

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

March 2014

50p



British Summer Time begins March 30th
The clocks go forward one hour

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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Vicar

The Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson
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020 8992 2333

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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)
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Parish Secretary (9.30am – 1.30pm weekdays)

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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 March.

The April magazine will be on sale by 30th March.

From Mardi Gras to Mothering Sunday

March this year sees the beginning of Lent on the 5th with Ash Wednesday. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday. The word 'Shrove' comes from the old English verb 'to shrive' which means to obtain absolution of sins by confession and penance. This was the practice before the start of Lent, hence the name 'Shrove Tuesday' which precedes Ash Wednesday. In some parts of the world it is known as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and is a time for carnivals and celebrations before the austerities of Lent. The British equivalent term is more muted as 'Pancake Day' when we cook and toss delicious pancakes before eating them! We shall of course have a pancake party as usual in the Vicarage.

Thereafter, it's into what are supposed to be the rigours of Lent, fasting prayer and penitence. However, whether that would be good for us or not, these days Lent is much like any other time of year. Nevertheless, it would be a great pity to lose the opportunity to be reflective during the run up to Easter, after all the biblical narrative leads us inexorably towards the passion and trial of Jesus and eventually onto Easter and the resurrection. That is why it is customary in churches typically to have Lent course of one kind or another.

Over the years we've 'done' Lent in pretty well every way possible, guest speakers, Archbishop's Courses, study groups and so on. This year we've decided that it is what Lent leads up to that is important and we have invited a varied series of speakers to preach at the 10am parish Communion about what Easter means to them. After the service and over coffee the speaker will be available for a question and answer session in the same way that the 'On Message' Group meets every second Sunday of the month. Details of this year's programme are in this edition of the March Magazine and online on our website.

It is important for us to take Lent seriously. Nevertheless, it's not all introspective; after all there's the great folk festival of mid-lent which we know as Mothering Sunday on the 30th March and Easter day itself is on Sunday 20th April, which is the great celebration in the Church's calendar.

Nicholas

Lent 2014

In the past we've 'done' Lent in just about every way possible, Archbishop's Lent Courses, distinguished guest speakers, screening the television series 'Rev', and so on.

This year is a little different, we're going to have a series of guest preachers at the 10am Parish Communion who will speak about the readings for the day and in particular about how they see Easter and what it means to them. After the service and over a nice cup of coffee the 'On Message' group will meet each Sunday for half an hour to discuss with the preacher what they have said and everybody is encouraged to come to this.

Lent 2014:

- Shrove Tuesday, 4th March 6.00pm onwards:
Pancake Party in The Vicarage, 25 Birch Grove
- Ash Wednesday 5th March (Lent begins)
11am Informal Communion (at 25 Birch Grove)
8pm Holy Communion in the church (with optional ashing)
- Sunday 9th March – 10am. Guest speaker: Danny Pegg, student and pre-ordinand
- Sunday 16th March – 10am. Speaker Dr. Margaret Jones, Reader at St Martin's
- Sunday 23rd March – 10am. Guest speaker Antonio de Garcia Fuerte, ordinand at Westcott House Theological College, Cambridge
- Sunday 30th March – 10am Mothering Sunday Family Service with Christening
- Sunday 6th April – 10am. Guest speaker, The Rev'd Mark Aldridge, Minister for the Oak Tree Anglican Fellowship
- Palm Sunday 13th April – 10am. Speaker, the Vicar

Revision of the Electoral Roll

The Roll will be revised beginning on Sunday 23rd February and will end on the on Sunday 23rd March 2014

If you are currently not registered on the Electoral Roll and wish to be, then fill in a form which can be found at the back of the church. Completed forms should be returned to the Parish Office, 25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP.

Notice is given of the
Election of Churchwardens
to take place on Sunday 27th April, at 11.15am

Notice is given that the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
will take place on Sunday 27th April
following the Election of Churchwardens

At this meeting the election will take place for
Four representatives for the Ealing Deanery Synod
Twelve representatives for the Parochial Church Council

Nomination forms are available at the back of the church.

A date for your diary....

Bishop Linda Nicholls, Area Bishop of Trent-Durham and Bishop Suffragan of Toronto will be celebrating and preaching at St Martin's on Sunday 11th May at the 10am Parish Communion service.



Sunday 8th June, Whitsunday (Pentecost)
10am **The Annual Confirmation Service**
with the Bishop of Willesden

Would anyone who would like to be confirmed
or be received into the Church of England?
If so, please contact the Vicar.




Easter Day 20th April – don't forget decorated eggs for the
annual competition after the main 10am service



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- 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

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- 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

Forthcoming Family Services

Sunday 30th March Mothering Sunday
10am Family Service and Christening

Sunday 18th May
10am Family Service for Rogationtide
with the ceremony of the 'Beating of the Bounds'

Sunday 15th June
10am Family Service for Trinity Sunday

Sunday 5th October Harvest Festival
10am Family Service – followed by Harvest Lunch

Sunday 30th November Advent Sunday
10am Christingle Family Service
followed by Christmas Bazaar at midday



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Future events at St Martin's....

