

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

May 2017

50p

**Lord, the
Light of
Your Love
is shining**



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 16th May.

The June magazine will be on sale by 28th May.

The Merry Month of May,



*'O, the month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so
green!'*

From a poem by Thomas Dekker, the
Elizabethan dramatist.

May of course was more obviously a spring month back in the sixteenth century before climate change brought the season forward as we so often experience nowadays.

It is not surprising therefore that our forebears made much of Rogationtide, which this year falls on Sunday 21st May. The Christian rogation replaced a pagan [Roman](#) procession known as [Robigalia](#), at which a dog was sacrificed to propitiate Robigus, the deity of agricultural disease. Later Christians used it to ask God's blessing on the crops as well and included 'perambulations' – processions through the fields.

In other words it is a time of request to God and also of prayer and preparation for Ascension, always on a Thursday and this year on 25th May. The Ascension is what we call a 'holy mystery' when Jesus is parted finally in his physical form from the disciples in a sense going upwards into heaven, (Acts 1 vv 9-11).

A nice tradition often observed is the singing of hymns from the top of church towers - alas we haven't got one.



So two traditions which remind us of our dependence on God and the conclusion of Jesus' earthly ministry so that he may be with us spiritually at all times. At St Martin's we put the two together at our All-Age service on Sunday 21st May. This includes the beating of the boundary stone outside the church gate and (for the junior church) the ascent of the organ loft.

I mention these festivals by way of introduction as in these strange times when increasing disorder seems to be the driving force behind

the misery of millions of people. This is one reason why we have decided to make Christian Aid one of the themes of our service on 25th May and to raise some monies for those in serious need.

It's our Christian duty as those who are sowing seeds for the future
and as those who are now the hands and feet of Christ here on earth
as St Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) put it.

So May has potential to be a merry month – let's enjoy it – not least as it now turns out that we are to have a General Election in June!

Nicholas



April Birthdays



Camilla Reid baked a cake for Jackie Nicholls, Liza Ambridge and the Vicar for their birthdays at the beginning of April.

News from the Women's Refuge

The staff and residents of our local women's refuge have asked me to thank everyone at St Martin's for the support which we give them.

Recently we have sent them some wonderful donations including a splendid children's bicycle, lots of bedlinen, children's clothing, special toiletries, Easter Eggs, as well as the usual donations which make up the Welcome Basket which every new resident receives.

Some of the women came to our Mothering Sunday Service and they all remarked on the friendly welcome which they received at St Martin's.

For some years now we have been giving practical support to the women and their children who are fleeing from domestic abuse. They really appreciate our concern and the staff are also grateful to know that their important work is valued by the local community.

Thank you again

Margaret Jones



Maria at No 10!



Congratulations to Maria Jones on her new job inside number 10!

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&

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Baptism of Yuki Mason



Yuki Mason was christened on Mothering Sunday at the 10am All-Age service. Here she is pictured being carried by Ben her father and with her family and godparents.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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Support and dignity

New Baptism sheets

The picture on the right shows our new baptismal orders.

These were kindly donated by Mary Cook.



Former Mayor talks about heraldry



John Gallagher, former mayor of Ealing, gives a lecture on English ecclesiastical heraldry in April for St Martin's Foundation educational programme.

Holy Week

Thanks to Michela Palmer for her beautiful stations of the cross which was used over Holy Week and Easter.



And Maundy Thursday

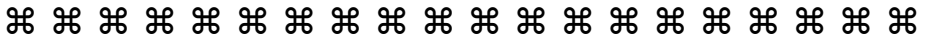


Some brave souls have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday.

Service of Easter Morn



Nicholas celebrating Easter Morn with the Easter Fire ceremony.



APCM 2017 Election Results

Churchwardens

Liza Ambridge John Wilson

Deanery Synod (serving for three years)

Sam Boundy Mary Cook Bryony Franklin

Parochial Church Council

Lynne Armstrong	Tara Bramwell	Kenneth Chan
Bruce Eddy	James Hyde	Jonathan Jones
Ben Mason	Shelley Merrick	Jacqueline Nicholls
Angela North	Lyndon Plant	Fiona Stuart
Jeremy Thorpe-Woods	Ellen West	

Representative Reader

Margaret Jones

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Messy Church



Messy Church in action on Good Friday.



Easter eggs as decorated at Messy Church on Good Friday and hot cross buns.

Annual Egg Rolling Competition



Easter Day annual egg rolling competition in the churchyard.

Rob Pearson our Associate Priest offers up his decorated eggs for the egg rolling.



The Easter Parade.



Easter Day Easter bonnet competition entrants.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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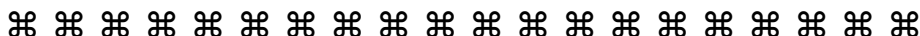
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Acton Care Centre Easter Day service



The vicar (as Chaplain to the Acton Care Centre) and Marie Nugent, Events co-ordinator, cut the Simnel cake at the Acton care Centre on Easter Day.



