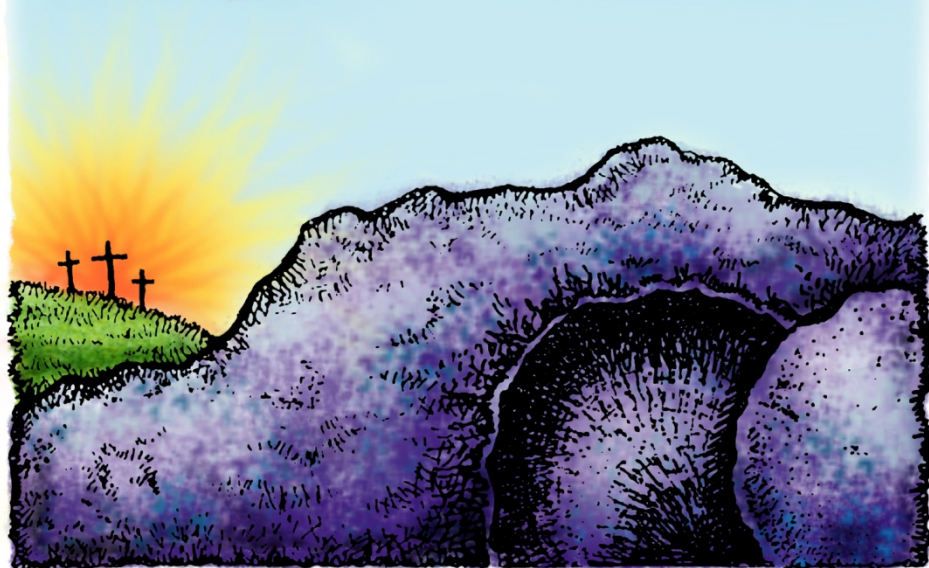


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

April 2014

50p

Christ is Risen
Alleluia!



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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

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 14th April.

The May magazine will be on sale by 27th April.

From Lent to Holy Week

As you read this, Lent will be drawing to a close and we will be approaching Holy Week. The purpose of Lent is to prepare to participate fully in the commemoration of the great mysteries of our salvation as marked by the events of Holy Week.

We are invited to be present with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), to be with him at the Last Supper and with him in the garden when he prays that the cup may be taken away (Maundy Thursday), to stand with him at the cross when he dies for us (Good Friday) and lay down our burdens at the foot of the cross while he draws his last breath. Finally join us to be with him as he bursts from the tomb (Easter Eve).

As much as is possible may we invite you to take your part in these events.

Just a few notes:
Please be willing to read, serve, or otherwise take a role in our commemoration of these fundamental events of our salvation.

Please bring bells to ring on cue at the service Easter Eve. (Dinner Gongs, Cow Bells, Wind Chimes, anything you can think of). We will have a small reception after the Easter Eve Service so please also bring some light nibbles.

Wishing you the continuation of a fruitful Lent and a very Blessed and Happy Easter,

I am yours in Christ,

Bruce



Maundy Thursday 17th April: 8pm Eucharist

Good Friday 18th April

10am: Children’s service and Stations of the Cross

Midday: Liturgy with Address

Saturday 19th April: 7pm Easter Fire Ceremony

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
Come and collect your Palm Cross

Easter Day 20th April:
10am Parish Communion
Decorated eggs for the annual competition after the service
6.30pm: Festal Evensong



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 following the Election of Churchwardens

At this meeting the election will take place for
Four representatives for the Ealing Deanery Synod
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On Message group 8 February

The discussion opened with a query as to whether a recommended monthly Bible reading could be published in the magazine so that the congregation could read and understand it before the next service.

The Vicar's response is that – yes of course we can do this.

There were three queries 'On Message' that Bruce and Alyson clarified. The first question is: ***Why was there a Passover?***

Two interpretations of the word Passover were discussed. The first is that the people of Israel, enslaved in Egypt by Pharaoh, were enabled to pass over the Red Sea when freed by God.

Passover also refers to the time when the firstborn children of the Egyptians would be killed in the last plague to be visited on them. The enslaved Hebrew people were to mark their door lintels so that the Angel of Death would pass over the door and spare the life of the firstborn child there.*

Jewish people to this day remember this with a Passover meal called a Seder. In the context of this sacred meal Jesus gave us what is now known as the Eucharist.

