

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

November 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 15th November.

The December magazine will be on sale by 27th November.

Remember, remember ...



November is with us again and the annual hole in the vicarage lawn will be burnt through with the bonfire party. Still, a good time will be had by all and hot dogs, potatoes and soup will be the backdrop to a firework display.

St Martin's is good at social events and that's to be applauded. Sometimes the Church in general can have a

disappointingly gloomy and negative public image. There is a real danger that we might be defined by what we are against rather than what we are for. Regular newsworthy items seem endlessly to feature anything from errant vicars to incensed bishops although to be fair these are occasionally tempered by news of the Church (usually at long last and after massive debate) getting round to something good. I would include for example something like the advent of women priests and bishops, which far from bringing the Church down in a heap have invigorated and inspired.

St Martin's is the local public face of the Christian Faith and so we must regularly ask ourselves just what kind of image we present to the community around us? For example, we get very few complaints about the bell ringing to call the faithful to prayer, although we had one recently and in the past when we had a midnight firework display to celebrate Easter someone marched round to complain about the noise - I had some sympathy with that one.

Overall people do report that they feel welcomed at St Martin's. Statistics show that far from choosing a church because of its liturgical style or even because of its vicar most people continue to come if they are made to feel welcome, not least the coffee and tea sessions after the services.

Which brings us to one of the great opportunities that churches up and down the land have every year; that is Christmas. In this respect November brings us dangerously close, Advent Sunday is this year on

27th November and it starts the official liturgical run up to the season.

So perhaps we should remember the opportunities ahead of us and not only in November. As Christians we should remember to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ who came not to condemn but to seek and save the lost. John 3 v 17.

Nicholas



Annual Bonfire Party

will be at 6pm

in the Vicarage Garden

on Saturday 5th
November



Remembrance Sunday

Our Annual Act of Remembrance
will take place on Sunday 13th November



On Thursday 17th November

There will be the famous

QUIZ NIGHT

Organised by Paul Ambridge.



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COMMUNITY

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).

ANNUAL GIFT DAY

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2016

GIVING FOR GOD'S WORK IN HIS CHURCH

By now you will have received the Gift Day leaflet.

You can donate by cheque.

Make your cheque payable to '*St Martin's Church*' and put it in one of the Gift Day envelopes with this leaflet or in the church.

By BACS

Our Bank details are: HSBC

Sort Code: 40 - 05 - 27

A/C No: 91260790

Please use reference "Gift Day"

By Text

Text **STMA34 £...** to **70070**



St Martin's Foundation

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



Icons of the Nativity 15th December

The Rev'd Brandy Pearson,
Assistant Priest at St Martin's.

An illustrated lecture on the significance and
importance of icons especially during the
Christmas season.

The Great St Martin's Bake Off

On Sunday 20 November we will be holding a competition to choose St Martin's Star Baker 2016. Entries will fall into the following categories:

- cakes
- biscuits
- pies & tarts
- kids' category (14 and under)



You can enter more than one category - to enter an item costs £1 for adults and 50p for children. We will be holding the judging immediately after the service and teas, coffees and slices of cake will be available to buy. All proceeds will go to the St Martin's £32.5k fund.

The Star Baker will win 3 tickets to watch The Royal Ballet's live relay of The Nutcracker on an evening. The date will be stated soon; and there will be small prizes for each individual category.



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St Martin's Music Society
Music for the feast of St Cecilia
patron saint of music

Sunday 20th November at 6.30pm



With Gina Kruger



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.

On **Nov. 20th** & **Dec. 18th** after the 10am service.
If you are interested, I have put together a useful leaflet.

Brandy Pearson

Questors Choir



Sleigh ride at St Martin's



Questors Choir
Christmas concert
with the Aurelian
Brass Ensemble at
St Martin's Church
Hale Gardens
Acton W3 9SQ

Saturday 10th December 2016 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £14 (door), £12 concessions and advance booking, under 12s free, and everyone gets a free mince pie and glass of wine or soft drink.

Book online:

www.questorschoir.org.uk

or phone 020 8816 7734 or 07802 720 333

Questors Choir, Ealing 
Registered Charity 1131371
 www.facebook.com/QuestorsChoir

Supporting charities

The following charities have written to thank us for our recent donations:



www.missiontoseafarers.org

The Mission to Seafarers thanked us for our response to Sea Sunday and raising £95 to help them in their work.



