### ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

March 2015 50p

Explore with us our

Lenten theme 'Rights or Rites'

each Sunday at our

10am Parish Communion

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March Rights or Rites? in Ethics

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March Rights or Rites? in Society

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Rights or Rites? in the Family

You are also invited to our

Mothering Sunday service 15<sup>th</sup> March at 10am

> Palm Sunday service 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10am

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

**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 15<sup>th</sup> March.

The April magazine will be on sale by 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Cover:  $\ @$  Photosbyfaye | Dreamstime.com - Peacock-Purple Cross Sm Background Photo

### The cross and the crescent.

Islamic militancy has hit the headlines in a terrifying way. It is difficult to comprehend the suffering that those caught up in acts of violence must have endured. Of particular concern must be the ancient Christian churches in the Middle East whose adherents are being terrorised, forced out of their homes and in many cases their countries.

Canon Andrew White vicar of St George's Church in Bagdad is an Anglican priest on the front line. He is sometimes affectionately called "the Vicar of Bagdad". In his time he has seen the murder of many members of his congregation and a dwindling Christian presence in Iraq, parts of which are now under the control of Islamic State the latest and most terrifying of Islamic manifestations of fundamentalism. His position seems to be that the Iraq war of 2003 was just about worth it but however we look at it things are hardly any better since that war and may be in the opinion of many considerably worse.

The long and sorry saga of Western intervention in the Middle East from the nineteenth century, through the First World War and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the Second World War to the Iraq War of 2003 have left an unenviable legacy. Driven variously by imperialism and the seductive quest for oil the Middle East has had inflicted upon it a recipe for destabilisation.

Arguably, if Western Christian leaders had had a more informed understanding of Islam, its theology, history and above all its internal divisions, events might have taken a less destructive turn. The question must now be is it too late to address the situation?

Good theology underpinned by Christian practice would surely suggest that hope for a better future based on a more informed understanding should not be allowed to vanish. An urgent priority must nevertheless be an awakening by the Christian world to the desperate situation of their fellow believers in the lands where Christianity first took root.\*

We will have some discussion of the problems associated with militant

Islam and the problems in the Middle East coming later in the year when 'St Martin's Foundation' our educational programme hosts two evenings on Thursdays 21<sup>st</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> November. Those are however some way ahead, in the meantime we will be examining the Christian response to suffering, to the world and in our lives in our Lenten course 'Rights or Rites'. Then we have the Holy Week, Good Friday narrative at the beginning April.

In short we are as followers of Christ on a pilgrimage and at the moment, as with all pilgrimages, things are getting tough and the way forward isn't clear. This brings quite a responsibility to bear upon those of us who actively seek to practice our Faith following the one who is the Prince of Peace. This is especially so if we believe in an every member ministry that is where each and every one of us is charged in our daily lives with proclaiming the Faith whenever possible. In the variety and complexity of daily existence in the community many opportunities to do so can arise, sometimes quite unexpectedly, I hope we can seize them.

Good news is then in short supply but lastly we must never forget that the resurrection and Easter Day always follow the cross on Good Friday.

#### **Nicholas**

\* First published on www.anglicanism.org/admin/docs/a\_climate\_of\_fear1.pdf



# Sendai update Thursday 26th March in the Parish Room at 8pm

Yuki Johnson our Commissioned Leader for the Japanese Church that meets on the third Sunday of the month is having an evening to present details of her recent visit to Sendai, Diocese of Tohoku and to update us on the earthquake and tsunami repairs and progress.

