

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

December 2014

50p



God Jul  
Joyeux Noël  
Buon Natale  
Feliz Natal  
Veselé Vánoce  
Feliz Navidad  
Boldog Karácsonyt  
Frohe Weihnachte  
Merry Christmas

Full list of Christmas Services can be found on page 5

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

[www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk](http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk)

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com))

**They should reach the Editor by 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

The January magazine will be on sale by 28<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Christmas already?**

Christmas seems to have been going on a long time this year. Apart from the usual cut-price cards in the shops from about August, a certain local Coffee Shop has been playing Christmas music from Bonfire night! Apparently the scheme of canned music runs more or less thus: about one in five tunes during early November, expanding to one in three and then by December one in two before one in one in the last two weeks. Thereafter Christmas it tails off in a rather more rapid sequence.

I don't know why I should sound surprised? The commercial world is all too conscious that Christmastide conjures up a 'feel good' factor amongst customers – and why not, it is after all a great festival of rejoicing as once again we (as Christians) remember the Nativity of our Lord, who we believe is the Saviour of the world.

The problem for today's followers of Jesus is however, how to make that good news accessible to an increasingly international and secular society, especially where we live. Yet, the latest figures from the Church of England's 'Statistics for Mission' show a mixed picture some continuing gentle decline, some bright spots of growth such as here in London, too few younger members and too much financial burden, yet an extraordinarily generous giving level by some.

All that being said on balance the Church is in good heart and here at St Martin's as ever we are trying to look outwards to a wider audience. We are addressing this with our community links and our new educational programme under the banner of St Martin's Foundation. Modern Christians must be fully knowledgeable about their faith in order to witness to Christ in their day-to-day lives.

We are also looking wider still not least with our outward giving programme to a number of charities and good causes. In the New Year also I am hoping that we can reach out to our new Anglican friends in what is now beleaguered Guinea in West Africa where they have been hit hard by the ghastly outbreak of Ebola, one of the cruellest diseases. For further information about our link see our website:

<http://stmartinswestacton.co.uk/international-ministry/guinea-africa/>

Finally, I cannot conclude this vicar's article without mentioning another horrible development of today namely the crisis in the Middle East and the terrible events associated with extremism. Simple condemnation is not however enough we must all learn more about what is driving young people to take up militant causes. In this St Martin's Foundation is also trying to inform and to assist us to understand what on earth is going on. See again the website:

[www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk/content/pages/documents/1413289724.pdf](http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk/content/pages/documents/1413289724.pdf)

So another Christmas is actually already here and in a sense it always is because the world is always in need of redemption and our role in speaking of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is essential.

Nicholas



## Thank You

A Thank You to the anonymous donor who paid for the external security lights along the path behind the Hall.



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# **Christmas Services at St Martins**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**

Children's Nativity Play  
during the Parish Communion

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols  
Followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

4pm Children's Carol Service  
11pm Midnight Eucharist

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

8am Holy Communion  
10am Christmas Day Parish Communion

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

6.30pm Epiphany Carol Service  
Followed by Sherry and Cake

**Have a blessed and joyous Christmas**



**A sign of the times?!**

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"



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## Farewell to Bruce and Alyson



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December we will say goodbye to Bruce and Alyson Barnett-Cowan. It's hard to believe that their time with us has gone by so quickly.

They go back to Canada and instead of a simple retirement, Bruce will go on working and Alyson for the next six months or so at least will be in the senior position of interim Secretary General to the Anglican Communion.

We shall miss them very much as they have become part of our family here at St Martin's. On a personal note I wish to thank them for all the help and

support they have given to the ministry team and me over the years.

The world these days is a small place and whilst we will lose Bruce and Alyson in person we shall keep in touch. In the meantime I suppose that there is a little part of St Martin's that will now be – forever Scotland!

Nicholas



### **Alyson is appointed as**

### **Interim Secretary General of Anglican Communion**

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion have appointed the Revd Canon Dr Alyson Barnett-Cowan as Interim Secretary General. Alyson, who will retire at the end of January as Director for Unity Faith and Order, has agreed to be a half-time consultant until the position of Secretary General has been filled. She will be based at her home in Canada but will work at the Anglican Communion Office for some days each month. We wish her well with this new undertaking.

## **Welcome Packs for the Women's Refuge**

When women and their children arrive at the refuge, they have often left home in a hurry and the staff find that many of them lack the usual essentials for personal hygiene.

