

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

December 2013

50p



**Join us for our service of
Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm**

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)

Parish 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 Parish 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 **15th December**.

The January magazine will be on sale by 29th December.

Christmas is coming.....

"One can never have enough socks," said Dumbledore. "Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books."

So wrote J K Rowling of the Headmaster of Hogwarts School in the Harry Potter series, which I offer as an unlikely beginning to this article in what is the Christmas edition of St Martin's Monthly Magazine. There is a vague link also in that I have got to the age where I can now understand how it was that elderly men were in paroxysms of delight at receiving hand knitted socks for Christmas when young boys like me all those years ago would always prefer toys or modeling kits to play with.

Sadly, then or now, we still live in a world where the majority would identify closely with the child born in a stable and sleeping in a manger rather than the luxury of say King Herod's Palace or even the innkeepers home. As I write this article we are witnessing the unfolding of a great disaster in the Philippines following one of the most ferocious typhoons on record where hundreds of thousands are without even a roof over their heads. We could add that to the events of the Middle East where factional warfare continues to bomb and blast innocent people.

It is tempting at this point to look at cause and effect. Could the increasing strength of extreme weather events be linked to global warming, are the struggles in the Middle East at least in part due to ill-advised political and military interference from the West? These points are arguable although it is undeniable that we do reap what we sow to quote an old aphorism.

In the meantime we will inevitably be caught up in preparations for Christmas, the usual rush and fuss that every year we promise ourselves we won't do the next time. It seems that we can never get the balance right. It's not actually surprising that this is the case; there is nothing particularly sacred about when we celebrate Christmas. We don't actually know what time of year Jesus was born. Instead the early Church decided in its wisdom that it would be a good idea to

Christianize what was a secular midwinter Roman festival. This process goes by the rather unwieldy name of inculturation and to this day Christians in various parts of the world have to think through how local customs and practices can be utilized to proclaim the Gospel afresh in a new environment.

The same is true even with us and I have personally observed (not that my clergy colleagues agree with me) how slowly, as Christmas is celebrated in the anticipation rather than the event, previously penitential seasons such as Advent have become Christmas in all but name. I think we should go with the flow and not resist it.

At which point another quotation comes to mind: "How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!"

This one comes from Benjamin Franklin who was a writer, a philosopher, a scientist, a politician, a patriot, a Founding Father, an inventor, and publisher. He helped with the founding of the United States of America and changed the world with his discoveries about electricity.

So what are we to do about Christmas this year? I think we should see it as an opportunity rather than something perhaps to be dreaded or got over with. People will come to church making perhaps a once a year pilgrimage, perhaps once a lifetime. It should be a positive occasion for them and we should ensure that we show them that our faith means something really worthwhile. That will be the biggest present we can both give and receive for the festive season.

Nicholas



Getting Stronger

Statistics prove we're all getting stronger.

Fifty years ago you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents.

Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

ST MARTIN'S PLAYERS PRESENT....

A Christmas Revue & Pantomime

Friday 6th December

At 8pm in the Church Hall

Book now to avoid disappointment!

Contact the Parish Office

020 8992 2333



Sunday 1st December: Advent Sunday

10am Annual Christingle Family Service

Followed by ...

Christingle Sunday Lunch,

in St Martin's Church at midday

£5 adults, £2 Children.

Come and sample cuisine from around the World

6.30pm Advent Carol Service by Candlelight

followed by sherry

Both Bruce and Alyson Barnett-Cowan



celebrate the
35th
anniversary of
their
Ordination in
December, and



on Sunday 15th December at 10am


we shall have a special celebratory service.

Join us to celebrate with them on this day.



Phil Barnes

Architect, Accomplished Handyman and Computer Programmer/ Engineer
Offers his skills at very reasonable rates

Anything from  to, well, windows! And more!

Outside stuff

Over thirty years experienced Handyman and DIYer

- Window repairs, re-glazing, sash window repairs
- Gardening
- Power washing drives & patios
- Rubbish removal
- Painting and decorating
- 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



Christmas angels spotted in St Martin's made by the young people of the Japanese Anglican Church who meet in St Martin's each month on Sunday afternoons.



Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm

Nine Lesson and Carols by Candlelight
followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve

4pm Annual Children's Carol Service
11.00pm Midnight Eucharist

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (1662)
10am Christmas Family Communion with Carols.
No Evening Service

Thursday 26th St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 5th January

We shall celebrate the Epiphany
and at 6.30pm there will be an Epiphany Carol Service

St Martin's Away Day 19th October 2013

The PCC spent the day looking at where we are and moving forward.

Background and Development

Main questions about congregation –

How many are there? Why do they come here?

What do they want? How often do they come?

Data from Diocese: Data is collected in month of October, which can help explain highs and lows (Baptisms etc). Sunday attendance figures dropping slightly over time; children's attendance tending to increase. The difficulty will be to get them to continue at church to adults. Like the church as a whole we tend to lose children as they become teenagers, only picking up some as Adults.

Life events: Baptisms are going up a little, but of the Baptisms held a large number of commitment Baptisms rather than social baptisms. Weddings are low, only about 6 per year, but Funerals are quite high, - Nick is chaplain to the Acton Hospital so there is a connection.

Festival attendance: Easter attendance is low, people tend to go away for Easter as school Holiday. Christmas Eve is very high, with lots of children and adult visitors, Midnight Mass is variable but usually fairly well attended, but Christmas Day service has quite poor attendance, because many people go to relatives. Is there any way we can encourage non St M's regulars to come to church?

From St M's Survey:

More women than men completed the survey. Age range of congregation peaks in the 45 – 64 age group. 60% of attendees have been coming for 10+ years; 30% less than 10 years. 50% live outside the parish therefore choose to come to St Martin's. Vicar (Nick) is important in bringing people in. 30% say they come because they met the vicar. Lack of youth organisation (Brownies, Scouts) is an issue. Increase St Martin's visibility to improve awareness of the church in the area. From the results of the survey we do not seem to be doing anything wrong, but we need to be doing more of it.

Towards a management and financial strategy:

We had a review of the slides that will be used in the stewardship campaign; Shelley had done a really good job on them. Everyone was very appreciative of her hard work. Several surprising things were highlighted by the slides – Every Sunday the church is used it costs us £88.34p, averaged over the year. If everyone gave an extra £1 per

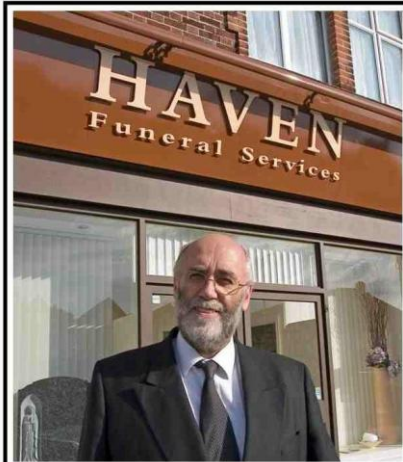
month that would be an extra £2,112 per year. If we gave an extra £1 per week that would mean £9, 152 per year.

Preparing for the future, and our aims and ambitions:
We badly need to have stable and secure finances. Historically St Martin's had £30,000+ in our bank account, but after the major repairs needed in 1980s the money shrank and we now have a very much hand to mouth bank balance. The stewardship campaign will help this, we need to be open and honest with the congregation to let them see what we spend the money on and how they can help.

Ideas for the future – we need to have activities for children, suggestions included Table Tennis, Youth Orchestra, Choir expansion, more outreach see suggestions from survey.

Home visiting: possibly set up a team to do this in a more structured way. Do we need to set up a lay pastoral team? Who? What about an emergency help team? Is this practicable?

The Garage. Do we keep or pull down? We would need permission if pulling down. To remove: £900; to reroof and new doors £2200.
Lower ground floor vestries: Currently used by the Police Consultative Committee, but their funding is under review, and they may cancel the hire. Could use for the church – Parish office and PCC/board room facility.



- Funerals arranged with sympathy and dignity at reasonable prices
- Repatriation service to all overseas countries
 - Monumental masonry
 - Prepaid funeral plans

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Please call Christopher Wickenden on

020 8993 8040



H A V E N
Funeral Services



Near Acton Town Tube Stn



Tradycyjne Polskie Pogrzeby

Support and dignity

Events last month....



The bonfire party...

Tuesday 5th November in the Vicarage garden about 60 people gathered for a fun-filled evening.

Bonfire by Michael Franks, fireworks ignited by Ian Hutchinson and his team. Baked potatoes, hot dogs, soup, and mulled wine by Camilla Reid and friends and a good time had by all.