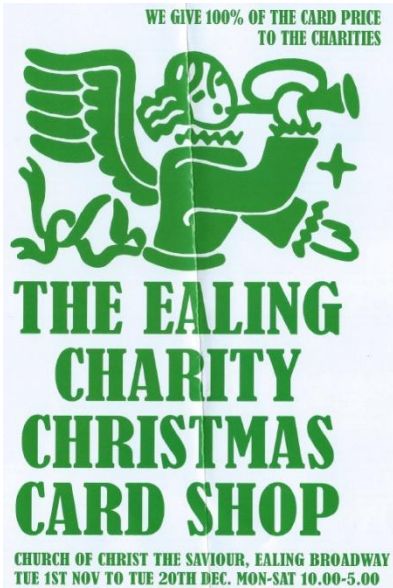
www.feedtheminds.org

"Thank you for your kind donation of £400... Your generosity and support is what allows us to continue helping marginalised adults and young people around the world transform their lives through education."



www.churchmissionsociety.org

"Thank you so much for your kind gift of £200... We value our relationships with churches like yours who understand the vital importance of joining with God's mission in our world today."



The holly in the churchyard bearing lots of berries. A sign of a hard winter to come?

Nicholas.

Harvest Lunch last month



Preparing for the harvest lunch. The flower decorations for the tables were prepared by: Ellen West, Rachel Plant, Camilla Reid and Fiona Stuart.

The beautiful arrangements in the window bays were by Liz Barnes.

The lunch being enjoyed by everyone.



Simon and Shelley Merrick enjoy the Harvest Lunch

Pilgrimage to Malling Abbey

On Monday 3rd October, just after the excitement of the Harvest Festival, Brandy and Rob led a small number of us on a mini pilgrimage to St Mary's Abbey, West Malling. Jackie and I drove, with Brandy, Rob and Anne Oughton as our passengers. Anne's daughter Jane met us there, as she lives in Horsham.

It was a wonderful day, weather wise it was idyllic, hot and sunny and never a hit of chilly autumn, and the Abbey and the gardens are beautiful. St Mary's houses an order of Anglican Benedictines, and they have been there again since 1916.



Brandy wrote a very useful leaflet on it which tells the history in a little more detail. They have some of the original old medieval buildings, some restored in the 1900s and are having some brand spanking new rooms built for housing a theological college and other hirers. It is all set in a really lovely garden, with a stream, a cascade which was painted by Turner, and a wonderful modern style chapel.



We attended some of the services the Nuns sang. They sing a Capella, hymns that they have written, and they say their own slightly different version of the Lord's Prayer. The effect is one of great peace and an almost tangible holiness. I really

felt the atmosphere of the place was talking to us, and everyone agreed on the sheer beauty.

Rob took some pictures to prove we were there, and when we got back I felt inspired to write a poem about it, which is below.

The Abbey

In our room, the newly built, up to the minute.
A new old door welcomed us, the wood silky, in an ancient style
Correct, in this special place.
Someone has used the easel, the words on it relating to
Another life, another world.

Even the light seems different, clearer, honest.
Sunshine hot on the floor, lighting the carpet, striking the stones.
And silence. A soft, unthreatening silence.
Through the window we see the garden.
A nun works there, timeless in her labour.

This garden has been tended in this way for one hundred years.
The time is elastic, we could be watching her work
At any time over that span. She would look the same,
It is us, the watchers, ephemeral and transitory,
Who would look different.

The Chapel bell, meaningful and strong.
Not a wild alarm clangour, but a measured marking of the hours.
The ancient names, Matins, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers.
The prayers so strong and clear, the singing so
Ethereal, yet solid and grounded in a bedrock of faith.

And it is that faith, that sure and certain inner knowledge,
That creates such a wondrous thread that binds it all together.
They have not given up a life, but gained a sense of absolute love.
Not shut away, but gratefully withdrawing, getting more,
So much more, than they lost.

Prayer is the centre of that life, a spindle on which turns their world.
They know of the works of men, the violence, wars, horrors of many sorts,
And they pray for them. Who knows what they think?
Probable sorrow and disbelief, disappointment and
Sadness, that he who died upon that cross so long ago, is missing.

Is that, then, the difference? Is the healing and life affirming peace,
The silence, is it all because of him? The way they
Live, and their conviction and purpose of being all for that?
Yes, and yes, and every breath an affirmation. The
Wonderous truth, he died that we might live.

The overwhelming feeling of rightness, a complexity of truth,
Inescapable, undeniable, totally and completely right.
Even should you come an unbeliever, the joy of these women of God,
These servants of the servant Jesus, fills the heart with respect for them.
The abbey, built of stone and brick, used for purposes unknown for years.

This abbey is a true living centre of solid and total faith in the miraculous,
The carpenter, the preacher, the healer, the founder of a philosophy,
A faith, an awareness of love and the power of love divine, it is he who
Gives, gave and carries on giving the strength to continue.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Golden Jubilee



Our former priest colleague at St Martin's the Rev'd Alec Griffiths retired to Scotland. In September he celebrated his Golden Jubilee anniversary of ordination.

Alec is seen here with the Nicholas.

Some members of the parish went to the celebration and a great day was had by all – even the weather was good.



Congratulations!



China and Lydia Anderson with their son Cole and brand new week old baby Sureene.