The second question was: ***Who made God?***

Simply, nobody made God as He is beyond time, forever.

The third and final question discussed was: ***When Joseph's brothers threw him in the dry well, put his blood on his coat and then gave it to Jacob, where did Jacob put the coat?***

The response to this is that we can only know that Jacob would have been grief stricken. The coat would have been his only tangible memory of Joseph.

Gill Hull

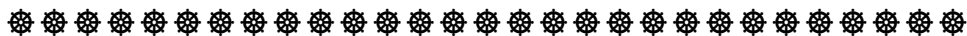
* See Exodus Chapters 12 & 13

A Tale of two Cities....

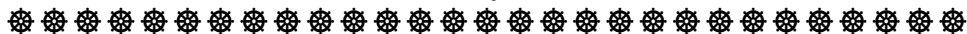


The Vicar enjoying a cup of coffee in West London last month.

Ken Bartram (with his son, Matthew) enjoying a glass of wine in Paris last month.



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



Sunday 11th May: 10am Parish Communion
Bishop Linda Nicholls, Area Bishop of Trent-Durham and
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto will be celebrating and
preaching.

Could this be the 'writing on the wall' for classic Bible stories?

While many parents still think it is important for children to engage with the Bible, what actually happens these days is quite different. A recent nationwide study by YouGov has found that a staggering 29% of children could not identify even The Nativity story with the Bible.

The YouGov research was released in a recent report by Bible Society to launch 'Pass It On', a campaign calling on parents to pass Bible stories to their children. Here are just some of the findings, for children aged 8 to 15 and for parents with children aged 3 to 16.

43% of parents think Bible stories provide values for a good life, and 40% think they are important to our history and culture. Just 12% say it was not important for children to know Bible stories. More than a quarter of all children (28%) also say that they would like to know more Bible stories (peaking around the ages of 8 and 9 where it rises to 40% and 41% respectively).

Over half of children polled (54%) never or less than once a year read Bible stories at school or home. By contrast, around 9 in 10 parents (86%) had learned Bible stories as children.

45% of parents never read Bible stories to their child. Even almost a third (30%) of Christian parents say they never read Bible stories to their young children.

23% of children do not know Noah's Ark or The Nativity (25%), rising to 38% for Adam & Eve and 43% for The Crucifixion. More than half have never heard of Joseph and his coat of many colours (54%), and David & Goliath (57%) or even the Creation story (63%).

Sir Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate (1999-2009) says that these statistics are becoming a disturbing reality. He adds that many of Britain's brightest students no longer know the story of Adam and Eve - making it difficult for academics to teach crucial literary and historical texts. "It's essential for us to keep these stories alive, regardless of our religious beliefs (or lack of them); they are indispensable to our understanding of the past, and to the enrichment of our present."

The PCC, in 2013, pledged to give £7,000 to various charities. Some of this money was given earlier in the year. Here are some edited quotes from the latest letters of thanks we have received.



www.ndcs.org.uk

"Thank you from everyone at NDCS. Your generous donation of £350 is greatly appreciated. The money will help us to achieve great things for deaf children and their families. As you may be aware, NDCS receives no government funding and relies entirely on donations. There are approximately 45,000 children in the UK who are deaf. Thank you once again for your generous support."



www.childrenssociety.org.uk

"Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the donation of £250 that was raised by St Martin's this year. The money you have raised will not only help children survive but also move families out of poverty long-term giving children the chance of a bright and happy future."



www.feedtheminds.org

"Thank you so much for your donation of £400 to Feed the Minds. We are very grateful for this as your support is fundamental in enabling us to help the communities we seek to serve. Janet Feh Tati, a cocoa farmer who developed here skills as a result of Feed the Minds said: *I can now read a scale, so I will be able to weigh the cocoa myself and sell it without being cheated.*"



www.sendacow.org.uk

"We have just received your lovely gift of £400. Thank you. They may be simple words, but they are truly heartfelt."

Without the prayers and commitment of groups like yours Send a Cow would struggle to reach families the way we do. Abara in Ethiopia was so excited by the training he got from Send a Cow that he went on to train 45 other people. Abara reminds us how much lives can change when people work together."



www.practicalaction.org

"Earlier this week we received the type of gift that truly brings joy and celebration, your gift, of £250, which we'll soon be putting to work on your behalf.

