

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

May 2015

50p



Details of the following and much more can be found inside
Recital for Ascension (see page 5)

Rogation (see page 6)

Whitsun (see page 8)

St Martin's Foundation programme (see pages 14 & 15)

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)
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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 17th May.

The June magazine will be on sale by 30th May.

The Merry Month of May

It will hardly have escaped your attention that we have a General Election on Thursday 7th May. As I write this article in April the campaigning seems already to have been going on interminably.

Here at St Martin's we certainly don't take a partisan political party stance, although we do try and stand up for matters from time to time that need to be addressed. In this we try to support each year a significant number of charities both international and at home that themselves deal with matters such as poverty, hunger disease and oppression. Otherwise the only thing that the vicar might say as a political statement is that I believe that it is better to vote than not vote and to remind people that in some parts of the world people are envious of the privilege that we enjoy of free elections.

All that being said the month of May has much to offer us. Shakespeare was, as we would expect, prosaic in his famous Sonnet 18 he gives us 'the darling buds of May' although they are shaken by rough winds. These days of course what with climate change and so on the darling buds can be as early as February but 'rough winds' are always around. Still we can look forward to Rogation, Ascension and Whitsun, quite a lot to celebrate.

Having changed to a metrological metaphor I need to change again and look at life and times here in St Martin's. First, we need to note that by the time you read this we will have held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. After this there will inevitably be some changes, new faces in positions of Church office, a fresh Church Council membership and hopefully the promise of new ministerial colleagues to replace Bruce and Alyson later this year.

Some things don't change however and the rough winds currently buffeting us are financial. We really do need to get more people on our planned giving scheme. Your support by your giving is what underpins the life, work and ministry of St Martin's. We are also hoping to come into the modern world and introduce 'giving by text'

on your mobile telephone. We have wifi* in St Martin's now, which is not for web browsing during the sermon but for access to one of the most important means of communication there is, namely the internet.

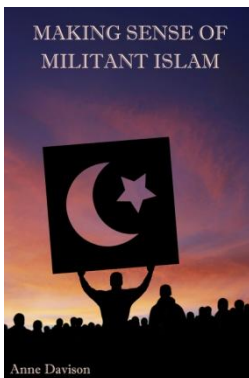
So there's a lot going on during May but Christians can think bigger than that. We have something that transcends any election outcome. We look towards what Jesus proclaimed as 'The Kingdom of God', to his coming again one day and into eternity itself.

Nicholas

* Ask the vicar or churchwardens for the password



MAKING SENSE OF MILITANT ISLAM



In Brief: Books for Busy People

This book is essential reading for anyone wanting to make sense of the recent rise in radical Islam.

The early chapters explore the roots of radical thought from the early period of Islamic history. The second part of the book examines the recent rise of militant groups such as Al Qaeda, the Taliban and ISIS/ISIL.

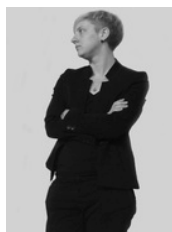
Containing useful maps and charts it is written in a clear and accessible style. It would appeal to the non-specialist who wants to better understand this complex topic but does not have the time or inclination to read a heavy academic tome.

*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*

Hail the Day!

Recital for The Feast of the Ascension

Sunday 17th May at 6.30pm



Hannah Parry-Ridout
organ & piano



Gina Kruger
vocalist

Donations of £10 welcome
Followed by refreshments



The Palm Sunday evening in St Martin's "Hosanna in the Highest"
recital by Gina Kruger and Marion Willmann.
Raised £191.50 for St Martin's.



Plan ahead!

Midsummer Madness Soirée
Friday 26th June 7pm onwards in St Martin's Hall
A joint production between St Martin's Players
& St Martin's Music society

Stage production, music, entertainment,
two-course supper and dancing!
£15.00 (Half – price concessions)
Dress code - smart



Another date for your diary
Summer Fair: 12th July

Sunday 10th May at 10am
Rogation & Ascension combined!
(FOLLOWED BY MINI MART SALE AT COFFEE)

This service will combine two themes:

1. Rogationtide – from the Latin *Rogare* 'to ask' - the opposite end of the year to Harvest. Traditionally this is a time when the parish boundaries were 'beaten' or walked with prayers for God's blessings on the newly sown crops. These events got banned in the 16th century due to excessive drinking and cavorting! In their modern revived form we 'beat' the boundary stone outside the church.

2. Ascensiontide, which marks Jesus ascension into heaven and the end of his earthly ministry (see Acts 1 vv 9-11). This is another very jolly festival. In churches with a tower or spire the choir often ascend to sing hymns. We haven't got a tower so our choir and young people will 'ascend' into the organ loft to sing for us.



