

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

August 2015

50p



Fresco of The Transfiguration Of Jesus Scene in  
St. Constantine And Helena Orthodox Church, Bruges

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

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

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## **Vicar**

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(also Chaplain to Acton Care Centre)  
020 8992 2333

## **Commissioned Lay Minister to Japanese Anglican Church UK**

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[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 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](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 17<sup>th</sup> August.**

The September magazine will be on sale by 30<sup>th</sup> August.

## August

This month was originally the sixth month in the original ten-month Roman calendar in the eighth century BC when March was the first month of the year. It became the eighth month when January and February were added to the year before March when it had twenty-nine days. The Roman Emperor Julius Caesar added two days when he created the Julian calendar (used in this country until the eighteenth century) in 45 BC giving it its modern length of 31 days. In 8 BC it was re-named in honour of Augustus but despite common belief, he did not take a day from February. He chose this month because it was the time of several of his great triumphs.

So, that's the provenance of the month and despite its complexity most clergy also find it to be the most difficult to write about as traditionally nothing much happens – except the First World War of course.

The Church doesn't take a holiday however, even though holidays may reduce numbers in the congregation somewhat. If our faith is to mean anything it can't be a Sunday only activity or for that matter something which we put down for a break every now and then. It should be something that permeates our lives and influences everything that we do – that's the theory. The practice of Christian faith may be rather more challenging. In a sense it's rather like the development of the month of August itself subject to change and growth.

It would be a strange Christian who had not at some time or other experienced a falling away or a period when God seemed very distant. Even Jesus himself had a moment of despair on the cross when he cried out "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?"

On the other hand there are times when God seems close and faith is stronger. I am convinced that this interweaving of different spiritual states of confidence is not unconnected with our physical lives and our day-to-day existence. In that sense a holiday from time to time might enhance our spiritual lives as well. August might do us a favour in this respect, it's not renowned for good weather but I hope that you do manage to enjoy something of a break.

Nicholas

## Junior Church



It was eight years ago that Emma Jones and Kim Shillinglaw started running the Junior Church. They have now decided to pass over the reins. They both have new challenges at work and feel that



they can no longer give as much time to running the Junior Church.

They hand over the Junior Church at a time when it is flourishing. Many thanks for your hard work and support over the years.



We are immensely grateful to our Junior Church leaders who run our increasingly large Junior Church for us. Here they are pictured at their end of term staff meeting, planning for next year's programme.

Nicholas



**Ken Bartram invites you to**

**The Organist's Lunch**

**on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 1pm**

**(nearest Underground: Elephant and Castle)**

**£15.00 (and bring a bottle)**

**Sign up please at the back of the church**

# Janet sends her love to everyone



Janet Trussler is currently in St David's Nursing Home, she's doing well and sends everyone her love.



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## Work Experience help in the Office



Jin Lee, one of our younger members and a student at Twyford School has spent a week during July in the Parish Office on work experience. Here he is with the vicar in the Office.



## Summer in the Vicarage Garden



The early July heatwave brought the Wednesday morning Coffee Club out onto the Vicarage lawn.



## The Summer Fair total...

At the time of going to print the Summer Fair profit so far is **£1,460**.  
There may be some expenses yet to be claimed.  
However, this looks like a wonderful achievement.  
Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it such a success.

## Questors Choir – Across the Pond



Picture: Simon Bishop

There was a full house for Questors Choir's celebration of 200 years of American music at St Martin's Church on Saturday evening in West Acton. This year's Questors Choir Summer Concert coincided with the bicentenary of when American President John Quincy Adams

lived in Ealing. The programme included spirituals, the first American classical works by John K Payne and Horatio W Parker, and then Jazz, musicals, country and of course rock 'n roll. The audience would have known most of the music, but might not have been familiar with the earlier classic and religious pieces. Of course, good old John Quincy Adams would have loved them! The concert comprised pieces for the full choir, smaller ensembles and solo performances by choir members, as shown in the photo.