Your gift has already done something incredible. It's doubled in size thanks to the UK Government, meaning that you've actually given a gift of £500 to help change the lives of some of the poorest people throughout the world. On their behalf, please accept my sincerest thanks for your generosity."



www.missiontoseafarers.org

"On behalf of The Mission to Seafarers I would like to thank everyone involved with the St Martin's PCC for the generous donation of £400. The Mission to Seafarers works 365 days a year in 250 ports worldwide to support Seafarers and to give specialist help in a crisis. Your donation will be used to further our work in offering practical help and spiritual support to those who work at sea."



www.cuf.org.uk

"Thank you for supporting the work of Church Urban Fund with your kind donation of £500."



ChurchArmy

www.churcharmy.org.uk

"Thank you so much for your generous gift of £300 to support the work of Church Army's Evangelists and projects.

Your partnership enables us to invest in people, live alongside them and journey with them through life's ups and downs. Person by person we are seeing the gospel at work from the inside out. You're part of their journey."



www.weareUs.org.uk

"I would like to extend my personal thanks to St Martin for your generous gift of £400. Your gift will be used *Toward Malawi* and your commitment to support this work is

sincerely appreciated. Us is enabling churches to share God's love in practical and life-changing ways. We work in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 60 countries, helping to strengthen the church and build communities."

Bishop Kato's visit to St Martin's

The Japanese Anglican Church UK meets in St Martin's every third Sunday of the month. Last month it hosted Bishop Christopher Kato of the Diocese of Tohoku with which we are linked.



These photographs record the event on the Sunday afternoon of 16th March.

Bishop Kato and the Japanese Group

Jackie Nicholls giving the Bishop a small cross from St Martin's for his new cathedral of Christ Church Sendai which has replaced the old one which was badly damaged by the earthquake associated with the tsunami that also did so much damage.





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We would like to express our deep gratitude for your generous support and prayers. Our efforts continue to support the vulnerable living in hardship and under the threat of radioactive contamination. We appreciate your continuous prayers.

The Diocese of Tohoku, the Anglican Church in Japan, 11 March 2014

The Calligraphy is by Tsuyoshi Miyake who lost his house and relatives as a result of the tsunami. He is a member of St John's Church in Isoyama, Fukushima. The word  means gratitude.

Here is Bishop Kato's speech which he had given at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 15th.

In gratitude for prayers and support after the
Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
The Right Reverend John Hiromichi Kato
Bishop of the Diocese of Tohoku Anglican Church in Japan

We are used to earthquakes in Japan, but the earthquake which struck eastern Japan at 2:46pm on 11th March 2011 reached the highest possible measurement on the scale: a magnitude nine. The tsunami which followed devastated a large area of the north-east Pacific coast and was followed by explosions at the Dai Ichi nuclear reactor in Fukushima. The height of the wave exceeded all projections and even people who had taken refuge on the second floor of buildings were swept away.

One thousand days after the disaster, in December 2013, the number of dead was 15,883 and the number missing, 2,651. A total of 18,534 victims. Since the earthquake, a further 2,888 people have died as a direct result, including elderly people, who had lost family and friends, dying alone in temporary housing, victims of suicide, and people who died in the struggle for reconstruction. This brings the total to over 20,000. Even now, the disaster is far from over and the crisis continues. At the end of December 2013, there were still almost 280,000 people living in temporary accommodation, many of whom had fled the radiation in Fukushima.

In the midst of this tragedy, the Anglican Episcopal Church in Japan was quick to set up the "Let's Walk Together" project to develop ways of supporting the victims. All Eleven Japanese dioceses joined together in the support effort, and the Church worked as a whole. Two years on, the Church has set up a more specialized project to deal with the problems of nuclear power and radiation, concentrating on the Fukushima region. Meanwhile, the Tohoku Diocese continues its work of prayer and support through the "Daijini Tohoku" project "Daijini", in the dialect of Eastern Japan, means "Love one another".

