

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

September 2014

50p



He has the whole world in His hand.

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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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 Administrator (9.30am – 1.30pm weekdays)

Parish Office, rear of Church Hall, W3 9SQ
020 8992 2333

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)

Deputy Churchwarden

Mr John Wilson (c/o Parish Office)

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 14th September.

The October magazine will be on sale by 28th September.

Back to school?

August always seems to come and go so quickly. Before we know it we are back at school, at work, in the usual run of things and a degree of normality returns.

Perhaps that's not quite so obvious this year given the circumstances in which the international stage has developed over the past few months.

First, there is the increasingly fraught situation in the Middle East. The so-called 'Arab Spring' has turned into what might be described as an 'Arab Winter'. Related to this are the terrible events in Iraq, not least the persecution of minorities by the fundamentalist group variously named but often known as 'Islamic State'. In this we particularly remember our fellow Christians who as members of the ancient Churches of the East have existed in the area for almost two thousand years and who are now being forced out of their homelands in the face of terrible violence.

Sadly, I must admit to being one of those who feels that the ill-advised invasion of Iraq by the United States, Britain and others in 2003 lies behind the present situation in Iraq as (not the only) but a principal cause.

Secondly, the month of September will see the outcome of what the English thus far have sleepwalked through, the Scottish referendum on independence. On balance the attractions of nationalism held against those of continuity and stability within the existing union of the United Kingdom work out in favour of the *status quo*.

I sincerely hope that Scotland does vote to remain within the Union. Otherwise, I can see only trouble ahead with the law of unintended consequences playing out unpredictably.

Lastly, just going back to normal in our lives can in itself be stressful. In short it already feels as if we need another break after August.



Trying to address this theologically isn't easy but riding to our rescue comes a feast day at the end of the month on 29th September. It is the feast of St Michael and All Angels.

In Christianity, the Archangel Michael is the greatest of all the Archangels and is honoured for defeating Lucifer in the war in heaven as portrayed in the Book of Revelation chapter twelve. He is one of the principal angelic

warriors, seen as a protector against the dark of night, and the administrator of cosmic intelligence. The feast day is one where ordinations to holy orders often take place indeed I was ordained at what is known as Michaelmas.

Where I used to work many years ago in Coventry Cathedral on the East wall there is a wonderful bronze sculpture by Jacob Epstein. It shows Michael defeating the devil and is there because Coventry Cathedral, having been destroyed by bombs, after the war sought a new world of reconciliation and peace. Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury was also at Coventry Cathedral (after me of course).

If Christianity means anything it must be the pursuit of the teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Whilst the faith that claims to follow him has itself had a very mixed history and whole episodes of which it can be less than proud, Jesus teaching remains. John 14 verse 27 gives us Jesus' words: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Perhaps that's the note on which to end and get, as it were, back to work.

Nicholas

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 24 October 2014

7:00pm to 10:00pm



**Church Hall
St Martins Church
Hale Gardens
London W3 9SQ**

Do you know who wrote Beethoven's Fifth Symphony? Or what is the capital of England?

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Let the Parishes Office know on 020 8992 2333

Congratulations to



Bryony Franklin

Bryony has been attending a course entitled **Children's Spirituality & The Christian Faith**.

At the end of the course she was assessed. It is with congratulations to Bryony that we learn she has passed!

Well done!



Jackie Nicholls

This photo was taken after a service of Commissioning.

Jackie Nicholls was Commissioned as a Lay Minister for St Martin's at a ceremony presided over by the Bishop

of Kensington at St Mellitus College, London Diocese.

She will be admitted to St Martin's ministry at the Parish Communion on Sunday 14th September.

Church Commissioners confirm Wonga exit

Church Commissioners for England were recently “pleased to announce” that their indirect investment exposure to Wonga in their venture capital portfolio has been removed. The Church Commissioners no longer have any financial or any other interest in Wonga.

At no time have the Commissioners invested directly in Wonga or in other pay day lenders. The indirect exposure of the Commissioners through pooled funds represented considerably less than 0.01% of the value of Wonga.



Dates for your Diary..

