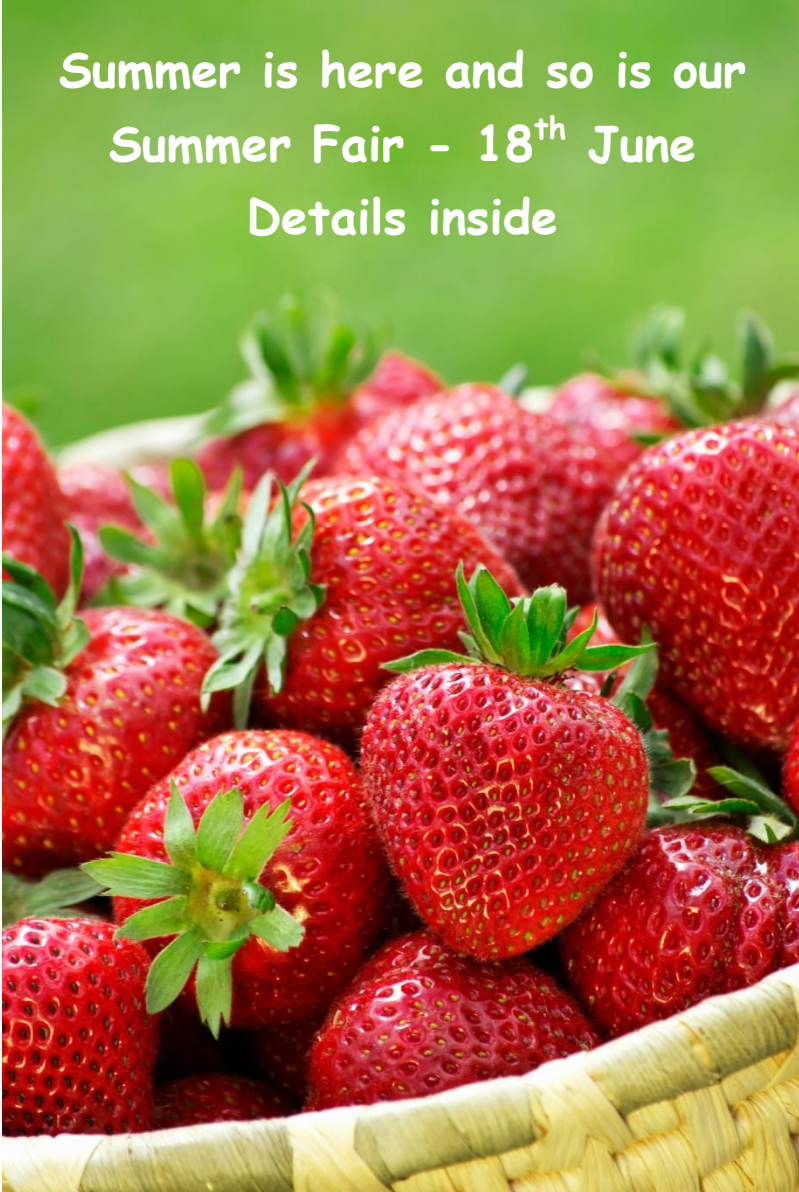


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

June 2017

50p

Summer is here and so is our
Summer Fair - 18th June
Details inside



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 12th June.

The July magazine will be on sale by 25th June.

Flaming June.



'Flaming June' is the title given to this month by folklore. It is thought also to have been inspired by the Victorian painter Sir Fredric Leighton who in 1885 painted a woman resting in the heat of a summer's day.

Leighton was a painter and a poet and strangely also the holder of the shortest lived peerage in history dying one day after being enobled as 1st Baron Leighton.

Weatherwise the month is more contrary and is often influenced by what is known as the 'Eupoean Monsoon'. This is not a true monsoon but a tendency for westerly winds to resume their dominance (with associated winds and rain) in June and July. These can often make June a rather 'hit and miss' meteorological event.