*Questors Choir is open to all. Rehearsals are at St Martin's church hall, Hale Gardens W3 9SQ each Wednesday at 8pm.*

*See [www.questorschoir.org.uk](http://www.questorschoir.org.uk)*

*Little Ealing History Group –An American President in Ealing –*

*[www.littleealinghistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.littleealinghistorygroup.org.uk)*

Richard Johns (Publicity Officer, Questors Choir, contact: 07503 134 350)



### **Thank you from Clive**

There is a Thank You card at the back of the church. In case any reader of the magazine hasn't yet read it. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking everyone at St Martin's for all the kind messages recorded in the card you gave me. I will treasure each word. You will be pleased to know the Bougainvillea plant has been transferred to a large pot ready for its future growth. It even has new shoots and new "flowers". I hadn't expected it to make itself so comfortable so quickly. This means I now need to get longer canes to allow it to spread even more. So it is clearly very happy to be living with me. Thank you all once again.

# Looking ahead

Details coming soon!

## Last Night of the Proms

Live on screen in St Martin's Church

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm**

Come and join us for a sit down supper and sing along

Funny hats and flags welcome.



## A St Martin's Foundation Lecture

George Herbert: The relevance of his spirituality today

Given by The Rev'd Christopher Ramsay

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm in the Parish Room**

Christopher Ramsay is Area Dean of Ealing & 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.



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

10am Harvest Festival

12 noon: Harvest Lunch



**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

10am Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Willesden

With the Licensing of our new Assistant Priest,

Revd Brandy Pearson and her husband Rob

## Memories from last month's Soiree



The meal..



... the entertainment...



.. with the Vicar in full flow...

... the music....



... and the dancing.

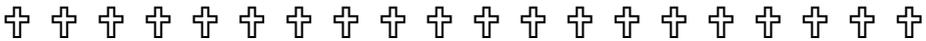
# Antonio's Ordination



Antonio García Fuerte was ordained deacon in St Paul's Cathedral by the Bishop of London on Saturday 4th July.

Antonio has previously had a long association with St Martin's.

He is now to serve as curate at St John's Hyde Park Crescent where he is pictured here with our Vicar.



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## The Revd Bruce Barnett Cowan Requiescat in pace



The first reading from Isaiah 25 v 6 might have been tailor made for Bruce: *'On this mountain the Lord of Hosts will prepare a banquet of rich fare for all the people, a banquet of fine wines well matured and richest fare, well-matured wines strained clear.'*

It does however go to show that heaven has its limitations as even copious quantities of wine can hardly equal a selection of the finest malt whiskies.

When Bruce first arrived here he brought with him some unique characteristics that absolutely everybody here will understand but not all will have had to work with on a daily basis. If I might say at this point, in a precipitous learning curve I learned far more from Bruce than he ever did from me. I fancy that I survived merely because of my slightly dubious Scottish connections and by virtue of my clan surname.

But it is to the Gospel that we must turn to understand the nature of our dear friend because the life purpose and method of Bruce's life including the flair that so invigorated and exasperated by turn has its roots in his faith. In this sense the first resurrection account as portrayed in the Gospel of John Chapter 20 says much. It is Mary Magdalene who comes first to the tomb. It is she, slightly later on than our extract, who will be the first to encounter the risen Lord.

As I read it Bruce's profound faith and understanding of the Gospel was rooted like Mary's experientially in a rich and varied life lived sometimes on the fringe but never without courage and aspiration for something better. He'd like, I fancy, being compared to Mary Magdalene! Some of this comparison is evident in the short obituary on the rear of the sheet where you can see that he lived what was the majority of his life as a priest. Indeed it was a privilege for us here to host the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the priesting of both Bruce and Alyson here in St Martin's. They were indisputably a team and when Bruce came here we got Alyson as well, two for the price of one.

Priesthood for Bruce came from the liberal sacramentalist wing of Anglicanism, a powerful and potent combination that left those of us at the more protestant end of the spectrum at times reeling. Bruce knew how to do things and moreover to do them well. As I understand it he was in this sense instrumental in helping and training a number of clergy not least some coming from entirely different denominations and I know that that would be with flair, a word that is often used in association with Bruce.

