 21st November
8pm

Details available soon

Baptisms last month

The following were baptised last month:

Leika and Emma, daughters of Sam and Mikako Boundy

Also...



Casper, seen here with his parents Pawel and Joanna Woytowicz.

We welcome them all into the church's family.



St Martin's Players Review

Friday, 6th December.

Do you sing or dance?

Perhaps you recite poetry?

Talent is required!

Let the Parish Office know.

A photograph of Ken Bartram's Summer lunch at an exclusive South London location.



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Received from CMS.....

Faith Gordon from the CMS was our guest preacher on Sunday, 4th August. The following letter has been received from the CMS.

Thank you so much for your kind and thoughtful gift of £200.00 in support of Faith Gordon and her work in Brazil. It really does mean a great deal to know that you are thinking of us at this time. I will ensure that your gift will directly support Faith, reaching out to share Jesus and change lives in Latin America.

A formal 'thank you' will follow shortly from our income team.

Please do keep in touch with our news on the CMS website here:

<http://www.cms-uk.org>



First results from the 2012 London Church Census

The number of people going to church on a Sunday in London leaped by 16% between 2005 and 2012. There are roughly 720,000 people in London going to church on a Sunday, nearly 100,000 more than the last time they were counted, seven years ago.

The diverse congregations filling London's churches on a Sunday now represent a quarter of all English churchgoers, as 8.8% of Londoners go to church each week (nearly 10% in inner London) compared with 5.6% of people in the rest of England.

These findings are from the London Church Census commissioned by London City Mission and carried out by Brierley Consultancy in October 2012.

The growth is largely driven by London's ethnic diversity. Two new churches opened in London every week between 2005 and 2012. Two-thirds of them were Pentecostal Black Majority Churches (BMC) and a third catered for a particular language or ethnic group. Another vibrant strand in London's church growth is the number of larger churches, categorised as those with over 200 people on a Sunday, though over a third of them have more than 500.

Larger churches account for 23% of all churches and just over half of all churchgoers (54%). The very largest congregations, the 140 that have over 800 people attending each Sunday, represent 3% of the churches and 12% of the churchgoers in London.

Marriage of Chinua Anderson to Lydia Dalmedo




In a lovely ceremony Chinua Anderson, son of Arden and Betty, and Lydia Dalmedo were married in St Martin's on Saturday 7th July.

This picture of them was taken at their reception.



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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

Over twenty years experience troubleshooting, building and installing Mac and PC and acting as software helpdesk, over ten years experience administering servers

- 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

Sixty Years on how the C of E has changed during the Queen's reign

For the past 60 years the Queen has been 'head' of the Church of England. What changes have there been in our churches since June 1953? A lot has happened in the past 60 years.

For one thing, the population of the United Kingdom has grown, while church membership has shrunk. In 1953, church members were a fifth of the population (19%), but by 1973 had dropped to 15%, and by 1993 to 11%, and to an estimated 8% in 2013, a decline not quite so rapid as previously, probably again because many of the immigrants are Christian adherents (a 2000 survey indicated that 24% were Christian).

The number of churches has kept within the 50-55,000 range throughout the Queen's reign, declining from 1953 to 1993 but growing over the last 20 years, especially in England. For example, some 700 new churches have started in London alone between 2005 and 2012.

In 1953 there was an average of 180 members per church; in 1983 the average was 140 per church and in 2013 the average is 110 members per church.

There were 42,000 ministers in 1953, dropping to 36,000 by 1983 and staying at about that level until 2003, since when the number has grown to 37,000 in 2013.

While the total number of ministers has thus not changed greatly over the past 40 years, the proportion who are female has increased markedly, to nearly a fifth (19%) of the total in 2013, this percentage varying between zero in some denominations (like the Roman Catholics and Orthodox) to half or more in others (like the Methodists and Salvation Army).

Regardless though of varying statistics over the past 60 years, two facts remained unchanged – the privileged position of the Church of England as the bedrock church of this nation and the inspiring unchanging personal faith of our Sovereign Queen.

Dr Peter Brierley, a church consultant.

