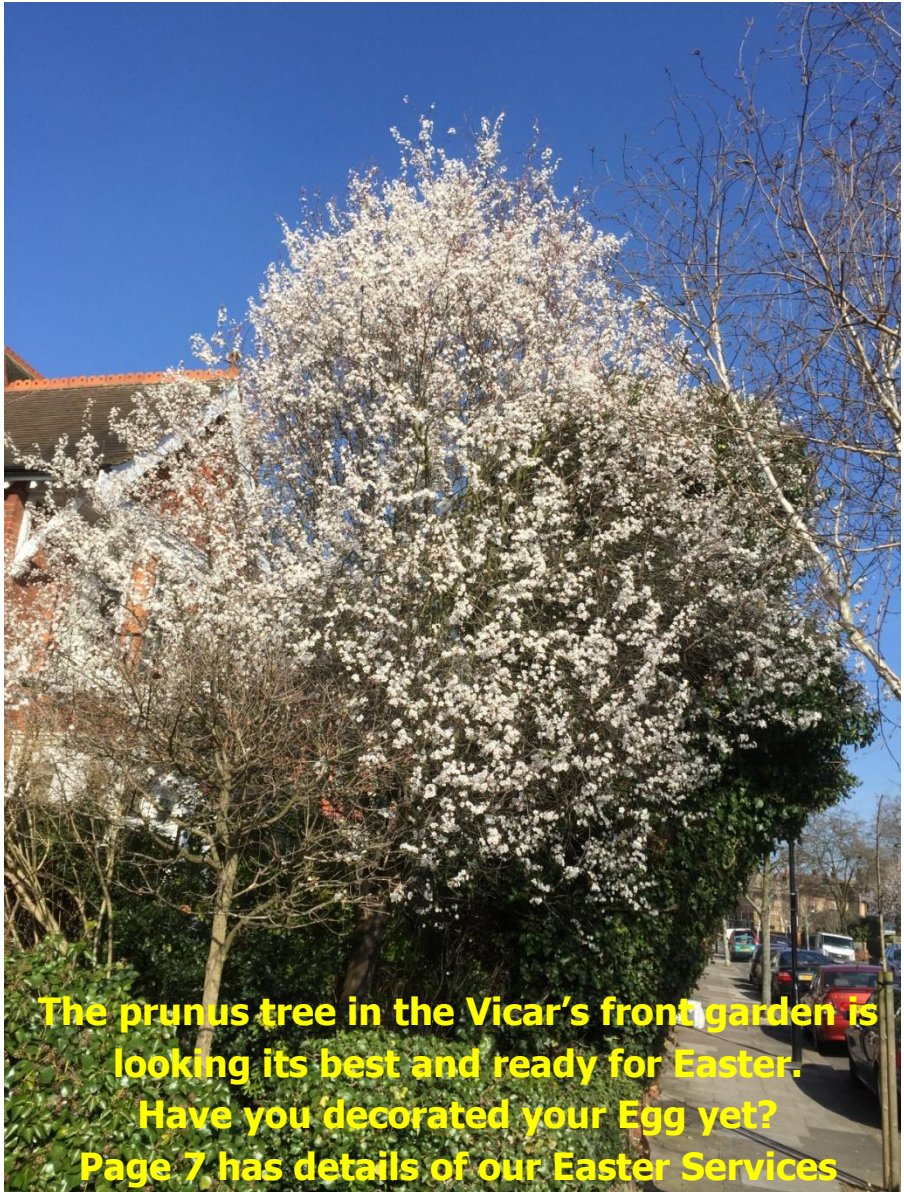


# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

April 2015

50p



**The prunus tree in the Vicar's front garden is looking its best and ready for Easter.**

**Have you decorated your Egg yet?**

**Page 7 has details of our Easter Services**

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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

Email: [stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com](mailto: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](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 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

The May magazine will be on sale by 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Photo courtesy of The Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson

## April showers

The phrase "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers", first recorded in 1886 in a dictionary of proverbs. It has almost always been the case that April in particular turns showery probably due to the fact that the seas surrounding the British Isles are cold and the land is warming up. Basic physics tells us that the atmosphere therefore holds and deposits less rain but in cold bursts when it does.