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The Great War – 100 years on

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

In September 1880 William Stainer married Ada. Their first son, William, was born in 1881 in Chatham, Kent. He was killed in November 1914 when a terrible accident caused HMS Bulwark to explode.

They were living on Portsea Island when their second son, Claude, was born in April 1885. By 1911, the family had settled at 22 Twyford Avenue. William senior was now a retired Captain and Claude was a dental student.

An unconfirmed source indicates Claude had travelled to South Africa either in March or early April 1915. What is confirmed is that on 21st April 1915, Claude arrived in Portsmouth from Algoa Bay (Port Elizabeth, now in South Africa) aboard RMS Saxon. The Passenger list records him as an Engineer.

It is uncertain when he enlisted in the Army. He started with the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps. Army records shows that from there he joined the East Surrey Regiment (6th Battalion) on 4th August 1916 as Second Lieutenant.

In October 1916 the 6th Battalion East Surrey Regiment were sent home on Home Defence duty though many soldiers remained in France attached to other regiments. Claude was attached to the 10th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

The War Diary of the North Lancashire Regiment records:

"Maily-Maillet

14/11/16. 1015pm. Orders have just been received for the Battalion to go and reinforce 5th Bedfords and ultimately relieve 6th Bedfords which did an attack this afternoon. At present the enemy are shelling this village – so far no damage.

15/11/16. This morning, 2am this Battn was ordered up to the front line trenches. At 8.30am the Battn was formed up in artillery formation and with the 51st Division on the right, and the 8th East Lancs on the left we advanced towards a German line known as the Munich Trench. Our own barrage was intense but very inaccurate causing a great many casualties. By 1pm today reports came in that we had failed to gain a footing in Munich Trench – our own barrage having killed and wounded so many of our men.

*Amongst those killed were: Capt Chew, Lieuts Cooper & Jude, 2nd Lts Bennet, **Stainer** & Andrews.*

Officers wounded were: 2nd Lts Howarth, Beastall, Bradbury, Baud & Macnamara. Bradbury eventually succumbed to his wounds."

As well as the British artillery barrage being so inaccurate, it had been so intense that no bodies could be recovered.

Second Lieutenant **Claude Hamilton Stainer** was killed on 15th November 1916. His body was never recovered from the battlefield and his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial (Pier 6A & 6B).

The Thiepval Memorial bears the names of over 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme sector and have no known grave. Around 65,000 of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.

100 years after his sacrifice:
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Support and dignity

Sunday 4th December
10am: Annual Christingle Service
followed by the Christmas Bazaar

Details next month



Confirmation 2016

The annual Confirmation Service took place at 10am on Sunday 16th October with the Bishop of Willesden.

Candidates were confirmed and as is the custom of the Diocese of London have been enrolled as 'Ambassadors for Christ' as in the Bishop's letter. The letter is printed opposite.



The photograph shows the candidates with the Bishop.

Left to Right: Samuel Ibi, Laura Mohess, Emma Boundy, Jesse Stehlin, Gabrieli Palmer, Billy Shakespeare, Gaby Stokes and Zac Marshall Phillips. Thanks go to Jackie Nichols for all her help in preparing the candidates.

Dear Candidate

Being an Ambassador for Jesus Christ in London

It was a great pleasure to be able to confirm you recently at the confirmation service at St Martin West Acton.

As I mentioned during the service, all those being confirmed in the Diocese of London between 2013 and 2020 are being invited to join many others as Ambassadors for Jesus Christ as part of our Capital Vision 2020. This is an exciting project to help us all in our daily living for God. You were given a small cross made of olive wood from the Holy Land as a sign of your commission, and enclosed with this letter is a Capital Vision 2020 Ambassador Card with your confirmation promises on it. You might like to write in the grey space on the card something that you think God is calling you to be or to do. I'll be praying for you that you receive strength from the Holy Spirit to keep to what you've promised.

If you're over 18, we'd like you sign up on line to be an Ambassador and receive more news and resources. The place to go is here: www.ambassadors2020.org If you are under 18, your parish priest, head teacher or youth worker can sign up and pass on any news and resources.

What does it mean to be an Ambassador?

St Paul tells Christians in 2 Corinthians chapter 5 that "We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

As part of Capital Vision 2020, we are seeking to equip and commission 100,000 ambassadors as representatives of Jesus Christ in London. As ambassadors, you are sent and supported by your parish churches to live and work to God's praise and glory in your daily life in London. Our prayer for all our ambassadors is that you would live out the promises of your confirmation in your everyday life, with the people you encounter and in the places you spend your week, witnessing to the faith you profess, confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank God for you, for your confirmation, and for your life as an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

With best wishes and prayers,



Bishop of Willesden

Pete Broadbent
Bishop of Willesden

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 '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:
(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

You can now make a donation from your mobile phone.

For example to donate £5: text **STMA34 £5** to **70070**

You can donate any amount you wish.