

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

October 2013

50p



**Join us for our Harvest Festival service  
on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10am**

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

[www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk](http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk)

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## **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](mailto: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**

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John Trussler (020 8992 4549)

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## **Magazine Editor**

Clive Davis ([clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com))

They should reach the Editor by **14<sup>th</sup> October**.

The November magazine will be on sale by 27<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Let's see what we can do!**

This Fall St. Martin's finds itself in a new situation. Our formal relationship with All Saints has come to an end and our sister congregation is embarking on a new phase of their ministry. This has been cause for some disappointment and sadness. I have been doing some considerable thought and prayer about all this and would like to share with you some of my musings.

When two siblings share a life together, playing, laughing, fighting, crying, celebrating, rejoicing and generally being with each other through good and ill it can come as a bit of a shock when one of them departs to get married. The one who is left behind can have many mixed emotions about the new reality. A good brother or sister will, of course, want to respect the new relationship and give the other one some space to establish themselves with their spouse. This does not mean a severance of concern or care or of all social interaction but it does allow for the new reality to flourish and grow.

We rightly will keep All Saints in our hearts and thoughts. I hope we will have many social opportunities of being together (as we might well do with any other of our sister congregations in the deanery) and to gather for special purposes of celebration, but the relationship has changed. Wish them well on their new venture and keep them in your prayers.

Here at St. Martin's we do have an opportunity to reassess and re-evaluate our own life together. This is an opportunity for looking at ways that our life together in Christ may be enriched, our ministry expanded, our worship enhanced, and our spiritual life nourished in new ways. If we take an open, positive, and creative approach we have some great possibilities ahead of us.

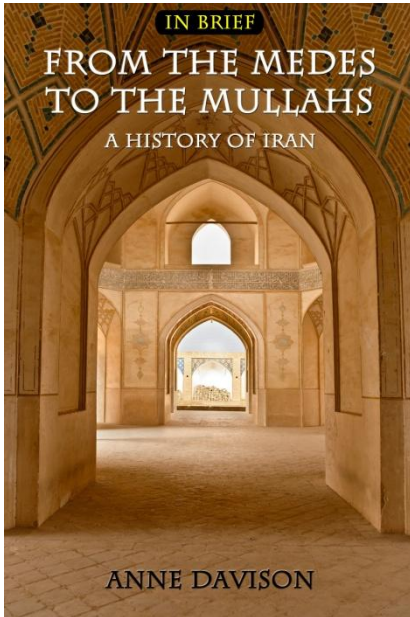
Both Nicholas and myself will have more time to spend concentrating on your needs and helping you in that process and we look forward to discovering ways in which our ministries may be enhanced among you.

To All Saints "Ave atque Vale"

To St. Martin's "Let's see what we can do!"

*Bruce*

## A History of Iran



Anne Davison has just published an e-book on Amazon which people might find interesting.

It is called From the Medes to the Mullahs: a history of Iran. It is short and accessible and includes the key moments in the history of Iran, or Persia, from about 600 BCE to the current Islamic Republic of Iran.

If you have ever wondered who the Medes were, why the Jews remember Cyrus the Great in their prayers or how the Sunni and Shi'a came to be different Sects within Islam, this book may be useful.



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

**Let the Parishes Office know on 020 8992 2333**

## On Message Group



***The 'On message' Group meets every second Sunday after the 10am service and during coffee. Questions for the Group can be posted in the box at the entrance of St Martin's.***

### **Report on the meeting held Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

This week, the group discussed two questions:

- Can Christians go to war or turn the other cheek?
- Does the Church of England still believe in Purgatory?

To the first question, a lively debate began with the idea that, as Christians committed to relieving the suffering of others, not to go to war would be a hard cross to bear. An example here is our participation in World War II to prevent Nazi control in Europe. The quotation 'if you want peace, prepare for war' summed up the idea of needing an army to defend one's country and its people. This train of thought led to a discussion of the moral validity of nuclear arms – if only to discourage, in the strongest possible way, reprisal from other countries.

Moving on to Jesus saying 'turn the other cheek', we discussed the Herod dynasty, where tyrannical rule survived 98 years. However, during this period, the Romans were kept at bay, the Temple in Jerusalem was built and the Jews were able to live a peaceful, independent life. In this case, it would appear in some cases beneficial not to use military aggression against a nation in conflict (such as Syria), even to relieve suffering, when the world has not yet been fully convinced of who there has used chemical weapons.