In one sense Bruce was a walking metaphor for a life filled to the full. Fresh expressions of ministry now so fashionable in the Church were certainly practised in this parish in his time. I don't think we actually got a confirmation candidate from the Common Room on the Uxbridge Road but there were people there and in other eateries around Ealing who heard the good news of the Gospel as those who might never otherwise have had a clue. We should perhaps then re-examine for example our Lord's aphorism to 'consider the flowers of the field', for only Bruce as a fantastic exception could match their array clad in full ceremonial tartan, even on the Piccadilly Line!

By the way I still have a packet of 'Ragged Robin' seeds that he gave me from what became a kind of latter day Garden of Eden on the balcony of St Martin's Cottage where he and Alyson lived. They are destined to be planted in his memory in the churchyard here to give as much delight, colour and panache as Bruce gave to us.

All of this seems to me to exemplify what the prophet Isaiah was moving towards in his description of the new deliverance on the mountain of the Lord. Isaiah was more of an Evangelist than a Prophet, because he described all of the Mysteries of the Church of Christ so vividly that you would assume he was not prophesying about the future, but rather was composing a history of past events. Isaiah, Christians suppose, was imparting a privilege to his readers in a glimpse of the new messianic era and its eventual fulfillment. That of course was to come classically along a route that encompassed suffering. Mary Magdalene knew that as well as one of the women at the foot of the cross. Bruce latterly carried his cross in the terrible suffering of his illness, which on reflection as one who witnessed it was borne over a long period of time in profoundly courageous

fashion.

But it is for us; I think Bruce would insist, now to look forward with faith and anticipation rather than backwards with regret. Bruce's sermons, which were noted for some wonderful and sometimes earthy anecdotes, were also able to weave the reality of day-to-day existence, its joys and disappointments into a credible faith experience. "Faith", he would say, "is only real when it is accompanied by a little bit of doubt". Bruce stood in the same type of authentic prophetic tradition as Isaiah. That's a big claim but for anyone who knew Bruce it's more than a possibility. Isaiah could see a time when all tears will be wiped away when death is replaced by life and when we could learn that God himself might enjoy a good glass of wine or in Bruce's case of whisky!

In Bruce we have much to give thanks for, from the everyday to the extraordinary. We shall not see his likes again in our time but we shall treasure who he was and we shall in that glorious day of resurrection give thanks to God for giving him to us as *a banquet of fine wines well-matured and richest fare*.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Nicholas*

*(Address given at the Requiem Eucharist, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015)*

† †

And from his wife, Alyson:

*Remembering:* Rev. Bruce Barnett-Cowan

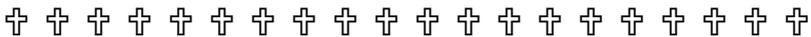
Peacefully, after a long and brave struggle with cancer, the Rev. Bruce Edgar Barnett-Cowan died July 1, 2015. Husband of Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan, proud father of Michael (Ryan), Catherine (Hyun Suk) and Francesca, doting grandfather of Quinn, Ewan, Caelan and 'Sprout'. Survived by his mother, Donna Eggertson, sister Laura and brother Gunnar (Cathy).

Ordained an Anglican priest 37 years ago, Bruce served congregations in Schefferville, QC; St Paul's Runnymede, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clement's and St. Matthew's Riverdale in Toronto; Coldwater and

Fairvalley, ON; and most recently he was a self-sustaining minister at St. Martin's West Acton in London, England. For 8 years he was, with Alyson, Co-President of the Henry Budd College for Ministry in The Pas, Manitoba. He always felt especially honoured to have helped equip Naskapi and Cree First Nations peoples for ministry.

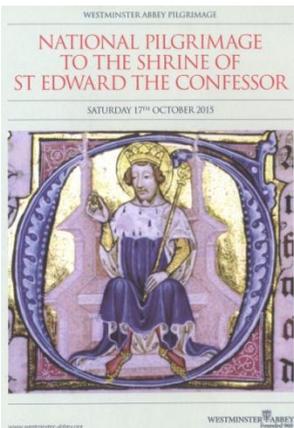
Bruce lived life with flair, whether it was embracing his Scottish heritage and participating in full regalia in the Clan Colquhoun gatherings in Luss on Loch Lomond, proudly supporting the LGBTQ community, tending beautiful gardens in northern Canada, or training his kids and friends alike as sous-chefs while cooking up a storm in the home kitchen.

