

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

November 2013

50p

## St Martins

Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ

# Advent Bazaar

Saturday 16 November 2013

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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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)

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Parishes Office, 25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP  
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Dr Margaret Jones (020 8997 1418)

## **Reader Emeritus**

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Kenneth Bartram (c/o Parishes Office)

## **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 **12<sup>th</sup> November**.

The November magazine will be on sale by 24<sup>th</sup> November.

## Ministry for today.

'There are three kinds of lies, lies, damned lies and statistics'. The term was popularised in the United States by Mark Twain, who attributed it to the 19th-century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881): However, the phrase is not found in any of Disraeli's works and the earliest known appearances were years after his death and the phrase is often attributed to Twain himself.

Bearing this in mind it depends where you get your information about the current state, for example of the Church of England. The Church of England website under its research and statistics section <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/facts-stats.aspx> is quite bullish about the current state of play with some encouraging facts and figures about attendance, the number of church schools and so on. On the other hand you can find quite depressing facts about the percentage of young people who would declare themselves to be part of a church and indisputably the phenomenon of what I call *secular humanism* is a rising trend. One can observe this notably in the rise of the number of so-called humanist funerals, an area of ministry that was previously the almost exclusive preserve of religion.

Further, what I find most disturbing is how the Church, not least the Church of England, appears to be viewed these days. It is variously seen as being out of touch and in more extreme cases even evil! An unhealthy preoccupation with sex of the condemnatory kind, a reputation for being 'against things' and a tardiness to embrace otherwise accepted societal norms such as the leadership of women are but a few examples.

Of course, looking at the Church from the inside as it were, one can find and accepting, caring and loving environment and at St Martin's I like to think that that is how we are. Nevertheless, we are on the front line of a new era for Christianity that sees it as but one option amongst many others.

It is not realistic to suppose that St Martin's can singlehandedly address the way in which the Church or Christianity is viewed, but we do have a responsibility, an imperative to be ambassadors for Christ here in this part of West London. This does mean constant attention to how we do things, a willingness to engage in new styles and patterns of worship and ministry, a resolve to be part of the community.

In this latter respect the church fathers who built St Martins put it in amongst what was then a new estate quite deliberately. They did so instead of siting it on the main road as we might have done today. We live with the consequences, which mean that we have to work hard to be visible.

Members of the Parochial Church Council met in October on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at a retreat centre in North London to spend time together thinking through exactly the circumstances and challenges that I have just described. Their deliberations will be published in due course but they will certainly have as their purpose how we can be Christians in the first quarter of the twenty first century. No dodgy statistics are expected as an outcome; instead I expect something else that is sometimes attributed to Mark Twain as well as Winston Churchill 'I have nothing to offer but blood, sweat and tears'.

Being a Christian today demands constant vigilance and a passion for the Gospel that, I think, is without any manipulation of the figures indisputably where we should always be.

Nicholas



The informal **Eucharist and Coffee Club Group** meets at 11am every Wednesday at the Vicarage. Latest photograph.



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## On Message Group 13-10-13

Following on from last month's discussion on justifiable warfare, we opened the group, chaired by Bruce, with these two topics:

Is it morally acceptable for humans to kill other life forms?

How is the drowning of the Egyptians in the Passover justified?

Bruce emphasised the human qualities of Wisdom and Respect in dealing with the animal kingdom. We discussed the case where some animals were once preyed on by others now extinct in the UK. In Scotland, for example, to control the deer population it is proposed to reintroduce wolves. In the recent badger cull debate, killing is sometimes necessary in order to protect other members of God's creation. Even germs and bacteria are living, yet antibiotics serve to protect humans from disease. The key issue is responsible and measured action by man towards other species. Bruce went on to say that, as part of God's creation, mankind exercises responsible power over the animal and vegetable kingdoms. We need protein for a balanced diet as well as vegetables. We talked about the indigenous people of northern Canada who pray for each animal before killing it, to respect its essence as part of the Creation. In conclusion, humans may responsibly kill other species with a purity of intention and an attitude of wisdom and respect.