Having discussed the question from both points of view, the group agreed to disagree over the proposal that God gives free will to act according to individual moral conscience: to prepare for war as defence or to stay out of war for the greater good.

The second question, 'Does the Church of England still believe in Purgatory?' This question had come from Katie aged five, which was a surprisingly mature theological question for one so young. However, it turned out that Katie's original question was 'Is it all right to kill wasps?' – somehow the question had mutated into the one we dealt with.

The vicar said that the Anglican church apart from a few very high church sections, rejects the idea of Purgatory as it is not mentioned in Scripture. C. S Lewis was referred to, with his idea that Purgatory is a process of purification by suffering in this lifetime, which received a positive response by some members of the group. The vicar went on to say that perhaps related to the idea of Purgatory there was the concept of Universalism, whereby we all reach heaven through God's redemptive love. The Parable of the labourers in the Vineyard was discussed where all are paid the same, regardless of the amount of individual effort. This led on to discussion on salvation, not through works, but through faith; works being a symptom of and not a cause of, faith. Finally we pondered the Pauline idea that 'we are citizens of this world and subjects of the next'.

At this point, the meeting concluded. The next meeting will be on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October after the 10am service.



## **Harvest Festival - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. If you haven't yet received your email or letter then contact the Parish Office.

## **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 19<sup>th</sup> October. If you have any thoughts or observations that you would like share, then write them down and send to the Vicar. You should have picked up your questionnaires by now. If you haven't yet returned them, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.



### **Edward the Confessor (1003 – 66) – October 13<sup>th</sup>**

If you approve of giving money to help cathedrals survive, then Edward the Confessor is the saint for you. This early King of England was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey. And never mind entrance charges - at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second, Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made king of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.


As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the original Westminster Abbey - a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

During the Middle Ages, Edward was a very popular saint: along with Edmund of East Anglia he was widely considered to be England's patron saint for a time.

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- Flat roof repairs
- Gutter clearing
- Lock changing

### 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

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

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

References available



**St Martin's Church West Acton, and  
Creffield Area Residents' Association**

**Harvest Supper and Barn Dance**  
**Friday 4 October, 7:30 for 8pm**  
**in the Church Hall, Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ**  
**with 'Scrape the Barrel' Ceilidh Band**

**Tickets £15 (children £7.50) from the Parish Office**  
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## Thank you, Dr Luke!

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day - 18<sup>th</sup> October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

*By David Winter*

Remember, remember the fifth of November?

**Tuesday 5th November at  
6pm in the Vicarage Garden**

**Baked potatoes & fireworks - £1**



**Autumn Bazaar**

**Saturday 16th November**

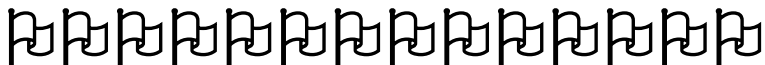


**KINGDOM SEASON LECTURE**

***Those Tudor women and the consequences!***

Given by the Vicar in the Lady Chapel Lecture Room

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November at 8pm**



**Sunday 1st December**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

Photos from the recent 20-40s meal



Thanks to those who came to Dantés, also to Rosemary whose idea it was.

Nicholas



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# Food collection at Morrisons, Acton Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Please help us!



Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to Ealing foodbank's collection point outside Morrisons in Acton on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October

- Ealing foodbank is designed to help individuals and families in crisis, through the provision of emergency food supplies.
- Local professional care-workers refer them, with a food voucher, to their local foodbank centre where they are given their food supplies, a cup of coffee and help in finding other professionals who can help them out of their crisis.
- Ealing foodbank allows the general public to contribute to and support local well-being in a simple practical way.
- Ealing foodbank is an initiative of the churches in Ealing, supported by Trussell Trust. The first foodbank centre will be in Acton, opening October 2013

- \* Milk (UHT or powdered)
- \* Sugar (500g)
- \* Fruit Juice (carton)
- \* Soup
- \* Pasta Sauces
- \* Sponge Pudding (Tinned)
- \* Tomatoes (Tinned)
- \* Cereals
- \* Rice Pudding (Tinned)
- \* Tea Bags/instant coffee
- \* Instant Mash Potato
- \* Rice/Pasta
- \* Tinned Meat/Fish
- \* Tinned Fruit
- \* Jam
- \* Biscuits or snack bars

[www.ealing.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.ealing.foodbank.org.uk)  
Charity registration pending.  
Company No. 8611832 Reg. in England & Wales.

Thank you!



