

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

October 2014

50p



Events this month

*October 5th: Harvest Festival
Followed by Harvest Lunch*

*October 19th:
Annual Gift Day*

*October 24th:
Quiz Night*

Further details inside

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 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,
Hale Gardens, 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 12th October.

The November magazine will be on sale by 26th October.

Making ends meet.

At the time of writing this article the uncertainties of the Scottish Referendum have yet to play out, as the actual vote is still several days away. Such has been the political upheaval it is difficult to imagine that things will ever be quite the same again whichever way the result.

For those of us of a certain age it is quite difficult to make sense of what have become very confusing times. From the terrible fighting in the Middle East, to the struggles and uncertainties in Ukraine, to the nationalistic movements that are springing up all over Europe, all are indicative of a world on the cusp of serious political breakdown. We are told that the current Pope has likened this to a Third World War that has already started; in this he is behind our administrator Michael Franks who has been saying the same thing for weeks.

In the meantime back here at home as it were we find ourselves in what is often described benignly as the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' from the poet Keats 'Ode to Autumn'. From our point of view it is Harvest Festival and all that is associated with giving thanks for God's goodness to us. We do in fact have much to be thankful for and our wellbeing should be shared with others.

Sharing with others comes in terms of tokens but important ones in the harvest gifts that we donate to the Ealing Women's Refuge and in that we attempt to give 10% of our income to charity as each year the Parochial Church Council decides on a list of charities drawn up by a committee headed by our Reader Dr Margaret Jones. You can see the results of these in the thank you letters pinned up on the noticeboards in the entrance lobby of the church.

There is also another rather more esoteric sharing that St Martin's undertakes in that we contribute gladly and regularly what is known as our Common Fund commitment to the Diocese of London. Next year this will be just under £76,000.00. This enables us to pay for what it costs the Diocese to run the parish largely through my clergy

stipend (currently about £24,000.00 pa) the vicarage and most especially the monies that go towards maintaining parishes in poorer or less privileged parts of London. In a sense this is what being the Church of England is all about, we are more than simply the parish of St Martin's, West Acton we have a responsibility towards our fellow Christians elsewhere in the Diocese whatever their circumstances. In this respect I well remember the parish I came from previously in Bow in East London, a parish that in is the middle of the East End, in a large Muslim area and which will never be able to pay its own way. So if we want a Christian presence there we here in affluent West London have to pay for it.

So this Vicar's article has started with an assessment of the current unhappy world situation, and moved to harvest with a reminder that there is no reaping without first sowing. Finally, given all that I have written, we will be holding our annual Gift Day on Sunday 19th October when there is an opportunity for you to make a special one off donation to St Martin's. In the circumstances we are particularly reliant on you this year to help us make ends meet.

Nicholas



Pack the app as downloads reach 100,000

The five different free apps from Church House Publishing, are reaching Christians across 140 countries via their smartphones or tablets. The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu said: "I use the apps regularly whilst I am travelling. I even used the app on a recent overseas trip to Ephesus and Cairo, so didn't need a suitcase full of books with me!" The Ven Christine Hardman, Archdeacon emeritus of Southwark said she had found the Daily Prayer app invaluable on her 2,500 mile cycle trip this year, along the East coast of the USA. "Not only did it supply the Bible readings, but also the prayers." The Daily Prayer app released earlier this year is free to download. It is the fifth app to be released by the CoFE and complements existing apps including Reflections for Daily Prayer, Sunday Worship and the Lectionary of Services for the Church of England.

Annual Gift Day: Sunday 19th October

St Martin's Church has been standing here in Hale Gardens for over a 100 years. It has only done so due to the generosity of past and present generations of parishioners and supporters.

Past generations supported the Parish through special appeals or through purchasing pews! Yes, in the early 10th century pews could be rented. In the early 1900's if you wanted to ensure that you could always sit in the same pew every week, you would rent it.

In his incumbency, Nicholas started the Annual Gift Day as a way of raising extra funds. The money raised helps us to meet the unexpected expenditures as well as supporting the everyday running costs of St Martin's.

