

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

March 2016

50p



Our programme for Lent,
Holy Week and Easter
can be found on pages 6 and 7.

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

The Vicar	The Rev'd Dr Nicholas Henderson (also Surrogate and Chaplain to Acton Care Centre) 020 8992 2333
SSM Assistant Priest	The Rev'd Brandy Pearson (c/o Parish Office)
Permission to Officiate	The Rev'd Robert Pearson
Commissioned Lay Minister to Japanese Anglican Church UK	Mrs Yuki Johnson (07572 324107) yukifunakawa@btinternet.com
Parish Administrator (weekdays: 9.30am – 1.30pm)	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)
Commissioned 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	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 March.

The April magazine will be on sale by 27th March

MARCH



'March brings breezes, loud and shrill,
To stir the dancing daffodil.'

From 'The Garden Year' by Sara Coleridge 1802 -1852.

Sara Coleridge was an English author and translator. She was the third child and only daughter of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

I've always been of the opinion that poetry is best used sparingly and almost never in sermons.

Poetry is a great medium but it needs very special attention.

However, this Vicar's article has bucked the trend and offers the stanza above as a reminder that it reflects a world before climate change really got going. This year (last year technically) some daffodils were out in time for Christmas!

'Change and decay in all around I see' is another line. This time the line comes from Francis Lyte's hymn 'Abide with me' sung to the lovely tune of Henry Monk's tune 'Eventide'. The hymn is still a regular favourite and poetically affirms the second law of thermodynamics.*

This is a rather gloomy start to what is essentially the vicar's Lenten article, but I must confess that I have always found it to be a rather intense season, which is precisely what it is supposed to be!

Despite this St Martin's has a wonderful history of bucking the trend. Starting with the theological premise that every day is actually post Easter Day when Christ is raised, unusually for example, we never stop having flowers in the church. We treat Lent and Advent as opportunities for positive development rather than negative reflection. This is important in an increasingly secular society, which understandably sees the Church as a whole as giving messages of negation, prohibition and self-righteousness.

Fortunately, due to the vagaries of the calendar Easter is early this year and comes on Sunday 27th March - Mothering Sunday incidentally is on Sunday 6th March. This means that the month will enable us to celebrate the resurrection sooner rather than later, and why not, it's a message that is good news not bad, positive and not negative, joyful and not sad.

Of course the reason that the date Easter moves around so much is that it is linked to the Jewish festival of Passover. This in turn is related to the old Jewish lunar calendar (thirteen months in a year) whilst we use a solar calendar (twelve months) so you can see that they don't match and accordingly move in respect to each other from year to year.

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury has recently, perhaps as an antidote by way of light relief, after his struggles to unite the warring factions of the Anglican Communion, suggested that all the Churches should get together to arrange a fixed date of Easter. This isn't a new idea. In 1928 a law was passed in the United Kingdom authorising an Order in Council, which would fix the date of Easter in that country as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. It was never enacted and in reality Archbishop Welby is 'whistling in the wind' in his hopes to get the Churches to agree on anything as sensible as this reform.

So we're stuck with poetic 'change and decay' and Lent as a penitential season but on the other hand we have Jesus' promise: "I am with you always – to the end of time" Matthew 20 v 28, and this matters above everything else.

Nicholas

* The second law of thermodynamics specifies the characteristic change in the entropy of a system undergoing a real process. The law accounts for the irreversibility of natural processes, and the asymmetry between future and past. In other words 'change and decay'.



Sanctuary Serving

Following discussion(s) with Nick, I have informed him that I wish to step back from 'Sanctuary Serving' following my life changing ill-health last winter. I have felt it an honour to be able to serve the Church. I also wish to hand over my role of preparing the Advent Wreath.

I look forward to becoming a member of the congregation.

Angela Doe



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L O N D O N

C O M M U N I T Y

As part of our community scheme, please mention St Martin's church and we will donate £100 for every fee generating instruction for sales or lettings.

(Terms apply – please speak to our office).

Lent and Easter 2016

Sermon themes continue at Sunday 10am Parish Communion:

13th March: The meaning of life?

Lent Prayer Workshops continue

Tuesday Afternoons in the Parish Room: 2 – 3.30pm

An hour of teaching and discussion with ½ hour of silence for prayer.

Led by the Rev'd Brandy Pearson.

March 1st Prayers and the Senses

March 8th Prayer and the Natural World

March 16th Prayer and the News

Mothering Sunday 6th March

10am: All-age service for Mothering Sunday

Posies will be handed out during the service.

