

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

September 2015

50p



From the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalms 113:3

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

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Reader Emeritus

Mrs Lynne Armstrong (020 8992 8341)

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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 14th September.

The October magazine will be on sale by 27th September

September and all change

The first of September marks officially the meteorological definition of autumn. This always comes as a bit of a surprise and we wonder where the summer went and why it went so quickly?

The speed of the clock (the same one that when we were children used to crawl round during school hours) appears to accelerate with the aging process. I read a newspaper article, which means therefore that it must be true, to the effect that from our twenties onwards – yes from our twenties – the chemical level of the important chemical dopamine in our brains falls away. Apparently, it is this that appears to make time pass more quickly as we are actually taking in less information from the world around us hence our existence appears to run like those old time fast and jerky movement films.

Now that's all very well but for Christians right from the earliest days there has been a serious sense of living in the end times. "Therefore keep watch and stay alert says Jesus for you know not the time nor the hour", Matthew 25 v 13. This is of course a reference to his coming again, to the end of all things and the need for Christians always to practice their faith.

The same message appears in different formats on a number of occasions in the New Testament and has urgency about it even though it comes for an age without clocks or accurate timepieces.

It is at this point that I could lapse into a list of events that we have coming, just in case you miss them! I'll resist that temptation with the sole exception of reminding you that on Sunday 18th October we will not only have our annual Confirmation service but our new clergy colleagues the Rev'ds Brandy and Rob Pearson will be licensed. It will be good to have them and they will bring inevitably a fresh look to our clergy team and a welcome support for our ministry. This is a welcome outcome of the passage of time and they will inherit a strong underpinning of ministry that has developed over the years.

For the sake of completeness and definition then, time is a measure

by which events can be ordered from the past through the present into the future. It is according to the physicist Albert Einstein essentially illusory and depends on the spatial reference frame of the observer. Theologically, God, our God is himself timeless and/or at least outside time. Yet we understand that he entered into our human dimension in the person of Jesus Christ who lived and ministered at a point in history but is with us by faith always.

That's the kind of permanence that transcends clocks and is measured by quality of relationship rather than the passing of the years – for which, this September and beyond, God be praised.

Nicholas



Recent Birthdays



The Wednesday Coffee Club help Jeanette Lovell to celebrate her birthday (Monday 27th July) with a cake and a toast. Also visiting is Claudia Hayes (standing on the right of the vicar) who was our Parish Secretary from 1999 – 2005.

Shirley Keep one of our Coffee Club regulars celebrated her 80th birthday recently - Happy Birthday Shirley.



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MACABRE HAPPENINGS

The Lord works in mysterious ways. A man about to commit suicide from a hotel window steadied himself by placing his hand on top of an adjacent wardrobe. As he steadied himself his hand found a book. He stopped to look at it. A Gideon Hotel Bible. Why it was there no-one knows but the gentleman paused. At this crucial moment could the Gideon Bible speak to him?

He ultimately wrote to Gideon Headquarters to say it had saved him, given him a new perspective, something to live for. Checking into hotels to commit suicide is quite common. If the chosen hotel is open to the Gideons they will allow a full NIV Bible to be placed in each room. Incidents where someone's life has been saved by a Gideon Bible are numerous. It's a work being constantly thwarted because hotel managers can be hostile using a range of excuses to resist a placement.

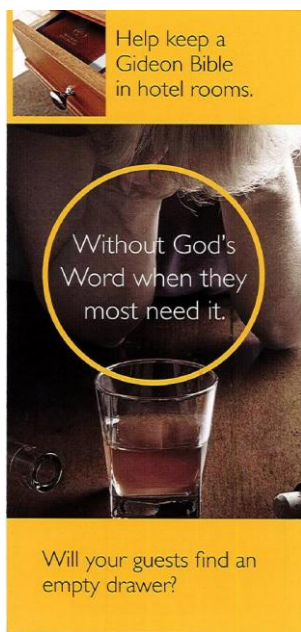
Between the 14th & 17th September in the boroughs of Hillingdon, Harrow, Brent, Ealing, Hounslow, Richmond & Kingston the Gideons will be carrying out a Bible Blitz to Hotels, Care Homes, Hospitals, Schools & a Prison. The Blitz is designed to close the gap in the work of the local Gideon branch. The latter only contain a small number of members, some of course holding down full time jobs. The 'Masterplan' is to make the West part of London subject to the same treatment once every 4 years.

Nick has kindly allowed a Gideon speaker to take the 10.00am service on the 13th September to add a little more information on the work of the Gideons. The Gideons believe it's the Word that really speaks to the heart. Since its formation just over 100 years ago, more than 2 Billion have been distributed in over 185 countries. The purpose is to place trust that the Word will lead the reader prayerfully to Christ.

The Elementary Education Act of 1880 introduced for 5-10 year olds primary education for all, just 135 years ago. Prior to that only a fraction of our population were literate. Think of all the religious wars that were fought up to that time by men unable to read for

themselves what they were fighting about! Now that most of us were taught to read, it has been the work of the Gideons to give schoolchildren a chance to enjoy & get to know personally the Word.