Christian Aid Week 10th -16th May



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Whitsunday (Pentecost)
Sunday 24th May
Wear something red for the day

just as they do at our link parish of St Mary's Episcopal Church,
Arlington, Virginia, USA

Whitsun (see the Book of Acts Chapter 2) no-one is quite sure why it is called this but nowadays we more often use the term Pentecost, from the Greek Πεντηκοστή meaning fiftieth day after Easter.

It's the feast of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the Church (Acts 2 vv 1-21) and the reversal of the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11 vv 4-9).



WELCOME PACKS



This is a photo of some more Welcome Packs which we have taken to the Women's Refuge.

The refuge has welcomed nine new residents since January of this year and each has received one of our Welcome Packs which include towels, shower gel, toothpaste and other

toiletries. These are a practical help for the families who arrive in urgent need of basic necessities.

Once again they have sent their thanks and best wishes and are most grateful for our ongoing support.

Margaret Jones

The Vicar at Acton Care Centre



The Vicar is Chaplain to the Acton Care Centre. He is pictured at the Acton Care Centre on Easter Day afternoon when he conducted a service. The vicar is with staff from the Centre and Ken Bartram who played the organ.



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Party leaders reveal their favourite churches

The National Churches Trust has revealed the favourite churches of the seven party leaders who are taking part in the 2015 General Election.

They range from St Bartholomew the Great, one of London's oldest and most historic churches, to Soar Ffrwdamos in Penygraig, a chapel in the heart of the Rhondda valley and Fisherton Church in Dunure, located on the coast of the Firth of Clyde.

The Rt Hon David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party, has chosen All Saints Church, Church Lane, Spelsbury, Oxfordshire and St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire. He says: "All Saints at Spelsbury (is) where my family sometimes worship when we are at home in Oxfordshire. It has a very special memory of my late son, Ivan's, christening. Another church I have great affection for in my constituency is St Mary the Virgin in Witney. I have the honour of being one of the Patrons for the Appeal for Restoration and Renewal."

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband, Leader of the Labour Party, has chosen St Mary Magdalene Church, High Street, Campsall, Doncaster. "St Mary Magdalene is said to be the church where Robin Hood and Maid Marian were married. As strong believers in redistribution, the people of Doncaster North are happy to reclaim his roots. I am proud to have this church in my constituency."

The Rt Hon Nick Clegg, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, chose St Nicholas' Church, Town Gate, High Bradfield, Bradfield, South Yorkshire. "This stunning 15th century Grade One listed church is situated within High Bradfield in my Sheffield Hallam constituency. ... It can be seen for miles around and offers great views across the valleys."

The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Leader of the Scottish National Party, chose Fisherton Parish Church, Dunure, South Ayrshire. "I was christened in Fisherton Church in Dunure. It is a picturesque and

peaceful place, with nearby castle, harbour and lookout tower. It's a place I loved as a child and still means a great deal to my family."

Leanne Wood AM, Leader of Plaid Cymru, chose Soar Ffrwdamos in Penygraig, Rhondda. "Soar is a vital part of the community as it facilitates all kinds of groups, from all backgrounds and from all sectors of Rhondda society."

Nigel Farage MEP, Leader of the UK Independence Party, chose St Thomas à Becket Church, Fairfield, Romney Marsh, Kent. "A uniquely situated church in the middle of the marsh. Quite enchanting."

Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, chose St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, London. "Laying a hand on the walls dating back to Henry I, I reflect back on the many tumultuous events they've witnessed, and survived, from the Great Fire to the Blitz."

Since 1953, the National Churches Trust has provided £85 million worth of funding, at today's prices, to help pay for urgent repairs and the installation of up to date facilities to places of worship of all the major Christian denominations. A spokesperson says: "Whatever the result of the 2015 General Election, we hope that politicians of all parties will continue to support the task of keeping churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and able to cope with the demands of the 21st century."



Junior Church Rota and Services - May 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pre-service</u>	<u>Candles</u>	<u>Torches</u>
May 3 rd	Sonia	Ben	Sonia
May 10 th	<i>Rogation – Family Service</i>		
May 17 th	Emma J	Kim	Emma J
May 24 th	<i>Half Term (to be confirmed)</i>		
May 31 st	<i>Half Term (to be confirmed)</i>		

Memories of Easter

The vicar lights the Easter Fire at the Service of Light on the evening of Easter Eve



Jackie Nicholls awards prizes for the best Easter Bonnets

Children's decorated eggs (and an Easter bunny) ready for the egg rolling competition on Easter morning



The vicar demonstrates the art of Easter egg rolling!



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St Martin's Foundation

An educational programme for contemporary Christians

2015 – 2016

All lectures take place at 8pm in the Parish Room
(entrance via Parish Office, to rear of Church Hall)

Making sense of Radical Islam: Thursday 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** **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 **Thursday 23rd 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 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

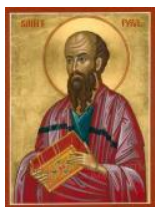


George Herbert:
The relevance of his spirituality today
Thursday 24th September
The Rev'd Christopher Ramsay

Christopher Ramsay is Area Dean of Ealing and Vicar of St George's, Southall.