Katy Franklin was so excited about coming to the Bonfire Night Party that she decided to draw a picture of the event and here it is.

The Bazaar...



Getting ready.....

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it such a wonderful success – and especially to Liza, Jackie and Lynne who co-ordinated and organised the Bazaar.

A visit from Santa

enjoying a cup of Mulled wine?



At the time of going to print the Bazaar made a profit of £2,154.



WANTED

Have you a small milk jug or milk jug-sugar bowl combo, or a one person caf  tiere you don't need or want?

Jackie would like to give them a home for a new church venture.

Please bring them to church
or phone Jackie on 07904 604601



PRINT PLUS

+ Design + Digital Printing + Stationary

2 Grosvenor Parade • Uxbridge Road
Ealing Common • W5 3NN



PRINTING SERVICES

- Artwork Design
- Business Cards
- MoneyGram 
- Mobile Phone top-up services
- B/W & Colour Photocopies
- Banners - Indoor & Outdoor
- Invitation Cards
- Greeting Cards
- Leaflets
- 135mm/APS Processing
- CD/DVD Duplication
- Wide Format Posters
- Men & Women Fragrances



Tel: 020 8992 0208

Fax: 020 8992 0208

Email: print.plus@hotmail.co.uk



**Independent Estate Agents with local expertise,
successfully selling for over 45 years in
Ealing, Acton and the surrounding areas.**

DEREK FJ GRIMSHAW FRICS AND JOHN PRIDHAM RD FRICS

**5 STATION PARADE, UXBRIDGE ROAD, EALING COMMON, LONDON W5 3LD
TEL: 020 8992 5661 EMAIL: sales@grimshawhomes.co.uk
www.grimshawhomes.co.uk**

Acton Care Centre Remembers



The Acton Care Centre where Nicholas is Chaplain holds an annual civic service of remembrance as it was formerly extended after the First World War as a memorial to the fallen.

St Martin's choir sang at the service, which was held on Sunday 3rd November, a

setting of psalm 24 'The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is'.

Pictured here are patients laying wreaths and Nicholas with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ealing.



Did you know.....

That 90 years ago, on 31 Dec 1923, the BBC broadcast the chimes of Big Ben for the first time, to welcome in the New Year.

Also that 25 years ago, on 21 Dec 1988, a Pan Am jet exploded and crashed onto the town of Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground. It was caused by a bomb which Libyan terrorists were accused of planting



BEAUFORT PLAYERS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS



PANTO STEIN

A PANTO BY DAVID LOVESY AND STEVE CLARK,
DAVID PIBWORTH AND MARK NIEL
(TLC CREATIVE)

A SCARILY SILLY PHANTOMIME



THURSDAY 28TH, FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 8PM (7:30PM DOORS)
SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2:30PM (2:00PM DOORS) AND 7PM (6:30PM DOORS)
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION HALL, BEAUFORT ROAD, EALING W5 3EB

TICKETS £9 CONCESSIONS £8 (OVER 60S, UNDER 12S)

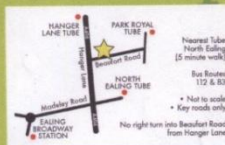
BOOK ONLINE WWW.BEAUFORTPLAYERS.ORG.UK

PHONE 020 8567 0275 OR 07957 190288

28TH, 29TH, 30TH NOVEMBER

**WIN
FREE TICKETS!**

For details visit our website:
www.beaufortplayers.org.uk



Thinking of selling?

Call **020 8992 5661** to arrange
a **FREE** property appraisal

5 Station Parade, Ealing Common, London W5 3LD

www.grimshawhomes.co.uk sales@grimshawhomes.co.uk

GRIMSHAW

Estate Agents for Ealing, Acton and surrounding areas

Our Junior Church



The Vicar met with our Junior Church leaders on Sunday 20th October to plan our programme and future event for our young people.

We've got a great team and here they are L to R The vicar, Ben Mason, Emma Jones, Rachel Weikel, Elise Bruges, Emma Stehlin and baby

Annabel Merrick, Shelly Merrick, Michela Palmer, Bryony Franklin, Jim Hyde, Tara Bramwell, Ilona Demitrieva, and partially hidden Jackie Nicholls.