Easter from the Old English Eostre and in turn from the name of a pagan Spring goddess seems to defy physics. At its simplest it is confusing no least with its dating thus: Easter is a moveable feast. The First Council of Nicæa (325) established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, that occurs on or soonest after 21<sup>st</sup> March (taken to be the date of the equinox). Ecclesiastically, the equinox is thus reckoned to be on 21 March (although the astronomical equinox occurs on 20 March in most years), and the "Full Moon" is not necessarily on the astronomically correct date. The date of Easter therefore varies from 22 March to 25 April inclusive.

I hope you've got all that? There is more but not now because there is, of course another physics defying fact about Easter that is still more important. This is the resurrection, a phenomenon that is at the heart of our Faith. Beyond real explanation we have the Gospel accounts of an empty tomb to rely on, St Paul's encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus and other mentions of Jesus appearances after his death and crucifixion. Lastly, we also have the experience and faith of those multitudes of Christians over the centuries whose faith has been honed and shaped by their personal faith encounter with Jesus.

St Paul puts it in his First Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 15 verses 19-20 'If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep'.

At the end of the day this experience of the risen Christ has literally to be believed otherwise it makes no sense. Naturally most Christians

will have times when they struggle with their faith. The dark night of the soul as described by the 16<sup>th</sup> century St John of the Cross or perhaps more recently as described by the 20<sup>th</sup> century Mother Teresa of Calcutta are but two examples. Yet and yet the miracle of the resurrection is to be celebrated and offers to us what is frankly the only way forward, everything else that is on offer pales by comparison.

This year Easter is quite early and by the time you read this we will be celebrating the Pascal Mysteries on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. We will try and make the occasion what it should be – the great event of the Christian year. Whatever April showers may follow will be no more than a distraction.

*Nicholas*



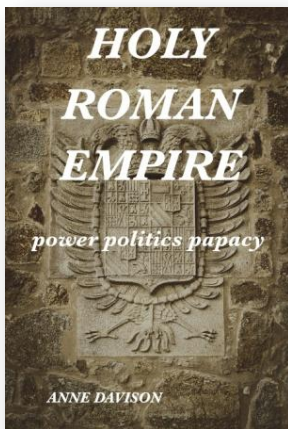
### **Election of Churchwardens in the Parish of St Martin in the Deanery of Ealing in the Diocese of London**

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**



## **HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE**

### **Power Politics Papacy**

*In Brief: Books for Busy People*

This book traces the history of the Holy Roman Empire, which lasted for over a 1,000 years, from 800 to 1806.

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*



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VALERIE**



Valerie Puri cuts her birthday cake at the Wednesday Coffee Club on 4th March. Happy birthday Valerie!





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## Holy Week and Easter at St Martin's

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



**Nicholas Gale R.I.P.**

Nick Gale a 39-year-old organist was killed in a motorcycle accident whilst driving through Kensington on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Although Nick was not a member of St Martin's congregation he has often helped us out as a locum organist and become well known to a number of our members.

We are saddened to hear of the tragic news and our condolences go to Ken Bartram our Director of Music for whom Nick was a good personal friend.

Nicholas



## St Martin's Music Society

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May: **'Hail the Day!'**

Music for Ascensiontide.

## **St Martin's Cottage**

### **Some thoughts and observations from the vicar**



We are fortunate enough to have a lovely two bedroomed flat attached to St Martin's with the charming name of 'St Martin's Cottage'. Although it hasn't got a thatched roof as the name implies it has got a nice patio balcony with garden features and it is beautifully warm and cosy.

By church covenant the 'cottage' can only be used for a 'church officer' and so for many year we have been able to offer the flat in exchange for duties for a self-sustaining priest (SSM) on a 'House for Duty' basis. In this busy and large parish this is of enormous help. Currently we are seeking a new colleague/s to replace Bruce and Alyson.

However ... although we've done a lot to upgrade the flat such as double-glazing, a new boiler, re-roofing and some internal work including security devices ... we do have some problems:

- The state of the bathroom is now unacceptable and it will have to be completely stripped out, retiled and refitted.
- The kitchen area needs completely re-fitting and the floor tiled.
- The entrance hall floor needs to be needs to be tiled to replace the horrible old carpet.
- A complete re-painting throughout is likely to be needed.

In all we think that this is going to cost in the region of £8000.00, monies which we will have to find quite quickly as we have potential candidates for the property.

People have already been extraordinarily generous with substantial loans to help us through a difficult couple of months in the New Year. Now we will have to find the next way forward. I'd be glad to hear your thoughts.

*Nicholas*



## The Church Roof repairs . . .



Dion Chapman and his son Dan set to work on the Western aisle lower roof essential repairs to the flashing and replacement to some of the damaged and crumbling tiles as pictured.

