

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

August 2016

50p



Pleasant words are like a honeycomb
Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones

Proverbs 16: 24

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) |

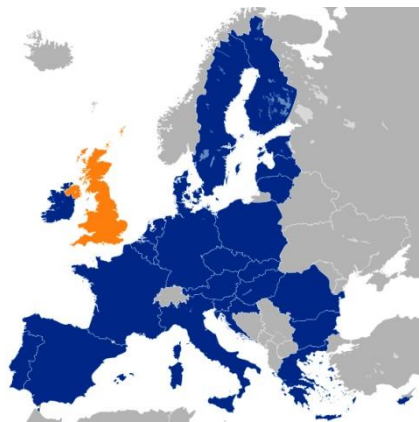
The Vicar is available for consultation and enquiries by appointment.
Please ring the Parish Office.

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 15th August.

The September magazine will be on sale by 28th August.

Après nous le déluge



Après nous le déluge – After us the deluge.

This is a French expression attributed to the Marquise de Pompadour. The expression has two possible meanings either 'After me the deluge will come' or possibly 'I don't care what happens after I've gone'. The phrase 'Après moi le déluge' was adopted as the motto of the Royal Air Force 617 Squadron that carried out the famous

'dambuster' raids in September 1943.

I thought that a continental flavour was required for this August as we are now not only in the holiday season but post the bruising 'Brexit' referendum.

Whilst the former will certainly mean more expensive holidays abroad because of the falling pound the latter, whichever side you were on, will mean years of negotiation and uncertainty ahead. In this case 'après nous le déluge' takes on a certain poignancy.

Our Christian Faith is of considerable historical provenance and takes us back some two thousand years during which time kingdoms have risen and fallen, circumstances have changed and the world has often been tipped upside down. In this respect our Faith is essential. It reminds us that we are citizens of this world and subjects of the next with Jesus Christ as king and Saviour.

It is interesting that the Bible is couched in terms of the perfect kingdom, which Jesus preached and towards which we aspire. God's perfect state, which includes, peace, justice, love and so on is quite unlike the world with all its failings. However, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't engage with real life, everyday existence and yes the really difficult questions of the day – including the ongoing consequences of Brexit. Après nous le deluge!

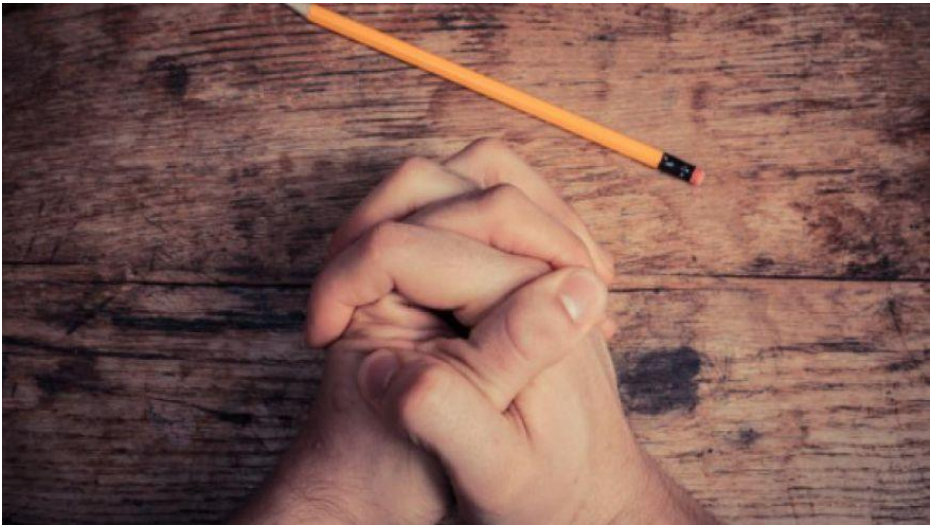
Nicholas

St Martin's Prayer Support Group

A short monthly reflection group,
looking at our lives as Christians in terms of

Prayer Study & Action

to enable us to grow as Christian disciples.
We will meet together for about half an hour
in church after the Sunday service,
generally on the third Sunday of the month,
to share as much or as little as we wish.