### St Martin's Youth Group

Starts on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7pm in the Parish Room (rear of Church Hall)



Maria Jones Youth Ministry Leader



Jackie Nicholls Assistant Leader



Leaflets



top-up services

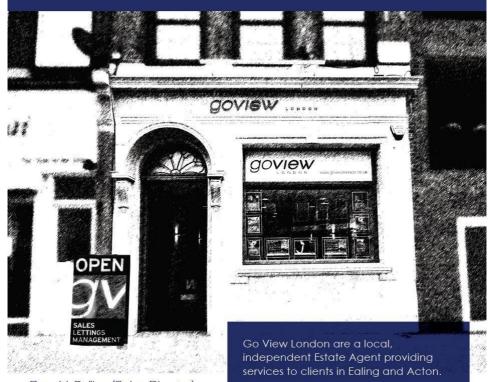
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### Lent, Holy Week and Easter at St Martin's

**Rights or Rites? Lent Course at the 10am Parish Communion**A series of addresses followed by an opportunity to discuss the issues raised with the preacher after the service.

Sunday 1st March: Rights or Rites? in Ethics

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March: Rights or Rites? in Society

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March: Mothering Sunday service A non Eucharistic Family Service with posies for the ladies

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Rights or Rites? in the Family

Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Crosses will be distributed at all services 8am: Holy Communion (1662)

10am Parish Communion including Procession of Palms 6.30pm: 'Hosanna in the Highest' - A Concert for Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 8pm: Informal celebration of the Last Supper

> Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 10am: Young People's Service 12noon: Stations of the Cross

Easter Eve (Holy Saturday) 4<sup>th</sup> April 7pm 'The Ceremony of Fire' anticipating the resurrection.

Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 8am: Holy Communion (1662)

10am: Easter Day Parish Communion 11am: Annual decorated Egg competition and the famous egg rolling in churchyard

6.30pm: Easter Carol Service followed by celebratory sherry

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



This is a picture of me delivering one of our Welcome Packs.

So far, I have delivered 6 complete packs to the local women's refuge and am collecting donations for the next 4 packs which include towels, toothpaste, toiletries,

nappies, tissues, notebooks etc.

They have asked me to thank you all for your donations; they are really grateful for all our help and concern and we can be certain that all our gifts are put into use. This is practical Christianity in which we are able to help our neighbours.

As you know, the women often arrive at the refuge without the basic necessities for daily hygiene for themselves and their children and we can give them emergency aid. They receive around 18 new residents each year so our help is needed on a continuous basis.

Thank you very much.

### Margaret Jones





### St Martin's Quick Reader Code

St Martin's new QR (Quick reader code) for use with telephone apps it will direct you to our website.

You will see it on future publicity

### The Queen's distribution of Maundy Money

The Queen will distribute the Royal Maundy money at Sheffield Cathedral in April. This is the first time in over 900 years that this State Occasion has taken place in South Yorkshire.

She will be welcomed to the city's Church of England cathedral by a congregation of over 1,000 representatives from churches in South Yorkshire and organisations from the whole County. The Queen will then personally distribute a gift of Maundy Money to 178 individuals over the age of 70, in recognition of their service to the church and community.

According to ancient tradition, the number of recipients and the amount of money are directly related to the Sovereign's age. Therefore, as Her Majesty is 89 years old, 89 men and 89 women will receive 89 pence in specially minted Maundy Money, together with a further gift, in two specially made leather purses. The money is specially struck by the Royal Mint for this service, and includes 3 pence pieces—which apparently are legal tender!

### 



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### **Update on Bruce Barnett-Cowan's progress**

As is now the usual routine, we saw Dr Bayley today, the radiation oncologist. He is very pleased with Bruce's progress. The tumour is definitely shrinking. The nurse who changed his dressing today said that she could see a huge change just from Monday.

The days are long but not unbearable. He has to go in for a radiation treatment in the morning and wait 6 hours at least for the next, but there are recliner chairs to sleep in and wifi for me in the cafeteria, so I can do some Anglican Communion work. I also connect with the office in the early morning before we leave, when it's late morning in London. We go to the hospital Monday to Friday, but he gets next Monday off as it is Family Day in Ontario. Thanks to those who have phoned, but you won't find us at home during the day.