Nicholas



The Junior Church leaders met after the service on Sunday 20th October to discuss some minor changes to the Junior Church. The Junior Church is doing rather well these days with a good teaching group and growing numbers of young people.

Nick said he would like the Junior Church to be more visible in the main church at the end of the service. So in addition to everyone coming out for a blessing of communion, he would like everyone be seated in church for the notices (which come before the final hymn). This will give the Junior Church the opportunity to feature what they have been doing and will raise their profile with the main congregation.

The meeting also considered the need for a side door key to the hall to allow access for latecomers and improve health and safety. It was agreed that Michael, our administrator, would get one cut.

There was some discussion about a shortage of the teaching books, song books and CDs. Jackie Nicholls is to liaise with Clive Davis to purchase some new ones.

The new Parish website now shows the revised rota and shows which Sunday we are on! The website address is:
www.stmartinswestacton.com

It was also decided that more notice should be given of forthcoming baptisms to allow Junior Church leaders to know how much time they will have for their activities.

Bryony and Shelly explained the new safeguarding system which in the long run should be easier. More referees are needed.

A request was made for a Junior Church notice board in the hall. Nick and Michaela are to liaise with the churchwardens.

The next Junior Church leaders meeting will be at 11.15am on Sunday 19th January 2014.



Congratulations.....

Congratulations to Bryony and Neil Sinclair for the birth of their new son, Lochlann, brother to Alexander and Cameron. Lochlann is the third grandson of very proud grandparents, Geoff and Shannon Bevvitt.



Three phrases that sum up Christmas are:

Peace on Earth
Goodwill to Men
Batteries not included.

Capital Vision 2020

There will be an all day workshop to help you become confident in living and speaking the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Either **Saturday, 15th March**
at St Mellitus College, 24 Collingham Rd, SW5 0LX;

or **Monday, 31st March**
at St John at Hackney, Lower Clapton Rd, E5 0PD.

On both days the workshop will be from 9.30am – 4pm.

The cost will be £15 (including refreshments, bring your own lunch).
To book visit: www.licc.org.uk/capitalvision

Join the Archdeacon of Hackney, Rachel Treweek and Neil Hudson from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity who will share their learning with you.



THE BIBLE comes to Channel 5 this December

This month (December) sees the launch of THE BIBLE, a mini-series to be broadcast on Channel 5. It will be followed by a Blu-ray and DVD release by Fox. From Genesis to Revelation, THE BIBLE series features some of the most famous stories, such as Noah's Ark, the Exodus and Daniel in the Lion's Den, to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Visit www.thebibleuk.org/resources



Celebrate Burns' Night

Thursday 23rd January
at 7.30pm

Burns' Night Supper and Celidh

Details will follow soon!

Archbishop launches HOPE

As 100 Christian leaders recently gathered at Lambeth Palace to pray for HOPE 2014, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, set out a vision for a confident and vibrant Church which had learned to put faith into words and action sparked by HOPE 2014. He described his 2063 dream Church as united, forgiving, sacrificial, and risk-taking, spreading and being good news, with a renewed emphasis on prayer, evangelism and reconciliation.

He looked forward to an era when 'evangelism became not a priority of the Church but THE priority of the church'...when 'the Church believed again that it is the role of every member of the Church of Jesus Christ to bear witness to their faith; to say "I know Jesus Christ and I want to introduce you to him".'

He described an era when 'foodbank' was a forgotten word; where the churches had worked together to end human trafficking; where the churches had set up credit unions, created wonderful works of art and music, stories and fantastic films; where 'the watching world saw that following Jesus was the best way to live'; a time when 'there was no part of the world that we were not prepared to go into'.

He pointed to 'the most effective evangelistic strategy... commitment to prayer'. "The work of conversion is a work that only God can do – a work that is only realised in prayer." And finally he highlighted the need to show Christ's love to those with whom we differ: "to love people even when they hate us".

He ended by leading the 100 leaders in prayer using the words of Psalm 71: 16-18: "I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord... Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation."

The 100 leaders of denominations and Christian ministries who had gathered at the Lambeth Palace event to launch HOPE 2014, also heard from Roy Crowne, HOPE's director who said, "We are stronger together than apart. HOPE is a catalyst that brings churches together to transform communities by putting faith into words and action."

Find out more about HOPE at www.hopetogether.org.uk and watch the video of the Archbishop at the Lambeth Palace HOPE launch.

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 Junior Church 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