These tiles are only visible close to and the intrepid vicar ascended on high to take the photograph!



And the completed work.

## St Martin's Revisited



Janet Carson (née Hill) and Margaret Howard (née Hill) who were parishioners way back in vicar Leonard Spillers day and whose families go back even further visited St Martin's with their friend Barbara Russell in late February to be show round by the present vicar. Here

they are pictured in the churchyard. They were also Haberdashers Girls and at St Martin's between 1944–1972.

Dear Dr Henderson

Thank you so very much for giving us your time yesterday when I am sure you had a lot of other work to do. We did appreciate your kindness and the excellent tour of the church (complete with my interruptions!) I shall contact Gillian Filmer to say we saw her framed prayer and John Truscott with apologies for not being able to get in touch with him beforehand.

Margaret's and my parents were married by Leonard Spiller on 6 July 1940 and he also baptised both of us. The Rev Yeulett took us forward to confirmation. We both attended Haberdashers' Aske's School then in Creffield Road.

We left our house in Twyford Crescent in 1962 I think, moving to Boileau Road, Ealing which I think my sister has forgotten, she is sadly having memory problems. My parents then moved to Jersey in the Channel Islands in about 1969 where my father continued to teach until his retirement. My mother died in 1992 and my father in 1998, on the same day I think as Sid and Grace Filmer who were also parishioners before their move to Faversham. My father was a churchwarden for many years, my mother a member of the Young Wives Club and I sang in the choir (Mr Earl was the choirmaster)!

You will not need all of this but St Martin's was a very big part of our lives and has helped us to continue in our faith.

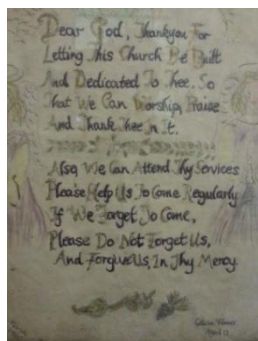
Thank you again so very much and I shall be visiting the website.

Peace be with You.

Janet

*From the Editor:*

Gillian Filmer (daughter of Grace and Sid) wrote a prayer which is framed and hangs in the vestry corridor. It is a little faded but reads:



*Dear God,  
Thank you for letting this church be built and  
dedicated to Thee. So that we can worship, praise  
and thank Thee in it.  
Also we can attend Thy services. Please help us  
to come regularly. If we forget to come, please  
do not forget us, and forgive us, in Thy mercy.  
Gillian Filmer (aged 12)*

It is recorded in our Histories (Vol 3) that Gillian gained 1<sup>st</sup> Class with distinction in the Inter-Diocesan Children's Examination in 1959 and again in 1962.

As for Janet; she was a Brownie and in 1955 passed her 'Golden Hand' test. During the 1962 Summer Holidays Janet is recorded as being "an enthusiastic helper" with *Meals on Wheels*.

Margaret was also in the Brownies and is recorded as gaining her 'Golden Hand' in 1957. The magazine for May 1957 (now held in the London Metropolitan Archives), printed an article written by Margaret on her meeting with Lady Baden-Powell at Acton Town Hall. An exert reads: "*We waited until Lady Baden-Powell came in with Mrs. Beer, the County Commissioner and all the Brownies had to present programmes to the different Commissioners. I was very pleased as I had to give mine to Lady Baden-Powell herself. She shook my hand and asked me a lot of questions.*"

Their father, Colin Hill was People's Warden from 1953 to 1963. For many years he was the organiser of the annual St Martin's-tide Bazaar, at all times supported by his wife. Once he retired as Churchwarden he became a Server, continuing as a Server until they moved to Jersey in 1965.

**St Martin's Foundation**  
**An educational programme for contemporary Christians**  
All lectures take place in the Parish Room

---

**The Language of Devotion: 8pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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**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  
8pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**



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

**Please visit our website for further details:**

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



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## Wi-Fi at St Martin's



You can now connect to Wi-Fi in the church. Details can be found in the Church Porch.

### Junior Church Rota and Services - April 2015

Date	Pre-service	Candles	Torches
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Holidays (to be confirmed)</i>		
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Holidays (to be confirmed)</i>		
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Nadine	Emma S	Nadine
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jackie	James	Jackie



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## University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age



The vicar gave a lecture at Ealing University of the Third Age on Thursday 5th March – Brenda Ward one of our parishioners is in the background



### **Anne settles in to her new home**



Monday 23rd February Anne Oughton was joined by Paul and Liza Ambridge, Lynne Armstrong and her daughter Rachel when her new home was blessed by the Vicar.

