

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

February 2017

50p

You are the light of the world . . .



. . . let your light shine.

Matthew 5: 14 & 16

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 February.

The March magazine will be on sale by 26th February.

February – the shortest month.



February, the shortest month of the year with just 28 days – 29 in each leap year. Named after the Latin *februum* which means 'purification'. It was the last month of the year until the reforms of the Julian calendar, now itself superseded by the Gregorian calendar that we use. Historical names have included the Old English Solmonath 'mud month' and Kale – monath 'cabbage month'. It's not surprising that these two last names fell out of use!

The month includes, of course Valentine's Day on the 14th and rather nicely from our point of view the old feast of Candlemas, which is on the 2nd but celebrated these days on the first Sunday as the final end of the Christmas season. It does also include school half-term.

Those are some background items of interest but as Christians and I like to think as people of St Martin's we look forward. In this context you'll be hearing quite a lot about our plans to complete or slightly oddly titled 32.5K fund. This is the amount that we need to complete essential repairs to the Hall lobby roof and have our extensive electrical system checked over and certified.

To help us do this we have set up our 'Just Giving' page online and on the website: <http://stmartinswestacton.co.uk/donate-to-st-martins/just-giving-fundraising/>

If you visit the site you'll see that sponsorship for individuals who are attempting, bike rides, dry Octobers, and anything you can think of can raise lots of money for St Martin's to clear the essential works out of the way so that we can get on with our primary task of preaching the Gospel.

February as a month can also have a cold sting in its tail, but it stands

on the cusp of Spring and new undertakings. So I'm hoping that whether you feel inclined to abseil down the Shard, leap out of an aeroplane (with a parachute) at 15,000 feet or something much less energetic you'll feel able to initiate a sponsored something – or simple just sponsor someone else.

So we have just 28 days to get through and a mere four weeks within that to make a difference in time for Easter, which this year is on Sunday 16th April.

Nicholas



Welcoming a new member . .



At the 10am service on
Sunday 8th January.

Jonathan and Maria Jones
with Edward their son.

Also with the vicar and
the godparents Esther,
Sophie, Huw and Paul





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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).



CANDLEMAS

A SERVICE
OF LIGHT

10.00am
SUNDAY 5TH
FEBRUARY

Shrove Tuesday

28th February

'Drop in' Pancake Party at the Vicarage

6pm – 8pm

Come and make and toss a pancake

Have your photograph taken as in the montage.

Last year's shown below.



The Vicar presenting awards.

The vicar attended the annual graduation ceremony at the Muslim College on Saturday 14th January, and presented some of the awards to students.



He is pictured here alongside the local MP for Ealing Central and Acton, Rupa Huq.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Sunday, April 23rd.

Information on elections will be given nearer the time.



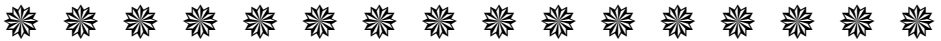
STOP PRESS

At the time of 'going to press' we had just heard of the death of Felicity Schimmel.

Old friends get together



The vicar with Rosemary Milne who organised a wonderful get together for old friends of All Saints and St Martin's in St Martin's Hall on the evening of Saturday 7th January.



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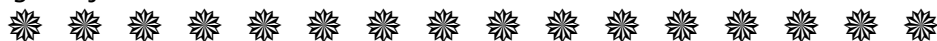
Jane Austen in coins & banknotes

The much-loved novelist Jane Austen is about to make history. 200 years after her death, she will appear simultaneously on a British coin and a British bank note. That means that only the Queen, who as head of state must be depicted on British currency, will be more prevalent.

The Royal Mint has chosen Jane Austen as the new image for its commemorative £2 coin. About five million will be released into mass circulation sometime this Spring.

At about the same time, the Bank of England will release its new, plastic, unrippable £10 note, with Jane Austen replacing Charles Darwin.

Historians cannot recall the last time a figure other than the reigning monarch appeared on both coins and notes at the same time. The release of both coins and notes will be in step with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, in the summer of 1817, at the age of just 41.



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Support and dignity

The finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls – 70 years ago

Just 70 years ago this month, on 7th Feb 1947, the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a cave at Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine). In an echo of a biblical story, they were found by a shepherd looking for a lost sheep.

The Dead Sea Scrolls have been called the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century. At first there was a lack of interest. Some of the scrolls were first advertised in a small advert in an American newspaper. Many more were discovered in nearby caves.

For the first 40 years the study of the thousands of text fragments was monopolised by fewer than a dozen international scholars, which prevented quick publication of the texts.