The second topic: those who died in the Passover, was discussed. Bruce added that here, long term divine purpose is at issue: the short term sacrifice of human life (the Egyptians) for the greater good and the later mission of the Jewish people. The idea of humans taking human life harks back to the previous debate in last month's meeting.

We ended with the general conclusion that the taking of life- if for the greater good of God's human race-can be morally acceptable and justified.

***Next meeting: Sunday 10 November after 10 am service.***

***(Note: plenty of seats waiting for new inputters!)***

# Kingdom Season Lectures 2013

8pm in the Lady Chapel

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

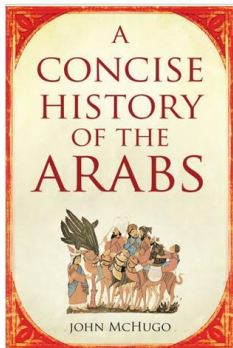
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CHARLES TRIPP, author of *The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East*

'A well-written, original and stimulating introduction to the Arab world' GILBERT ACHCAR, author of *The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives*

'Vivid and engaging ... invaluable for those seeking to understand the depth and complexity of the contemporary issues in the Arab world' JOY GORDON, author of *Invisible War: The United States and the Iraq Sanctions*

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November

'Those Tudor Women- part 1'

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

'Those Tudor Women- part 2'

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November

'Those Tudor Women- part 3'

The Rev'd Dr. Nicholas Henderson

Those Tudor women and the political and religious consequences!

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## Memories of our Harvest Festival and Barn Dance.....

Two photographs from the Harvest Festival service.



The *Singology* Group with our choir.

The music group consisting of (from left to right) Ken Bartram (Keyboard) Charlotte Blake (Trumpet) David Oxley (Trumpet) Tome Kwaterski (French Horn) Maria Jones (Drums)



From the Barn Dance.....





The Supper was provided by *Camilla'a Cuisine*.

The music was supplied by *Scrape the Barrel*.



The Barn Dance was held in conjunction with CARA (Creffield Residents' Association)

A good time was had by all.

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

## Baked potatoes & fireworks - £1



### Why go to church?

A church-goer complained to his minister: "I've been coming to church every Sunday for 30 years, and in that time I have heard thousands of sermons, but for the life of me, I can't think of a single one now. So I think I have wasted my time."

The minister thought for a moment and replied: "I've been married for 30 years and my wife has cooked me thousands of meals. For the life of me I can't recall the entire menu of a single one of those meals now. But I do know that each one nourished me and gave me strength to carry on living. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would have been stunted and eventually starved. Without regular Christian nourishment, we also will starve – spiritually."



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***In memory of C S Lewis  
who died 50 years ago this month***

*C S Lewis, the great Christian writer, creator of the Narnia Chronicles and Oxford don, died 50 years ago this month. Here is a selection of some of his writings on Christianity....*

God cannot bless us until he has us. When we try to keep within us an area that is our own, we try to keep an area of death. Therefore, in love, he claims all. There's no bargaining with him.

It was not for societies or states that Christ died, but for me.

It is Christ himself, not the Bible, that is the true Word of God. The Bible, read in the right spirit and with the guidance of good teachers, will bring us to him.

A man can't always be defending the truth; there must be a time to feed on it.

If you want a religion to make you really feel comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity.

The mind which asks for a non-miraculous Christianity is a mind in process of relapsing from Christianity into mere 'religion'.

In science we have been reading only the notes to a poem; in Christianity we find the poem itself.

'Putting on Christ' is not one among many jobs a Christian has to do; and it is not a sort of special exercise for the top class. It is the whole of Christianity. Christianity offers nothing else at all.