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



Junior Church Rota and Services for September

	Pre-Service	Candles	Torches
7 th Sept	Kim	Emma J	Kim
14 th Sept	Michaela	Elise	Michaela
21 st Sept	Tara	Bryony	Tara
28 th Sept	Rachel	Shelley	Rachel

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L O N D O N

Go View London,
24 Station Parade,
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The Ambridge's Annual Barbecue



The Annual Barbecue was blessed with good weather and was very successful.





Well done to Paul and Liza for organising a wonderful party - With great food as always.

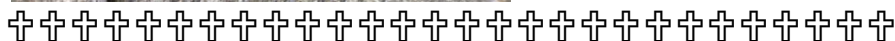




The barbecue made over £300 for Church Funds.
Well done and thank you for making such a success.



A brave flower that has somehow seeded itself to give us all a bit of pleasure with a blossom out to the concrete.



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The Parish Office has moved...



The Parish Office has moved from the Vicarage to the Parish Rooms at the rear of St Martin's Church Hall. The telephone number and e-mail remain the same but the address is now:

**St Martin's Parish Office
(Rear of Church Hall)
Hale Gardens
London W3 9SQ**

Pictured above is Michael our Administrator at his new desk.

The story behind 'Abide with me'

One of the most famous hymns in the world came out of Brixham, near Torbay, Devon, in 1847. In those days it was a poor, obscure fishing village, and the vicar was the Rev Henry Francis Lyte. It was a discouraging place to be a pastor, but Henry felt that God wanted him there, and so he stayed, though it was lonely work, and he suffered constant ill health. By the time he was 54, Henry had contracted tuberculosis and asthma, and he and his family knew he was dying. It would have been so easy for him to look back on his life and feel a complete failure. What had he ever much accomplished? And yet Henry knew that in life it is not worldly success that matters, but how much we respond to Jesus Christ, and how much we follow him.

In September of 1847 Henry was preparing to travel to the south of France, as was the custom for people with tuberculosis at that time. One day before he left, he read the story in the gospel of Luke about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of his resurrection, and they invited him to stay with them because it was getting late. "Abide with us", they said "for it is towards evening."

"Abide with us - for it is toward evening." These words struck a chord with Henry, who knew that it was getting 'towards evening' in his life. So he sat down and wrote this hymn as a prayer to God

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

Shortly after Henry wrote that hymn, he preached his last sermon. It is said that he was so ill he practically crawled into the pulpit to do so. A few weeks later, in Nice, France, he died, and so of course he never knew that his hymn would go on to become world famous; that it would be the last hymn played by the brave musicians on board the Titanic the night it went down and sung with gusto by football fans!



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New arrangements for housing retired clergy

The Church of England Pensions Board has published the outcome of its review of rental housing for retired clergy, following a consultation process which took place last year.

The main changes to the rental scheme are: that clergy will be able to start looking for a retirement property much earlier; they will be able to choose their future home from a large pool of high quality properties in the certain knowledge of what the costs of each property will be, and they will pay a subsidised rent based on the value of the property they choose. None of these changes will take place before 1 April 2015. The scheme that has been reviewed is the Church's Housing Assistance for Retired Ministry (CHARM) rental scheme.



Notice seen in a church magazine!

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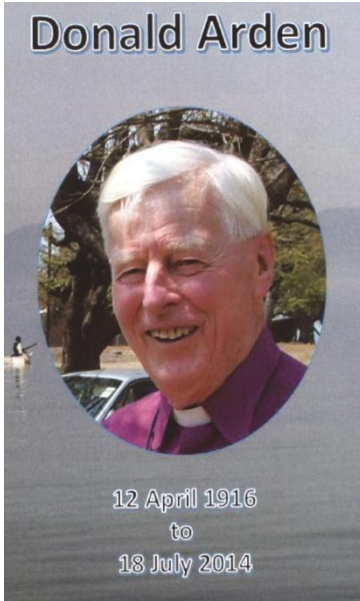
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Bishop Donald Arden



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Bishop Donald Arden, former Archbishop of Central Africa and good friend to St Martin's Church.

It was Bishop Donald who first introduced us to Malawi, which for many years was an important part of our parish life. He also conducted a number of our confirmation services.