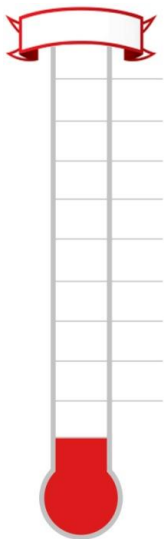


Future dates:

Aug 21st – Sept 18th – Oct 16th – Nov 20th – Dec 18th
after the 10am service.

If you are interested, I have put together a useful leaflet.
Brandy Pearson

Mend the roof for a rainy day



£17,500

Our goal

THANK
YOU!

It may feel like we have had more than our fair share of rainy days already but we need to take action now to prevent the elements taking a serious toll on the fabric of the church.

The area of flat roof over the hallway, toilets and kitchen between the church and the church hall is allowing water to pool and we have been advised that without prompt action it will begin to leak. Ellen West has volunteered to start a group to raise the money required - a grand total of £17,500. Please do offer what support you can. Ellen can be contacted via the Parish Office.

Ellen will be calling on you for ideas and actions over the coming months.



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Road of Hope

Thank you to Nicholas for hosting the Road of Hope concert and giving the address and prayers. It was a great afternoon with lovely music and a nice big audience in the beautiful church. A big thank you to Jackie and the church people who kindly helped us.



The photograph shows the ensemble of performers at the Road of Hope Concert on the afternoon of Sunday 26th June in St Martin's. Organised as a charity event to raise funds for Japanese earthquake victims by our own Japanese Anglican Church (UK) which meets in St Martin's the total raised was over £1,530.



Michael Franks at 70

Michael Franks celebrates his 70th birthday with the Wednesday Coffee Club.

Michael is our parish administrator.

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FIVE FAMOUS PRAYERS: 4. THE SERENITY PRAYER

God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,

Courage to change the things
which should be changed,

and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.

Living one day at a time,

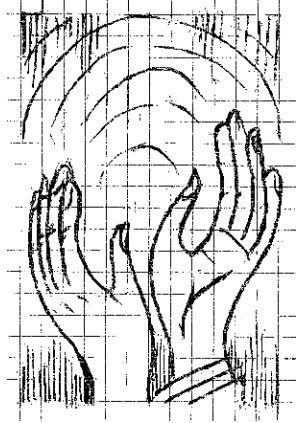
Enjoying one moment at a time,

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,

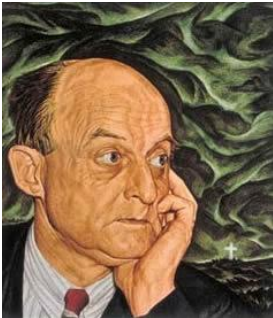
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,

Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.



Context/History



Reinhold Niebuhr (June 21, 1892 – June 1 1971) was an American theologian and commentator on public affairs. Starting as a leftist minister in the 1920s, he shifted to the new Neo-Orthodox theology in the 1930s, explaining how the sin of pride created evil in the world. He attacked utopianism as ineffectual for dealing with reality, writing in *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness* (1944):

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible; but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."

His realism deepened after 1945 and led him to support United States'

efforts to confront Soviet communism around the world. A powerful speaker, he was one of the most influential religious leaders of the 1940s and 1950s in American public affairs. Niebuhr battled with the religious liberals over what he called their naïve views of sin and the optimism of the Social Gospel, and battled with the religious conservatives over what he viewed as their naïve view of Scripture and their narrow definition of "true religion".

His long-term impact involves relating the Christian faith to "realism" in foreign affairs, rather than idealism, and his contribution to modern "just war" thinking. Niebuhr's perspective influenced many liberals, who came to support a "realist" foreign policy. Such recent leaders of American foreign policy as Jimmy Carter, Madeleine Albright, Hillary Clinton, John McCain and Barack Obama have acknowledged Niebuhr's importance to them.