He is having increased trouble swallowing, so soups and yoghurt and soft eggs are the order of the day. It is particularly important that he have lots of protein, and he is to drink a high protein drink with every meal.

The radiation will run until February 25, and there will then be a pause as things heal. He will be assessed by the surgeon March 18 to see if there is anything left that needs to be removed surgically.

We are grateful as always to all of you. Thanks to Fr Philip for bringing communion yesterday - Bruce was just too tired to get to church. He gets progressively more tired as the week goes on, but by Monday morning, after a weekend off treatments, he was quite perky.

I am completely persuaded that your prayers are contributing to the reduction in the tumour, as much as the radiation. And they certainly buoy our spirits.

Love to all

Alyson 11<sup>th</sup> February

### St Martin's Music Society

### Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm 'Hosanna in the Highest'

Music for Palm Sunday featuring



Marion Willmann Soprano



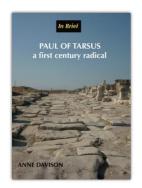
Gina Kruger Piano

Admission: £10 (full concessions available)

Programme concludes at 7.30pm with wine & refreshments.

Proceeds to St Martin's Church.

and



# **PAUL OF TARSUS**A First Century Radical

In Brief: Books for Busy People

This book looks at Paul the radical Jew and Apostle and places him in his historical context; the Graeco-Roman world of the First Century.

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) Also available on Amazon For information please contact the Parish Office, Hale Gardens,

London W3 9SQ Tel: 020 8992 2333

#### St Martin's Foundation

All lectures take place in the Parish Room

### The Language of Devotion: 8pm Thursday 23rd April



An exploration into certain words used in relation to what is sometimes called the devotional life, including spirituality, piety, religion and mysticism.

The Rev'd Peter Watkins is Vicar of St Matthew's, Ealing Common. He is author of thirteen books including 'The Soul of Wit' about the oddities of the

Church of England! He has also been a principal contributor to the Church Times and for five years wrote their annual Lenten reflections.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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



### Paul of Tarsus: a First Century Radical? 8pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

A fresh look at Christianity's most important theological influence

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

# Christians under pressure do we have selective amnesia about our fellow Christians in the Middle East?



The Rev'd Canon Dr. Willam Taylor
Vicar of St John's Notting Hill
and Chair 'Anglican and Eastern Churches Association'
Canon Taylor is a director of Jerusalem and the Middle
East Church Association
And author of "Antioch and Canterbury"
(Gorgias Press, 2005)

# St Martin's Foundation describes all our educational activities for the church year

Please visit our website for further details: www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

### Revision of the Church Electoral Roll in the Diocese of London in the Parish of St Martin

Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll is being revised from Sunday the  $15^{\rm th}$  day of February, 2015 and ending on Sunday the  $15^{\rm th}$  day of March, 2015.

Full details are on the Notice in the Church Porch Contact the Parish Office for further information.

## Election of Churchwardens in the Parish of St Martin in the Deanery of Ealing in the Diocese of London

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of Parishioners to be held in the Church Hall on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015 at 11.15am For the purpose of electing two Churchwardens

# Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Parish of St Martin, West Acton

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
will be held in the Church Hall on
Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015 at 11.15am
For the election of twelve parochial representatives of the laity
to the Parochial Church Council

# Full details are on the Notice in the Church Porch or contact the Parish Office for further information



The best mathematical equation I've ever seen:

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given



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### **Recent Baptisms**



Jacob Richard Ormerod was baptised at St Martin's on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Here is a picture of him with his parents Ben and Olivia and his godparents Joanna Chapman, Roger Edwards and Oliver Alexander.



At the Candlemas Family Service on Sunday 1st February, Milan Joannou was christened. Here he is pictured with his mother Lois (herself christened by the vicar quite a few years ago in St Martin's), father Matthew and godparents Donato, Rhian, Martin and Adelle.

# Questors Choir



### Saturday 21st March 2015 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12 (door), Under 12s free. £10 concessions and advance booking if booked before 17th March.