Thursday 19th June 8pm
The Vicar's **'Midsummer Madness Soirée**
in the Vicarage and the Vicarage Gardens

Sunday 13th July 12noon – 3pm
Summer Fair in the Church and Hall

Wednesday 5th November
6pm **Annual Bonfire Party** in the Vicarage Gardens

Sunday 30th November 12noon **Christmas Bazaar**



Junior Church Rota, March 2014

DATE		PRESERVICE	CANDLES	TORCHES
2 nd	8 th after Epiphany	Bryony		
9 th	1 st Lent	Kim	Kim	Emma j
16 th	2 nd Lent	Tara	James	Tara
23 th	3 rd Lent	Bryony	Shelley	Bryony
30 th	4 th Lent	MOTHERING SUNDAY – Family Service		



The Bible according to children

Children's version of biblical stories and events have a charm all their own. The following efforts have not been retouched or corrected (i.e. bad spelling has been left in).

- ~ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ~ Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pears.
- ~ Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
- ~ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.
- ~ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.



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Recent Baptisms...

Christened and baptised at the Family Service on Candlemas Sunday 2nd February were Diamé and Adannaya children of Eze Kwazema and Monika who was also baptised at the service.



Adannaya Kwazema, Diame Kwazema and Monika Zelinkova (Mother)

Also last month saw the baptism of Annabel Merrick



Rachel Hogg (Godparent), Shelley Merrick, Nikki Michelsburg (Godparent), The Vicar, Simon Merrick with baby Annabel, Pippa Sunderland (Godparent)

Growing concern for Christians in Nigeria

A church leader in Nigeria has decried the "systematic slaughtering" of Christians in Northern Nigeria, comparing it to the Rwandan genocide. Archbishop Magnus Atilade said it had become imperative to call the world's attention to the growing threat to the life and property of the country's Christians. Speaking as both president of the Christian Welfare Initiative (CWI) and chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), South-West zone, the Archbishop said: "The brutality, cruelty and inhuman manner in which Nigerian Christians are being systematically and consistently slaughtered by individuals claiming to be adherents of the Islamic faith has reached an alarming proportion that we are compelled to speak out." In the last month, dozens of Christians have been killed in attacks by Muslims in Northern and Middle Belt Nigeria. On 6 January, at least 30 were murdered by suspected Muslim Fulani herdsmen in Shonong village, Plateau State. Hundreds of attackers armed with guns and machetes stormed the village, killing mostly children, women and the elderly. They also torched more than 40 homes, and slaughtered a large number of domestic animals. Survivors of the attack told *Morning Star News* that soldiers stationed in the village to protect residents joined in the shooting as Christians ran for their lives.

Crisis in Syria

This month sees the 3rd anniversary of the start of the crisis in Syria. The recent international peace conference in Geneva marked the first direct talks between both sides in the conflict. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, had said it would be "unforgivable not to seize this opportunity" to end a conflict that has left more than 100,000 people dead and driven 9.5 million from their homes. Christian Aid urges: 'A broader engagement that goes beyond the main political actors to include local people committed to non-violence including women, faith leaders, and representatives of refugees and internally displaced populations will be an essential part of creating a lasting peace. Our experience of working in conflict situations informs our view that peace building is a process that includes critical steps, including building trust between communities, providing protection for minorities, establishing transitional justice mechanisms and rule of law as well as disarming paramilitary groups.

Closing the climate gap

Many concerns are being sounded about the warming of the global climate system, which poses an urgent threat to society. Experts say that there is a wide gap between countries' pledges to cut emissions and the reductions needed to limit warming to between 1.5 and 2.0 degrees C, but who has the power to close that gap?

This is a spiritual challenge. How do we live in ways that protect the environment on which we depend? Major developing nations like Brazil, China and India point to historical emissions by industrialised countries, saying that these should bear the brunt of emission cuts and of financial provision for poorer nations. The European Union and USA want all countries to make commitments.

At a recent conference in Warsaw it was decided that all countries should make 'contributions' rather than 'commitments'. Vulnerable countries like the Philippines (still suffering the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan) want to see a financial mechanism for relief after extreme weather events. Some countries, such as the USA, resist the idea that carbon emitters should be liable for damages.

The conference agreed that funds will be made available but they will come under the heading of support for adaptation to climate change, rather than compensation for damage.

One has to bear in mind that governments do not control greenhouse gas emissions, as much of the power is focussed in fossil fuel companies and financial institutions. We are all perpetrators and potential victims. We must accept the Transition Movement's mantra that "everyone is needed", taking responsibility for both the problem and the solution.

Bishop Christopher Kato from the Diocese of Tohoku, Japan is visiting St Martin's



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 this month.

You may remember that 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. The map above shows the area highlighted.

