

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

April 2017

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 17th April.

The May magazine will be on sale by 30th April.



Easter is a moveable feast, which does not fall on a fixed date in either the Gregorian or Julian calendars, which follow a solar cycle. The date of Easter is determined on a lunisolar basis similar to the Hebrew calendar. The First Christian Council of Nicea (325) tackled the problem of dating but no details for the computation were specified however, these were eventually worked out in practice - a process that took centuries. Finally the date has come to be the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or

soonest after 21 March, although calculations vary. If you look in the front of the old 1662 Book of Common Prayer you'll see a fascinating way of computing the date for yourself using what is known as the 'Golden Number'.

After all that Easter 2017 falls on Sunday 16th April right in the middle of the month known for its sunshine and showers. I suppose that in these strange restless times that have emerged in recent years, sunshine and showers might aptly describe the general mood. Another word might be uncertainty.

For most of us we have grown up and lived post Second World War in what has in fact be a period of remarkable stability. It didn't necessarily seem like it at the time and issues such as the threat of complete nuclear annihilation need to be remembered.

Nevertheless this is a self-proclaimed age of 'fake news', online persecution and real persecution in the Middle East. In short it is hard to describe the tumultuous times we are living in. I suppose we'll have to wait many years before historians and analysts get some perspective to describe what's really going on.

In the meantime, Christians at least in this country are presented as an increasingly irrelevant minority and in truth at times the Church has been its own worst enemy in how negatively it is often portrayed. That doesn't detract from our central message, which is one of good news (the original meaning of the word Gospel) and this good news is epitomised on a slightly different date each year but one which gives universal truth and hope – Easter.

Mid month we will celebrate the great mystery of the resurrection, the empty tomb and the life changing life that is ours through Jesus Christ.

Finally, you might like to know that Easter 2018 falls on Sunday 1st April, its no joke although sadly it'll be my last Easter with you all as vicar when I am due to retire. More of that later in the year but in the meantime I wish you all a blessed and happy Easter. Alleluia, he is risen; he is risen indeed!

Nicholas



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

Election of Churchwardens

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the
Parishioners to be held in the Church Hall on
Sunday 23rd 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 23rd 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

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Arden celebrates 75 years



Arden Anderson enjoys a celebration with his family for his 75th birthday on Sunday 5th March.



Some familiar faces at Arden's celebration, left to right, Jeanette Lovell, Brenda Ward and Betty Anderson.

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 20th 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 18th 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 15th 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 2017 (Confirmation Service – 10am Sunday 15th October 2017)
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 19th October

Clive Davis St Martin's Magazine Editor and historian

'Their name liveth for evermore' is inscribed on St Martin's War Memorial - The 36 names may live forever but they were parishioners. Clive explores the men behind the names who they were and how they died.



8pm Thursday 16th November - Elizabeth Shipton

Female Tommies: Women in uniform in WWI

2017 marks the centenary of the first women in the British Military. How did women prove their value in the field and win the acceptance of the War Office during WWI?

A military historian and a researcher for BBC television and radio, Elisabeth Shipton is the author of *Female Tommies: The Frontline Women of the First World War*.



8pm Thursday 14th December
'Last Christmas I gave you my heart'

The Vicar muses on the season

Nowruz



Nowruz (Persian literally 'New Day') is the name of the Iranian New Year – the day of the vernal equinox marking the beginning of Spring.

It usually occurs on 21st March and our Iranian members of the congregation presented this traditional display with traditional food for coffee time.

Something to think about

If walking and cycling is really so good for one's health,
then the postman would be immortal.

Baptism



The Christening photograph of Joseph Charles Billingham-Everington on Sunday 12th March at St Martin's.

All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'





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Holy Week and Easter Services

April 9th: Palm Sunday

10am Procession of Palms

April 13th: Maundy Thursday

8pm Last Supper

April 14th: Good Friday

10am Young People's Messy Church

12noon Stations of the Cross

April 15th: Easter Eve

6pm Easter Fire Ceremony

April 16th: Easter Day

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Communion

Followed at 11.15am by

Annual Egg Rolling Competition

And Easter Bonnet Competition

6.30pm Festal Evensong

Lenten Groups



Some members of the Lenten study group enjoy a simple supper before beginning their discussions.



