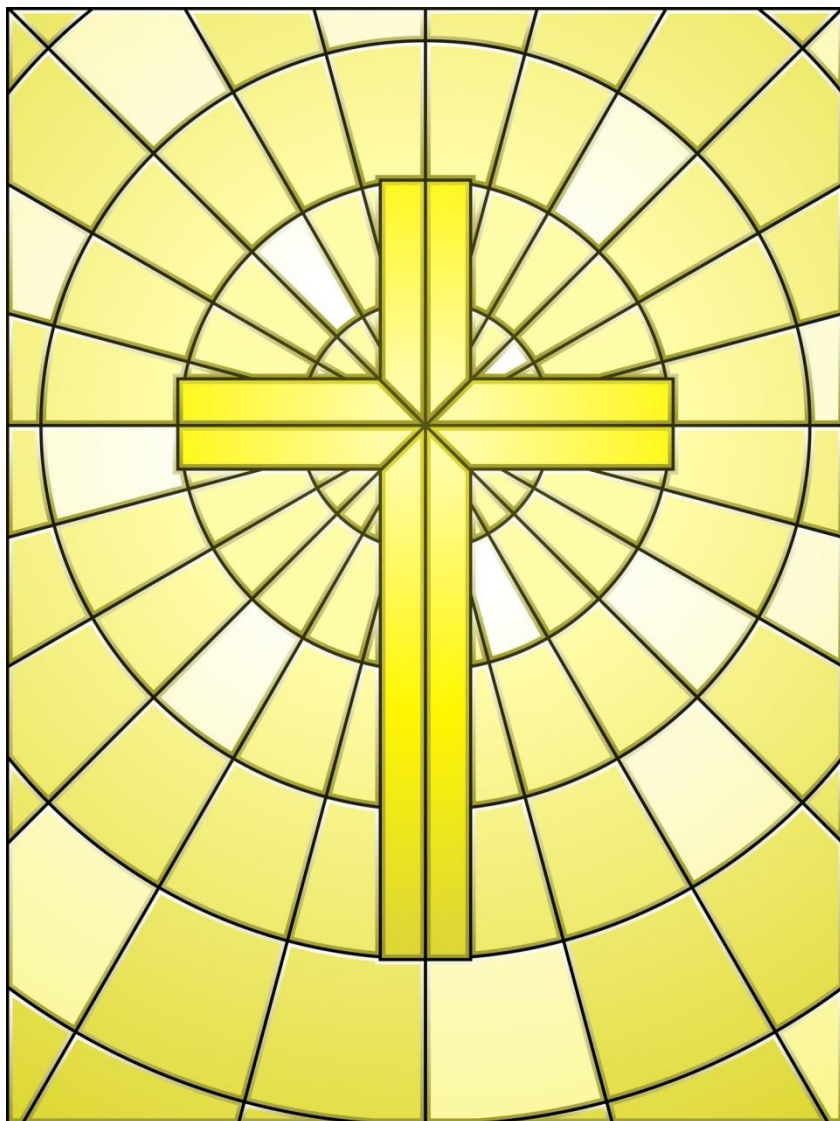


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

February 2015

50p



Ash Wednesday: February 18th

Full lent programme can be found on page 5

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

Skype: smartins.westacton

Vicar

The Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson
(also Chaplain to Acton Care Centre)
020 8992 2333

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 10th February.

The March magazine will be on sale by 22nd February.

Towards a meaningful Lent

Lent is meant to be a solemn penitential season covering a period of about six weeks from Ash Wednesday (this year on 18th February) to the eve of Easter Day (this year 5th April). I say that it is 'meant to be a solemn season' because like its counterpart in Advent, the period before Christmas most people are these days hardly aware of the season.

However, this year we may have good reason to reflect and perhaps even be despondent. The news of extreme violence perpetrated in the name of religion has surely done no one any good? The rise of what is called fundamentalist Islam has taken us by surprise although considering the past century or so of Western policy in the Middle East in some ways it is unsurprising. One of the tragedies associated with what is happening so far away, yet so close thanks to modern communications, is that many Christians belonging to the ancient churches of the Middle East are being forced to leave their homes and become refugees in their own land.

