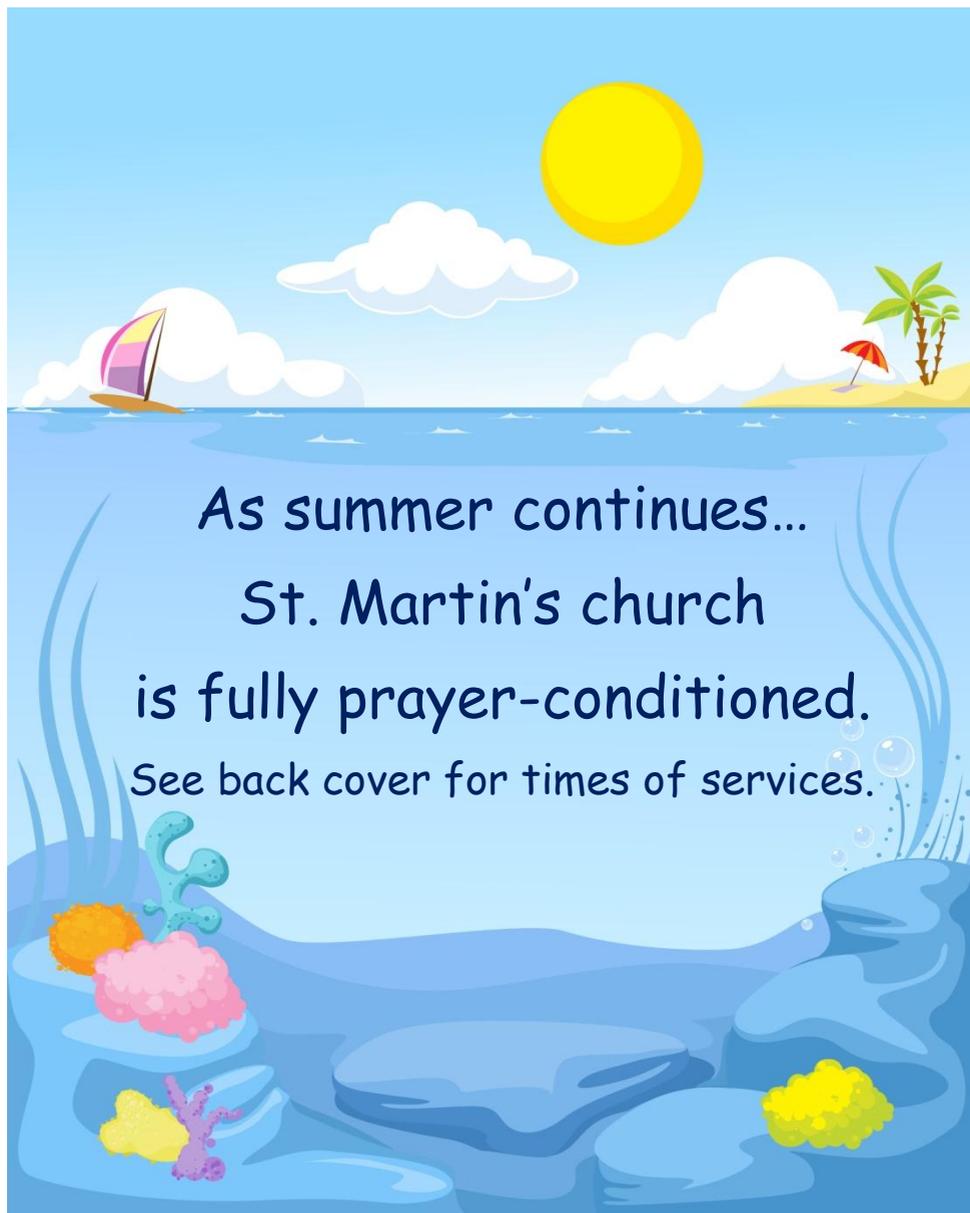


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

August 2014

50p



As summer continues...

St. Martin's church

is fully prayer-conditioned.

See back cover for times of services.

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

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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 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)

Licensed Lay Minister

Mrs Jacqueline Nicholls (c/o Parish Office)

Churchwardens

Mrs Liza Ambridge (020 8992 3029)
Mr John Trussler (020 8992 4549)

Director of Music

Mr Kenneth Bartram (c/o Parish Office)

Magazine Editor

Mr 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 17th August.