There's less uncertainty about the Christian calendar as this year June will include on 4th June Whitsun or Pentecost as it is nowadays known. That Sunday we mark the holy mystery and power of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2 verses 1-21). Then on the 11th June there is Trinity Sunday celebrating, God as Father Son and Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is always reckoned to be the most difficult to preach on because of the potential complexities of explaining God as three persons in one God. No doubt your preachers will rise to the occasion especially as this year we shall hold our Summer Fair on the next Sunday 18th June when we shall also have a service to celebrate the baptisms of all those christened over the last five years.

Thereafter it's into the long season of 'Sundays after Trinity' when we shall continue in our commitment to celebrate Christ in our lives each and every day and never just on a Sunday.

I suppose that I ought also to mention that (in case you hadn't noticed) there is a general election on Thursday 8th June. It's not my

policy or task to direct you in any way towards any particular party. I would say however, that I think those of us who can vote should exercise that privilege as there are many over the world who would love to have the opportunity to do so.

So this 'flaming June' come rain, come shine gives plenty for Christians to think about.

Nicholas



RIP Steve Jerham



We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Steve Jerham (pictured with his wife Susan) from cancer. Steve and Susan have been associated with St Martin's for many years. His funeral took place at St Barnabas' Church, Ealing on Ascension Day 25th May.

We shall greatly miss Steve's resolute cheerfulness and friendship. Our thoughts and prayer go to Susan and may he rest in peace.'



New Bicycle Rack



So that's where the vicar parks his bike – our new bicycle racks at St Martin's will encourage us to be 'greener' and cycle to church.

Summer Fair

Sunday June 18th

12noon to 3pm

Lots of fun

lots to buy

and refreshments

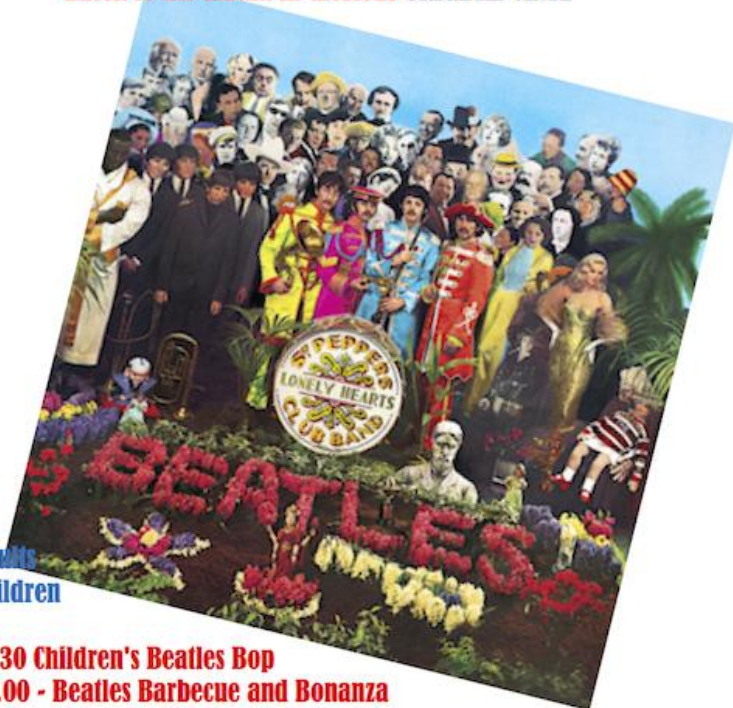
Come and enjoy a sunny day

Admission: £2; Concessions £1

Barbecue & Bop with the Beatles!

At the end of May, it will be 50 years since the release of **Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**.

Come and celebrate on
Thursday June 1st in the Parish Room & Garden
Listen to the album in Glorious **ORIGINAL VINYL**



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£5.00 Children

5.30 - 7.30 Children's Beatles Bop
7.30 - 10.00 - Beatles Barbecue and Bonanza



Holy Baptism

Sunday 18th June at 10am
A Special All-Age Service to celebrate all
those who have been baptised in the last
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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.



