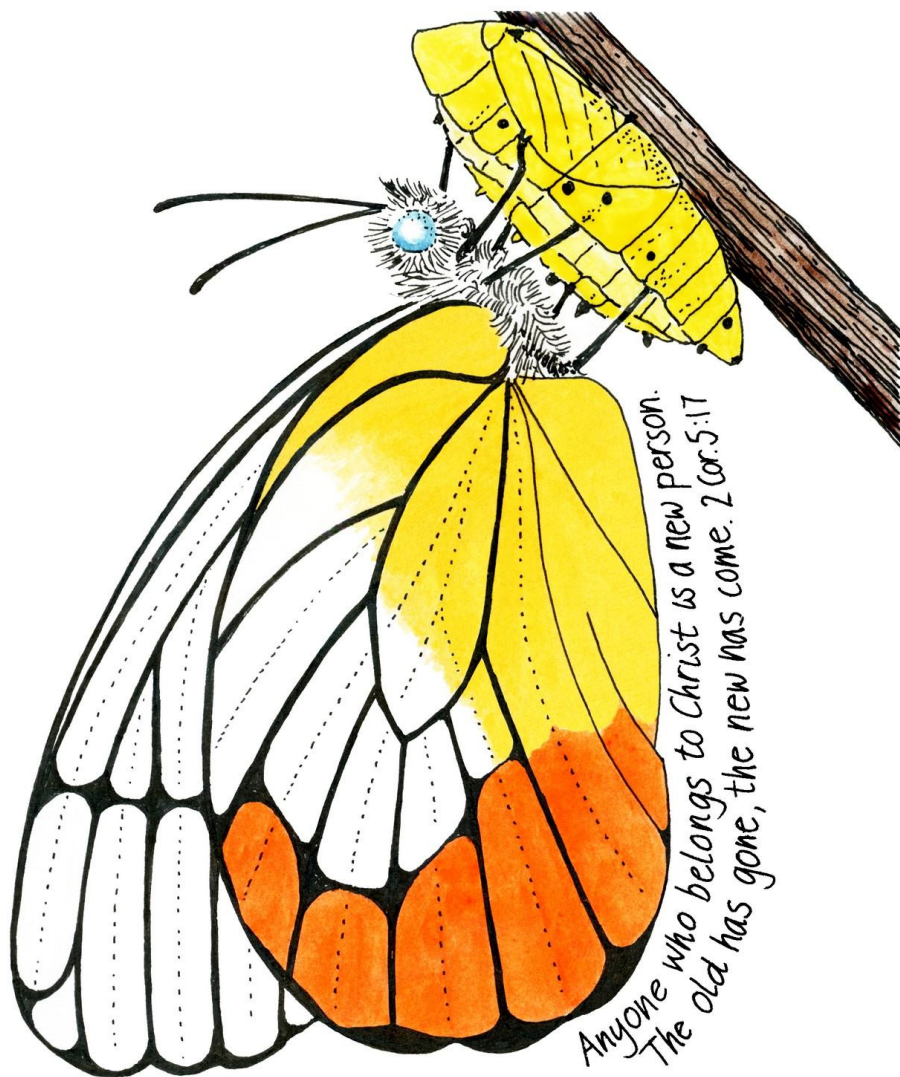


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

June 2015

50p



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 Jeremy Thorpe-Woods

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 15th June.

The July magazine will be on sale by 28th June.

Midsummer ... already?

It's hardly believable that it's June again. That's the kind of sentiment that is often described as in this busy world we always seem to be catching up on the month before.

Nevertheless, Midsummer's Day is on Wednesday 24th June. Midsummer isn't as is often thought a celebration of the longest day (which is on Sunday 21st) but it is the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist.

John is considered to be the second most important New Testament personage after Jesus himself. Jesus says of him, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 11 verse 11, "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." That's a pretty daunting verse but it partly explains why we celebrate his birth rather than his death. Those of you with an eye to the calendar will also realize that Midsummer's Day is almost exactly six months from the celebration of the birth of Jesus – Christmas.

Fortunately, even for those of us with congested diaries, that still gives us enough time to prepare. In the meantime we will celebrate with our Midsummer Madness Soirée on Friday 26th June, which will be an opportunity for the entire parish to get together to celebrate. I hope you can come.

Then whilst you've got your diaries open don't forget Sunday 18th October when we have our annual Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Willesden. Importantly at the service, not only will we celebrate the confirmation of our candidates, we will also license the Reverend Brandy Pearson who has been chosen as our next Self Supporting Minister (SSM) to live with her husband Rob (who is also ordained) in our church flat known as St Martin's Cottage.

This will mark an exciting new phase in our ministry and the next stage in our parish life. We must however bring the flat up to full standard. This basically means putting in a new bathroom, kitchen

and tiling some of the entrance as well as decoration. We've put out an appeal for funds and had a generous response but we need more and if you can help us with a donation each and every contribution will be welcome.