It is precisely this situation that our educational programme in the new St Martin's Foundation is seeking to address at least in part with two lectures related to 'Radical Islam – 29th May and the plight of the ancient Christian churches of the Middle East – 18th November. The Foundation programme can be found on our website: www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

However, these are academic considerations and they are some way off in the calendar. In the meantime there is a problem about how we as Christians respond to what seems to be getting ever closer to home in a world where even a trip on the Underground can have one looking over one's shoulder.

As we will once again remind ourselves this Lent our own Faith was born out of suffering. Lent comes to a climax in Holy Week and Good Friday culminating in the crucifixion of Jesus, which is about as violent start to a Faith that can be imagined. Of course, the point is that the events of Good Friday are not the end but rather the catalyst, the

beginning of the new start associated with the resurrection.

Here, I believe is a clue as to how we might approach the current situation. It is not one that needs to end in despair but rather we might consider the context of a God who loves us, of a Christ who died for us and of a living moving Faith that tackles life head on.

Nicholas

† †

From: The Rev'd Dr. Nicholas Henderson

**For the attention of all members
on the Church Electoral Roll of St Martin's Church**

Dear Friends,

Please make a note of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held **on Sunday 26th April at 11.15am in the Church Hall.**

It is a time when we hear reports about St Martin's and what has happened over the past year and when we elect members of the Church Council and Church Officers.

This is an important occasion in the life of the church so please make every effort to attend and make it a diary date!

Yours in Christ,

Nicholas

† †

Seen in a church pewsheet:

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche downstairs.

Next Friday the church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility. Do come along!

Lent, Holy Week and Easter at St Martin's

Shrove Tuesday: 17th February

Pancake Party in the Vicarage from 6pm
£1.00 adults and 50pence children.

Ash Wednesday 18th February

11am Informal Eucharist in the Vicarage
8pm Holy Communion in St Martin's Church with address and traditional ashing for those who wish.

Rights or Rites? Lent Course at the 10am Parish Communion

This year's Lent Course will consist of a series of addresses on the theme *Rights or Rites?* at the 10am Parish Communion followed by an opportunity after the service to discuss the issues raised with the preacher.

Sunday 22nd February 'Rights or Rites? - in the Church'

Sunday 1st March 'Rights or Rites? - in Ethics'

Sunday 8th March 'Rights or Rites? - in Society'

Sunday 15th March **Mothering Sunday Service**

Sunday 22nd March 'Rights or Rites? - in the Family'

Palm Sunday 29th March

10am: Procession of Palms at the Parish Communion
6.30pm: Evening Prayer
followed by '*Hosanna in the Highest*' A Concert for Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

8pm: Service of the Last Supper

Good Friday 3rd April

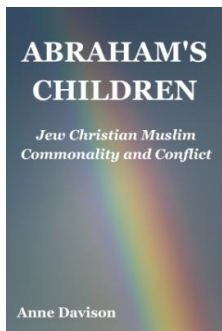
10am: Children's Service
12noon: '*When I survey the wondrous cross*' Service of Devotion

Easter Eve (Holy Saturday) 4th April

8pm 'The Ceremony of Fire' anticipating the resurrection.

Easter Sunday 5th April

8am: Holy Communion (1662)
10am: Easter Day Parish Communion
11am: Annual decorated Egg competition & egg rolling in churchyard
6.30pm: Easter Carol Service followed by celebratory sherry



ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN

Jew Christian Muslim Commonality and Conflict

In Brief: Books for Busy People

This book attempts to show how close Judaism, Christianity and Islam are in terms of their history and beliefs.

As with other books in this series, it is aimed at the general reader who is interested in a particular historical topic but does not have the time or inclination to read a heavy academic tome.

Price: £5.00 (if posted £6.50)

*For information please contact the Parish Office, Hale Gardens,
London W3 9SQ Tel: 020 8992 2333*



Recent Baptism.....



Tabitha Stehlin was Christened at St Martin's during the Parish Communion on the Sunday after Christmas. She is pictured here with her father and mother Johnnie and Emma Stehlin and with godparents and family.



