

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

June 2016

50p



The birth of John the Baptist (June 24th)

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 John Wilson
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 14th June.

The July magazine will be on sale by 26th June.

Cover: © Jozef Sedmark | Dreamstime.com

The birth of St. John the Baptist scene on the windowpane in St. George's Anglican Church (19th century), Jerusalem.

Midsummer – can Christmas be far behind?



A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy written by William Shakespeare between 1590 and 1597, portrays the events surrounding the marriage of Theseus, the Duke of Athens to Hippolyta. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors (the rude mechanicals) who are controlled and manipulated by the fairies that inhabit the forest in which most of the play is set.

The play is one of Shakespeare's most popular works for the stage and is widely performed across the world.

Not to be outdone our own Players and Music Societies will be jointly holding their 'Midsummer Madness' evening on Friday 24th June in the Church Hall.

Of course many people understandably think that Midsummer's Day is the longest day or summer solstice, which falls depending on the year between 20th and 22nd June. However, this isn't the case. Midsummer marks the Feast of St John the Baptist, which is always on 24th June and is (deliberately) six months away from Christmas – there's nothing like planning ahead! Christians have long interpreted the life of John the Baptist as a preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. The circumstances of his birth, as recorded in the New Testament are miraculous and John's pivotal place is seen in the emphasis the Gospel of Luke (Chapter 1) gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself.

These liturgical events, of which Shakespeare was well aware, are placed to give us a sense of direction and order to the Christian year. In our case we are on the cusp of the summer holidays, in the examination season, and hopefully enjoying some nice weather. As such, dare I say, that they stand as a useful allegory of life itself with all its ups and downs?

That being said every day is actually post the biblical events not least

after the resurrection and ascension and the event of Pentecost. It is our faith and belief that Christ as a result is always with us whatever the circumstances – that's worth celebrating whether it's Midsummer or whenever.

Nicholas



Catherine Southon to come to St Martin's for her first valuation day in London



Catherine Southon, a familiar face on many of the popular BBC Antiques programmes, will be visiting St Martin's, Hale Gardens, West Acton W3 9SQ on **Tuesday, 28th June 2016 from 10 am to 1.30 pm.**

It's a great opportunity for all locals to bring along their treasures and have an antiques expert give a valuation. Whether you have always been wondering, if an heirloom was worth more than you thought or if the vase you

bought for a bargain price at a jumble sale is really far more valuable, Catherine will be able to give you some answers. One of her most exciting finds at a recent valuation day was the discovery of a Fabergé photo frame – the owner had no idea of its value and was overjoyed to hear that it will be worth about £12,000 at auction.

Catherine has over 20 years experience as a generalist antiques expert and when she is not busy filming another BBC Antiques series, she is running her own auction house with valuations in Bromley and the four auctions a year are held at Farleigh Court Golf Course, South Croydon. She will be joined by her colleague Barbara Dixon, who is a jewellery expert, and has a close connection to the Parish.

There is no limit on items brought in for valuation, items can range from glass, ceramics, paintings, jewellery, textiles, silver to other works of art. Catherine will be offering her valuation services for free and donations will be going to St Martin's.

Coming this month

Thursday 9th June: 8pm Reflection Group

Sunday 19th June:

Prayer Support Group (after 10am service)

Thursday 23rd June: 8pm Reflection Group

Sunday 26th June:

2pm Kumamoto Charity Concert

In aid of the Japanese Tsunami Fund

Organised by the Japanese Anglican Church (UK)



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St Martin's Players & Music Society
present their Annual
Revue and Music Evening
in St Martin's Church Hall
7. 30pm – 11pm Midsummer's Night
Friday 24th June 2016



**Supper, music, dancing raffle
& entertainment**
£15.00 (includes two course meal)
£7.50 concessions.
Profits to Diocese of Guinea Fund

Prayer Study Action

A Prayer Support Group for St Martin's

If you were at St Martin's for Pentecost, wearing your red outfits, you may have noticed that I was not there. That was because I spent the weekend at St Katherine's Foundation as a spiritual advisor for a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is a lay led movement that runs short courses to grow leaders in the Church, here in the Diocese of London and worldwide. It encourages people to the life of a disciple. (Cursillo just means "Little course" in Spanish, where it originated). To quote a Cursillo leaflet:

"Cursillo is one way of being a disciple. It is based on a simple discipline of prayer, study and action. Its purpose is to support the church in its mission of growing disciples.