It costs between £10,000 and £12,000 each month to keep St Martin's running. The variation is largely due to seasonal expenses.

Last year the Gift Day raised almost £5,200. Can we improve on this for 2014? Time will tell.

If you are a tax payer, then please remember to sign the Gift Aid section. This is a very efficient way of donating money. For example: If you are a tax payer and donated £200 – if Gift Aided we can claim £50 from HMRC which means your £200 is worth £250 after we have claimed the Gift Aid element.

Nicholas will be sending out a leaflet with more information very soon now.

Please read the leaflet and, if you can, please make a donation to our Gift Day Appeal.

Your contribution, no matter how much will be gratefully received.

Clive Davis (Treasurer)

St Martin's Annual Gift Day Sunday 19th October

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?
If so, then you are off to a good start!**

**Join in the fun on tables of six people.
Make up your own table with friends or make
new friends by joining a table.**

**£10 Entry includes Ploughman's Supper.
Liquid Refreshments available for purchase**

**Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church
Or**

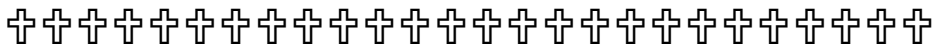
Let the Parishes Office know on 020 8992 2333

Recent Baptism....



Samuel Ibi was christened on Sunday 7th September.

He is pictured here with his parents, Andrew and Fiona.



Dorothy John - R.I.P.



Dorothy John, longstanding friend of St Martin's died in July this year.

Nicholas conducted her memorial service in All Saints, Ealing on Friday 12th September.

Harvest Festival

Sunday 5th October

10am: Harvest Family Service

All gifts will be given to the Women's Refuge in Ealing. The refuge supports women (and their children) who have had to leave the family home to escape domestic problems or violence.

Your Harvest Gifts do not have to be food. You can bring cleaning products and other household products which are always appreciated by the Refuge. If donating food please remember that tinned and dry foods are easier for the Refuge to store than fresh fruit and vegetables.

If you want to know more about the work of Ealing Women's Refuge, Margaret Jones will be happy to tell you more.

From midday: Harvest Lunch

Following our Harvest Festival, there will be a Harvest Lunch.

The cost is £5 each.

Please sign up at the back of the church in order to help the volunteers know how many to cater for.



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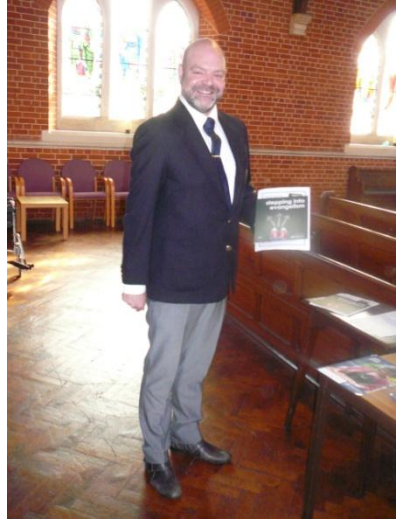
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Last month's Guest Preacher...

Last month Captain Paul Fitzpatrick from the Church Army visited and shared with us the work of the Church Army.

At the end of the service our Churchwarden, John Trussler presented Captain Paul Fitzpatrick with a cheque for £200 to support the work of the Church Army.



Here Captain Paul Fitzpatrick (second from left), guest preach at the Parish Communion on Sunday 21st September is pictured with members of the congregation.

Acton Care Centre...



A service of commemoration was held at the Acton Care Centre on the afternoon of Sunday 21st September (International United Nations Peace Day) photo attached of the laying of flowers and rosemary (for remembrance) at the Acton Care Centre War memorial. The service was

followed by tea and the singing of First War songs.

Extract from service below:

We have gathered in this memorial Care Centre today to remember all those from this community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War. We remember those who were killed in action, or by disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, the wounded, maimed and injured, those who held in silence unspeakable memories of warfare.