Palm Sunday 20th March

10am Parish Communion with Procession of palms

Maundy Thursday 24th March

8pm: The Last Supper

Good Friday 25th March

10am: Children's Service

12noon: Stations of the Cross

Easter Eve 26th March

6pm: The Easter Fire Ceremony

Easter Sunday 27th March

8am: Holy Communion

10am: Easter Parish Communion

Followed by the Annual Egg Rolling Competition

6.30pm: Festal Evensong



WANTED

We are still looking for a table-tennis table for the Youth Group.
If you know of anyone with one (secondhand or new), please can you
let the Parish Office know. Thank you.

LENT APPEAL 2016

WILL YOU SUPPORT FAMILIES
WHO ARE BEING PERSECUTED
BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH?

This year the Bishop of London has asked all parishes in the Diocese to support the Diocesan Lenten Appeal. The Bishop writes: *"It is clear that sadly there is no imminent end to the systematic and harsh persecution of the Christian Church in Iraq and Syria. A tragedy of historic proportions is unfolding and there is a threat to the very survival of the Christian population in some of the most ancient homelands of our faith."*

The Diocesan Lenten Appeal is supporting two charities. In Syria the charity is *Open Doors* which provides emergency food supplies and hygiene kits. In Iraq the charity being supported is *Aid to the Church in Need* which focuses on urgent need for housing and medicine to enable the Church to maintain its Christian presence. Further information can be found in the leaflets in the church or at www.london.anglican.org/lentappeal

Information on Aid to the Church in Need: www.acnuk.org

Information on Open Doors: www.opendoors.org

We, at St Martin's will be holding a mini Fair on Mothering Sunday, March 6th, raising money to support the London Diocese Lenten Appeal.



New Chair of CARA

Margaret Cunningham is the new chair of the local Residents Association (CARA) here she introduces the guest speaker at the annual dinner held in St Martin's Church Hall on Thursday 28th January.



Shrove Tuesday....

The Shrove Tuesday pancake party held in the vicarage on 9th February. Pancakes were made and tossed ... and eaten!



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Britta Snodgrass whose funeral was taken by the vicar and Margaret Jones on Thursday 4th February at Mortlake Crematorium. Older members will remember Britta and her late husband Nick who were members of our congregation for many years until they moved to Brentford.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

will begin on Tuesday 1st March 2016

ending on Thursday 31st March 2016

Electoral Rolls forms are available from the Parish Office
or can be found at the back of the church.

At a **meeting of parishioners** in the Church Hall on
Sunday, 24th April 2016 at 11.15am
for the purpose of electing Churchwardens.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place in the
Church Hall on **Sunday, 24th April 2016 at 11.15am**
for the election of twelve parochial representatives
to serve on the Parochial Church Council.



Notices that were lost in translation!!

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.



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Bishop of Guinea visits

The Rt Rev'd Jacques Boston, Bishop of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, West Africa visited us for 2 days in February. The Bishop is seen here with some parishioners at a party in the vicarage when he gave a

presentation about the recent Ebola crisis and the churches' response. Although Guinea is Francophone and Guinea-Bissau formerly Portuguese the Anglicans were there first. Nevertheless the Bishop has a diocese bigger than the entire British Isles!

† †

On message in February

"What is the difference between a spell and a prayer?" This is one of two questions on this subject that the group tackled on 14th February. Is prayer only a kind of sophisticated or evolved spell concerned essentially with ensuring that God responds to our needs? The group thought that God does answer prayer although that answer may be in the negative, and that unlike spells which are designed to effect a specific outcome for the person who is casting the spell, prayer is about building and deepening our relationship with God. It is a conversation rather than a demand. Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God just as we share together when we talk with friends.

Our other topic is particularly timely, asking whether Christians should campaign to stay in or out of the European Union at the forthcoming referendum. Interestingly the group had divergent opinions on this political question, some in favour of staying in the EU and some in favour of leaving. These are political, economic and social decisions and it was clear that Christians would not automatically agree on them. However it was clear that we believed that Christians had a duty to be responsibly involved because our faith is always something which must connect with the wider world. Christ calls us to render to Caesar what is Caesar's and this is not a call to avoid politics but to recognise that we are members of a society which needs our input as Christians, seeking always to discern that which best expresses the love and compassion of God in every situation. Our hope in this instance is for the two sides in the debate to provide the information that we need to make our decision, and that we will find the grace and strength to respect one another in our differences.

Robbie Pearson.

Recent Baptisms....

The Burton family



The Burton family have been associated with St Martin's for many years and it was a pleasure to christen two new arrivals Cressida Fox & Edward James Benedict, pictured here with their parents, godparents and grandparents. *Nicholas*

"I attended Sunday School in the 1950s and was confirmed at St Martins (1960s), later Neil and James were christened (1970s)– again jointly. Then of course James and Jenny were married there in 2013. Not a bad record for the Burton clan. *Jill Burton*"

Dylan Stote



Dylan Fox Stote was christened at St Martin's on Sunday 24th January. Pictured here with his parents Richard and Kate and godparents and grandparents.