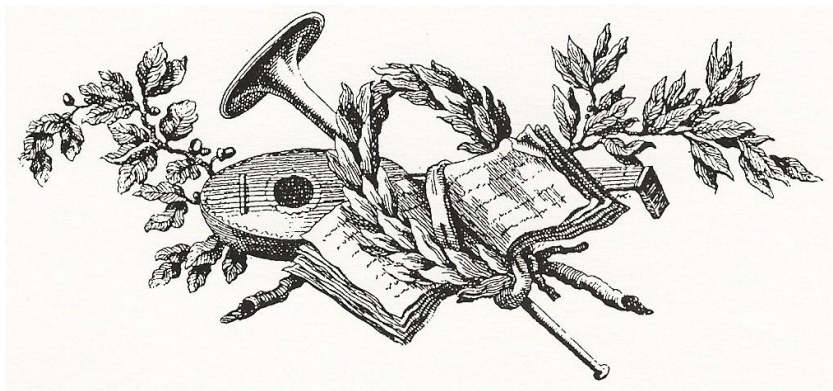
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St Martin's Music Society

Musical Programme for 2015



Palm Sunday 29th March at 6.30pm

'Hosanna in the Highest'

A recital for Palm Sunday featuring
Elie Lovegrave – trumpet
and Richard Moore – organ
(former organ scholar at St Paul's Cathedral)
Admission: £10 (full concessions available)
Programme concludes at 7.30pm
with wine & refreshments.
Proceeds to St Martin's Church.

Future dates:

Sunday 17th May: **'Hail the Day!'**
Music for Ascensiontide.

Sunday 4th October: **'Come ye thankful people come!'**
Music for Harvest Festival.

Sunday 22nd November: **'Music for St Cecilia's Day'**

With Valentine's Day near, how do you define love?

*A group of 4 to 8 year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?'
The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight...*

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy (age 4)

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl (age 5)

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy (age 6)

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri (age 4)

"Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny (age 7)

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss." Emily (age 8)

XX



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Support and dignity

St Martin's Foundation
An educational programme for contemporary Christians
2015 – 2016

Making sense of Radical Islam - 8pm Thurs 21st May



Mayhem, madness, does this reflect or resemble real Islam, where do Christians stand?

Canon Dr. Anne Davison
Former Vice-Moderator, World Council of Churches



The English Reformation
a brief introduction
8pm Thursday 18th June

Surely it's more than King Henry and his wives? A must hear lecture to brush up on your knowledge of how the modern Church of England got started
The Rev'd Dr. Nicholas Henderson

Anglicans and Assisted Dying (date to be announced)
The Rev'd Professor Paul Badham



The Rev. Dr. Paul Badham is Emeritus Professor of Theology at Trinity Saint David University (Lampeter Campus). He is author of *Is there a Christian Case for Assisted Dying?* and *Making Sense of Death and Immortality*

Preparation for Confirmation for adults
A short course of 5 sessions on Sundays 8pm – 9.30pm, Sept – Oct
(Confirmation Service – Sunday 18th October 2015)
If you would like to be confirmed or would like to brush up your knowledge with our adult confirmation course please contact the Parish Office

News from Japan



Let Us Walk Together ! Project

Assistance Rendered by the Nippon Sei Ko Kai
to the Victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

A Two-Year Journey – Progress Report

(May 2011 to May 2013)



And here is a scan of a detailed and fascinating report (Let us walk together! Project) which is available in the church and the Parish Office showing the progress over the past two years in earthquake and tsunami relief.

Nicholas

Also from Japan



Here is a Christmas photograph from our old friends Paul Kazumi Takeishi and Cecilia Yumiko Takeishi taken in front of a splendid Christmas tree in the new Cathedral Church of Christ Church Sendai with which we are linked and which was rebuilt after the earthquake and tsunami of 2011. St Martin's hosted a big concert to support the work of rebuilding the community and the new cathedral.

Nicholas

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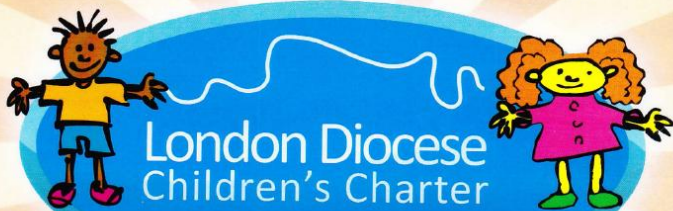
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St Martin, West Acton

have joined the London Diocesan Children's Charter.