The September magazine will be on sale by 30th August.

Frans Ferdinand (18th December 1863 – 28th June 1914) was an Austro-Hungarian Archduke and Royal Prince of Hungary and of Bohemia and from 1889 until his death, heir presumptive to the Austro – Hungarian throne.

His assassination in Sarajevo precipitated Austria-Hungary's declaration of war against Serbia. This caused the central powers, Germany and Austro-Hungary and the allied forces including Britain in August 1914 to declare war on each other, starting the First World War, which arguably changed the face of human civilization permanently.

Underlying causes were the growth of imperialism, nationalism and in part religion.

Does this ring any bells? Now in this centenary year of the event, which is rather incongruously being 'celebrated' when it should rather be taught as a great lesson in human folly, we find ourselves once more in an eerily similar situation.

The rise of European nationalism, some of its manifestations being very close to home, religious fervour and the growth of new and powerful states have all contributed towards making this an uncertain time. August has been a deceptively quiet month in the past and we can only hope that it remains quiet in reality this year.

It's worth considering the historical perspective that has shaped and formed our present. Hopefully we will learn some lessons as the great and infamous 15th and 16th century philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli wrote: 'Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding times. This arises from the fact that they are produced by men who ever have been, and ever shall be, animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same results.'

Or perhaps, in our Christian context St Paul in his Letter to the Philippians Chapter 3 v 14 writes 'I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'

Christians move through time as well, hopefully learning on the way. We do also look to an end-time when Christ shall return and put all things right. In the meantime we have to do our part in bringing about the Kingdom he proclaimed which is one of peace, righteousness and truth.

Set within the greater scope of things our own contribution may not seem terribly significant but God doesn't judge by quantity it is rather the quality of our own spiritual lives that is judged against us. That could be briefly paraphrased as something like a call to be doing your best with God's help.

With all this as a backdrop my personal prayer is that this August should be a time of rest and refreshment in the absence of any great crisis either personal or international.

Nicholas



4th August – Time for Lights Out!

Every householder in Britain is being asked to turn out their lights at 11pm on 4th August, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The nationwide event is based on the famous comment attributed to Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, on the eve of the conflict in 1914. He said: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." He made the remark the day before war was declared, as he gazed across St James's Park from his window at the Foreign Office at the gas lamps being lit.

The switch-off is being called Lights Out, and is backed by the Government as "one of the most dramatic UK-wide events ever organised." Throughout the UK, everyone is being invited to "turn off their lights and to replace them with one single light, to remember a day that changed the world forever." The 'Lights Out' will take place at the same time as a candlelit vigil of prayers, readings and music held in Westminster Abbey. There candles will be extinguished one by one until a single flame is snuffed out at 11pm.

More details at: www.centenarynews.com

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Sunday 3 August

12:30pm

Barbecue

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Do you believe the motoring myths?

Many of us drivers waste money and risk damaging our cars because of the 'motor myths' going around.

For example, do you think that premium fuel is good for cars every now and then? False. High-grade fuel is suitable only for high-performance cars.

What about the idea that it's best to fit new tyres to the front axle? False. Having more grip on the REAR axle improves stability on slippery roads.

Should your car be warmed up before driving off? No. The engine will warm up more quickly, use less fuel and pump out fewer carbon emissions if you drive at once.

Finally, what about running the fuel tank near to empty in order to help clean it? False. Fuel tanks do not 'self clean', and driving with little or no fuel can be almost as damaging to your vehicle as putting in the wrong fuel.

(Tips from car supplier Lex Autolease)



Cut your water costs

What uses most water in your home? Taking a shower, according to the Energy Saving Trust. An average shower lasts seven and a half minutes, and just cutting a minute off that time would save households £215m on energy bills a year.

As for the kitchen, more than three quarters of us still boil more water than we need in the kettle. That overfilling costs us £68m a year.

These three simple tips could save your household £22 on energy bills each year: install an eco-shower head to a mixer or power shower; wash your clothes at 30; and boil only the water that you really need.