1st meeting this year on **Sun May 14th**
future dates:

**June 11th – July 23rd – August 20th – Sept. 17th – Oct.
15th – Nov. 19th – Dec. 10th**

after the 10am service.

If you are interested, I have put together a useful leaflet. *Brandy Pearson.*



Why is it that
when you tell a man there are 400 billion stars
he will believe you,
but when you tell him there's wet paint
he has to touch it?

Happy Birthday, Margaret!



Margaret Cunningham celebrated her 70th birthday on 7th May.

She is pictured here with her husband Jim and the vicar at her birthday party.



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Celebrating our 999 service

The 999 emergency service was introduced 80 years ago this month – on 30th June 1937, in the London area only.

It was the first service of its kind in the world, and a notice in the *Evening News* suggested that the public should use it only if "the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife, or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering round the stack pipe of the local bank building".

For less urgent matters, such as a lorry coming to rest in their garden, people were advised to "just call up the local police".

The first call resulted in the arrest of a would-be burglar, but not all were so serious. Of 1336 calls made in the first week, 91 were prank calls.

One of the more unexpected results of the 999 service was its effect on telephone switch-rooms, where a "raucous buzzer" sounded when someone dialled 999. It was reported that "a few of the girls found the situation too much and had to be carried out".

Despite that, 999 was a big success, but it wasn't until after World War Two that it reached most other parts of the UK. It became available to the entire country only when all the telephone exchanges were automated in 1976.

The idea for an emergency number came after operators couldn't be reached to alert the fire brigade to a fire that killed five women in London's Wimpole Street in 1935. The number 999 was chosen because it was easy to dial, even in the dark, on old-style phones. The US waited until 1968 to introduce its own emergency number, 911.

More than half of genuine 999 calls ask for police assistance. The next most requested is the ambulance service, followed by the fire brigade and, finally, the coastguard.

Messing about on the River?



Paul Debois has taken up rowing over the past couple of years – here he is on the Thames in fine form!

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Whitsunday (Pentecost) Sunday 4th June



Wear something red for the day

- just as they do at our link parish of St Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia, USA

Whitsun (see the Book of Acts Chapter 2) no-one is quite sure why it is called this but nowadays we more often use the term Pentecost, from the Greek Πεντηκοστή meaning fiftieth day after Easter.

It's the feast of the Holy Spirit, the birthday of the Church (Acts 2 vv 1-21) and the reversal of the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11 vv 4-9).

Leuchtturm Visit



On the morning of Saturday 6th May the vicar hosted a group of German doctors and nurses from 'Leuchtturm'. The Lighthouse palliative care group visited St Martin's as part of a fact finding tour of London to learn how we undertake palliative care here.

After an informal breakfast the seminar was led by the Rev'd Michael Sserunkuma senior chaplain at Meadow House Hospice.



The boasting boys

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

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 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

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To

The Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England

The General Election, June 8th 2017

The season of Easter invites us to celebrate and to renew our love of God and our love of neighbour, our trust and hope in God and in each other. In the midst of a frantic and sometimes fraught election campaign, our first obligation as Christians is to pray for those standing for office, and to continue to pray for those who are elected. We recognise the enormous responsibilities and the vast complexity of the issues that our political leaders face. We are constantly reminded of the personal costs and burdens carried by those in political life and by their families.

Our second obligation as Christians at these times is to set aside apathy and cynicism and to participate, and encourage others to do the same. At a practical level that could mean putting on a hustings event for candidates, volunteering for a candidate, or simply making sure to vote on Thursday 8th June. The Christian virtues of love, trust and hope should guide and judge our actions, as well as the actions and policies of all those who are seeking election to the House of Commons and to lead our country.

This election is being contested against the backdrop of deep and profound questions of identity. Opportunities to renew and reimagine our shared values as a country and a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only come around every few generations. We are in such a time.

