

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

March 2017

50p



**Mothering Sunday - March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

# **St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ**

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

[www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk](http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk)

Email: [stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com](mailto:stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>The Vicar</b>  | The Rev'd Dr Nicholas Henderson<br>(also Surrogate<br>and Chaplain to Acton Care Centre)<br>020 8992 2333       |
| <b>SSM Assistant Priest</b>                                     | The Rev'd Brandy Pearson<br>(c/o Parish Office)   |
| <b>Permission to Officiate</b>                                  | The Rev'd Robert Pearson  |
| <b>Commissioned Lay Minister to Japanese Anglican Church UK</b> | Mrs Yuki Johnson (07572 324107)<br><a href="mailto:yukifunakawa@btinternet.com">yukifunakawa@btinternet.com</a> |
| <b>Parish Administrator (weekdays: 9.30am – 1.30pm)</b>         | Parish Office, rear of Church Hall,<br>Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ<br>020 8992 2333                                    |
| <b>Reader</b>   | Dr Margaret Jones (020 8997 1418)   |
| <b>Reader Emeritus</b>  | Mrs Lynne Armstrong (020 8992 8341)   |
| <b>Commissioned Lay Minister</b>                                | Mrs Jacqueline Nicholls (c/o Parish Office)   |
| <b>Churchwardens</b>  | Mrs Liza Ambridge (020 8992 3029)<br>Mr John Wilson   |
| <b>Director of Music</b>  | Mr Kenneth Bartram (c/o Parish Office)  |
| <b>Magazine Editor</b>  | Clive Davis ( <a href="mailto:clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com">clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com</a> )              |

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](mailto:clive.a.g.davis@btinternet.com))

**They should reach the Editor by 14<sup>th</sup> March.**

The April magazine will be on sale by 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## Marching on ...



March is the third month of the year in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is the second month to have a length of 31 days. In the Northern Hemisphere, the meteorological beginning of spring occurs on the first day of March.

The March equinox on the 20th or 21st marks the astronomical beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, where September is the seasonal equivalent of the Northern Hemisphere's March.

So that's a description but for many of us March has (probably as usual) caught us on the hop as the year rushes on. According to the Church calendar this year it means that we start Lent on Ash Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and we'll follow our Lenten courses though the whole month and just into April.

This year, at my suggestion we're tackling what might be St Martin's equivalent of the BBC programme 'hard talk' when we shall cover themes ranging from war, to genetic manipulation, to values to sex. A heady mix but Christians must be prepared as St Paul puts it in his Second Letter to Timothy 4 v 2 'to preach the word, to be prepared in season and out of season'.

It is indisputably hard to be a practicing Christian these days with so many conflicting interests around us and not least as the world seems to be ever more 'out of sorts'. This gives all the more reason for us not to retreat into a kind of quietist pietism but to engage with reality around us.

So ... March is followed by April, May and so on but most especially Lent is followed by Easter and the good news of resurrection means that Jesus is never far away from us.

Nicholas

**St Martin's Church,  
Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ**  
(Registered charity no. 1132976)

**Revision of Church Electoral Roll**

Notice is hereby given that the  
Church Electoral Roll is being revised by the  
Parochial Church Council ending on  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Election of Churchwardens**

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the  
Parishioners to be held in the Church Hall on  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 11.15am

**Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
will be held in the Church Hall on  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 11.15am  
for the election of twelve parochial representatives  
of the laity to the Parochial Church Council

Forms and other information  
can be found at the back of the church  
or from the Parish Office



## **Mothering Sunday**

**26<sup>th</sup> March**

Special family service

**10am**

All are welcome

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods, our mothers - all have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was often called 'Refreshment Sunday'. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family. Hence the name 'Mothering Sunday'.

This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day. Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The British Isles seem to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.



## Bill Bhogal R.I.P.

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of the popular local community personality 'Bill' Bhogal.

St Martin's was proud to host a Community Memorial in the church and hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February when family and many friends paid tribute to this much loved man.



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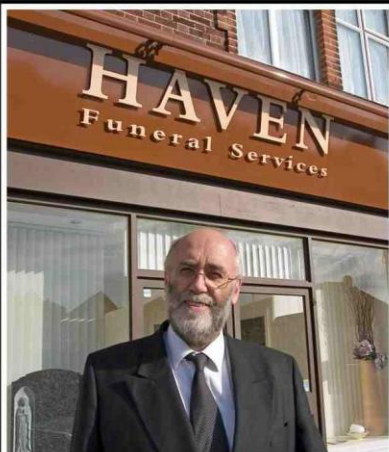
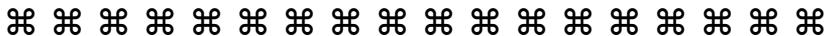
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Last month . . .