The Serenity Prayer

The earliest established date for a written form of the prayer is Reinhold Niebuhr's inclusion of it in a sermon in 1943, followed closely by its inclusion in a Federal Council of Churches book for army chaplains and servicemen in 1944. Niebuhr himself did not publish the Serenity Prayer until 1951, in one of his magazine columns. Niebuhr himself was quoted in January 1950 as saying the prayer *"may have been spooking around for years, even centuries, but I don't think so. I honestly do believe that I wrote it myself."*

The prayer became more widely known after being brought to the attention of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1941 by an early member. The co-founder, William Griffith Wilson, and the staff liked the prayer and had it printed out in modified form and handed around. It has been part of Alcoholics Anonymous ever since, and has also been used in other Twelve-step programs.

"Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other."

Meditations and Questions

Niebuhr was a theologian whose theology was fully engaged with the times he lived through. What is the theology (words about God) behind your own views of current affairs? How do you believe your faith relates to what is going on in the world? Where do you find God in the world?

It is sometimes said that the church should keep out of politics. Do you believe that is necessary, or possible?

In the Serenity Prayer we are asked to look at the negative aspects of our own lives and decide what can be changed, and what cannot.

How much you would like them to be different? On the other hand, what could you change if you made up your mind?

How could you start to change it? Think of one small step and take it this week.

Prayer suggestions

Spend a little time looking at your newspaper or listening to/watching the news, and try to find where to find Jesus in the stories you read, or listen out for God "speaking" to you.

The Serenity Prayer has long been associated with Alcoholics Anonymous. We may not feel we have an addiction, but we may have things we would like to let go of, bad habits we feel stuck with, things we feel we cannot let go of, or that we rely on too much, that get in the way of us living a better life.

Is there anything in your own life that you feel like this about? Think about this while you say this prayer.

It is sometimes difficult to trust in God, especially when life seems hard. This week, spend some time considering how much you trust in God, asking God for the strength to do God's will in the week ahead, using this prayer:

*"Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,*

*So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next."*

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

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 start in September.

Our Summer Fair



Our annual Summer Fair was held on Sunday 3rd July – it didn't rain.

There were lots of stalls and the hall buzzed with activity.

Some of the fathers try out the Bouncy Castle!



Every one a winner – the vicar pictured with stall holder Ayume Mason – wins a coconut!



Wimbledon was shown live at the Fair – here are some tennis enthusiasts taking time out to watch.

The Fair made a profit of just over £1,800. Many thanks go to Shelley Merrick and her team for making it such a successful event.

The recent Midsummer Madness

From the sketches performed
by The Players



And the entertainment
performed by "The Banned"



To those who enjoyed the meal.



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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).

From the Registers . . .

Rest In Peace

Shirley Fountain died aged 92 on 16th June. Shirley was a former member of St Martin's who moved away to be near her daughters a few years ago.



Yvekim Minasspour, aged 72. Our condolences go to her husband Herand and son Armond

Glynn Hyatt, aged 97.



Welcoming a new member through Baptism

We christened **Scarlet Matrons** on Sunday 10th July. Scarlet is the daughter of Lyndon and Colleen.



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Junior Church News



Michela Palmer is retiring from teaching in Junior Church after a number of years of loyal service.

She is pictured here with the vicar and her son Gabrielli.

Many thanks Michela for this important contribution over the years to our church life.

The Junior Church, Sunday 17th July were all ears. They were demonstrating their understanding of the story of Martha and Mary in the Gospel of Luke.



St Martin’s Foundation

**Who do you say I am?
Explorations into Christianity
Thursday 15th September at 8pm**



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?

Catching up with the news.....



Antonio (pictured far right) was ordained priest on Saturday 25th June at St James' Sussex Gardens by the Bishop at Lambeth, the Rt Rev'd Nigel Stock.

Antonio was connected with St Martin's back in the days when he was an ordinand.



Congratulations to Jill Scott former churchwarden at our previous sister church of All Saints, Ealing Common was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London on Saturday 2nd July at St Paul's Cathedral.

She is pictured here with the vicar at the reception afterwards. Jill will serve her 'title' (early training years) at St Barnabas, Ealing.



Catherine Southon (pictured left at the table with members of the public) antiques expert and television celebrity visited St Martin's on Tuesday 28th June to value any items that the general public brought in.