The Lanterns are lit

As we remember those who fought and those who remained anxiously at home in this community, let us pray that God will heal all memories, speak a word of peace, and bring us his healing.

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace, the departed rest,
the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth
and all the world peace and concord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

The Lanterns are extinguished:

'The lights are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our generation' *Edward Grey: British Foreign Secretary on the Eve of the First World War*

Nicholas

Looking back 100 years

The War memorial in our Churchyard commemorates those men who lost their lives in the Great War. It has 36 names – 36 parishioners who worshipped at St Martin's.



Over the next 4 years – 100 years later and in the month they lost their lives, I will attempt to bring you each of their stories of how they died in World War I. The first story will be told next month. It was a tragedy that prompted Winston Churchill, then the First Lord of the Admiralty, to reluctantly stand up in the House of Commons and announce: *"I regret to say I have some bad news for the House. the loss of life is very severe."*

36 names and 100 years after their sacrifice:

We will remember them.

Clive Davis (editor)



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The story behind 'Come Ye Thankful People Come'

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All be safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!*

*We ourselves are God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be....*

By H Alford (1810 – 71)

Very probably, you will sing this well-loved Harvest hymn this month. It was written by the Rev Henry Aldford, DD, a Victorian clergyman who had been a fellow student at Trinity College, Cambridge with Alfred Tennyson, and whose transparent goodness and friendliness seem to have made him liked and appreciated wherever he went.

His ministry began as vicar of Wymeswold, a tiny village in Leicestershire with a badly neglected church. Over 18 years, Henry rebuilt the faltering Christian community, faithfully visiting every person in his parish, and preaching his way through the Bible in sermons that were so clear that everyone could understand him. He then moved on to the incumbency of Quebec Chapel in London for four years, before moving to the Deanery of Canterbury, in 1857, where he lived until his death in early 1871.

Henry was one of life's good people; gentle, kindly, grateful for everything he had (he used to say 'grace' before AND after each

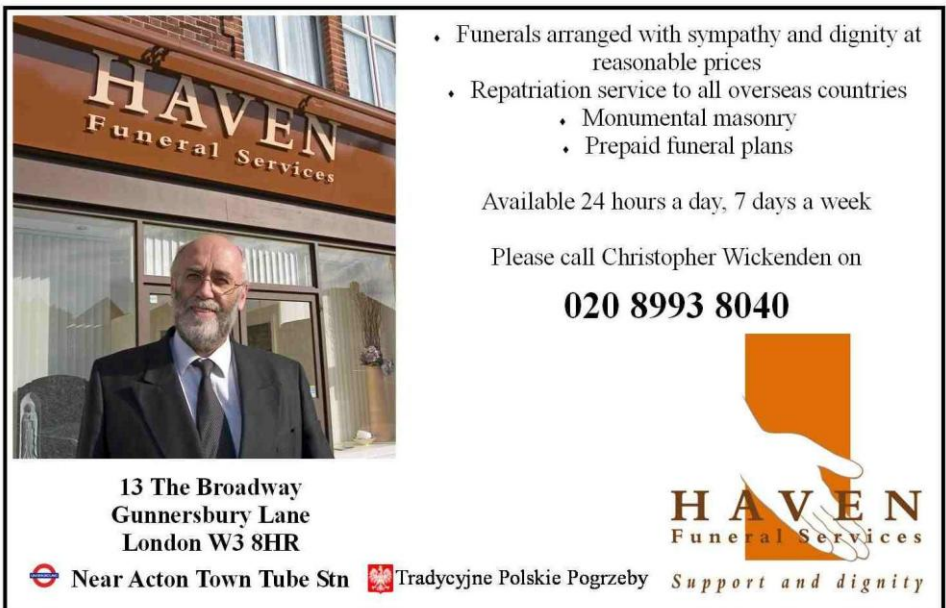
meal), and eager to encourage all those whom he served. He was prodigiously productive: writing something like 50 books. The best known of these was a four volume exposition of the New Testament, which took him nearly 20 years.