An ancient Christian practice is to meet with friends in small groups for mutual support, encouragement and growth. The Cursillo approach, using prayer, study and action, is built on this and is practiced widely across the Anglican Church."

In his classic Christian book, "Mere Christianity" C S Lewis wrote:

"...the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men [and women] into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose."

There are always tasks to be undertaken in a church, whether we are on the PCC, priests, servers, arranging flowers or picking up litter, so that is easy to overlook the core reason why we are here, in Lewis's words, to become little Christs – in other words to grow as disciples.

This sounds very daunting. It is not a short term task, but the work of a lifetime. While I would encourage people to explore the idea of taking part in a Cursillo weekend (talk to Rob or me if you want to know more) – I am keen to offer a short monthly reflection group, looking at our lives as Christians in terms of prayer, study and action to enable us to grow as disciples. I'm calling it a Prayer Support Group. My idea is to meet together for about half an hour after the Sunday service, generally on the third Sunday of the month, to share as much or as little as we wish.

Your first opportunity will be on **Sunday June 19th** after the 10am service. If I have piqued your interest, I will be putting together a useful leaflet to help us get started. Let's give it a go!

Brandy Pearson

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Recent Baptisms



The Christening of Martha and Elliot Marsland took place at the 10am Parish Communion on Sunday 17th April. Pictured here with their parents Tom and Vicky and their godparents.



Sunday 1st May saw us celebrate Rogation and Ascension and we baptised baby Taite Thomas Driscoll new son of Gary and Donna Driscoll longstanding members of St Martin's. They are pictured here together with Taite's godparents and the vicar.

Congratulations to



Congratulations to Tara Bramwell for raising £300 through 'Just Giving' for Cancer Research UK by running the London Marathon in a very respectable 4 hours 50 minutes – thanks to all those parishioners who supported her.

Picture taken on the finishing line outside Buckingham Palace.

Also

Congratulations to Emma Stehlin (centre bottom row) and her husband Johnnie (top left) who have just completed the 'Tough Mudder' fitness and assault course involving a gruelling race through obstacles (including swimming along muddy ditches!) for charity. Emma at the time of writing has raised over £500.00 which she is giving to St Martin's to give in turn to the charities that we support.



And a 'Thank You'



an extract from their letter..

"Dear Dr [Margaret] Jones and everyone at St Martin's Church

Thank you for your church's donation of £400 to the work of Send a Cow. Please pass on our thanks for helping to transform lives."

For more information on this charity go to www.sendacow.org

😊 Welcome back Ken 😊



Ken Bartram our Director of Music returns to duties after a period of illness. Pictured here seated centre in blue shirt with members of the congregation.



The Reflection Group



A lovely Iranian tea was enjoyed by St Martins reflections group last month.

The next meeting of the Reflection Group will be on Thursday 9th June - contact John Beastall or Bryony Dean Franklin if you'd like to come along!

Looking after our Archives



Mary Sorensen is our parish archivist who regularly saves material charting the life and work of St Martin's in our archive. She is the author of our substantial history of the parish copies of which are available in hard copy or on DVD from the Parish Office.

Nicholas



Farewell Jeanette as she moves to Antigua



St Martin's said goodbye on Sunday 22nd May to Jeanette Lovell after 44 years with the church. Here she is pictured cutting her farewell cake and with choir members.

Jeanette has been involved with so many things from the social committee to the Church Council to the choir as well as a host of activities

supporting St Martin's over the years. Now she is retiring home to Antigua and although we shall keep in touch we shall miss her very much.

The Young Ones!



Here are some members of our Junior Church showing the congregation what they had been doing.



Bell Ringers – the next generation

Our new generation of bell ringers at St Martin's.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Jonathan and Maria Jones on the birth of their new son Edward (just five days old in the picture) with their daughter Juliet.

St Martin's Foundation

An educational programme for contemporary Christians

Lectures take place at **8pm on Thursdays** in the Parish Room
(entrance via Parish Office, to rear of Church Hall)



Christianity and The Law 16th June

Laurence Target M.A. is a practising solicitor, parish clerk and churchwarden of St. Mary-at-Hill, London. He is a member of the Ecclesiastical Law Society; and of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners and the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks, and currently Senior Warden of the Billingsgate Ward Club, where St. Mary-at-Hill is the Ward Church. Laurence has published legal precedents, a book about commonhold, and articles about law in the legal process; also articles about poetry, and about or of theology, in *The Spectator*, *The Independent* and *The Heythrop Journal*.