Friday 4th October

Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

(in association with the Creffield Area Residents Association)

7.30pm for 8pm
in St Martin's Church Hall,
Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ

Music by *Scrape the Barrel* Ceilidh Band

Tickets: £12 (Children/Concessions: £6)

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Financial Statistics for the C of E in 2011

Parish incomes continue to increase, passing £900 million for first time at £916 million, up £20 million on 2010, according to the latest parish finance statistics published by the Church of England.

Income from giving in 2011 increased by 1.3% to £546 million, with planned giving exceeding £10 per subscriber each week for the first time and tax-efficient giving reaching £10.70 a week. At £46.40 a month, this is more than double the average donation to the charitable sector of £17.00 a month.

Dr John Preston, National Stewardship Officer, said, "2011 saw another year of increased parish incomes and giving, in large part due to the faith and commitment of regular givers. Although overall growth in income was lower than inflation, it is encouraging to note that the average weekly gift from our planned givers rose by a further 3%."

Other figures showing improvement include income from parish investments, up 7% as markets improved, and income from trading, such as book stalls, parish magazines and church halls, up 6%.

Investment in church buildings, for maintenance and improvements to facilities for community use, topped £200 million for first time, in 2011. Parishes made significant donations to mission organisations and other charities, totalling £49 million in 2011.

Average weekly tax-efficient giving in dioceses ranged from £6.40 to £20.20; while weekly giving per electoral roll member ranged from £4.10 to £9.40.



When day equals night.....

September 22 is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere).

The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

From the Bishop of London.....

Urgent prayers requested for St Saviour's, Suez



Dear Friends

Bishop Mouneer has written to request prayers for the worrying situation in Egypt.

Christian churches of all denominations have suffered attacks. In particular Bishop Mouneer reports that rioters have thrown stones and Molotov Cocktails at St Saviour's Anglican Church in Suez. Please take a few minutes to read the fuller story on the website:
<http://dioceseofegypt.org/2013/08/urgent-prayers-for-egypt/>

Please hold all affected in your prayers and, in the words of Bishop Mouneer, 'pray that the situation will calm down, for wisdom and tact for the police and the army, for the safety of all churches and congregations, and that all in Egypt would be safe'.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel



The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA

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From the Area Dean....

2 August 2013

Dear Nicholas,

Parish: 2214 St Martin West Acton

RE: Common Fund Offer for 2014

Thank you so much for responding to the request for an offer to Common Fund in 2014. We appreciate your willingness to be part of the body of Christ in the deanery and diocese in this way.

We received your offer of £73,750, a 5% increase.

The Deanery Finance Team has now met and considered the picture across the deanery. The Area Staff Team also met last week to discuss the Common Fund pledges across the Willesden Area. Both want to say a huge thank you for your offer as it will make a tremendous difference to enable us to meet our target across the deanery in supporting the mission of the church across the diocese.

Yours in Christ,

Christopher Ramsay

.... and from the Diocese

What if the church saw blood and organ donation as part of its giving?

The Church of England has partnered with the NHS alongside other Christian groups to encourage everyone to think about the Christian mandate to heal and care for others. This campaign seeks to motivate more people to give blood and register as an organ donor.

It is said that 96% would take an organ if they needed one whereas 31% of people are registered organ donors. Also that 96% of us rely on 4% to give blood. 7,000 units of blood are needed every day to meet hospital demand with approximately 225,000 extra blood donors needed per year. Around 1,000 people die each year waiting for a transplant.

More information can be found at www.fleshandblood.org

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

www.stmartinswestacton.com

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

Skype: smartins.westacton

Usual Sunday Services

8am: Holy Communion

10am: Parish Communion

6.30pm: Evensong

Our Sunday School meets in the Church Hall at 10am except when there is a Family Service.

A non-Eucharistic Family Service
is held on most first Sundays of the month.

Japanese Anglican Church UK

meets every third Sunday of the month:

(except July, August and December)

3pm Bible Study and Evening Worship in Japanese

Weekdays:

Every Tuesday: 8am Holy Communion

Every Wednesday: 11.30am Coffee Club
at 25 Birch Grove, W3.