

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

September 2016

50p



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 11th September.

The October magazine will be on sale by 24th September.

Back to school, back to work, back to normal?



I've always been a little surprised that August is the principal holiday month in this country. To the best of my memory (admittedly shaky) the month doesn't have the best weather, everyone else is on holiday and the summer hazards of traffic jams, long delays and sometimes strikes seem at their peak.

That being said dare I suggest that a return to 'normal' in the month of September can almost seem welcome? It is true that there is something rather comforting about predictability and the everyday. The familiar in this context is welcome.

Getting something meaningful out of the routine might be at the heart of the way in which our Church liturgy and calendar works.

First, there is the weekly repetition of our Sunday worship. Usually in the form of a Eucharist it comprises of the repetition of prayers, some of which are but modern translations of very ancient texts. Accordingly, they have about them tradition, stability and a comforting certainty. Of course breaking bread and sharing wine is the command that Jesus gave us to do in remembrance of him.

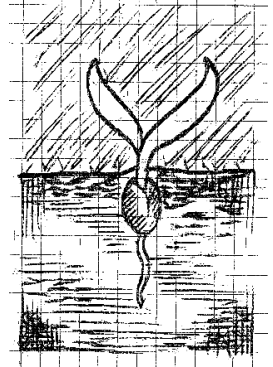
Secondly, there is the pattern of liturgical celebration that takes us through a yearly change of season following the life of Jesus and his ministry. This includes associated folk festivals such as Harvest and Mothering Sunday but primarily the liturgical story ranging from Jesus' birth at Christmas to death and resurrection at Easter.

Lastly, there is our personal journey of faith. This is often best served by persistence and continuity. There is of course much more to our spiritual journey than this alone and it isn't always easy but perhaps September is an excellent time to start again.

Nicholas

FIVE FAMOUS PRAYERS: 5. FROM OSCAR ROMERO

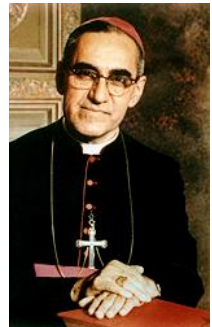
It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime
only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is a way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. Amen



Context/History

Óscar Romero (15 August 1917 – 24 March 1980) was a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador. He became the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador, succeeding Luis Chávez.

As the Archbishop during El Salvador's brutal civil war, Romero became *the "bishop of the poor"* for his work defending the Salvadoran people.



In 1980, in the midst of a U.S. funded war which the UN Truth Commission called genocidal, he promised history that life, not death, would have the last word. *"I do not believe in death without resurrection,"* he said. *"If they kill me, I will be resurrected in the Salvadoran people."*

After calling for international intervention to protect those being killed by government forces, Romero was assassinated on March 24, 1980.

On each anniversary of his death, the people will march through the streets carrying that promise printed on thousands of banners. Mothers will make pupusas (thick tortillas with beans) at 5 a.m., pack them, and prepare the children for a two-to-four hour ride or walk to the city to remember the gentle man they called Monseñor.

Oscar Romero gave his last homily on March 24. Moments before a sharpshooter felled him, reflecting on scripture, he said, *"One must not love oneself so much, as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life that history demands of us, and those that fend off danger will lose their lives."* The homily, however, that sealed his fate took place the day before when he took the terrifying step of publicly confronting the military.

After his assassination, Romero was succeeded by Monsignor Arturo Rivera. In 1997, a cause for beatification and canonization into sainthood was opened for Romero, and Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the title of Servant of God. The canonization process continues. He is considered by some the unofficial patron saint of the Americas and El Salvador and is often referred to as "San Romero" by Catholics in El Salvador.

Romero is also honoured by other religious denominations of Christendom, including the Church of England through the Calendar in Common Worship. He is one of the ten 20th century martyrs who are depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey, a testament to his wide respect beyond the Catholic Church. In 2008, he was chosen as one of the 15 Champions of World Democracy by the Europe-based magazine A Different View.

The prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener wrote a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer."

"The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him."

Meditations and Questions

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Many of us are perfectionists. We have wonderful ideas of what we might do – but find it difficult to start, partly because we are afraid that we might fail and partly because we cannot quite find where to start.

What are the negatives in your own life – which cannot be changed, no matter how?

Do we talk ourselves out of doing something, because we can't do everything?

Are our visions and plans so grand that we don't know where to start – and therefore we do nothing?

Romero became *the "bishop of the poor"* for his work defending the Salvadoran people. Who are the poor? – in this part of London – across London and the Southeast – in the UK – across the world. Look at the material we have from USPG. Find out more about Church Action on Poverty and the Church Urban Fund and other initiatives of our local church.