**Some Puns for the Educated Minds**

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

## The Churches Players

It is with sadness that we have to announce that the Churches Players, which was originally set up as a joint venture between St Martin's and All Saints' Churches, has been dissolved.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has taken part in, contributed to and supported the many productions we have undertaken.

An enormous amount of effort has been put in by so many members of our congregations, both adults and children over the years and enjoyment, personal fulfillment, unforgettable memories and lasting friendships have resulted.

Many thanks to you all.

Jackie Nicholls



### Note for your diary

## 1st December: CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



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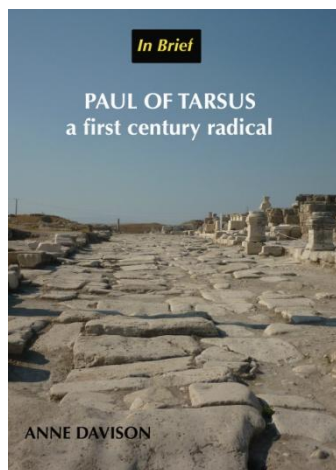




Taken from the  
Vicarage – is there a  
crook of gold at the  
end of that rainbow?



## PAUL OF TARSUS: a First Century Radical



Anne Davison has just published her second book. It looks at the radical Jew of the First Century who challenged the *status quo*.

It is short and accessible and should appeal to the general reader who wants to learn about the man from Tarsus from a historical perspective, rather than the more usual avenue, through Scripture.

This book, and her previous publication *From the Medes to the Mullahs: a History of Iran* are both available at Amazon; both in paperback and electronic form.

[www.amazon.co.uk/Medes-Mullahs-ebook/dp/B00EFZPKF6](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Medes-Mullahs-ebook/dp/B00EFZPKF6)

[www.amazon.co.uk/PAUL-OF-TARSUS-Century-ebook/dp/B00FIOUP7G](http://www.amazon.co.uk/PAUL-OF-TARSUS-Century-ebook/dp/B00FIOUP7G)



## Some more Puns for the Educated Minds

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it....

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.



# ST MARTIN'S PLAYERS PRESENT....

## A Christmas Revue & Mini Pantomime

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Fancy a role?

Do you sing, dance, play the spoons,  
mind- read, tell a joke ...anything


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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

#### 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

## Growing decade for cathedral congregations

The number of worshippers at Church of England cathedrals increased in 2012, continuing the growing trend seen since the Millennium. Total weekly attendance at the 42 cathedrals grew to 35,800, according to *Cathedral Statistics 2012*, an increase of 35% since 2002.

Along with occasional and special services, the regular worshipping life of cathedrals has proved more popular than ever over the past decade with cathedrals pointing to stronger community links attracting more people. Easter 2012 saw the highest attendance in the last decade, at 54,700. Attendance at midweek services has grown most, from 8,900 in 2002 to 16,800, while Sunday attendance has grown from 17,500 to 19,100.

The numbers of children and young people attending educational events is the highest for 10 years (306,800 in 2012 compared to 265,100 in 2002). The number of volunteers serving cathedrals continued to rise, reaching 15,570, 30% up on the 11,930 in 2002. Between them, they fulfil a range of 860 voluntary roles across the country. Other regular services, run at least once a month, attracted a further 1,639,300 worshippers. Around one million attended more than 5000 public/civil events in the cathedrals, down from a peak in 2010 but still nearly twice as many as in 2002. 2,900 specially arranged services, such as annual festivals and school leavers' services attracted a further 930,000.

Dr Bev Botting, Head of Research and Statistics for the Archbishops' Council said: "Cathedrals continue to flourish as worshipping communities while offering a valuable insight into our nation's heritage. The statistics show people of all ages are increasingly drawn to cathedrals for worship, to attend educational and civic events, and to volunteer to ensure our cathedrals are open to all those who are drawn to visit and worship in these wonderful buildings."