Bishop Donald's work in Central Africa was immense and even in his retirement he continued to work in the Willesden Episcopal Area.

Our condolences go to Jane is widow and his sons Bazil and Chris.

It is reported in his obituary that just before he died Bishop Donald's face lit up at the news that the Church of England had agreed to consecrate women as bishops.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Nicholas



Anne Wilson

At the time of going to press we heard of the death of a former parishioner, Anne Wilson. She was a valued member of the congregation, moving away in 1986.

She died of cancer. Our condolences go to her son and daughter and their families.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

News from Christian Aid

From Nigeria Christian Aid partners are providing emergency support to some 50,000 people who have fled a conflict in the north central state of Benue in Nigeria. The violence is the latest outbreak of a long-running land dispute between local farmers and groups of nomadic Fulani cattle herders.

Clashes between Fulani and Jukun communities in neighbouring Taraba state have added to the number of displaced people (IDPs). The government has not established a camp for the IDPs, and so they are taking refuge wherever they can. Christian Aid partners are distributing food, water containers and purifiers, mosquito nets and other essentials.

Charles Usie, country manager for Christian Aid Nigeria explains: "Farming is the primary occupation in Benue state and the main source of income... violent attacks during this conflict have destroyed farmlands leaving people homeless and jobless."

And on the Government's response to FGM... Long-term solutions to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage are essential to ensure progress towards ending harmful practices, says Christian Aid.

Better opportunities for girls and women, supporting survivors and protecting girls at risk were among the key areas to be addressed at the recent Girl Summit hosted by the UK Prime Minister and jointly organised by the Department for International Development (DfID) and UNICEF. Approximately 140 million girls and women are currently living with the consequences of FGM globally, of whom 92 million live in Africa. Worldwide, more than 60 million girls are child brides, forced into marriage before the age of 18.

"We welcome the Summit and DfID's ambition to tackle these issues and the recognition of the key role of faith-based and civil society organisations in the fight against both practices," said Christian Aid. "Working with communities, education and engaging with religious and traditional leaders is essential."

Last Christian flee Mosul for their lives

For the first time in nearly 2000 years the city of Mosul, in northern Iraq, is without Christians. They fled this summer, after a warning from the Islamic State militants that all Christians would be put to the sword if they did not convert to Islam or agree to pay a protection tax (*jizya* in Arabic).

So the Christians filled their cars with whatever they could fit in, and fled to Dohuk and Irbil, in the neighbouring region of Kurdistan. They left behind scenes of desecration. The Islamists seized control of the 4th century Syrian Catholic Mar Behnam monastery, burned the Syriac Bishop's office, home and library to the ground, and removed the cross from St Ephrem's Syriac Orthodox Cathedral in Mosul and flew a black flag instead. The Syriac Catholic Patriarch of Antioch and all the East of the Syrians, said: "This is a disgrace. The Christians in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon weren't imported; we've been here for millennia and therefore we have the right to be treated as human beings and citizens of these countries."

Mosul's Christian community totalled about 60,000 before the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. It then increased, as many more Christians took refuge in Mosul. But by June of this year the number had dropped to 35,000, and fell sharply even further when the Islamic State took control. On 15 June this year, for the first time in 1,600 years, there was no Christian mass said in Mosul. One Christian family who could not get out before the deadline and who could not afford to pay the tax paid a cruel price: the mother and daughter were gang raped by the militants. The husband, who was made to watch, was so traumatised that he then committed suicide.

As the British Ambassador to Iraq, Simon Collis, said about the Islamists: "They drove Mosul's Christians from a city they had prayed in for 1800 years. Churches were burned and houses marked with N" (standing for *Nasrani*, an Arabic word for Christian). The Bishop of Coventry, Dr Christopher Cocksworth, said: "The determined will of ISIS to evict Christians from Mosul and eradicate Christianity from the area they seek to control is deeply distressing... It is incumbent on us all to speak out against such injustice and violence." Open Doors has launched an Iraq Emergency Appeal to help the Christians who have fled the Islamic militants. Go to: www.opendoorsuk.org/iraqcrisis

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 our Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October.

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