"One must not love oneself so much, as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life that history demands of us, and those that fend off danger will lose their lives."

How often do we fail to get involved because there is some small threat to our personal security?

How much does this diminish us and our faith?

Prayer suggestions

Read through this prayer. What is your long view of the kingdom of God? What are your visions for the Church, for your neighbourhood, for your own relationship with God?

Pray to find one first step to take – and take it, no matter how small and insignificant a step it may seem to be.

Oscar Romero is a hero to many millions of people. Who are your heroes? Who is the saint whose life and works mean most to you?

Brandy Pearson



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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).

Donations for the Women's Refuge

Our local women's refuge has accommodation for women and their children who are fleeing from domestic violence. There is a constant turnover of new women and so far this year, we have provided 20 baskets full of toiletries, towels etc. We aim to provide each new resident with some basic needs for hygiene and washing. The baskets contain toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, shower gel, deodorant and tissues, hand cream, new underpants, nappies and babywipes as well new towels.

The refuge would like to thank all its friends in St Martin's who have generously donated to its work over the years. They remind us that there is a continuous need for fresh supplies and I am once again asking for donations. These can be given to me or placed in the box at the back of the church.

A reminder that Harvest Festival at St Martin's is on 2nd October and all donations then will go to the women's refuge.

Margaret Jones



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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:

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



Nextdoor Creffield is a new free private social network for our area.

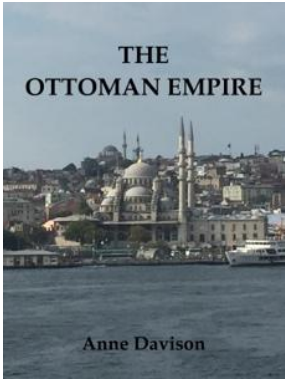
It is being used to bring the community together,
share recommendations for local traders and businesses, run events,
discuss local crime and safety, sell or give away unwanted goods
and much more.

Join at creffield.nextdoor.co.uk

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NEW PUBLICATION: The Ottoman Empire



The history of the Ottoman Empire, as with most Empires, is complex. It is also a history that is little understood by the general public. At the same time there are many events that occurred within the context of Ottoman history that the general reader may be quite familiar with: for example, the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Crimean War in 1853, the Battle of Gallipoli or exploits of Lawrence of Arabia during the First World War.

This book begins with the arrival of the Turkic tribes into Anatolia in the 13th century and covers the main events up to and including the dissolution of the Empire in 1923. The final part of the book explores the link between today's conflicts in the Middle East and the peace process following the First World War, in particular the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Balfour Declaration and the Treaty of Sevres.

Although all Ottoman history is fascinating, the period from the 18th century onwards is particularly important in relation to the making of today's Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Equally, if not more importantly, is the period from the First World War and the dissolution of the Empire. A better understanding of this last period could help many people make more sense of the complex situation in the Middle East today.

Paperback copies available from St Martin's Office at £6.00, £1.00 of which will go to Parish funds.



John Wilson our churchwarden delivers emergency supplies of pens for our Gift Aid envelopes.

Don't forget to use the yellow envelopes and Gift Aid your donations as we can claim tax back on them at no cost to you.

The Hall Kitchen

The vicar pictured in the Church Hall kitchen – now badly in need of renovation (the kitchen that is) we have been lucky enough to gain a £10,000 lottery grant – many thanks to Rosemary Milne for her hard work in making the application for us and to Phil Barnes as project manager.



This is part of some of the essential works that we need to undertake in the near future. The 32.5 K fund, under the direction of Ellen West, will over the coming months seek to raise monies for the renewal of the Hall lobby roof and the upgrade of the church electrical system.

Phil Barnes is making a thermometer for us to monitor progress.



Future Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd October:

10am Harvest Festival

Followed by our Harvest Lunch

Sunday 16th October:

10am Confirmation Service

Conducted by the Bishop of Willesden



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

<https://www.justgiving.com/stmartins-west-acton>

St Martin's Foundation

Lectures take place at **8pm on Thursdays** in the Parish Room



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?

Could the Old Testament be described as Christian? 17th November



Exploring the relationship between the Hebrew and Christian
Bibles, the way in which the latter borrows from and alludes to
the former, and how Christians came to reinterpret Jewish
scripture. Barry Phillips-Devaney has worked in prison
chaplaincy for fifteen years, and is currently a Roman Catholic
chaplain at HMPYOI Feltham.

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From the registers.