Still lost in translation

When it's English, but not as we know it...

Please do not use the lift when it is not working.
(Welcome note in a Qatar hotel)

Caution: Water on road during rain
(Road sign in Malaysia)

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What now?

An engineer, a manager, and a computer programmer were driving down a steep mountain road. The brakes failed and the car careered out of control. Half way down they managed to stop by running the car against the embankment, narrowly avoiding the cliff's edge.

Shaken by their narrow escape from death, the manager said, 'So, we need to organise a committee, have meetings, exchange ideas, and develop a solution.'

The engineer disagreed: 'We haven't time. I have my trusty pen knife here and will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it.'

The computer programmer objected: 'Nonsense! We must all push the car back up the hill and see if it happens again.'



Happy Birthday Valerie



Valerie Puri celebrates her birthday at the coffee club on
Wednesday 1st March

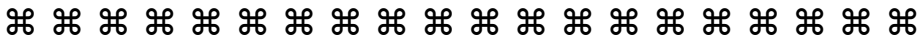
Hidden gems from London's chapels uncovered

Hidden gems from London's ecclesiastical past - and present - are uncovered through a new project exploring the capital's Anglican chapels through the eyes of a unique chronicler of church buildings.

London's Unseen Chapels: From the Notebooks of Canon Clarke, a Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project, will leaf through the pages of Canon Basil Fulford Clarke's (1907-78) notebooks.

The project uncovers the ways in which institutions such as Temple Church and Charterhouse Chapel provided spiritual care to those from all gradations of society, and continue to do so successfully today.

Canon Clarke, minister of St Peter's, Knowl Hill in Berkshire, visited nearly 11,000 churches in his lifetime, keeping notes and postcards recounting both the architecture of the buildings and his own experiences.



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Reflection Group

I see from the parish magazine that St. Martin's Foundation lectures are scheduled to take place on Thursdays 20 April, 18 May and 15 June. The Reflection Group was provisionally going to restart on 20 April, and fortnightly meetings thereafter would also clash with the lectures on 20 April and 18 May. So we are now planning to restart on **Thursday 27 April** and then fortnightly after that. (There is a slight uncertainty about Bryony's availability on 27 April but we are assuming it will be OK and of course we will let people know if it changes). So please put the revised dates in diaries if you are interested. As usual we will check nearer the time if we have a quorum for each meeting.

John Beastall



Shrove Tuesday Montage

Pancake Party in St Martin's Vicarage on Shrove Tuesday 28th February 2017



The Great War – 100 years on

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

Harold Victor Wageman was the youngest of three children. His parents were married in St Dunstan's Church in 1888. Harold had two sisters, Frances and Lulu. He was born on 14th November 1896 and baptised in St Mary's Church on 4th April 1897 by Revd Sausmarez. By 1911 the family had moved to 48 Chatsworth Gardens.

The government stored most of the official records in a Warehouse in East London many of which was destroyed by fire during the Blitz. However, Harold's Army Records did survive and tell us that he enlisted on 9th September 1914. At the time he was employed as a Bank Clerk at the LCM Bank, Marylebone. He had been a cadet with the 10th Middlesex and was 6 feet tall with a chest measurement of 34 inches and weighed 10 stone 5 pounds. He was attached to the 8th Middlesex (Reserves). Harold embarked with his regiment from Southampton bound for Gibraltar on 1st February 1915. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 27th February 1915 and to Corporal on 31st July. The regiment embarked from Gibraltar on 23rd August for Alexandria.

The regiment left Alexandria on 4th December 1915 as part of the Western Frontier Force. There were engagements with the enemy in Western Egypt. So his story is picked up again in "Matruh". Mersa Matruh is an Egyptian port. On 4th March 1916 Harold is admitted to hospital because of a "diffused lacerated wound on face". He is discharged on 9th March and rejoins his regiment. The regiment are in Alexandria on 8th May when they embark for Marseilles. They arrive in Marseilles on 15th May and are sent to Rouen, arriving in the city on 13th June 1916. Harold is taken ill on 24th June, being diagnosed with an "inflamed stomach" on 29th June. He is discharged from hospital on 2nd July and rejoins his unit on 2nd September in Etaples (near Boulogne). Harold was promoted to Sergeant on 19th September 1916.