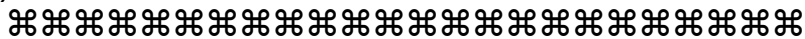
Have a chat with Jackie Nicholls if you need further information.

*Dear families of junior church*

As part of our recent discussions around stewardship, it has been suggested that children attending junior church are encouraged to make a small optional donation (suggested amount 20p – but less – or more – is also fine!). During the offertory, one or two of the children will then take it in turns to take the collection up to the altar alongside the main collection. The main objective of this is not to raise money, but so that the children see how we can give, and get to play a more active part in stewardship and making an offering to God. Otherwise, those of us in junior church (both the children and the adults!) don't get to be part of this.

This was approved at PCC on Monday 16th September, and it has started from Sunday 22nd September onwards. If your children attend junior church, please could you therefore encourage them to bring a small donation to junior church to put into the junior church collection? We are also keeping some spare change in the junior church cupboard so that anyone who doesn't have any can have some to put into the collection and doesn't feel left out.

*Bryony*



## **Christian bookshops burned in Egypt**

Two Bible Society bookshops in Egypt have been attacked and burned by angry demonstrators in the recent violence there. The attacks happened when security forces recently moved in to break up protest camps in Cairo. The bookshops, in Assuit and Minia, two of the largest cities in southern Egypt, were completely destroyed. Ramez Atallah (General Director of Bible Society in Egypt) explains: "These were both beautiful, fully-equipped bookshops. The attackers demolished the metal doors protecting the bookshops, broke the windows and set the bookshops on fire." Thankfully no staff were injured, but Ramez said it was "heartbreaking to watch on TV this bloodshed between fellow Egyptians unfolding before our eyes" and added that, "the vast majority of Muslims are peace-loving people who want the Christians to continue living as co-citizens in Egypt." Sadly, 15 churches and 3 Christian schools were also targeted. But demand for Bibles is still very high, and so Bible Society will continue to trade from local warehouses until the shops are restored. To raise the money to do this, Bible Society has put out an urgent appeal to raise £12,000 online. If you would like to help, please go to: [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk) and click on Appeals.

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**Here are the photographs of Emma and Leika....**

These photos of the baptism of Emma and Leika Boundy didn't make it in time for last month's magazine.



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## All Hallows Eve (October 31<sup>st</sup>)

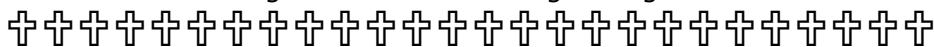
Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times. In those days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was then called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



**It makes you think!**

Sidesman to parishioner: "Why are you late?"

Parishioner to Sidesman: "Church started before I got here!"

## **Statement from Church of England on 'fracking'**

The Chair of the Church of England's group on Mission and Public Affairs, Philip Fletcher, has recently issued the following statement placing recent media reports in context:

"The Church of England has no official policy either for or against hydraulic fracturing (known as 'fracking'). However there is a danger of viewing fracking through a single issue lens and ignoring the wider considerations.

"There are a number of balancing considerations which need to be taken into account when coming to a view. Fuel poverty is an increasingly urgent issue for many in society - the impact on energy bills is felt most by the least well off. Blanket opposition to further exploration for new sources of fuel fails to take into account those who suffer most when resources are scarce.

"I would want to emphasise along with all those that care for the environment the importance of proper controls in relation to any form of fracking - we do not want cowboys and cavaliers digging up the land in a free for all exploitation. However as the Royal Academy of Engineering concluded recently in a review on fracking, this is a procedure which "can be managed effectively in the UK as long as operational best practices are implemented and robustly enforced through regulation".

"There are issues and risks. The answer to those is to treat them seriously and to minimise them. There are examples of how this can be done in other areas. The oil well operating at Brownsea Island demonstrates that oil production in a deeply sensitive area can continue for decades without endangering the environment.

"Clearly all carbon based fuels contribute to global warming and are less than ideal in terms of climate change. However, it should also be recognised that gas is less damaging than coal and to preclude properly managed technical development is to risk denying ourselves more important, less polluting and less costly options than the energy sources on which we currently rely.

"Fuel poverty, the creation of jobs, energy self-sufficiency and the development of technology that may reduce the impact of more polluting fuels are just some of the factors which need to be taken into account in any debate alongside the concern we all have about the impact of fossil fuels upon climate change."

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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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

Every **Tuesday**: 8am Holy Communion

Every **Wednesday** at 25 Birch Grove, W3

11am: Informal Eucharist

Followed at 11.30am by the Coffee Club