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Our repertoire is deliberately varied. Past concert performances include major works – ranging from Baroque to contemporary, as well as folk songs, spirituals and Christmas carols. Above all, we aim to enjoy ourselves through singing. In addition to performing in concerts three to four times a year, we also organise or take part in open singing days, choral workshops and singing festivals. Each Christmas we sing for a national or local charity selected by the members of the choir.

We rehearse at

St Martin's Church Hall, Hale Gardens, London W3 9SG

Rehearsals are

Wednesday 8 - 10pm

Don't be shy – come along and see what you make of us. Newcomers can attend up to three sessions on a free trial basis. There are no auditions, and all abilities and voice parts are welcome. Try us out and you'll soon have a passion for choral singing!



Philip conducting and Richard accompanying...



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South Sudan crisis spilling over into regional emergency

More than 350,000 refugees from the fighting in South Sudan are expected to flee across the border into Ethiopia in coming months, warns Christian Aid.

Six camps in Gambella region, the main Ethiopian entry point, are already severely over stretched with nearly 140,000 refugees registered, and more than 1,000 new arrivals a day. With only 41 per cent of the funds for the international crisis response plan for South Sudan in place at present, fears are mounting over food security, the spread of disease and protection of civilians.

Inside South Sudan, more than a million people have been displaced since fighting started four months ago between government and opposition forces. An estimated four million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance.



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Support and dignity

Last month's Summer Fair

**The Fair has made a profit of nearly £1,500
(at the time of going to press)**

Jackie Nicholls, this year's organiser, says:

"A big 'Thank you ' from me for all the hard work that was put in by everyone. It was certainly worth it."



Here you can see the more mature members of the congregation having lots of fun as they try out the louver slopes of the Bouncy Castle.

Lunch time at the Fair



And here is



Rachel Weikel the winner of the first prize in the Summer Fair Grand Raffle as kindly donated by Messrs Goview.

Births ...



Johnnie and Emma Stehlin have had a new baby Tabitha. Here she is with her mother and the vicar who has called in to see her and to have a cup of tea. Tabitha is a new sister to Jesse.

..... and Baptisms

This photograph was taken at the christening in St Martin's of Lochlan Sinclair son of Neil and Bryony (nee Bevitt) on Sunday 22nd June.





Another Baptism was that of Sean Buffong.

Here Sean is pictured with his family and godparents at the Family Service Sunday 6th July.

And here is a photograph of Ellie Stiff's Christening with her family



Here is Ellie pictured with June Wheatland, one of our longstanding members now a home communicant, Ellie's Great grandmother



Behind the hymn: All Things Bright And Beautiful

It's a favourite at weddings, if only because it's one of the few most couples remember from their school assemblies. But All Things Bright and Beautiful, when it's sung well, is a delightful and sprightly tour of the created world, offering it in praise to its creator.

It was written by the Irish hymn-writer Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), wife of a Church of Ireland clergyman who became Bishop of Derry and Archbishop of Armagh, and published in Hymns for Little Children in 1848. She was strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement, which sought to restore the Anglican High Church tradition and particularly by its founder John Keble. Himself a prolific hymn-writer, he encouraged her and edited one of her anthologies.

At one level, it's just a straightforward hymn encouraging children to see the world around them as the work of God and to be grateful for its life and beauty. But there are other layers to it as well.

For instance, it's sometimes described as an anti-evolution hymn. Mrs Alexander, it's said, wrote the hymn as a piece of propaganda attacking the new-fangled theories of Charles Darwin. It's not surprising if it were taken up by Victorian creationists, but it's unlikely that it was written with this in mind given its date – Darwin didn't publish *On the Origin of Species* until 1859, well after All Things Bright and Beautiful was written.

Having said that, John Keble, her mentor, was firmly in the creationist camp. He once spent a coach journey in a furious argument with William Buckland, the geologist, who had begun to show that the world was billions of years old, with Keble claiming that God had planted fossils in the ground to test the faith of scientists.

There's one verse which is usually omitted in modern hymn-books:

'The rich man in his castle
The poor man at his gate
God made them, high or lowly
And ordered their estate.'

Nowadays the idea that we should all know our place and defer to our

betters grates on us, and we don't find such a view in Scripture. But many Oxford Movement leaders, including Keble, were politically conservative as well as theologically (though Gladstone, a High Church Anglican, was a Liberal); that was the sort of thing which was taught in their pulpits Sunday by Sunday. Indeed it was a sermon preached against people who sought to better their station in life which turned the young Thomas Hardy against church for good.