Free glass of wine or soft drink.

**Book online:** 

www.questorschoir.org.uk

Email <u>info@questorschoir.org.uk</u>

Phone 020 8816 7734 or 07802 720 333



### **FIVE GOOD THINGS ABOUT LENT**

In case you're thinking at this time of the year that Lent is (as one writer recently described it) 'all purple and prohibitions', here are five good things about it.

- 1 It only lasts 40 days. Fasts, by their very nature, can't last forever, but Lent has a very manageable forty days. (If you're thinking at six weeks and a bit it's longer than that, see Note 2 below). New Year Resolutions simply stretch off into some impossibly distant horizon, but our Lenten attempts at discipline (chocolate, cigarettes, daily prayers, being kind to the cat) have an end date to them.
- 2. Sundays in Lent are 'as oases'. Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. So and this is official! Sundays don't count in Lent.
- 3. A bit of self-denial is better than a lot of self-indulgence. We live in a very self-indulgent society. Just for forty days it's no bad thing to deny ourselves something that is a minor luxury or a bit of self-pampering especially if it saves some money which could go to people in the world who have no 'little luxuries'.
- 4. It is a journey towards Easter. Lent goes somewhere, and that somewhere is the empty tomb of Easter morning. It's daffodils in the churchyard and new life all around us.
- 5. The days get longer. The English word for this season is the only one that has no religious significance at all. 'Lent' is simply an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', which means 'lengthen'. On these islands, where weather is always a major topic of conversation, it's not surprising that what people noted about the days of Lent was that they got longer no more of those ghastly dark tea-times. But the 'lengthening' is all part of Note 4 (above), really moving towards new life. (Sadly, Notes 4 and 5 don't apply in Australia and New Zealand. Doubtless they have compensations.)

Given those five splendidly positive things about Lent, which covers the whole of March this year, I trust you will approach its rigours with joyful hearts.

### **Simplification Task Group report**

The C of E recently published the report of the Simplification Task Group report, ahead of a discussion at the February meeting of the General Synod. The Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent introduced the work of the group: "The remit of the Simplification Task Group has been to identify hindrances to mission. We asked dioceses, bishops and archdeacons: "What is it that prevents you from making changes that will enable parishes, churches and congregations to flourish and new initiatives to take shape?" The response was overwhelming.

"Top of the poll came the regulations around Common Tenure, closely followed by the Mission and Pastoral Measure and the over-elaborate procedures for Bishop's Mission Orders. Whether it's provision for new mission or reorganisation of the church on the ground, the framework for change is far too complex and bureaucratic." A wide consultation was carried out. Responses were received from Bishops, Archdeacons, Diocesan Secretaries, DBF Chairs, and Diocesan chairs of Houses of Clergy and Laity, with the consultation deliberately couched in wide terms, inviting views on aspects of existing legislation which might be considered an impediment to the mission of the Church. The 19 key recommendations of the group are intended to address three levels of concern:

- ~ Immediate major hindrances to mission, including pastoral reorganisation and diocesan/parochial management.
- ~ Weighty and worthy bureaucracy and procedure that is of its time, but is no longer fit for purpose.
- $\sim$  Matters which generate redundant paperwork which could easily be simplified.

In the executive summary the group notes "that the Church has been over-cautious when framing legislation, with the result that in some instances it is unhelpfully restrictive in facilitating changes in the way in which we staff our existing parishes or carry through pastoral reorganisation or new mission initiatives." In his blog Bishop Pete reflects: "If we're given a mandate, there's plenty more to do, and we'll be asking parishes for their take on an agenda for the next five years. For the sake of the gospel, mission and the Kingdom of God in Jesus Christ."

Individuals can comment on the paper at: www.churchofengland.org/simplificationreport

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Our Youth Group meets every Tuesday at 7pm (starting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>) in the Parish Room (rear of Church Hall)

### **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