St Martin's Cottage viewed from Hale Gardens

Lastly, June has often attracted the adjective 'flaming' whether it will be hot or not is impossible to tell but in far-off Antarctica according to scientists the vast Larsen B Ice Shelf is set to collapse within the next few years. It's just one of a number of changes taking place both in the Arctic and Antarctic that

ought to give us all pause for thought.

Nicholas



The Flower Rota



Those volunteers on our flower rota organised by Camilla Reid keep the church filled with lovely flowers. Here's Jill Hull in the kitchen preparing flowers for a Family Service.

Speak to Camilla if you wish to join the Flower Rota.

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 & dancing!

£15.00 (Half – price concessions)

Dress code - smart



The Archdeacons Charge!

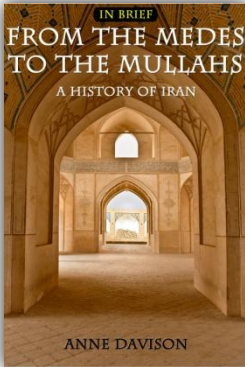


Liza Ambridge and Jeremy Thorpe-Woods seen here with Nicholas.

They were sworn in last month as Churchwardens. The "swearing in" is officially called the Archdeacon's Charge.

This took place at St Joseph the Worker.

Go to page 16 to see who was elected onto the PCC
for their 2015/2016 term of office.



FROM THE MEDES TO THE MULLAHS

A History of Iran

In Brief: Books for Busy People

A history of Iran covering Ancient Persia, the *Sunni-Shi'a* schism and Iran today.

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*



Latest from Japan ...



Yuko Ajioka of our Japanese Anglican congregation, which meets on the afternoon of the third Sunday of each month, visited our link parish of Christ Church Cathedral, Sendai Japan. Yuko is on the left with our old friends Cecilia and Kazumi Takeshi who are members of the congregation there where Cecilia also conducts the choir.

Dates for your diary

Summer Fair

12th July

12 noon – 3pm

Stall holders will be able to sign up soon.
Watch for the list at the back of the church.



Ken Bartram invites you to The Organist's Lunch

Sunday 23rd August at 1pm

(nearest Underground: Elephant and Castle)

£15.00 (and bring a bottle)

You will be able to sign up soon.



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Date	Pre-service	Candles	Torches
June 7 th	<i>Family Service</i>		
June 14 th	Michaela	Elise	Michaela
June 21 st	Bryony	Tara	Bryony
June 28 th	Rachel	Shelley	Rachel

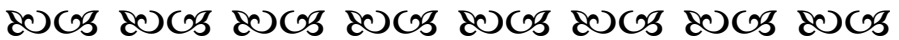
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News from Hanna Rider



Many of you have enquired after Hanna Rider – she is well and sends her love from Chalfont St Peter where she is currently staying.



Charities say Thank You.

Each year the PCC supports various charities as part of our Charitable Giving programme. Here are excerpts from some of the “Thank You” letters.



childrenssociety.org.uk

"Thank you to the members of St Martin's Church for your kind donation of £250. The most disadvantaged children rarely suffer on just one front. We work directly with these children, many

of whom have nowhere else to turn, to ensure that they are loved, valued and listened to. With them we fight childhood poverty, harm and neglect.



ChurchArmy

www.churcharmy.org.uk

"Thank you so much for your generous gift of £200 to support the work of the Church Army's Evangelists and projects. Your gift

will help us to continue supporting the marginalised people throughout the United Kingdom. We couldn't do it without you."

St Martin's Foundation

An educational programme for contemporary Christians

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



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

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



Ealing Deanery Mystery worshippers

What do people experience when they come through our church door?

Rev'd Christopher Ramsay, Area Dean of Ealing says

'We have designed this project to help us look in the mirror and make ourselves even better at welcoming newcomers to our churches. The longer one is a member of a church, the harder it is to view it objectively. I am excited to invite some mystery worshippers to my church and see what they really experience!'

The visitors will not be judgemental but rather it is a reflective process to help us to grow our churches. The aim is not to comment on style or the tradition of the church, but to focus in on practical issues which we can all address.

Visitors:

- We are recruiting lay members of our churches who are willing to visit another church and write up their experience.
- They will all receive training prior to visiting. Monday June 8th, 8pm St Stephens Ealing.
- The Area Dean's team will make the match between visitors and churches and will also see the report about the visit prior to it being sent to the church.
- The visitors will commit to pray for the church they visit before and after the visit.

Churches:

- Churches will only have a visitor if they ask to join the project.
- Churches who join up will agree a window of 4-6 weeks when the visitor or visitors may turn up unannounced.
- The churches will have the questions the visitor will be addressing prior to arriving so that they can review how they do welcome and use the project to reflect on their current practice both before and after the visit.