His famous hymn draws upon two of Jesus' parables: the story of the wheat and tares (Mt 13:24-30) and also the story of the seed that grows unbeknown to the sower (Mark 4:26-29). Both are parables draw from agriculture; both are about the ultimate harvest of our souls before God. During this lifetime we properly give thanks to God for our harvest of his gifts of creation, but we should also reflect on what seed we are sowing in our lives, and what harvest we may expect; as one day God will gather together *only his own* for the eternal heavenly harvest.



As seen in a church magazine.....

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.



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Future Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 5th November

6pm Annual Bonfire Party

in the Vicarage Gardens

XX

Sunday 23rd November: Christ the King

10am Parish Communion

Guest Preacher:

The Rt Revd Trevor Mwamba

Launch of St Martin's Foundation

XX

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but think that choir
music is a bit of an*

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come up with a way of*



CRACKING THE CHORAL CODE

Two Workshops for singers
Saturday 4th October 2014
9.45 – 12.30 and 1.15 – 4.00pm
St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens W3 9SQ

Cracking the Choral Code comprises a morning session of basic choral techniques and an afternoon of more advanced work. If you are planning to join a choir or are already a member of one, you'll find the sessions a great way to kick-start the singing year. You can book one session or both.

You must be at least 16 to attend, and anyone aged 16-25 has free entry. If you're over 25, and book before 1st October, workshops are £10 per session, or £15 for both. Prices are £15 per session or £20 for both if you pay on the door.

To book or find out more go to

www.questorschoir.org.uk

or email **info@questorschoir.org.uk**

or phone 020 8816 7734 or 07802 720 333

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Websites that offer Hallowe'en alternatives

This month your children will be targeted by all the shops in an effort to get them involved in Halloween dressing up and party games. If you would like to consider an alternative way that your children could have just as much fun, the following list of websites may come in useful.

Children's Ministry:

<http://childrensministry.com/articles/five-halloween-alternatives/>

Christian Halloween Alternatives:

<http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/ss/halloweenaltern.htm>

Nick Harding: Church House Publishing (a good look at the issues):

www.chpublishing.co.uk/uploads/documents/0715141015.pdf

Better than Halloween (as above Nick Harding):

www.amazon.co.uk/Better-Than-Halloween-Alternatives-Churches/dp/0715141015

Catholic Culture:

www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=1230&CFID=13915291&CFTOKEN=70900778

Scripture Union:

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Families/Parents/Talkingabout/Halloween/1198.id and also

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/OutlineArchive/2005/Halloween/3280.id

Evangelical Alliance:

www.eauk.org/church/resources/halloween-resources.cfm

All Souls Games:

www.catholicicing.com/all-saints-day-party-games/

Bibles removed from Travelodge

The nationwide hotel chain Travelodge has removed Bibles from all of its rooms, in a move criticised by the Church of England. Bibles provided free by the Gideons have been taken away to avoid 'discriminating' against any other religion, as Travelodge explains it.

The removals reportedly took place after refurbishment work across the hotel chain, which replaced the drawers where Bibles were being kept. In response, a spokesman for the Church of England said: "It seems both tragic and bizarre that hotels would remove the word of God for the sake of ergonomic design" or "economic incentive".

Writing on the Telegraph website, commentator Tim Stanley described Travelodge's decision as "an act of cultural vandalism upon a tradition that goes back 126 years". In an official statement Travelodge said: "Travelodge made the decision to move copies of the Bible from its hotel rooms and place them at reception for customers to borrow in 2007.

"This decision was based on customer research and the fact that we live in a multicultural society. Therefore in order not to discriminate against any religion, customers who would like a Bible can pick a copy from any one of Travelodge's 500 hotel reception desks across the country, whilst staying at the hotel".

Travelodge is the only hotel chain in the country to have removed the Bibles, despite having never received a complaint from a guest. Both Premier Inn and InterContinental Hotels, who own the Holiday Inn chain, say that Bibles are being retained in their hotels.



As seen on a church notice board:

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?'

Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

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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 by the Coffee Club