Through all this, we have been most deeply grateful for the prayers and support of the Church of England, and, indeed, the whole Anglican Communion. We also thank those Japanese people living in the UK who

have given us so much encouragement Right from the beginning, our plea has been "Don't forget us!", "Please continue to remember us!" Commemoration is an important part of Christianity and I am deeply grateful for your commemoration at this time of prayer. Let us not forget, however, the many victims, throughout the world, of natural disaster, war, conflict and strife, in addition to those victims of the Great Eastern Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami. Sadly, this is the world in which we live. It is with this in mind that I should like to celebrate this act of worship with you today. May the Peace of Christ be with you all.



Did you know....

There was an alternative name for Low Sunday (the Sunday after Easter Sunday). It is also known as Quasimodo Sunday. This is not because of the story of Quasimodo of Notre Dame fame. It is because of the traditional Introit for Low Sunday which begins (in Latin) "Quasi modo geniti infantes..". This is taken from 1 Peter chapter 2 (verse 2).



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General Synod's concern over climate change

General Synod has re-affirmed the Church of England's commitment to play a leading role in the effort to prevent dangerous climate change.

In February it voted in favour of a motion, brought by the Diocese of Southwark, which re-affirms Synod's desire that the Church's National Investing Bodies ensure that their investment policies are 'aligned with the theological, moral and social priorities' of the Church on climate change. The investing bodies adopted an ethical investment policy on climate change in 2008 but such is the EIAG's concern about trends in greenhouse gas emissions that the policy is already under review.

The motion does not prescribe how the Church of England should align its investment practice with the Church's stance on climate change nor does it back the calls of some US environmentalists for complete disinvestment from fossil fuel companies. However, the motion does call for the merits of the exclusion of some companies from investment to be considered as one of the ethical investment tools available to the EIAG.

The National Investing Bodies will publish a new policy on climate change in 2015, once the EIAG had completed its review. As a result of the motion, the Church will also be reviewing organisational arrangements for co-ordinating and developing the Church's strategic and local response to climate change.



Numbers

A father had taken his small son to church. The boy sat passively until the minister announced:

"We will now sing hymn four hundred and twenty-nine: 'Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand'....four hundred and twenty-nine."

Alarmed, the boy nudged his father: "Do we have to work this out?"



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Memories of Shrove Tuesday



Some of the Shrove Tuesday revellers at the 'drop in' Pancake Party in the Vicarage on Tuesday 4th March



Jackie Nicholls Commissioning

Jackie Nicholls has been training to be a Commissioned Pastoral Assistant. She will be commissioned on July 21st at St Mellitus (St Jude's) by The Bishop of Kensington who will commission her on behalf of the Bishop of Willesden. Please put this date in your diary as you are all welcome to attend the commissioning and support Jackie.



Some thoughts from Sophie, aged 7.....

Do you know what the word "pesticide" means?

Sophie: Yes, it's when someone is irritating and pokes you in the side.

Do you know what a "summary" mean?

Sophie: Yes, it's when you stand outside in the sunshine.

The Lent Course sermon as preached by Danny Pegg (who is a student pre-ordinand) on Sunday 9th March as part of our Lent Course.


Only Human

'I can resist everything except temptation.' Lord Darlington tells us in Oscar Wilde's play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Lady Windermere's response is 'You have the modern affectation of weakness.' But given our first reading today, it doesn't seem that a weakness for temptation is very modern at all, in fact it doesn't get much older than Eden! Since day one mankind has succumbed to temptation. And it's tempting to say given how masterfully Jesus can resist and rebuke Satan – The Tempter – that we are just built that way. That weakness is a part of us and as such, what can you expect? You get offered all the wisdom in creation by a crafty snake, and of course you take it. Eve was only human. I don't like the phrase, 'only human'. We *are* 'only human' of course but, we are made in the image of God. This is, at a basic level, how we are supposed to be. Human, with free will. Now, I don't think God meant us to give in to every little temptation we had but it is through our free choices that we come to love and glorify God in this world. I am also aware that there is a big gap between what we are in everyday life, and what we are all capable of at our best – because we don't always make the right choices. What can we do about this then, during Lent as well as all year round?