Simon Claxton and Claire Mccarran were married in St Martin's on the afternoon of Saturday 6th August. They are pictured here with the vicar.



Christening at St Martin's at the 10am Parish Communion Sunday 7th August. Luca Peter Terry Mohess son of Luke and Laura pictured here with the vicar and two godparents Olivia Updraft and Peter Morris. Luca's mother Laura was also baptised at the service.



Christening of Alexandra Molly Mount daughter of James and Victoria pictured here with the godparents Rachel Charlotte and Peter, Sunday 14th August



News in brief...



The Vicar lectured to Ealing National Trust in Ealing Town Hall on Wednesday 10th August. His subject was 'Whatever happened after Henry VIII?'.

He is pictured here before the lecture with the Chair Margaret Martin.



Karen Staartje's mother, Kazia, celebrated her 90th birthday in August. She is pictured here with Karen, her granddaughter Lucy and son in law Hans.



Liza Ambridge arranges the mid August flowers for St Martin's.

We always have lovely flowers whatever the season so many thanks to Camila Reid and her dedicated team.

If you would like to join the team, speak to Camilla Reid.

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The Great War – 100 years on

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

The Thiepval Memorial has over 72,250 names inscribed upon it of men who killed in action and have no known grave. Four of those names are parishioners who lost their lives in September 1916.

Douglas William Prout was born on 28th May, 1891. He was the youngest of four children of William and Jessie. Douglas early childhood was in Sawbridgeworth near Bishop Stortford. By 1911 the two elder boys had left home and married, while Douglas, his elder sister and parents had moved to 36 Madeley Road, Ealing. Douglas was employed as a Bank Clerk.

Douglas seems to have enlisted early in the War as *The London Gazette* shows he was transferred from a Reserve to a Service Battalion on 27th November 1914 with the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He saw action on the Western Front. The Battle of the Somme consisted of many small but significant battles. Many regiments were moved from one battle area to another as the need arose and I haven't yet found the Battalion War Diaries. Some battles started in one area and seemed to move to another. There were attacks ranging from High Wood to Delville Wood (each with their own battles) and along the Thiepval Ridge. One battle was around the village of Pozieres. It is likely that Douglas lost his life in one of the stages of this battle. The battle for Pozieres is described in some histories as an epic in its own right due to the heavy German defence. It was also recorded as being one of the costliest battles during that period in 1916. Pozieres and Thiepval were finally captured by Allied forces by the end of September.

Douglas Prout was killed in action. His death was recorded as 3rd September 1916. His body was never recovered from the battlefield and his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial.

Eric John Cecil Sear, born July 1893 in Plymouth, was the youngest son of Alfred and Emily. His elder brother, Duncombe, survived the war. Eric was born into a Naval family with his father a Clerk in the Admiralty Office. Alfred, his father, died in 1896 and his mother with the two sons had to move in with her sister and brother-in-law living at Waverley Place, St John's Wood. By April 1911 Emily and Eric had moved to 2 Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing. They were now living with Emily's mother; Eric was employed as a Bank Clerk.

By the beginning of 1914 Eric had joined the Army. P&O passenger lists show that on 6th February 1914 Eric sailed from the Port of London on his way to Bombay, India. He sailed first class on the "Mongolia" to Sydney, Australia. By 2nd May 1914 Eric was aboard the next ship, on his way to India. He was in the Bombay Volunteer Rifles attached to the Indian Cavalry Division. Army records show that during his service in India he became a Corporal and was transferred to the Royal Engineers as a Motor Cyclist Despatch Rider. On 4th August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany. *The London Gazette* records that he was transferred to the Welsh Regiment with the rank of Second Lieutenant on 29th August 1915. The Regiment was sent to the Western Front.

The 2nd Battalion Welsh Regiment War Diary records: *"On September 8th the Battalion relieved the South Wales Borderers in HIGH WOOD and delivered an attack upon the enemy front line in the wood in conjunction with 1st Gloucesters who attacked on the left. The preliminary bombardment commenced at noon ... B and C companies led the assault with D company in close support and A company reserve carrying company. An entry into the hostile trench was effected on the right and three platoons of B company and a part of D company occupied about 120 yards of enemy front line. C company and the left of B and D companies were held up by hostile machine-gun fire on the left. They made two unsuccessful attempts to get across and suffered heavy casualties. ... They fought tenaciously but only managed to retain a part of the communication trench which they had dug out to the trench they had taken. The 1st Gloucesters on the left were held up by hostile machine-gun fire excepting about 30 men led by their Commanding Officer and these were forced to retire almost immediately after gaining their objective. The Battalion suffered the following casualties: Capt Hayman and 21 other ranks killed. Lieuts Brockington and White, 2nd Lieuts Price, **Sear** and Capt Turnbull and 43 other ranks missing."*

Eric Sear was killed in action on the 8th September. His body was never recovered and his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial.