Billy Shakespeare



Billy Shakespeare was Christened on Sunday 31st January at the 10am Candlemas All Age service. Here he is pictured with his parents and godparents.

Charlotte Phinn



Charlotte Suzu Phinn was Christened at the Parish Communion on Sunday 7th February. Here she is pictured with her parents Matthew and Misato and her godparents Richard and Elizabeth.

Ken celebrates 70 years!



Ken Bartram cuts his 70th birthday cake and gives a speech at St Martin's on Sunday 24th January.



Nicholas as guest speaker at Muslim College.



The vicar was a distinguished guest and speaker at the Muslim College (in Creffield Road) annual graduation ceremony for first degree and MA students. He is pictured here with students and staff on the morning of Saturday 23rd January. The vicar also lectures at the college as a contributor their world faiths module.

Beethoven's Vienna



A Spring concert of choral music
by Haydn, Salieri, Mozart,
Hummel, Schubert.... and Beethoven



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Welcome Packs for the Women's Refuge

Once again, the residents and staff at the women's refuge have asked me to send their thanks to the congregation of St Martin's church.

In 2015 we supplied them with 31 laundry baskets containing towels, toiletries, nappies, underwear etc. At our Christingle service we were pleased to welcome Lyndsey who is manager of the refuge and she told us of the pleasure that the new residents get when they receive their gifts and also learn that we as a community are concerned for the women and children who find themselves in such distressing circumstances.

I was recently told about one of the residents at the refuge who was told by her husband to go to the corner shop and buy him some cigarettes "and take those annoying brats with you". The woman who had endured a long abusive relationship, went with her children to the shop, but when she arrived outside, she looked over her shoulder to check that she was not being followed and then hurried straight along the High Street, glancing behind from time to time, until she arrived at the Police Station. She therefore arrived at the refuge with only the clothes that she and her 2 children were wearing. She was one of the residents who received a welcome pack from St Martins's.

Thank you very much to all those kind members of our congregation who have continued to place toiletries, magazines and other gifts in the box at the back of the church. You can be assured that all the gifts are put to practical use.

Margaret Jones



Confirmation 2016

The Confirmation Service will take place on

Sunday 16th October at 10am.

If you would like to be Confirmed please contact the Parish Office.

The adult preparation course will take place during

September and October.

There will be a course of 5 sessions on Sundays 11.15am – 12.30pm

News of former parishioner...



Mrs Kuan Finch who is now living with her daughter Katrina in East London returned to St Martin's to see the Book of Remembrance which commemorates her late husband Norman.

She is pictured here with her family on Tuesday 2nd February the Feast of Candlemas.



The Japanese Anglican Church at St Martin's



The Japanese Anglican Church (UK) held a meeting in the Parish Room on the afternoon of 7th February to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Tsunami and Earthquake that struck North-Eastern Japan in 2011. At the meeting a Power Point presentation was made and photographs shown showing progress made in rehabilitating the country.



St Martin's Foundation Lecture

On **17th March at 8pm on Thursdays** in the Parish Room
(entrance via Parish Office, to rear of Church Hall)

How to 'read' the English Country Church.



The Rev'd Dr. Nicholas Henderson tells us how cultural, religious and social changes over the centuries have shaped our churches in stone, wood, glass and art.

Church Rotas for March

Rotas for 10am service

6th March Mothering Sunday service

Sidespeople: Mary Cook & John Holt

Readings: To be announced

13th March Lent 5 Isaiah 43: 16-21 John 12: 1-8

Sidespeople: Angela Doe & John Beastall

1st reading: Michaela

Gospel: John B

Intercessor: Sam Boundy

Our Choir and Ken, our Director of Music

The work of the Children's Society

All who live or work in Oakley Avenue or Bloomsbury Close

Junior Church: Jim & Bryony

20th March Palm Sunday

Sidespeople: John Wilson & Emma Stehlin

Intercessor: Margaret Jones

Our clergy, Nicholas, Brandy and Rob

The work of the Mission to Seafarers

All who live or work in Rosemont Road or Twyford Avenue

Junior Church: Emma & Rachel

27th March Easter Sunday

Sidespeople: John Wilson & Emma Stehlin

Intercessor: Clergy

Christians everywhere



Flower Rota

19th February – 2nd March

Angela North

4th March – 16th March

Betty Anderson

18th March – 30th March

Tara Bramwell & Camilla Reid

Don't forget to water your flowers every 3-4 days. Many thanks.

Camilla

St Martin's, West Acton, London



The Parish of St Martin Hale Gardens, London 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 Family Service will be on Mothering Sunday: March 6th.

The 'On-Message' Group meets every second Sunday of the month.

Over coffee the group discusses various issues for Christians.

The next meeting will be March 13th at 11.15am

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 at 11.30am

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