However, in the early 1990s, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) nominated Hebrew University Professor Emanuel Tov as chief editor, and the publication was divided among about 100 international scholars. By 2001 most had been published.

Numerous biblical manuscripts were discovered that were approximately 1000 years older than those manuscripts already existing.

One more manuscript that has come to light in recent years refers to the predicted birth of a wonderful child and provides a fascinating background to the New Testament messianic hope. It has been reconstructed from twelve small fragments, giving less than two columns of writing.

Most of the scrolls are in Hebrew, but others are in Aramaic, the language spoken by many Jews, including Jesus, between the sixth century BC and the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

One of the most intriguing manuscripts from Qumran is the Copper Scroll. It is a sort of ancient treasure map that lists 64 hidden treasures around Israel. So far none of these has been uncovered.

With Valentine Day in mind Romance and how *children* see it

How do you decide whom to marry?

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. (Kirsten, aged 10)

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. (Camille, aged 10)

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. (Lori, aged 8)

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. (Lynnette, aged 8)

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that gets them interested enough to go for a second date. (Martin, aged 10)

When is it okay to kiss someone?

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. (Howard, aged 8)

Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. (Theodore, aged 8)

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. (Anita, aged 9)

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. (Ricky, aged 10)

The Wednesday Coffee Club

Meeting every Wednesday, the Coffee Club is a place to enjoy coffee and cake. Below is the Coffee club Christmas party just before Christmas last year.



Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. ..

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve.

"What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

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Thank you . . .

Here are excerpts from letters thanking us for our support.

St Mungo's have thanked us for our support. *"St Martin's Church has helped homeless people off the streets. We are incredibly grateful for all your support, which helps vulnerable people to come in from the cold and into safety."*



From the Children's Society ..

"I'm writing to thank you for all you've helped us achieve for vulnerable children and young people over the past year."

From **ALMA** which links the churches in Angola, London and Mozambique. . .

"How lovely to hear from St Martin's along with your very generous cheque of £350 towards ALMA's children work. Please thank everyone on our behalf."



From Christian Aid . .

"Many thanks for your kind donation of £380 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your gift will help support our work in 46 of the world's poorest countries. All this work is only possible because of people like you."

From **Veterans Aid**, one of the smaller charities which we supported:

"On behalf of Veterans Aid, please accept our thanks for your kind donation of £300 to support our valuable work with veterans in crisis. Thank you for your kind support. This means so much for a small charity like Veterans Aid."



From the National Deaf Children's Society . .

"We would like to say a massive thank you from everyone at NDCS for recent donation. £250 is a fantastic amount which will help us achieve great things for deaf children and their families. Your donation is greatly appreciated!"

Lent Appeal 2017

*Sowing Seeds for
Tomorrow in Angola
and Mozambique*


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www.london.anglican.org
www.almalink.org

Details of this Lenten Appeal can be found at the back of the Church.

Lent 2017

Right here. Right now
Scripture, Ethics and Prayer

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March

Lenten Themes at the Sunday 10am Parish Communion &
8pm Thursday evenings in the Parish Room following a simple
Lenten supper available from 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd March
War and the Just War

Sunday 5th March: The Vicar
'Aleppo versus Mosul versus Yemen'
Can Christians tell the difference?

Thursday 9th March
Sickness and health – caring for the sick in a political world

Sunday 12th March: Dr Margaret Jones
Values versus Targets – health and politics

Thursday 16th March
Science and scientific possibilities

Sunday 19th March: Professor Bryony Franklin
Are we playing God? Genetics and the Faith

Thursday 23rd March
Living in the community

Sunday 26th March: Jackie Nicholls
Mothering Sunday – Mother's Day. Is there any difference?

Thursday 30th March
Sex and good sex

Sunday 2nd April: The Revd Brandy Pearson
Is the Church obsessed with sex?

News of Parishioners past . . .



Claudia and Martin Hayes popped into the Parish Office in early January after Christmas. Claudia was our Parish administrator before she and Martin moved to South East Asia.

Cecilia Takeishi at the organ and her choir singing in Christ Church cathedral, Sendai where St Martin's is linked.



The choir have sung in St Martin's several times over the years.

Christmas past



The vicar and Brandy Pearson at the Acton Care Centre annual Christmas Carol Service.

The vicar aka Father Christmas with his helper Daniella Honor aka a Christmas turkey at the Acton Care Centre where the vicar is chaplain.



At the Epiphany Carol Service to celebrate the Epiphany and the Feast of the Wise Men – seen here after the service members of the congregation enjoying a glass of port and some cake to mark the occasion.

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.