Thanks to Jackie Nicholls for her tea-making during the day.

CARA celebrations



The vicar attends the local Residents Association summer party at Ealing Tennis Club for the queen's 90th celebrations.

At the same celebration is Margaret Cunningham & the Deputy Mayor. Margaret is the chair of CARA.



Why not visit our new
'Just Giving' website
and sponsor us?

www.justgiving.com/stmartins-west-acton

Rosemary Milne has raised £60 by doing a bike ride.
Thank you Rosemary.

The Great War – 100 years on

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

In 1887 James Hill married widowed Elizabeth Cumming gaining an instant family of Harold and Adeline Cumming. James and Elizabeth were living in Kentish Town. **John Rowland Hill** was born in 1890. The family were living in Islington. A younger sister was born in 1893. Between 1901 and 1911 the family moved to 145 Lynton Road. In the census of 1911 John was described as a "Music Student".

We know that John Hill had enlisted by May 1915, joining the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (13th Battalion). From this point his military service is unclear. He was promoted to Second Lieutenant on 1st January 1916. The 13th Battalion was a Reserve unit.

These Reserve units were used to relieve Service units when they became exhausted. The 13th Battalion therefore saw action in parts of many of the battles that occurred along the Somme. It is unclear which parts of the battle John saw action in.

It is most likely that John Hill lost his life during one of the actions around Delville Wood, though I have not been able to confirm this. The battle of Delville Wood began in late July and continued until September 1916. During this time there were many attacks on the enemy in that area and just as many counter attacks. Many lives were lost on both sides.

On 5th August 1916 Second Lieutenant **John Rowland Hill** was killed in action, aged 26. He is buried in the Sucrerie Military Cemetery near Colincamps, France (Grave: I.F.3). The Allies started burying their dead in that plot of land in the summer of 1915. It was never more than a mile from the front line. The cemetery holds 1,103 graves of Commonwealth soldiers.

Later in August 1916 another parishioner, **Lionel Nicholls**, also lost his life.

Lionel's parents George and Louisa started their married life living in Willesden. Lionel's elder sister was born in 1892 and Lionel in October 1896. A younger sister was born 1899. By April 1911 the census shows they had moved to 33 Chatsworth Gardens. Lionel was attending school.

Lionel is mentioned in the Parish magazine of July 1911. The Vicar, Rev'd Charles Serjeant wrote: *"Our young people who were confirmed last March have very kindly presented me with a little offering in the shape of a Smoker's Cabinet. I suppose they think that, like Sherlock Holmes, a good many new ideas will come to me through the clouds of smoke issuing from the cigar taken from the cabinet drawer. At any rate, if new ideas do not come, I shall get a good deal of comfort and satisfaction out of their kind present and I thank them very heartily for not only the offering but the kind thought that prompted the offering. I also wish to thank Master Lionel Nicholls for the presentation which was made in a true English boy style, left at the house without word or comment. It could not have been better."*

He was listed as being in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps. He enlisted in August 1914 when War was declared and joined the London Regiment. At one point he was attached to the 9th Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles) where he became Lance Corporal. However, it was while he was in the 8th Battalion (Post Office Rifles) that Lionel was promoted to Second Lieutenant on 7th June 1916.

From this point his military service is unclear and I have been unable to determine in which battles he saw action. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has Lionel listed under the Post Office Rifles, but the Army's War Diary of the Post Office Rifles (8th Battalion London Regiment) states:

"August 24: marched to billets at Franvillers.

August 25-30: Battalion remained in billets at Franvillers.

Casualties for the month: Nil"

It seems that he must have been attached to another Battalion in August when he was killed in action. I assume Lionel may have lost his life in battles somewhere along the Somme only to be buried in Dranoutre. The Military Cemetery was used by the Field Ambulances for burials.

Second Lieutenant **Lionel Nicholls** was killed in action on 26th August 1916, aged 20. He is buried in the Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Belgium (Grave: II.G.13).

100 years after their sacrifice:
We remember them.



The Parish of St Martin Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



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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 'On-Message' Group meets every second Sunday of the month.
Over coffee the group discusses various issues for Christians.
The next meeting will be August 14th 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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