He has an M.A. in Spirituality from Heythrop College.

George Herbert was a Welsh-born English poet, orator and Anglican priest. Herbert's poetry is associated with the writings of the metaphysical poets, and he is recognized as a pivotal figure in Anglican spirituality.



Paul of Tarsus: a First Century Radical?
Thursday 22nd 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?
Thursday 19th November

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

W3 Gallery



Robert Burrows one of our congregation has had his painting exhibited at the new W3 Gallery at 185 High Street, Acton.



Visit of Anthony Lamuel



On Palm Sunday we were delighted to welcome Anthony Lamuel and his sister, Shezi, to St Martin's. Anthony is the General Secretary of the Pakistan Bible Society. He brought news of the Church in Pakistan and of the terrible atrocities which had occurred outside two large churches in Lahore two weeks previously. We were shocked to learn of the killings of 15 Christians who were attending Sunday worship.

As part of charitable giving in 2014, St Martin's sent a cheque for £600 to support the work of the Anglican Girls Hostel in Pakistan and Anthony told us about the girls who are provided with education and life skills. When they leave the hostel, the girls are trained to get work and become financially independent, or to go on to further studies to become nurses.

We keep the Christians of Pakistan in our prayers.

Margaret Jones

'London calling'

Christian Resources Exhibition moves to ExCeL

After almost three decades at Sandown Park, near Esher, the Christian Resources Exhibition is moving this month, to London's ExCeL (19th -22nd May). Already the leading annual exhibition of church resources in Europe, CRE International's move to London's ExCeL "provides us with a fabulous opportunity to grow into a truly international event," says event director Bill Allen.

More than 300 organisations are expected to exhibit at the four-day show, displaying everything from computers to communion wine, stained glass to sound systems. More than 100 seminars will provide advice on subjects ranging from preaching to self-publishing, church websites to social exclusion.

First-time speakers at the event include Bill Wilson, who founded Metro World Child, an organisation that reaches nearly 100,000 inner-city children and their families every week.

The Bishop of London, Rt Revd Richard Chartres, will open the show. Bishop Richard said: "I am thrilled to see how the event has grown into something that no self-respecting Christian leader can afford to miss."

Meanwhile, "there are still thousands of regular church-goers of all traditions who have yet to discover the benefits of the exhibition," said Bill Allen.

CRE International at ExCel, London opening hours: Tue 19th to Thur 21st May, 10am-5pm; Fri 22nd May, 10am-4.30pm.

Visit www.CREonline.co.uk/buy-tickets

or phone 01793 418218 and dial 1 in office hours.



Mark!

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"

From the Diocese of London

Her Majesty the Queen has announced that the Venerable Rachel Treweek, currently the Archdeacon of Hackney in the Diocese of London, will become the next Bishop of Gloucester. Rachel Treweek will be the first female Diocesan Bishop in the Church of England following legislation passed last year enabling women as Bishops.

The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, said: "As Richard of Gloucester is reinterred, Rachel of Gloucester is revealed. Rachel has served her entire ministry in the Diocese of London, excelling wherever she has been. She has twice acted as Archdeacon, in Northolt and then Hackney – two highly demanding and contrasting areas where she has shone in equal measure. As well as operating with great effectiveness from North West to East London, Rachel has been central to the story of growth in this Diocese. Prominent in the launch of our blueprint for the future, Capital Vision 2020, she has played a pivotal role in our strategic plans, particularly in driving towards our target of commissioning 100,000 ambassadors for Jesus Christ by 2020. While we are very sorry to see her go, Gloucester has appointed someone with real quality and distinction. We look forward to continuing to support her in the years to come."

Rachel started her career in the Diocese of London as curate at St George and All Saints, Tufnell Park before becoming Vicar of St. James the Less, Bethnal Green in 1999. She was appointed as Archdeacon of Northolt in 2006 and was made Archdeacon of Hackney in 2011.

The Ven Rachel Treweek said: "During my years in London, firstly as a speech and language therapist and then in ordained ministry, it has been a privilege to connect with the lives of adults and children from diverse backgrounds and experiences; in places of both deprivation and affluence, and amidst life's pain and celebration. Living these relationships and experiences has taught me and formed me. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities this Diocese has given me to grow in my ministry. I have been blessed to have worked with so many inspiring, passionate and committed people and I have learnt so much from so many. It will be very sad to leave London but I know that I will take with me the diverse experiences I have gained here. I hope that I will continue to grow and learn in this new and exciting role to which God has called me."

Prior to ordination, Rachel trained as a speech and language therapist,

[illegible]

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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 on Sunday 10th 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