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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

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References available

Well, as in all things, we can look to Jesus for the solution. How does he deal with temptation? He lived a totally human life so maybe we can pinch his method. Satan offers Jesus three deals – I imagine Satan to be a rather skilled used car salesman – and Jesus denies them all *with scripture*. When Eve first takes the apple, she knows she has gone *against* the word of God. Jesus uses the word of God to resist. ‘As it is written’ rolls off his tongue three times as he makes Satan scuttle away. Where Adam and Eve failed, Jesus succeeds. Now we aren’t perfect, we all sin, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try to live in keeping with God’s word – how he wants us to be – always.

So what scripture could we look at during Lent? Well, basically the lot. But I thought I would focus on the people in the Bible before us who have spent forty days and forty nights like we are now, trying to get closer to God.

When Jesus takes his apostles up a mountain and is transfigured– his face and clothes shine bright as the sun – we are told that Moses and Elijah appear and talk with him. In the book of Exodus, when Moses is up Mount Sinai listening to the Lord we are told he fasted forty days and forty nights and transcribed the ten commandments – receiving the word of God himself. When Elijah is visited by an angel and told to climb Mount Horeb to speak with the Lord he travels for forty days and forty nights, not eating a bite. He arrives and he hears the Lord who tells him what he should do. This fast is clearly part of communing with God and being able to know his word – and not just a new diet sweeping the holy lands a couple thousand years ago that Moses and Elijah felt compelled to pop down to chat to Jesus about.

I was at a Vision day for my church a few weeks ago. We were coming up with a mission action plan for the next five years. We opened with a reading from 1 Kings telling us Elijah’s story. He fasts, gets to the mountain and in the night we are told ‘the word of God came to him’ and asked him what he wanted. Elijah wants to know what he should do as the people have rejected God. God says; go out on the side of the mountain, because I am coming by. There is a great wind then, that shatters mountains, then there is an earthquake and then a fire. During each one we are told, the Lord was not there. Then, when Elijah hears a great silence, he goes outside, knowing the Lord is there. We were given several silences during the day to pray for our church and try and listen to the small voice of God. It seems that this is where we can find him, in Lent also.

When we spend our forty days and forty nights like Moses, Elijah and

Jesus to get closer to God – maybe we give up a vice, maybe we embrace a virtue, maybe we read our Bible more or go to a study group – perhaps we should look for his voice in the silence. In this time, maybe we can find out what he wants from us; how we can try to become what he wants us to be. It may well be hard – after all the forty days and forty nights are always spent in the wilderness, nowhere comfy – but it will be worth it. Whilst we will succumb like Adam and Eve, we can also rebuke the tempter like our Lord. We can use the word of God. We can say, ‘as it was written.’ We can look to the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ himself. We can approach him in his mystery and glory and ask, what should we do? How do we resist?

I don’t think I was ever able to really do that before I became a Christian. I was ‘only human’ after all. My will was my only compass. I could make good decisions and bad decisions – as I still do, of course! – but it feels like now that all that time before was spent in the wilderness and not anywhere near the foothills of the mountain of God or his Kingdom either. My first Easter in the faith was also my confirmation. It felt special to me: I was dying and rising with Jesus. I didn’t feel worthy of it all – there’s that ‘only human’ bit again – but I felt confident that he would provide for me, so that I may go on to serve him as he wanted me to. Since then, my feeling that I was to serve him grew and transformed and now I am beginning to explore what a vocation in the church would be like for me. A big part of this process has involved me wondering, quite seriously, whether I could actually be up to this challenge. If I worried about being worthy to be a Christian, I was definitely going to worry about the possibility of me becoming a priest. Well, that fear, that temptation to throw the towel in and just say, ‘oh no, it was a big mistake, of course not, not me, I’m only human’ was and is a strong one. But I look to people like Balaam and Paul who were not servants of the Lord when he came down and said, ‘Listen you, I’ve got some work for you and you are going to do it’, and find that they were able to even though they could not see it. They ended up serving him, how he intended them to all along. I say, ‘as it was written’ – and hope and pray!

Easter to me, means facing these tough things. Because he faced all of them and worse and he still won. Christus Victor. Christ Victorious. And we are made in God’s image. He wants us to be all that we can be. So this Lent, perhaps we will follow the pattern given to us in his word, and by his Living Word, Lord Jesus. Perhaps we can look at these things – temptations among other things – and say, ‘as it was written’, or find in Jesus the answer to the problem, *or* realise, that perhaps being ‘only human’, is all we need to be.

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 June 1st.

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