With the absence of finding the War Diary with any detail, it cannot be certain how he died. The War Diary section that does survive records in April an action that history calls the "Arras Offensive". This took place during April and May 1917. The entry in the Diary for 10th April says:

"11am The Btn moved into position for the attack on Nepal Trench

(Hindenburg Line).

12noon Advance started but was held up owing to enemy machine gun fire. B+D Coys advanced to within 200 yds of Nepal Trench where they were forced to dig in. A+C Coys were in support in trench about 200 yds behind. During this time there was much sniping and C Coy were shelled intermittently."

The Dairy goes on to say there were many casualties and some missing. Harold Wageman was one of those missing.

The Records list the personal items that were returned to his parents. Only one part of the page can be read but the items included:

"Safety Razor in case, Diary, Testament, Tob. Pouch, Pipe, Watch, 2 wristlets, Mirror, Scissors, Letters, Postcards, Photos in wallet."

This letter, to his parents' solicitor, is dated 18th October 1917.

The Army Records also contain a form signed by Harold's father and witnessed by Revd Sausmarez on 26th May 1919. This form is to enable the memorial plaque to be sent to the next of kin. These forms were to confirm the next of kin and had to be witnessed by a Minister or Magistrate. Also on file are the signed receipts for his medals. The receipts were signed by his mother on 31st July 1920.

Harold Wageman was killed in action on 10th April 1917. His body was never recovered from the battlefield. His name is inscribed on the Arras Memorial (Bay7), France. He is also remembered on the War Memorial at the Territorial Army Drill Hall, Hanworth Road, Hounslow.

Ernest Alfred Gilbert was baptised on 27th June 1886 in St Philip's Church, Kensington. The family consisted of his parents and his elder brother Richard. They were living at 8 St Philips Terrace, Kensington. The 1891 census shows that by then the family had moved to 13 Sugden Road in Battersea. Ernest's younger brother, Montague was born in 1890. By April 1911 the family had moved to 57 Creffield Road, Acton. Ernest was working as a shipbroker.

Ernest's Army Records are in a poor condition. Ernest enlisted on 29th November 1915. He was 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a chest measurement of 35 inches. Ernest was sent to France on 21st April 1916, embarking from Southampton and arriving at Rouen on 22nd April. He was killed on 25th April 1917. As there was very little information of that date in the War Diary for the London Regiment (Artist's Rifles), how did he die?

There is a page in Ernest's Army record which simply says:
"Killed in the field (whilst undergoing Course of Instruction)".

Ernest Gilbert was killed on 25th April 1917 and buried in the Chester Farm Cemetery, Belgium (Grave III.F.16). The Records show the effects returned to his next of kin were: Letters, Photos, Pocket Case, Religious Medallion, Wrist Watch, Metal Watch, Gold Ring, Cap Badge, Torch, Pipe in Case, Fountain Pen and Metal Mirror. From the Records we know that in 1919 his parents were still living in Creffield Road, His elder brother, Richard, was living in Ipswich and the younger brother, Montague, was living in Hammersmith.

His father died in 1920, and his mother in 1921. When the medals were being distributed, in May 1923, letters show that Montague had to submit his father's Will to show that his brother's medals could be sent to him. Montague at this time was living in Leyland Road, Lee. The letter reads: " .. regarding Medals awarded to your late gallant brother, Pte E A Gilbert, I beg to state that, as these Medals were the property of the late Mr R Gilbert, they follow his estate. I should be obliged therefore, if you would kindly forward the Probate of Will, for registration and early return, as this document now forms the authority for the release of the Medals."

100 years after their sacrifice:

We remember them.

† †

Cover: The Passion Flower

The traditional story of the Passion Flower varies according to the source of the story. Most traditions agree that the plant was first associated with the Passion of Christ from Spanish Jesuits who used the flower as a teaching aid. The Passion flower is naturally found in the rain forests of South America.

The flower has 5 sepals and 5 petals, each representing the ten faithful apostles (excluding Peter, who denied Christ; and Judas, the betrayer). The corona represents the crown of thorns with which the soldiers crowned him as "King of the Jews". The three stigmas represent the nails used in the crucifixion. Christ's wounds are represented by the 5 anthers (one in each hand and foot and one from the sword) with the tendrils the plant uses to climb representing the whips used.

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

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