. . . saw the informal music group, 'The Banned', in action at the Candlemas service. The photograph shows some of the band.



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# **Lent 2017**

Right here. Right now  
Scripture, Ethics and Prayer

Ash Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March: Services at 11am and 8pm

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 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
*War and the Just War*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March: The Vicar  
*'Aleppo versus Mosul versus Yemen'*  
*Can Christians tell the difference?*

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March  
*Values and Targets in a political world*

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March: Dr Margaret Jones  
*Values versus Targets*

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
*Science and scientific possibilities*

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March: Professor Bryony Franklin  
*Are we playing God? Genetics and the Faith*

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
*Living in the community*

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March: Jackie Nicholls  
*Mothering Sunday – Mother's Day, is there any difference?*

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
*Sex and good sex*

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: The Revd Brandy Pearson  
*Is the Church obsessed with sex?*

## The man who brought us Thomas the Tank Engine

A reluctant author who created characters loved by millions of children died 20 years ago this month, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1997, aged 85.

The Rev Wilbert V Awdry is best known as the writer of *Thomas the Tank Engine* and 25 other railway books, which at the time of his death had sold an estimated 50 million copies. They have also given birth to toys, games, videos and a television film series.

He invented the stories initially to tell his son Christopher when he was ill with measles, and had to be persuaded by his wife Margaret to get them published.

Mr Awdry, who was made an OBE shortly before his death, was a clergyman who ministered in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Birmingham and Cambridgeshire. He was also a pacifist who once lost his curacy as a result. He was always interested in railways, having been fascinated as a child in Wiltshire by listening to steam trains ascending the grade into the nearby Box Tunnel.

The Fat Controller in the stories is sometimes thought to be a God-like figure, but he was intended as a satire on bureaucracy. For Mr Awdry, the morality of the stories was clearly Christian, and analogies between the Christian faith and the ways of the railway were obvious: the engines are meant to stay on the right track, and they pay the price if they go off the rails. But they are always forgiven, and never scrapped.

Asked how he hoped to be remembered, he said he would like his epitaph to say that "he helped people see God in the ordinary things of life, and he made children laugh".



### Lost in translation

*Seen on an Indonesian hotel menu in Bali*  
Toes with butter and jam.

## St Martin's Foundation 2017

An educational programme for contemporary Christians

Lectures and talks at 8pm on Thursdays

in the Parish Room (Rear of Church Hall) Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ



8pm Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

John Gallagher, past mayor of Ealing, freeman, alderman and councillor, will give a talk on the coats-of-arms of the Church of England bishops and their religious, historic and heraldic associations.



8pm Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 The Vicar lectures on:

**'Whatever happened after Henry VIII?'**

Three queens and two kings – Reformation and counter-reformation changes with us to this day.



8pm Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Local M.P. Dr. Rupa Huq

**'Religion and British Politics'**

**Preparation for Confirmation for adults** A short course of five sessions on Sundays 11.15am – 12.30pm

September – October 2016 (Confirmation Service – 10am Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016)

If you would like to be confirmed or would like to brush up your knowledge with our adult confirmation course please contact the Parish Office



8pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

**'Last Christmas I gave you my heart'**

The Vicar muses on the season



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(Terms apply – please speak to our office).

## ***Love is . . .***

*In a survey of 8 year olds, children revealed a simple but deep grasp of that four-letter word - love.*

. . . when my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

. . . when my Mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.

. . . when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mummy and daddy are like that. I think they look disgusting when they kiss, but they look happy.

. . . My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.

. . . when daddy gives mummy the best piece of chicken.



### **Something to think about .....**

Lord's Prayer: 66 words.

Ten Commandments: 179 words.

US Constitution with all 27 Amendments: 7,818 words.

EU regulations on the sale of cabbage: 26,911 words.

Puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

## **Thomas Cranmer**

### **Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr**



If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you.

He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and set up the Church of England.

Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI.

Cranmer helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm).

Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the Church of England. He put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints.

But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic Queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism.

Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burned at the stake on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1556.

Image: ID 19447037 © Georgios Kollidas | Dreamstime.com  
Thomas Cranmer on engraving from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Engraved by J Cochran and published by the London Printing and Publishing Company.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY – March 1st**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for Ash Wednesday goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us. The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for this year.

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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

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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:  
(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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