Gideons International is a worldwide organisation of Christian businessmen devoted to getting Bibles into the public realm. A Gideon Bible has developed a reputation for its Helps guide inside the front cover of each copy. Gideons will look for opportunities to give someone a copy but our rules restrict a free for all for everyone. That is to protect the interests of our printers who produce them at only a little above cost.



A layperson can support the work of the Gideons by becoming a Friend. Its FREE. They receive a quarterly magazine with numerous articles such as the would be suicide victim & whats going on around Acton, Ealing etc . Its hoped Friends will be reminded to pray and if able support occasionally the organisation financially. 95p in the £ goes on bible production costs, many distributed overseas as only a fraction of countries are financially self sufficient.

A Gideon New Testament is often the most valuable thing someone in a 3rd World country ever owns, from it all their hopes & faith evolve. It's a great comfort & encouragement to know how significant this work has been for so many lives. A Friend can

feel part of that. Children entering State Secondary School, Year 7's, if the school allows, will receive from the Gideons a bright red New Testament. Judging from the thousands of letters received over the years from pupils, this gift has possibly helped more young people in their journey to become christians than any other. Invitation leaflets about how to become a Friend of the Gideons or indeed a Gideon can be found on the large table at the back of the church. Or, talk to John Clark, Gideon member of West London branch since 1995.

Events not to be missed this month!

Last Night of the Proms

Live on screen in St Martin's Church

Saturday 12th September at 7.30pm

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

Funny hats and flags welcome.



Sunday September 13th

10am Parish Eucharist

Guest Preacher from Gideons International

(see article on page 6)



A St Martin's Foundation Lecture

George Herbert: The relevance of his spirituality today

Given by The Rev'd Christopher Ramsay

Thursday 24th 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.

Below is an email Lynne Armstrong received from Alyson:

Dear Lynne,

I can't tell you how moved I was by the card you put together from Bruce's requiem. I sat and cried quite a bit when I read the tributes and sensed the enormous affection and esteem he was held by so many.

I am so glad that his last position in ministry was with you. He so enjoyed being among you all.

The card, for your records, was delivered on August 10, but because I was away until the weekend I was only able to pick it up at the post office yesterday.

It is a treasure, the most moving of all the many messages I've received. Thank you so very much, and lots of love to you both and to all.

Alyson



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Congratulations to Bryony



Congratulations to Bryony Franklin on being elected onto the Diocesan Synod in a recent by-election.

Here she is with Katie her daughter

..... and yes that's her being held aloft with her husband and dancing partner David.



Jeremy Thorpe Woods with the vicar 'planning ahead'.

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Norman, musical director of
Questors Choir. Philip is also
the artistic director of The
London Sangerstevne, Small
Choirs International and many
other choral projects. See
www.pnms.co.uk

The Singers' Guide is open to
everyone over 16. It costs

- £15 on the door
- £10 advance (if you book
by 29th September) and
concessions
- Free to those aged 16-25.

Saturday
3rd October
2015
10am - 1.30pm
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To book or find out more go to
www.questorschoir.org.uk

Email info@questorschoir.org.uk
Phone 020 8816 7734 or 07802 720 333

Life in a hospital is interesting to say the least!

I have been at Charing Cross Hospital for a few weeks now as the doctors have done numerous tests on various parts of my anatomy and extracted a great deal of vital fluids. My right arm feels strangely hollow at the moment after over 30 vials of blood have been taken from me in the past few days.

When one enters hospital it is always with trepidation and an uncertainty for the future. The environment is strange and everything is happening around you and to you, and you are uncertain as to what is happening. My usual entry into the medical system is via the Para-Medic Service and then the London Ambulance crews who, with the often blackest of humour, deliver me to the Accident & Emergency Department where the doctors and nurses do their utmost to explain what is going to happen. But, in all honesty, one's imagination and own interpretation of things somewhat masks the information that one is receiving. Also everything seems to take so long!

In my case, after a few hours, my condition was stabilised and then I was sent into the hospital's ward system, progressing from A&E, through the Clinical Decision Unit – where they decide if you need to be admitted or are stable enough to be discharged – and then into various specialist wards higher and higher in the building. I am now on the 9th floor and my personal opinion is that they are making it more difficult for me if I want to tunnel out and escape!

The infrastructure of the hospital seems tired and everything tends to need an extra level of assistance but there is one supreme factor that makes life in hospital bearable – the Staff! In particular the nurses and Health Care Assistants make life bearable. They support the patients both physically and mentally and try to make our stay in this unusual environment as agreeable as possible.

They have to undertake tasks that most of us would back away from like clearing up after a patient has had a major gastro breakdown and everything, patient, bed and environment, have to be meticulously cleaned up. I have never heard a word of complaint from the staff

who have had to take on this very unpleasant task, and their attitude to the poor patient who has had the embarrassment of this happening is both heart-warming and supportive.