Coming soon – our next All-Age Service

Sunday 21st May

10am

Rogation & Ascension combined!

(FOLLOWED BY MINI MART SALE AT COFFEE FOR CHRISTIAN AID)



beating the bounds of the parish each year

This service will combine two themes:

1. Rogationtide – from the Latin *Rogare* 'to ask' – the opposite end of the year to Harvest. Traditionally a time when the parish boundaries were 'beaten' or walked with prayers for God's blessings on the newly sown crops. These events got banned in the 16th century due to excessive drinking and cavorting! In their modern revived form we 'beat' the boundary stone outside the church.
2. Ascensiontide, which marks Jesus ascension into heaven and the end of his earthly ministry (see Acts 1 vv 9-11). Another very jolly festival. In churches with a tower or spire the choir often ascend to sing hymns. We haven't got a tower so our choir and young people will 'ascend' into the organ loft to sing for us.

**christian
aid
week**
14–20 MAY

At the service we will present our Christian Aid Gift envelopes which will be available several weeks before to help St Martin's to support Christian Aid Week

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

4th Acton Brownies & Guides

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

4th Acton Brownies

What do we do?

Brownies opens up a world of exciting challenges and the opportunity to try new things and make brilliant friends.

Through regular meetings, special events, day trips, sleepovers and holidays, Brownies learn new hobbies, play music, explore other cultures and get adventurous outdoors. Brownies are girls aged seven to ten who become a member of a Six and follow a programme called the Brownie Adventure.

When do we meet?

We meet weekly during term times on a Wednesday from 6 to 7.30pm

Contact

Jennifer Dudley (Brownie Leader), Jennifer.dudley62@hotmail.com or 07710 774620



4th Acton Guides

What do we do?

Guides get involved in everything – from adventure sports and performing arts to travelling and taking part in community action projects. Guides have the chance to get out there and do something really different. They are girls aged 10 to 14 who explore new places, go on holidays and trips, meet new friends at events, and try exciting activities. By joining, your daughter can become part of a worldwide community of girls who come together to have fun, learn and make things happen.

When do we meet?

We meet weekly during term times on a Thursday from 6 to 8pm

Contact

Jennifer Dudley (Brownie Leader), Jennifer.dudley62@hotmail.com or 07710 774620



The Great War – 100 years on

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

George Allan Fraser was born in January 1894 of Scottish parents, Thomas and Helen. He was the fifth of six children. Mary, Isabella and Thomas jnr were his elder siblings and Margaret was his younger sister.



The family started their married life in Hammersmith. The father was a gardener and florist, employing his children – the girls working in the shop. By April 1911, the family had moved to 4 Denhurst Gardens. George was employed as a gardener. The two middle girls were working in the shop as florists. Isabella was to marry later that year. George's elder brother disappears from the records. It looks like he moved to South Africa. George's younger sister dies in 1923.

Isabella continues to live in 4 Denhurst Gardens with her husband and later inherits the house. The photograph of George was taken in 1915.

George's military career is short. Army Records show he enlisted with the Honourable Artillery Company on 14th February 1916. He is attached to the Reserves and the London Gazette records that Cadet George Fraser becomes Second Lieutenant on 25th January 1917. He remains in the Reserve Battalion until 18th April. George was transferred to the 2nd Battalion HAC on 8th May. The Honourable Artillery Company's own records record his death as being 15th May 1917. A note in the margin simply records "Bullecourt".

In fact the battle at Bullecourt ended on 15th May and it is most likely that he was killed a few days earlier, but there was no possibility of searching for bodies until the battle had ceased. His body was never found.

There were two battles at Bullecourt – one in April and the last in May 1917. Neither was a great success. They were almost exclusively

fought by the Australians. The first battle at Bullecourt was doomed to failure from the beginning. The Australian infantry was supposed to be supported by tanks. Only eleven tanks were available when the battle started and they were too slow for the infantry. The Australian infantry met heavy German machine gun fire and their losses were huge. On the first day the Australians lost over 2,200 men. The losses were so significant that the battle was halted and a new assault was planned involving British soldiers supporting the Australians. The second battle started on May 3rd. Both Australians and British casualties were described as severe. It deteriorated into two weeks of to and fro. The second battle was supported by artillery fire. Within two weeks the village of Bullecourt was no more. On May 15th the battle was over, all action had ceased and only 400 yards had been gained.

The body of Second Lieutenant George Fraser was never recovered and the Army records give the date of his death as May 15th 1917. His name is recorded on the Arras Memorial (Bay 1).

100 years after his sacrifice:

We remember him.



Commonwealth War Grave Commission

On the 21st May 1917, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was founded.

It was founded to record and maintain the graves and places of commemoration of Commonwealth military service members who died. Today it keeps the records of, and maintains the graves and memorials of all military members who died in the two World Wars. It is responsible for the commemoration of those members of the Commonwealth forces who lost their lives between 4th August 1914 to 31st August 1921 and between 3rd September 1939 to 31st December 1947.

They care for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations in 154 countries.

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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