Another layer of meaning comes from where the hymn was written. Mrs Alexander was rooted in Protestant Ireland, and a stalwart defender of the establishment. The 'rich man in his castle' was an English Protestant; the 'poor man at his gate' was an Irish peasant. The Irish potato famine killed a million people in Ireland between 1845 and 1852, and caused another million to emigrate – and All Things Bright and Beautiful was written in 1848.

More straightforwardly, the hymn also echoes the work of William Paley, whose book *Natural Theology* was a standard theological text in the 19th century. He argued that the world showed evidence of having been designed, and that therefore there must have been a designer – in the same way that if we found a watch, we'd infer that there must have been a watchmaker. 'Look around you!' says the hymn; it's a beautiful world, and God made it all, so praise him.'

Mrs Alexander was deeply involved in charitable work, with money from her books helping to support the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which was founded in 1846. The profits from *Hymns for Little Children* were donated to this school.

It's usually sung either to *Bright and Beautiful* by W H Monk, or to *Royal Oak*, an old dance tune recorded in 1686. That tune is also known as *The 29th of May*, as it's the setting for a song celebrating the Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

The United Church of Canada includes a fourth verse in its hymn book: 'The rocky mountain splendour,
The lone wolf's haunting call,
The great lakes and the prairies,
The forest in the fall...'



This is just to let you know that the total amount collected for

Christian Aid from St Martin's was £459.41.
Margaret Jones



**A Family Service will be held on
Sunday 7th September**

to which all those families who have had Christenings and all those Confirmed over the past five years will be invited.



We will have the pleasure of hearing Paul Fitzpatrick from the Church Army preach on Sunday 21st September.



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



Sunday 19th October: Annual Gift Day

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Dear friends

General Synod vote on women bishops

We have already debated this subject widely within the Diocese with frankness, passion and, I am glad to say, a good deal of Christian charity. I welcome yesterday's vote of the General Synod to permit women to be bishops not least because it will liberate our energies to pursue our Gospel ministry and mission.

The Synod has agreed a Measure and a House of Bishops' Declaration that will allow us to move forward in mutual trust, where those of all opinions can flourish in one Church of England. We now need to ensure that the gifts of all the baptised, laity and clergy, are used well in the service of Jesus Christ, men and women together as full partners in the Gospel. We will particularly wish to discern and encourage those women priests whom God may be calling to episcopal office.

I and my fellow bishops have committed ourselves to the five principles* enshrined in the House of Bishops' Declaration and we will continue to work together to ensure that every parish, including those who in conscience cannot receive the ordained ministry of women, can prosper and continue to express the life of the Gospel in our great World City. We go forward together in the mission of God, confident, compassionate and creative in the service of Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray and work with me for the good estate of all Christ's church.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "Richard Chartres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA

*The five principles

1. Now that legislation has been passed to enable women to become bishops the Church of England is fully and unequivocally committed to all orders of ministry being open equally to all, without reference to gender, and holds that those whom it has duly ordained and appointed to office are the true and lawful holders of the office which they occupy and thus deserve due respect and canonical obedience;

2. Anyone who ministers within the Church of England must be prepared to acknowledge that the Church of England has reached a clear decision on the matter;

3. Since it continues to share the historic episcopate with other Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and those provinces of the Anglican Communion which continue to ordain only men as priests or bishops, the Church of England acknowledges that its own clear decision on ministry and gender is set within a broader process of discernment within the Anglican Communion and the whole Church of God;

4. Since those within the Church of England who, on grounds of theological conviction, are unable to receive the ministry of women bishops or priests continue to be within the spectrum of teaching and tradition of the Anglican Communion, the Church of England remains committed to enabling them to flourish within its life and structures; and

5. Pastoral and sacramental provision for the minority within the Church of England will be made without specifying a limit of time and in a way that maintains the highest possible degree of communion and contributes to mutual flourishing across the whole Church of England.



On a bus a man gave his seat to a woman.

She fainted.

On recovering, she thanked him.

Then he fainted.

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

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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 7th September.

Japanese Anglican Church UK

meets every third Sunday of the month:

(except July, August and December)

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