Who do you say I am? Explorations into Christianity 15th September

The Rev'd Rob Pearson, Resident Priest at St Martin's asks: How should the church represent Christ to the world in the 21st century, with especial reference to the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion?

St Martin's Foundation describes all our educational activities for the church year

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

What to buy for Ealing Foodbank?



Our mission is that when someone comes to us in food crisis, we are able to give them enough to feed themselves and their whole family, breakfast, lunch and dinner for **THREE DAYS**. Naturally, we never want to waste anything that is donated, but sometimes we are given things that we just can't use or give away.

So, here are some guidelines to help you shop!

All food must be:

Long life - at least 6 months shelf life

Small sizes are best (max 1kg)

Check the shopping list to see what we need!!



We have a large supply of certain foods, so **DON'T REQUIRE:**

Dry pasta - any shape

Baked beans or other pulses

Tinned tomatoes

Vegetable soup



We cannot accept:

Fresh or frozen foods

Out of date foods

Opened or used packets

Catering or 'family' size packs

Alcohol



This Month's shopping list:

- Milk (UHT & dried)
- Long life fruit juice
- Sweet biscuits
- Savoury biscuits
- Instant Coffee
- Cook-in Sauce (jars)
- Shampoo (no conditioner)



Visit our website:
www.ealing.foodbank.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/EalingFoodbank/

Thank you Angela

After many years of faithful service as an altar server at St Martin's Angela Doe stood down on Sunday 24th April. Pictured here with the vicar she will now continue her role as a sidesperson.



Nicholas



Our Coffee Team

Our Sunday morning coffee is an essential part of our ministry. Here is Fiona Stuart (right in black dress) our rota organiser pictured with Rachel Weikel and their two sons both named Samuel.



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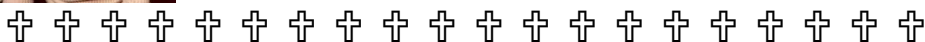
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Rest in Peace



We were sad to learn of the death of Pat Richardson aged 89 who for many years was member of the then St Martin's Women's Group. Her funeral was on 12th May and was conducted by the vicar. Our best wishes go to Mandy and Neil her children.



Sadly Elaine Roberts has died. She was the much loved mother of Lynette and a member of St Martin's and the Wednesday Coffee Club.



Windows on the Divine

Meditations on the stories and symbols of four famous pictures - *Revd. Brandy Pearson*

2.00pm Tuesdays in the Parish Room
St Martin's West Acton, Hale Gardens W3



June 7th
The Light of the World
by William Holman Hunt



June 14th
Christ of St John of the Cross
by Salvador Dali

Results of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting



The APCM took place after the 10am Parish Communion on Sunday 24th April. Representatives elected as follows:

Churchwardens:

Liza Ambridge John Wilson

Deanery Synod representatives who sit *ex officio* on the PCC

Elected in 2015 for three years:

John Wilson Sam Boundy

Bryony Franklin (who is also on the Diocesan Synod)

Church Council members:

Angela North Jonathan Jones

Jeremy Thorpe Woods Lyndon Plant

Benjamin Mason Shelley Merrick

Emma Stehlin Lynette Armstrong

James Hyde Margaret Jones (Representative Reader)

Tara Bramwell Amy Page

Ecumenical representatives:

Lynne Armstrong Jackie Nicholls



Guest Preacher on June 5th.



There will be a guest preacher at the 10am Parish Communion on Sunday 5th June. The preacher will be Josephine Hart of Hope UK. This is a Christian charity that helps young people to avoid drug and other addictions by raising awareness and educational development.



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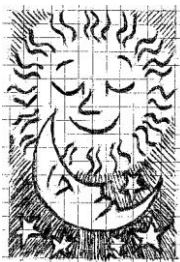
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As part of our community scheme, please mention St Martin's church and we will donate £100 for every fee generating instruction for sales or lettings.

(Terms apply – please speak to our office).



FIVE FAMOUR PRAYERS – 2. THE CANTICLE OF THE SUN

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!
All praise is yours, all glory, all honour,
and all blessing.
To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.
No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
and clouds and storms, and all the weather,
through which you give your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water;
she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten the night.
He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth,
who feeds us and rules us,
and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you;
through those who endure sickness and trial.
Happy those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whose embrace no living person can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those she finds doing your most holy will.
The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks,
and serve him with great humility.

Context/History



The ***Canticle of the Sun*** is a religious song composed by Saint Francis of Assisi. It was written in the Umbrian dialect of Italian but has since been translated into many languages. It is believed to be among the first works of literature, if not the first, written in the Italian language.