Bishop Christopher Kato will be visiting St Martin's on Sunday, 16th March.

On that afternoon, at 3pm, Mr Sonoda will lead the informal session for 30 minutes.

At 3.30pm there will be Evening Prayer, in Japanese, at which Bishop Christopher will preach.

After Evening Prayer, there will be a special tea time. Mum's Ealing group, who has been supporting the project run by NSKK and Tohoku since 2011, have been invited to attend.

Although this meeting is planned for mainly Japanese speaking, all are welcome to come and meet the Bishop.

Some photographs of Burns' Night....



The night started with whisky tasting...

And continued with the meal



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Dear Friends

ALMA

I wrote towards the end of last year of the enormous debt of gratitude we owe to Bishop Michael Colclough who was tireless in promoting ALMA and keeping it firmly on the agenda from the time he took over as Chair in 2000 until his retirement last summer.

We have undertaken a degree of re-organization since then and I am most grateful to Sheenagh Burrell and the team for helping to move things forward.

Bishop Paul Williams has agreed to become the London 'Bishop for ALMA' with particular responsibility for training across the partnership. This will include exploring some new partnerships and opportunities especially with relation to training.

The Archdeacon of Hackney, The Venerable Rachel Treweek, has agreed to Chair the London ALMA Strategy Group as well as the Finance and Projects Group.

Bishop Dinis of Lebombo has announced that he will be retiring on March 25th this year and there will be an opportunity nearer the time to pay tribute to him.

So please pray for the ALMA team in London and for our ALMA partners in Mozambique and Angola as we move through a period of change.

We will observe ALMA Sunday this year on 13th July when there will be a celebration of our partnership in the Cathedral at 6pm. I hope that many of you will try to be there as a way of stimulating interest and prayer.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA

What's happening in Japan's tsunami-disaster zone?

By Wendy Marshall, missionary with OMF Japan

It's been three years since the triple disaster hit north-eastern Honshu (an area called Tohoku). What's happened since then? The Tohoku region has a total population of around 9.6 million and over 400,000 people were displaced following the Great Tsunami and Earthquake. Many of these were elderly folk who lost their families and property. Entire communities were devastated by this disaster.

There are still about 290,000 people living in temporary housing, it's expected that this situation will continue for the next couple of years. This housing is tiny, less than 30m² (322ft²), and poorly insulated. Many feel stressed, not just from the above-mentioned losses, but also because their accommodation is much smaller than their previous dwellings.

Most who remain in temporary housing are elderly. Many don't have the funds or land to rebuild their homes. There also has been uncertainty from the government about where people will be allowed to rebuild. The safest option would be to relocate people to safer situations, however that isn't easy in mountainous Japan. Much of the habitable land is right next to the ocean and walled in by mountains. Additionally, many elderly Japanese people, at this stage in their lives, don't want to change location and move away from the people they know.

Many who lived in the flooded area before were farmers and fishermen. Farmers have struggled to return to work because their land was inundated by salty water that changed the soil. Many fishermen lost their boats and gear in the tsunami, the ports they worked out of were also devastated. Those farmers and fishermen around the Fukushima area have additionally faced a market suspicious of radiation contamination. There are so many barriers to rebuilding. The volunteers who stayed the longest in relief work were Christians, the community has noted this. But now that much time has passed since the disaster, few volunteers are left. One of OMF's missionaries

reported that this makes locals feel abandoned and alone. One positive thing to come out of this disaster is that Japanese churches worked together in relief work. That unity isn't something that has come naturally in the past, so it is something to be very thankful for.

This disaster has put Tohoku on the map for missions. Previously Tohoku was a much neglected region of Japan in terms of mission work. Now many missions are sending missionaries. The long-term outcome of this influx of missionaries is, of course, not something we know yet. However we can praise God that his name is being proclaimed in this previously neglected rural area of Japan.

OMF International was working in Tohoku prior to the tsunami. One of our missionary couples, who live just outside of Sendai, witnessed the tsunami waves from their house on a high point on the coast. They were isolated, power and water-less for several days after the earthquake. Since then they've continued their church planting work, but also been very involved in relief and outreach work to those affected by the tsunami.

Many OMF missionaries have participated in or taken teams to the area to do relief work over the last three years. OMF was given many funds in the aftermath of the disaster. One way they've used this considerable money was to begin a ministry in the more isolated northern part of the Tohoku coast. This has been more a ministry of "presence" than of church planting or evangelism. One thing they did was establish a café where locals were welcome. It became a point of hope for one community. A place they could gather, could talk and be listened to, or just be.

Many disasters have happened around the world since March 2011. There are needs in this world beyond the means of any one of us to help or fix. It can be overwhelming. However, we can lift these matters up to the Lord in prayer. Please don't forget Japan as the country and some of its people struggle to recover from 2011's disaster.

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

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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.

The next non-Eucharistic Family Service will be held on Sunday March 30th.

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