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## Celebrating the Iranian New Year



St Martin's was treated to sweetmeats and baclava as we marked the Iranian New Year 21st March. This table was provided on Sunday 22nd March by our Iranian members as were lots of tasty sweets during coffee as well

This 5,774th Persian New Year is a traditional way of celebrating *Nowruz* (New Day) and is quite different from Hogmanay!



## Welcoming Cole, our new member...



Cole Anderson, Christened on Pasion Sunday 22nd March seen here with his parents Chinua and Lydia, the vicar and godparents Daniel, Emma, Marlon and Arucha.

## Invitation to the Ealing Churches - Good Friday Passion

This year our joint Good Friday Witness will be centred round the **"Ealing Passion"** written and produced by Ann Clifford. This simple visualisation of the events of the crucifixion will be an exciting and new way of seeking to come together as Christ's Church in Ealing and witness to God's love at work in Jesus, on a busy bank holiday in our town centre.

The aim of this event is to:

- >Provide a more visual, engaging and thought provoking witness to Jesus' crucifixion than purely a word based message.
- >To help people feel something of the force of what happened to Christ on Good Friday and through that to encourage people to reflect on the significance of Jesus' death and if minded to do so, come to a Church Service on Easter Day.
- >To provoke interest in Good Friday through a dramatic re-enactment of the events of the crucifixion which will draw people into this community event.

So this Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, instead of joining in two separate Walks which converge at Christ the Saviour all churches are asked to meet *on Haven Green for 9.55am.*

**10am The Gathering:** There will be hymns/songs, readings and prayers from 10-10.15am. ***Please ask people to be on Haven Green by 9.55am.***

**10.15am The Procession:** Some people will be asked to go direct to Ealing Broadway to line the streets (see below), everyone else will follow the lead of a small group of soldiers surrounding Jesus carrying his cross. This group will lead the walk onto The Broadway at the pedestrian crossing just south of the roundabout and proceed to the grounds of Christ the Saviour Church.

**10.45am The Re-enactment:** In the grounds of Christ the Saviour there will be a re-enactment of the gospel events of the crucifixion, including a choir. There will be two songs all gathered can join in with.

**11.15am The dismissal:** The event will conclude at approximately 11.15am where those gathered and passers-by will be invited to share in eating bread as a symbol of God's love for the world embodied in Christ.

As this is a very different sort of event than that held in previous years we are asking Churches not to bring banners, large crosses or individual Palm crosses as we would like the focus to remain on the figure of Jesus.

**After** the opening service on Haven Green some people will be asked to line the railings in Ealing Broadway ready to greet the procession. Others will be asked to line the path in the grounds of Christ the Saviour – the rest of us will follow the main procession. Those lining the streets are asked to bring wooden sticks to hit together (or the railings) or a can and stick to make as much noise as the procession proceeds along the road. If people are brave enough to jeer that would be encouraged too. Hopefully this will create interest in what we are doing. Please can you advise your Churches accordingly?

**Line South Side of Ealing Broadway:** St John’s with St James, Bless Community Church and St Mary’s

**Line North side of Ealing Broadway:** St Stephens, Haven Green, St Peters, St Barnabas, Redeemer Church

**Follow main procession:** Christ the Saviour, Ealing Abbey, St Andrews, Pitsanger Methodist, Ealing Green URC/Methodist Church, Kingsdown Methodist Church, St Paul’s, Plus any others



The Churches in Ealing Central and Acton invite everyone to meet the principal candidates standing in the forthcoming General Election

- Cllr Jon Ball (Liberal Democrat)**
- Angie Bray, MP (Conservative)**
- Dr Rupa Huq (Labour)**
- Peter Florence (UKIP)**
- Tom Sharman (Green)**

The meeting will be at The Church of the Ascension, Beaufort Road, Ealing W5 3EB (just off Hangar Hill at 8pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Hear what they want to say; ask them what you want to know (it would be helpful if you could send your questions in advance to [cmynors@gmail.com](mailto:cmynors@gmail.com))

*(for more information, see [www.Christiansinpolitics.org.uk/showup](http://www.Christiansinpolitics.org.uk/showup))*

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



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email: [stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Our Youth Group meets every Tuesday at 7pm  
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