They have agreed to provide an excellent welcome
to children by developing in these key areas:
Welcome, Worship, Nurture and Mission.

2014-2015



From last month . . .



A jolly crowd enjoy a glass of mulled wine after the Epiphany Carol service o the first Sunday of the New Year



London Diocesan Children's Charter

We have had our Children's Charter status renewed for another year, demonstrating our commitment to welcoming children as well as all people of all ages in St Martin's. The charter is shown on the page opposite. The Charter is on the Notice Board in the Church Porch.

Bryony

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For your property needs

We have grown into one of the area's most successful independent estate agents and are now based in a 1000sq ft office opposite Ealing Common Post Office.

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LONDON

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24 Station Parade,
Ealing Common, W5 3LD

As the Christmas decorations came down . . . The Gingerbread House meets its fate



The Gingerbread House as made by Joanna Reid for the first Sunday of the New Year coffee after the morning service.

Going....



Gone!

Church Commissioners named as second most UK charitable donor

The Church Commissioners have welcomed the recent news that they are the UK's second most charitable giver in the publication of City AM's list of the World's top 20 donors.

The list named the Church Commissioners as the eighth highest donor in the world – and second in the UK - giving £207.84m in charitable donations to support the Church of England. The total giving, which supports the Church's ministry around the country, is highlighted in the Commissioners Annual Report for 2013, which announced that the performance of the investment fund exceeded its target of RPI +5% per annum, returning 15.9% during the year.

Andrew Brown, Secretary to the Church Commissioners said that the news "confirms our commitment to resourcing the ministry and mission of the Church... Our giving seeks to put money behind church-led effective programmes which support local communities across the country."

The Annual Report features a range of Commissioners funded projects including:

- Former hair stylist Revd Ben Norton has an Archdeaconry brief in York Diocese for pioneering work among young people building on earlier work on a major housing estate. He is also volunteering a day a week in the local hairdressing salon.
- Liverpool Cathedral is committed to offering a variety of styles of worship that are accessible to all. The Zone 2 all-age, café-style service meets every Sunday at the same time as the traditional Choral Eucharist.
- The Tolladine Mission in Worcester is based in an area with pockets of multiple deprivation. The missionaries live in the area and their work includes a garden project for young people with learning and/or behavioural difficulties and work in local schools, along with opportunities to explore the Christian faith.

Time for closer Anglican-Methodist unity

The CofE is being encouraged to “face head on” the task of closer Anglican-Methodist unity as Synod recently endorsed recommendations made in a report on the covenant between the two Churches.

The report, presented to November’s group of General Synod sessions jointly by the Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth and Peter Howdle, Methodist Co-Chair of the Joint Implementation Commission, made specific recommendations supporting the ongoing work between the two Churches. The Archbishop of York welcomed the call to unity for mission in the subsequent debate, saying: “We need to be more committed to joyous evangelism where the gospel is being preached... Could we resolve it [unity between the Churches] so we can get on with the most important job: the re-evangelisation of England?” Synod voted overwhelmingly to support the motion and the recommendations of the report.



ToYourCredit – new money website from the CofE!

A new website, ToYourCredit, has been launched to showcase the Church’s work on responsible credit and savings, including supporting credit unions. The website has been created by the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Task Group on Responsible Credit and Savings and contains personal testimonies, videos, and blogs from initiatives across the country. Their vision is “to create a fairer financial system focused on serving the whole community, where everyone has access to responsible credit and savings and other essential financial services.” The Task Group has also proposed a network of savings clubs in Primary schools to give pupils practical experience of money management. The programme would build on a number of successful small-scale initiatives already in place in parts of the country and evidence of what makes for an effective financial education programme. Sir Hector Sants, chair of the Task Group, said: “Savings clubs can transform lives through helping establish a responsible approach to money from an early age.

Visit www.toyourcredit.org.uk for more information.

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

Skype: smartins.westacton

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 1st February.

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