They have asked us to assemble some welcome packs which can be placed in the newcomers' rooms. They have suggested that we include the following (enough for 1 mother and 1 child):

2 towels

Body wash

Toothpaste - 1 tube for the mother and another for a child

Toothbrush - 1 for mother and 1 for a child

Roll-on deodorant

Shampoo

Hand cream

Body moisturiser

Tissues

Baby wipes

Sanitary towels (1 packet)

They are also grateful for nappies, spare pants for mothers and children. It seems that they often get donations of toys and clothes but essential toiletries and towels are overlooked.

I think this is a request that we can respond to and I hope that in due course we shall be able to make a steady supply of packs to welcome new women to the refuge. I hope that we will be able to include a card from our Junior Church.

*Margaret Jones*



### **How much of modern Christmas is in the Bible?**

One in 10 young adults think that Father Christmas appears in the Bible, while others take it for granted that a Christmas tree appeared in the nativity story. Others take the carol 'Away in a Manger' literally, and believe that Jesus never cried as a baby. Many also believe that Mary riding on a donkey is specifically mentioned; and a full third of young people believe that the Bible records 25 December as the date of Jesus' birth. The recent ComRes survey was conducted for the Christian Institute.



## Another successful Quiz Night!



Everyone at the ready.

The Quiz Master and his glamorous assistant check the scores.



The Winning Team!

Many thanks to Liza and Paul Ambridge for a really good Quiz Night with brilliant questions and lots to eat.

We made £370 as well!

## Looking at last month's Bonfire Night....



Nicholas and Michael building the fire.

The 'Guy' as made by Emily Merrick, aged 4, is about to be taken outside.



A very enjoyable evening, held on 5th November in the Vicarage garden, was had by all.

Thanks to Jackie Nichols and Camilla Reid for baked potatoes, pumpkin soup, hot dogs and lemonade.

The Night realised a profit of £55.

## News from last month

### Bishop Trevor Mwamba visits St Martin's...



Bishop Trevor Mwamba, Record of Barking Abbey, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Chelmsford, former Bishop of Botswana and a star of the 'Ladies. No 1 Detective Agency' playing himself in this comedy film of the book set in Botswana.

Bishop Trevor was our guest preacher on the Feast of Christ the King, 23rd November when he also launched the new 'St Martin's Foundation' educational programme.

Shown here with the vicar and Lyndon Plant and Rachel Weikel and their son Samuel.



### The Coffee Rota...



Andrew Ibi and Fiona Stuart with Samuel their son Samuel.

The family are our new Coffee Rota organisers, pictured here in the church Welcome Area kitchen.

If you'd like to help with the important fellowship ministry of coffee after our services please contact the Parish Office.

## Recent Baptisms.....

There were several Baptisms since last month's magazine was published. Here are photographs of our new members in Christ, with the families.



Samuel's family and godparents.



Lyndon and Rachel, Samuel's parents cut his celebratory cake to be shared at coffee time after the service.





Here is the christening & baptism of Summer Turnbull and Samantha Willoughby which took place on Sunday 2nd November.

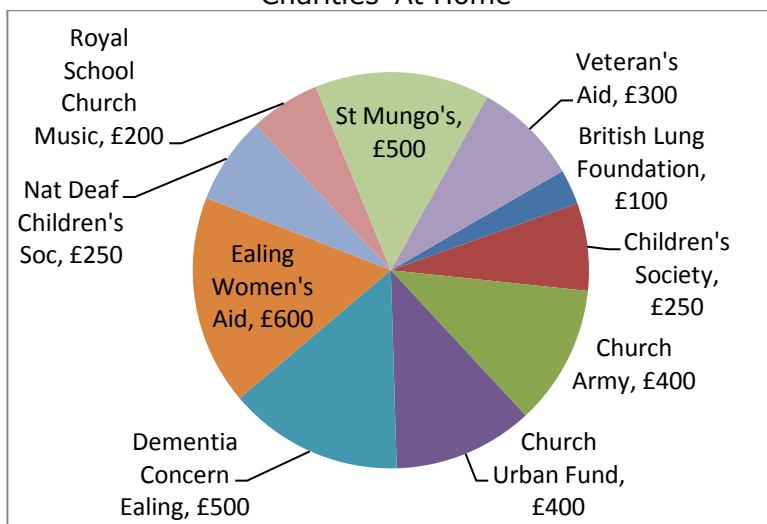


George Oliver Hacking was christened in St Martin's on Sunday 16th November – seen here with his parents Luke and Stephanie and godparents