Our Christian heritage, our current choices and our obligations to future generations and to God's world will all play a shaping role. If our shared British values are to carry the weight of where we now stand and the challenges ahead of us, they must have at their core, cohesion, courage and stability.

Cohesion is what holds us together. The United Kingdom, when at its best, has been represented by a sense not only of living for ourselves, but by a deeper concern for the weak, poor and marginalised, and for the common good. At home that includes education for all, the need for urgent and serious solutions to our housing challenges, the importance of creating communities as well as buildings, and a confident and flourishing health service that gives support to all - especially the vulnerable - not least at the beginning and end of life. Abroad it is seen in many ways, including the 0.7% aid commitment, properly applied in imaginative ways, standing up for those suffering persecution on grounds of faith, and our current leading on campaigns against slavery, trafficking, and sexual violence in conflicts.

Courage, which includes aspiration, competition and ambition, should guide us into trading agreements that, if they are effective and just, will also reduce the drivers for mass movements of peoples. We must affirm our capacity to be an outward looking and generous country, with distinctive contributions to peacebuilding, development, the environment and welcoming the stranger in need. Our economic and financial systems at home and abroad should aim to be engines of innovation, not simply traders for their own account. The need for a just economy is clear, but there is also the relatively new and influential area of 'just finance', and there are dangers of an economy over-reliant on debt, which risks crushing those who take on too much. Courage also demands a radical approach to education, so that the historic failures of technical training and the over-emphasis on purely academic subjects are rebalanced, growing productivity and tackling with vigour the exclusion of the poorest groups from future economic life.

Stability, an ancient and Benedictine virtue, is about living well with change. Stable communities will be skilled in reconciliation, resilient in setbacks and diligent in sustainability, particularly in relation to the environment. They will be ones in which we can be collectively a nation of 'glad and generous hearts'. To our concern for housing, health and education as foundations for a good society, we add marriage, the family and the household as foundational communities, which should be nurtured and supported as such, not just for the benefit of their members, but as a blessing for the whole of society.

Contemporary politics needs to re-evaluate the importance of religious belief. The assumptions of secularism are not a reliable guide to the way the world works, nor will they enable us to understand the place of faith in other people's lives. Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England serve people of all faiths and none. Their contribution and that of other denominations and faiths to the well-being of the nation is immense – schools, food banks, social support, childcare among many others - and is freely offered. But the role of faith in society is not just measured in terms of service-delivery.

The new Parliament, if it is to take religious freedom seriously, must treat as an essential task the improvement of religious literacy. More immediately, if we aspire to a politics of maturity and generosity, then the religious faith of any election candidate should not be treated by opponents as a vulnerability to be exploited. We look forward to a media and political climate where all candidates can feel confident that they can be open about the impact of their faith on their vocation to public service.

Religious belief is the well-spring for the virtues and practices that make for good individuals, strong relationships and flourishing communities. In Britain, these embedded virtues are not unique to Christians, but they have their roots in the Christian history of our four nations. If treated as partners in the project of serving the country, the churches – and other faiths – have much to contribute to a deep understanding and outworking of the common good.

Political responses to the problems of religiously-motivated violence and extremism, at home and overseas, must also recognise that solutions will not be found simply in further secularisation of the public realm. Mainstream religious communities have a central role to play; whilst extremist narratives require compelling counter-narratives that have a

strong theological and ideological foundation.

Cohesion, courage and stability are all needed in our response to the continuing national conversation about migration and refugees. Offering a generous and hospitable welcome to refugees and migrants is a vital expression of our common humanity, but it is not without cost and we should not be deaf to the legitimate concerns that have been expressed about the scale of population flows and the differential impact it has on different parts of society. The pressures of integration must be shared more equitably.

These deep virtues and practices – love, trust and hope, cohesion, courage and stability - are not the preserve of any one political party or worldview, but go to the heart of who we are as a country in all of its diversity. An election campaign, a Parliament and a Government that hold to these virtues give us a firm foundation on which to live well together, for the common good.