He touched many lives through his preaching and pastoral care. Cha bhithidh a leithid ami riamh (Gaelic for 'His equal will never be with us again'.)



Alyson announced the birth of her new grandchild:

In an email on July 12<sup>th</sup> Alyson wrote: We are all so happy and welcome Diana Barnett-Cowan Choi, daughter of Catherine and Hyun Suk to the world. Diana weighed 8 lb 7 oz.



9am Abbey opens for Pilgrims  
11.30am Festival Eucharist  
3pm Evensong with Procession

All are welcome. Tickets are not required

Walking pilgrims will be welcomed with the rite of foot washing.  
Throughout the day pilgrims will be able to pray at the Shrine.

Booking is not necessary.

For more details:

Contact the Canon's PA on 020 7654 4805  
Email: [tiggy.sawbridge@westminster-abbey.org](mailto:tiggy.sawbridge@westminster-abbey.org)  
[www.westminster-abbey.org](http://www.westminster-abbey.org)

## **The Great War – 100 years on**

*Continuing to tell the story behind the names on our War Memorial.*

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 1915; the 29<sup>th</sup> Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6<sup>th</sup> August further troops (including the 6<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment) were put ashore at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts.

The aim of the Suvla force had been to quickly secure the sparsely held high ground surrounding the bay and salt lake, but confused landings and indecision caused fatal delays allowing the Turks to reinforce and only a few of the objectives were taken with difficulty.

Green Hill and Chocolate Hill (which form together Yilghin Burnu), rise from the eastern shore of the salt lake. They were captured on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915 by the 6<sup>th</sup> Lincolns and the 6<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment but once taken, no further advance was then made. On the two following days, unsuccessful efforts were made to push on along the ridge of 'W' Hill (Ismail Oglu Tepe), leading to Anafarta Sagir. By the end of August no further progress had been made which left the front line where it had been.

On the road running from Anzac Cove to Sulva Bay lays the *Green Hill Commonwealth War Cemetery*. There are 2,971 servicemen buried in the cemetery, of which 2,472 have headstones which simply read: "Known unto God". One of the 499 that were identified was a parishioner of St. Martin's. Lieutenant **James Alfred Dixon** (6<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment) was 24 when he lost his life on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915. His parents, Jesse and Elizabeth Dixon lived at 11 Woodgrange Avenue.

100 years after his sacrifice:

**We remember him.**

## Media has a 'blind spot' over religion

The BBC and other broadcasters are 'allergic' to religion, and regard it as an eccentricity. So says Edward Stourton, a presenter of Radio 4's 'Sunday' programme. He argues that this 'blind spot' has led to a "catastrophic misreading of events" in regions where religion plays a major role in political life.

"No honest journalist can look at what is happening in the Middle East – in Syria and Iraq, for example – without conceding that we have repeatedly underestimated the importance of religion in the region."

Stourton also points to the "astonishing religious revival" in Russia, but adds: "You aren't likely to find any of this in the British media... We do not deliberately ignore things – it is rather that we come from a culture that regards religion as an eccentricity."



### The Intelligence Test

David Beckham decided to apply for Mastermind. The application form included some intelligence questions to ascertain the suitability of the candidate. At one point his wife, Victoria, noticed he looked puzzled and asked what was troubling him.

"It is this question," David explained, "I can't think of the answer."

"Perhaps I can help, what is the question?" asked Victoria.

"The question asks me to fill in the missing word: Old MacDonald had a *blank*. What should go in the blank?"

"It is a title of a children's song. Everyone knows that!" Victoria answered.

David looked at his wife expectantly.

"Oh David!" exclaimed his wife, "Old MacDonald had a *Farm!*"

"Ah", said David, then he paused. "How do you spell farm?"

Victoria looked at him and replied: "Honestly, David! Old MacDonald had a farm, E I E I O!"

# The Parish of St Martin

## Hale Gardens, Acton W3 9SQ

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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 4<sup>th</sup> October.

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:  
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3pm Bible Study and Evening Worship in Japanese

Every **Wednesday** at 25 Birch Grove, W3

11am: Informal Eucharist

Followed by the Coffee Club

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