Mystery Worshipper Reflection Questions:

1. How accessible was the church (disability, signage, entrance)?
2. What was the name of the service?
3. How full was the building?
4. What was the profile (age/gender/ethnicity) of those attending?
5. Comment on the welcome you received (and were you given any further help as a visitor)?
6. What provision did you notice for children under the age of 11?
7. Comment on the comfort of the seating and environment inside the church?
8. Comment on the books/papers/projection used during the service?
9. How would you describe the music?
10. Exactly how long was the sermon?
11. What did you take away from the sermon?
12. Was there an identifiable place or people where you could pray, or be prayed for?
13. Which part of the service was like being in heaven?
14. And which part was like being in... er... the other place?
15. What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost?
16. How would you describe the after service refreshments?
17. Were you aware of any process for following you up as a new person to the church?
18. Having used the toilet would you use it again? Comment...
19. What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time?
20. Do you think they spotted you as a mystery worshipper?

If you would like St Martin's to be part of this project or would like to become a visitor, talk to Nicholas.

The project organiser, Revd Caroline Newbold can be contacted by email caroline@ststephens-ealing.org

Draught-free church



The photo shows the doors in the porch.

Thanks to Phil and Liz Barnes who recently installed draught proofing to our previously ill-fitting doors.

Nicholas



From the recent recital



Hannah Parry-Ridout was the organist for the recital held by St Martin's Music Society to celebrate Ascension and Pentecost on the evening of Sunday 24th May in St Martin's

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Those elected at the APCM to serve for 2015/2016

Churchwardens:

Liza Ambridge

Jeremy Thorpe Woods

Deanery Synod (Until 2017)

Sam Boundy

Bryony Franklin

John Wilson

PCC:

Lynne Armstrong

Mary Cook

Maureen Fenton

James Hyde

Jonathan Jones

Ben Mason

Shelley Merrick

Jacqueline Nicholls

Angela North

Lyndon Plant

Janice Riveira

Emma Stehlin

Representative Reader:

Margaret Jones



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The Magna Carta - 800 years on

This month marks the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta – one of the most famous documents in the world, and one of the most misunderstood.

Meaning 'Great Charter', it was signed at Runnymede, a water meadow probably designated for regular meetings, on the Thames between Windsor and Staines. Described sometimes as 'a failed peace treaty', it was agreed between the vastly unpopular Plantagenet King John (1199-1216) and a coalition of powerful barons who threatened his reign.

Although nearly a third of the text was deleted or substantially rewritten within ten years, and almost all the clauses have now been repealed, its 39th and 40th clauses gave all 'free men' the right to justice and a fair trial.

This and other Magna Carta core principles are echoed in the United States Bill of Rights (1791), described in 1946 by Eleanor Roosevelt as "a Magna Carta for all mankind", and in many other constitutional documents around the world, as well as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950).

Magna Carta is 4,000 words long and is now usually divided into 63 clauses, and opinions of it vary. Sir Edward Coke in the 17th century and many others have seen it as enshrining the basic rights of an English subject, and this is how it is normally viewed.

More recently, though, it has been pointed out that Magna Carta's more prominent clauses "offered special legal protection for the Catholic Church and the aristocracy, advocated tax breaks for the wealthiest, freed the City of London from regulatory oversight, promised total freedom of immigration and placed the burden of infrastructure maintenance on local communities instead of government".

In 1904, Edward Jenks published an article entitled "The Myth of Magna Carta", which also undermined traditionally accepted views. In 1930 the document was parodied by Sellar and Yeatman in *1066 and All That*: "Magna Charter," they concluded, "was therefore the chief

cause of Democracy in England, and thus a Good Thing for everyone (except the Common People)".

However, for most of us, Magna Carta remains a foundation of English national identity. Lord Denning, the most celebrated English judge of the 20th century, described it in 1956 as "the greatest constitutional document of all times – the foundation of the freedom of the individual against the arbitrary authority of the despot".

Details of the anniversary can be found at <http://magnacarta800th.com>.



Don't drive UNLESS you drink!

If you don't drink enough water while driving, it can be just as dangerous as being over the alcohol drink-drive limit.

It seems that drivers make far more mistakes when they are even mildly dehydrated, compared with when they are well hydrated, according to recent research.

A study found that drivers who drank only 25ml of water an hour more than double the number of mistakes that they make at the wheel, compared to drivers who drink 200ml an hour. In fact, the dehydrated drivers compare well with drivers who have been drinking alcohol.

The study at Loughborough University, published in *Physiology & Behaviour*, found that dehydration can result in impaired mental functioning, changes in mood and reduction in concentration. The errors of those who were dehydrated more than doubled, and ranged from lane drifting, late braking and touching or crossing the rumble strip or lane line.

The researchers also warn that warm weather leads to significant losses of water, and that too many drivers restrict fluids so as to avoid lavatory stops. 68% of all vehicle crashes are due to driver error.



Notices seen outside churches

Worn out? Come in for a Service!
This church is not just four weddings and a funeral.

What is on the other side of death?

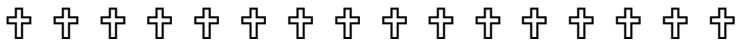
A doctor was visiting a very ill man, who was also his next door neighbour. As he finally got up to go, the man said: "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, his young spaniel sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."



Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, *but....!*

Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

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 7th June.

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