Saint Francis is said to have composed most of the canticle in late 1224 while recovering from an illness at San Damiano, in a small cottage that had been built for him by Saint Clare and other women of her order. According to tradition, the first time it was sung in its entirety was by Francis and Brothers Angelo and Leo, two of his original companions, on Francis' deathbed, the final verse praising "Sister Death" having been added only a few minutes before. Historically, the "Canticle of the Sun" is first mentioned in the *Vita Prima* of Thomas of Celano, in 1228.

Meditation and Questions

The Canticle of the Sun in its praise of God thanks Him for such creations as "Brother Fire" and "Sister Water". It is an affirmation of Francis' personal theology as he often referred to animals as brothers and sisters to Mankind, rejected material accumulation and sensual comforts in favour of "Lady Poverty".

Consider the world that God has given us to live in. What is our place in the created world? How much do we appreciate the earth? How might we take better care of it?

Prayer Suggestions

Pray this in the park, or in your garden, or just sitting by the window looking out at the sky

Go for a walk in the country, or by a canal, or along the Thames, taking the prayer with you.

Find some coloured pencils or felt tip pens and paper and draw the sun and the moon and all our brothers and sisters in Francis' prayer

A well-known version of this prayer is "All creatures of our God and King". The one who sings prays twice!

The Great War – 100 years on

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

Leo Edwards' parents, Stephen and Agnes, most likely met and married in South America. This assumption is made as there are no records of either of them between 1871 and 1891. Census records show that in 1871 they were both single while in 1891 they were married and living in Christchurch, Hampshire with two sons. Their eldest son, William, was born in Chile in 1886, while their second son Leo, was born in 1890 in Redruth, Cornwall. Stephen was a Civil and Mechanical Engineer, working for a while in a Tin Mine. By 1891 the family was living at Montrose Villa, Christchurch Road, Christchurch.

By 1901 they had moved to 17 Lyndhurst Gardens, Ealing and at this time William was at boarding school in Bramley. They had moved to 31 Creffield Road by 1911. The father had now retired and William was now a bank clerk with Leo a Clerk in an Accountants office.

Leo Edwards enlisted with the Honourable Artillery Company in 1914. Searching through the Army records it is unsure when he was transferred to the Norfolk Regiment. It is while he was in the Norfolk Regiment that he was promoted to Second Lieutenant. From this point on details are very sketchy. Unusually, Army records state he "died" rather than "killed in action". Records show that his battalion was deployed to the Western Front, though during the month he died there were no major battles.

My surmise is that Leo was killed during a skirmish between battles. His body was not recovered from the field. The death of **Leo Edwards** is recorded on June 8th, 1916, aged 27. His name is inscribed on the Arras Memorial in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, France. The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified. The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the UK, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and August 1918, and who have no known grave.

By the time the Arras Memorial was unveiled the family had moved to 8 The Common, Ealing. Leo's father died in 1927, his mother in 1937 and his brother in 1957.

100 years after his sacrifice:
We remember him.

June Rotas for 10am service

5th June Trinity 2

Sidespeople: Michela Antonello & Brenda Ward

After-service Coffee: Bryony Franklyn & Rosemary Milne

12th June Trinity 3

Sidespeople: Mary Cook & John Holt

19th June Trinity 5

Sidespeople: Angela Doe & John Beastall

Junior Church: Rachel & Zuzana

26th June Trinity 6

Sidespeople: John Wilson & Emma Stehlin

Junior Church: Michela & Nadine



Flower Rota

27th May – 8th June

Susie Thorpe-Woods

10th June – 22nd June

Tara Bramwell

24th June – 6th July

Angela North

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

Camilla



Bishop of London thanks St Martin's

Following the Diocesan Lent Appeal, the Bishop of London wrote to all contributing parishes thanking them for their contribution.

The bishop wrote to Nicholas acknowledging the £200 we sent to the Diocesan Lent Appeal. The Diocese collected a total of £37,133.77 from the parishes.

The money will be distributed to two charities, *Aid to the Church in Need* (in Iraq) and *Open Doors* (in Syria). The charities are supporting families in those countries who are being persecuted because of their faith.

There is a certificate, from the Bishop, displayed in the porch in acknowledge of our contribution.

St Martin's, West Acton, London



The Parish of St Martin Hale Gardens, London 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 Family Service will be on June 12th.

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 June 12th 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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You can donate any amount you wish.