The nationalities and religions of the nursing staff are varied in the extreme. They come from all over the world, from all continents and even Yorkshire! But they have a common culture of care for others and strength of character to continue to be kind and sincere to their patients even if some of the patients are rude and unhelpful. I owe my life to the professionalism of the doctors but I know that my sanity and humour is maintained by the wonderful nursing staff together with the porters and the other unsung heroes of the NHS. Their care and humour keeps us all going. They should all be honoured by the society that they all help to preserve.

Please remember them in your prayers. Wouldn't it be great if we could all behave in a similar way.

Paul Ambridge



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Looking ahead

Details coming soon!

Sunday 4th October

10am Harvest Festival

12 noon: Harvest Lunch



Sunday 11th October

Annual Gift Day



Sunday 18th October

10am Confirmation Service with

the Bishop of Willesden

With the Licensing of our new Assistant Priest,

Revd Brandy Pearson and her husband Rob



Paul of Tarsus: a First Century Radical?

Thursday 22nd October

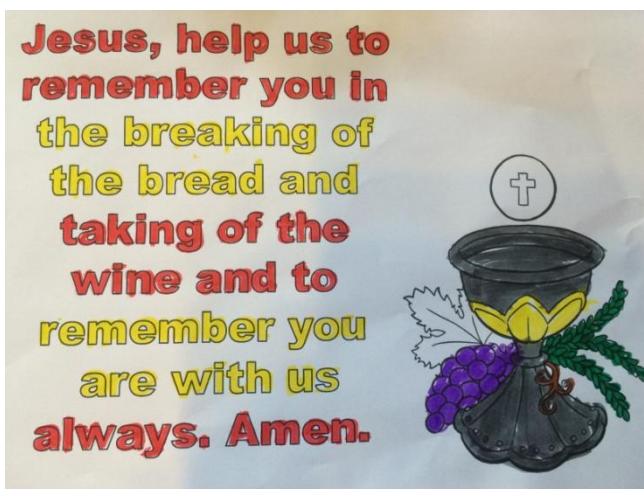
8pm in the Parish Room

(rear of Church Hall)

A fresh look at Christianity's most important
theological influence

Canon Dr. Anne Davison

Former Vice-Moderator, World Council of Churches



The Junior Church helped us to think about Jesus as the Bread of Life. Here is their coloured chart as shared with the congregation on Sunday 16th August. The Gospel reading of the day was from St John 6 vv 51-58.



Recent wedding



Anwen Roberts and William Byrne were married in St Martin's on Saturday 25th July, brilliantly timed on a sunny day between two rainy days so the weather was perfect.

They are pictured here with Nicholas.



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'I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full' John 10v10

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Thursday 17th September
5:30pm - 8:30pm

HEAD TEACHER TALKS

5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm



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OPEN EVENING 2015
Thursday 8th October
5:30pm - 8:30pm

HEAD TEACHER TALKS

5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm

A New Song For God

Tune: William Croft (1678-1727)

Words: John Goulding (b.1948)

'O God, our hope in ages past'

*A new hymn composed by former St Martin's member, John Goulding,
as sung on the first Sunday in August.*

Creation given by the Word
Each every sight and sound –
In such the praise of our dear Lord
Throughout creation found.

Let heaven and earth abound!

We fear that we one day may roam
The streets of empty space –
Jehovah's kingdom offers home
And gives a dwelling place.

Jehovah's kingdom does abound
In treasure every sort –
And for the seeker shall be found
Enrapturing resort.

The many more who striving try
Await the life beyond –
To where the holy myriads sigh
In loving ever fond.

Lord Jesus paid in full the Price
That freed Creation bound –
For through such selfless sacrifice
Eternity is found.

Let heaven and earth resound!

Synod calls for climate change action

The General Synod this summer agreed that urgent action is needed to tackle climate change. It overwhelmingly backed a call for world leaders to seek to limit the global rise in average temperatures to a maximum of 2°C. Above that, and the impacts of climate change will be the most severe.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, points out: "In the last 150 years we have burned fossil fuels that took one billion years to lay down in the earth. The earth cannot sustain this level of consumption.

"The science, economics and politics all point in the same direction. Climate change disproportionately affects the poorest. They are most vulnerable to increased storms, rising sea level, changing patterns of rainfall, floods and drought. We live interconnected lives. What is bad for our neighbours is bad for us."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, called on the Church to tackle climate change. "We have unrivalled access to networks around the world. How are we going to use them and look beyond our own boundaries as the Church of England?..."

Negotiators from more than 190 nations will gather in Paris in December to discuss a new global agreement on climate change. It will aim to limit greenhouse gas emissions from 2020, when current commitments run out.

The new policy has already been welcomed from both within and outside the Church. Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, has said the policy is 'expressive of investor integrity'.

Read more at: www.churchcare.co.uk/shrinking-the-footprint

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 Harvest Festival on 4th 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:
(except July, August and December)

3pm Bible Study and Evening Worship in Japanese

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11am: Informal Eucharist

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