The Draisey family had always lived in Acton. Edwin Snr lived with his parents in Horn Lane Acton. **Edwin Rowland Watts Draisey** was born on 23rd September 1894, the second of six children by Edwin (Snr) and Annie. He was baptised in St Mary's Church on 11th November 1894. By the turn of the century the family had moved to Shakespeare Road, Acton; moving to Station House, Lionel Road, Kew

Bridge by 1911. Edwin Snr was now the Station Master and Edwin was at school. The family lived there until their father's retirement.

Edwin Jnr joined the University of London Officer Training Corps as a Private in September 1913. The critical shortage of Officers during the South African War led to the establishment of an Officer Training Corps. Eight universities, including London, formed contingents of the OTC in 1908. During World War I, the OTCs became an Officer-producing corps and some 30,000 Officers passed through.

The Bedfordshire Regiment's records show that on 19th December 1914 Edwin applied for a commission. On 24th December 1914 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant with the 8th Battalion. The Battalion was sent to the Western Front on 30th August 1915. Edwin qualified as a Machine Gun Officer and on 20th December 1915 he was promoted to Lieutenant. On 13th August 1916 he was promoted to Captain in command of 'A' Company.

The Battalion saw action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. History records this battle as being the first tank battle. However, the tanks were so few and unreliable they made very little difference to the battle. 49 tanks were available for the battle; 17 broke down before reaching the front line and when the battle was launched a further 7 could not be started. The remaining 15 moved so slowly and could be pierced by enemy shells that the Allied commanders were unsure how to use them in a battle. They had no radios so carried Carrier Pigeons and the crew wore chain mail visors to protect themselves against shrapnel. This resulted in the troops having to lead the assault.

Captain Edwin Draisey was one of three officers given the task to lead the first wave of attack. On 15th September 1916 at 4.30am the battalion was in position. At 6.20am intense artillery barrage was opened up to weaken the German defences. The Regiment's War Diary records: *"Unluckily this intense barrage was cut short where our three companies for the attack were waiting in shell holes. This mistake caused many casualties. Tanks did not arrive to assist and the German position was not heavily shelled previous to attack. Battalion suffered very severely in casualties. We were relieved at 6pm and put into reserve trenches."* The attack was abandoned on 22nd September.

Captain Edwin Draisey had led that assault. He was initially posted "missing presumed killed". On September 29th 1916 Edwin Draisey was posted as "killed in action on 15th September". His body was

never recovered from the battlefield. His name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial.

The action in which Edwin Draisey lost his life also saw another parishioner killed in action nearby. **Frederick Leonard Butler**, born on 10th May 1890, was the son of Joseph and Martha. Joseph was a merchant who often travelled to Morocco, Africa. They married in Turnham Green where their first son was born. Their first two daughters were born in Safi, Morocco; with a third daughter born in Chiswick, but back in Morocco where their fourth daughter and second son was born. This second son was Frederick who was baptised at Gunnersbury Parish Church on 25th July 1890.

By the 5th April 1891, the night of the census, the family were living at Grove House, High Street, Acton. Joseph is recorded as being a Morocco Merchant. The family lived there with two nurses, a cook and a parlour maid. Joseph died on 5th June 1894. The family then moved to Chiswick. By 1901 Esther with 3 daughters and 2 sons are living at 30 Sutton Court Road in Chiswick. The eldest daughter married in 1904, has a son in 1908 and being widowed that same year returns to the family home in Chiswick.

By 1911 Esther with the eldest daughter (plus grandson), the youngest daughter and her 2 sons have moved a few houses along to 58 Sutton Court Road. Frederick is recorded in the 1911 census as an Articled Surveyor's Pupil. In 1912 the eldest son marries as does the youngest daughter who moves to Canada.

Frederick enlisted around February 1915. He joined the London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Rifleman Butler (No 1709) was attached to the 16th Battalion. This battalion was sent to the Western Front. They saw action at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. The battle started on 15th September, but abandoned on 22nd September. During an action on 18th September, 1916, Frederick Butler lost his life. He was originally listed as "missing presumed killed" as his body could not be found. There were heavy casualties in that battle and thousands of bodies were never recovered. After a search of the battlefield, those bodies which could not be found were posted as "killed in action". Frederick's name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial.

100 years after their sacrifice:
We remember them.

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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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.

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
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