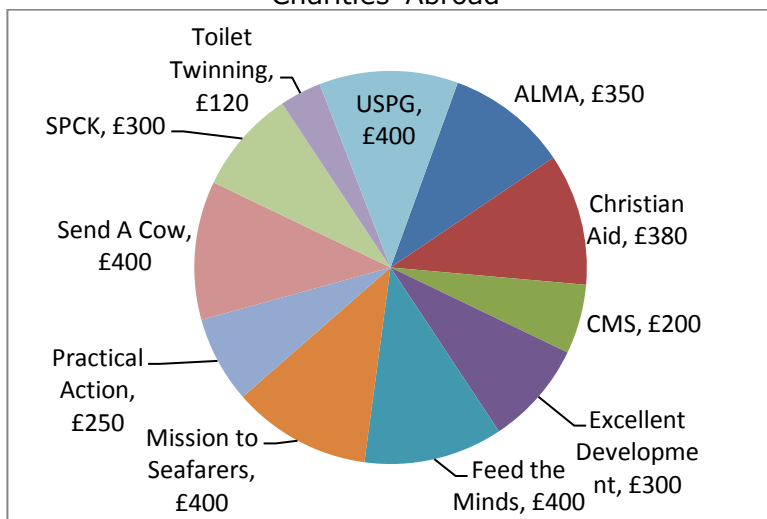
## Charitable Giving 2014

The PCC decided to support various Charities from PCC funds. The amount to be given in total is £7,000.

Charities 'At Home'



Charities 'Abroad'



This is addition to the Christian Aid and Children's Society collections.

## Our War Memorial

As part of the World War I commemorations in this year marking the declaration of the Great War 100 years ago, the PCC decided to have the lettering of our War Memorial renovated.

Here is a photograph of the war Memorial being renovated and the letters being re-painted.

Thanks to Liza's hard work for arranging the work being done, all was completed in time for the Annual Act of Remembrance.



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**George William Davis**  
**12<sup>th</sup> December 1925 – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014**



I've known for a long time that this day would come, but as George once said to me that he wanted me to conduct his funeral, I must admit to feeling unusually nervous, I really do want to get it right. I have after all the responsibility of following Clive in giving this address on behalf of a man who I have always profoundly admired. George also once said to me round about the time that the family moved from Lexden Road out to Ruislip to assure me I think, that quote 'we are committed and we will continue to serve God in St Martin's regardless of how far we have to travel'. That, of course, was and remained true right up until the

Sunday before George passed on, when although not well, he was still at St Martin's keeping an eye on things in the role which I think he that he had acquired by dint of age, example and loyalty - as father of the church. In this respect this is the end of an era but as we prepare to embark, as George would want, on a new one, what a wonderful example of faith and commitment we have as a model for our lives.

So I am relieved that George has left me with a script transferred from notes by Claire and Clive that I share with you now in more or less his own words:

George was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1925 in Marylebone. During his early years he spent most of his childhood in St Nicholas' & St Martin's Hospital at Pyrford in Surrey, the hospital was run by the Waifs and Strays Society (now the Childrens' Society). By coincidence this Parish donated £30 a year during the 1930s for Pyrford Hospital while George was there. This is something that George only found out some 8 years ago when reading Mary Sorensen's History of St Martin's. Pyrford Hospital Chapel was where George, aged 10, started Serving at the Altar under The Rev'd Father Bailey, a real priest of the old Anglo-Catholic style – that's why George was such a good server.

When George was 15, he started work as a packer for Trix Electrical

Company, a firm in the West End of London, which we believe in 1940 was making radios.

At 18 he was called up for National Service and was posted to serve in the Royal Army Service Corps. During his service and because of his health George was medically downgraded to C2, which meant he was fit to serve only in this country. Nevertheless, he finished his Army Service as an NCO in charge of the petrol depot on Horsenden Hill. Later he would joke that Hitler could have slowed the British advance just by bombing the Horsenden Hill depot!

During this time George met Dorothy perhaps the most significant encounter of his life. On demob he worked for a small firm of sign-writers. In those days film credits were painted on glass before being combined with the film. It was these film credits painted on glass that George worked on – notably some of the Anna Neagle-Michael Wilding films – for example I checked out the famous 'Spring in Park Lane 1947 & The Courtneys of Curzon Street 1948'.

In 1950, George (now 24) married Dorothy at St Mary's Church, Ealing and on their marriage Dorothy's father made George promise that they would not start a family until Dorothy was 21. Dorothy was 18 at the time but like all promises he made, George kept it. They moved to Twyford Avenue, backing on to what was then North Thames Gas Board's Sports Ground. Soon after their marriage George's ill health meant that he was advised to work in the open air – consequently he started work in the Sports Field as a Groundsman. Where with hard work, long hours and evening studying he raised through the ranks to become Head Groundsman. By the time he retired at the age of 65 George was in charge of all the British Gas Sports Grounds in the North Thames Area.