**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**

Celebration Eucharist for

Bruce and Alyson's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of their Ordination



# Bishop of Guinea visiting next year

Anglicans are a tiny minority in the Republic of Guinea. Christians represent only ten percent of the population in this French speaking country in West Africa.



His Cathedral in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, is dedicated to All Saints.

We hope to establish a fraternal link with them through Bishop Jacques (who has good English) and who is visiting Lambeth Palace and the Archbishop of Canterbury next year.



Bishop Boston Jacques is the Bishop of the Diocese of Guinea, Province of West Africa. His Cathedral in Conakry, the



# Bishop Christopher Kato from the Diocese of Tohoku



The Japanese Anglican Church (UK) which we host at St Martin's with our Commissioned Leader Mrs Yuki Johnson is hosting Bishop Christopher Kato from the Diocese of Tohoku in March next year. Tohoku is the diocese where our friends from Christ Church Sendai (the cathedral) come from and of course it is where there was terrible damage from the earthquake and tsunami.



だいに・東北

Daijini Tohoku, Love One Another

# **GREAT EASTERN JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI MEMORIAL SERVICE**

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15<sup>th</sup> March (Sat) 2014 16:00



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Preacher: The Rt. Rev. H Kato

Bishop of Tohoku, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Church in Japan)



Contact: Japanese Anglican Church (UK) [Shuto-tomoni@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Shuto-tomoni@hotmail.co.uk)

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear...*

What wonderful words of hope and faith in the coming of Jesus, our Messiah! You've heard that Advent carol every Christmas-tide of your entire life. But if it wasn't for a quiet, High Anglican English vicar who was once warden of an almshouse in East Grinstead, most likely you would never have heard of it.

John Mason Neale (1818-66) had always loved words. As a child of 10 he had edited his own handwritten family magazine. As a young man he enjoyed long solitary walks in the English countryside, pausing only to do a bit of brass-rubbing or to collect the architectural details of the country churches he discovered.

Neale was something of a scholar: he was captivated by the Middle Ages and the medieval church, the early church fathers and the lives of the saints. As one small girl at his almshouse orphanage once observed, Mr Neale (then in his 40s) "must be very old, to have talked to so many saints and martyrs". John Mason Neale's place in history was assured when he decided to translate old hymns into English. He went on to become the greatest of all translators of hymns from the old Latin, Greek, Russian and Syrian churches. 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' was just one of them; it began as an old Latin hymn of doubtful date. Today it is loved round the world.



### **10 years since signing of historic Anglican-Methodist Covenant**

This November will mark ten years since the historic Anglican-Methodist Covenant was signed by the Methodist Church of Great Britain and the Church of England.

There will be feedback and debates next year in the Conference and the General Synod as the two churches respond and explore the next steps in their pilgrimage together. Two years ago, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, told the Methodist Conference that he hoped to see the Church of England and Methodist communities growing much closer together.

Dear Friends

I am very pleased to announce that The Venerable Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Hackney, has been elected as one of the first female Regional Representatives to sit in the House of Bishops from Advent Sunday this year. You will remember that at its meeting in February this year the House of Bishops decided that eight senior women clergy, elected regionally, will participate in all meetings of the House until such time as there are six female Bishops who will sit as of right.



Rachel has been a valued and very active member of our Senior Staff since she became the first female Archdeacon in the Diocese in 2006. She was Archdeacon of Northolt until 2011 when she returned to her native Area of Stepney as Archdeacon of Hackney.

Rachel will have a very distinctive voice in the House of Bishops, not only as a very experienced female cleric but as someone who knows what it is for the poor to be our teachers both here in London and through our ALMA link with Angola and Mozambique.

I commend her to your prayers and support as she now broadens her ministry by serving in the House of Bishops as it moves through the coming years of transition.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, which appears to read 'Richard Chartres'.

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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Email: [stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com](mailto: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

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

11am: Informal Eucharist

Followed at 11.30am by the Coffee Club