George, with Dorothy was a very keen Speedway fan. Wearing the scarves and carrying the rattles in their team colours, George and Dorothy would go to watch the Wembley Lions in all weathers. Then in the winter it was Ice Hockey where they supported both the Wembley Monarchs and the Wembley Lions. (1947 Dorothy ice-skated on Ealing Common, George no skater himself watched from the straw bales that were put around.)

In 1953 Clive arrived followed by Claire in 1958. Family life was very important to George. George and Dorothy spent many happy years in Twyford Avenue bringing up Clive and Claire. Both Clive and Claire

were baptised in St Martin's. And so started a very long association with this church. The family grew up. Claire married Luke in 1981 and George became a very proud grandfather when first Matthew (in 1985), then Emily (in 1990) came along.

On moving to Ruislip, George and the family continued to support St Martin's. George was very proud to have celebrated his Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2000 with Dorothy before her sad passing in 2001.

By the time he had become too frail to serve any more, he had been serving for nearly 80 years. While at St Martin's, in his caring hands George trained many young servers, some of whom are here today. He was always very proud of them. George was also involved with the 'Guild of Servers In The Sanctuary' – of which he was a life member. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Groundsmanship and was still an active member until recently. For many years you could see George in the Advisors' Tent at the Chelsea Flower Show, ready to advise the public on which grasses were best for hardwearing or ornamental lawns. The Institute awarded him Life Membership in recognition of the work he had done for them.

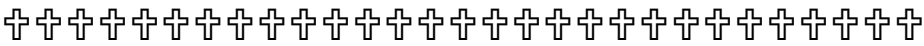
The children write over the last few months George gradually become weaker. He had lived a long and full life but now George is re-united with his beloved Dorothy. We will all remember George by his love, devotion and dedication to his family and his church life.

I think George has actually been very modest in summing up his own life but there are some extra things that have to be said and I speak on behalf of many when I remember the longstanding friendship care and support that he was able to give to me and by example to others as well. He was one of those people who just needed to be there for things to be all right. As a consequence our two readings are also just right. St Paul's great First Epistle to the Corinthians the thirteenth chapter can hardly be better explained theologically than by reference to George himself. If we are struggling as it were to see through the proverbial glass darkly we need only to think of the confidence George had in Christ's power to gather all things up and make all things well. His beloved Dorothy could in that context never be far away but simply waiting for him. Faith, hope and love a trinity of aspirational virtues were in turn exemplified in George. So the second lesson again from St Paul in his Letter to the Philippians chapter 4 is also entirely

appropriate: 'Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!' for as also quoted on the front of the service sheet the words from the great Indian Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore 'death is not the extinguishing of the flame but the blowing out of a candle because dawn has come'.

Consequently, this occasion must inevitably although sad, because we've lost a great friend and mentor, also be a time for joyful commemoration - 'whatever you've learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice'. St Paul is speaking of himself but for us the words echo our thoughts of George whose memory and influence are his precious legacy passed on in trust for our lives and if then we take what he was to heart then the God of peace will indeed be with us, as he was with his loyal and faithful servant George William Davis. May he rest in peace – and rise in glory.

Nicholas Henderson



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## Acton Care Centre Remembers



The Vicar in his role as Chaplain to the Acton Care Centre at the Annual Civic Service of Remembrance at the Acton Care Centre on Sunday afternoon 2nd November. St Martin's choir also sang at the event. The Vicar is pictured here with the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Tej Ram Bagha and the Deputy Mayor Councillor Harbhajan Kaur Dheer



St Martin's Players' Revue  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
Details coming soon



### Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!" "Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

## Farewell to Wednesday Group Member



The Wednesday Coffee Club gave a little party for Jane Kelly (seated in red on right) who is leaving us for her new home in Oxford. We wish her every blessing in her new home.

Nicholas

# ST MARTIN'S FOUNDATION

ST MARTIN'S FOUNDATION DESCRIBES ALL OUR  
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

***Christmas re-visited – 8pm Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014***



What's it all about, where did it come from, can we trust the Bible narrative, how can we make the coming Christmas a meaningful one?

The Rev'd Dr. Nicholas Henderson

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**Making sense of Radical Islam - 8pm Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**



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# **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 on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## **Japanese Anglican Church UK**

meets every third Sunday of the month:

(except July, August and December)

3pm Bible Study & Evening Worship in Japanese

Every **Wednesday** at 25 Birch Grove, W3

11am: Informal Eucharist

Followed by the Coffee Club