We keep in our prayers all those who are standing in this election and are deeply grateful for their commitment to public service. All of us as Christians, in holding fast to the vision of abundant life, should be open to the call to renounce cynicism, to engage prayerfully with the candidates and issues in this election and by doing so to participate together fully in the life of our communities.

In the Name of our Risen Lord,

Fr. Tadeusz Cichon *Krzysztof Głowacki*



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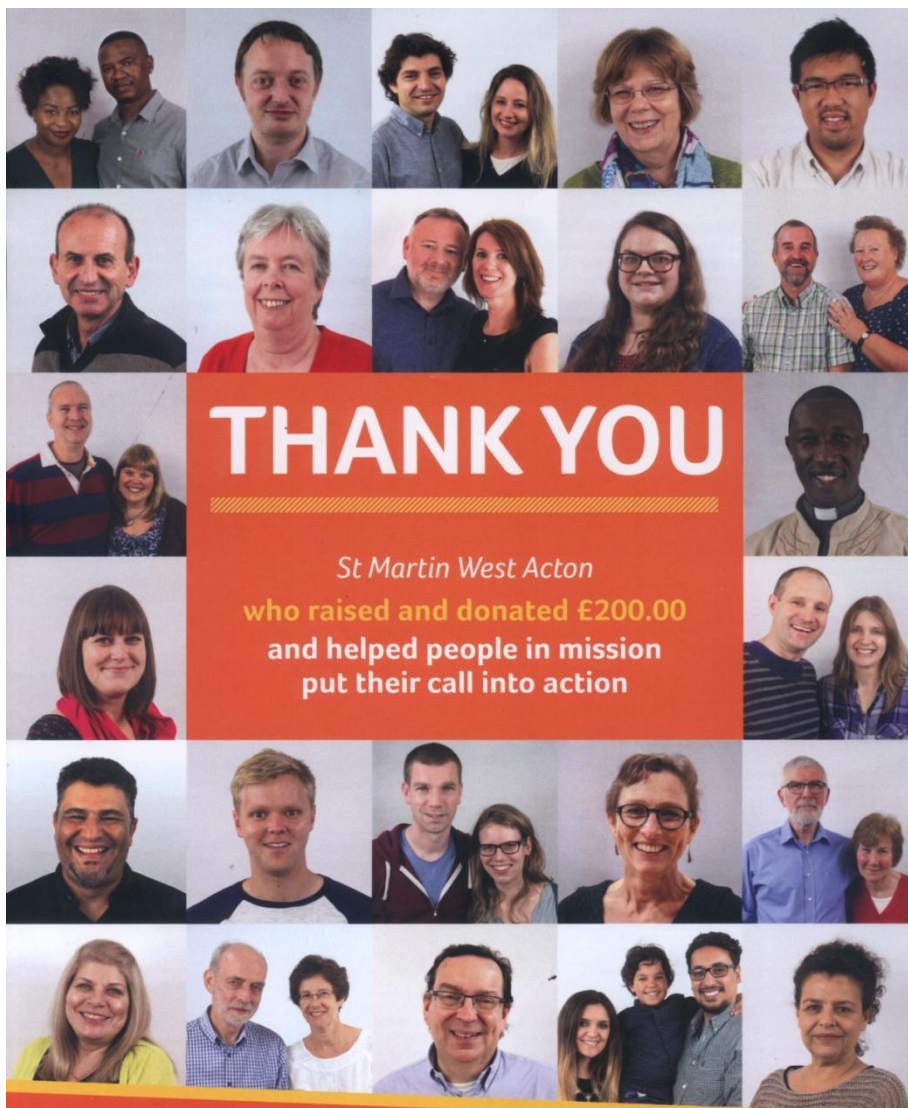
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Important Notice – but when do we tell you?

"Then the Curate shall declare unto the people what Holy-days, or Fasting-days, are in the week following to be observed. And then also (if occasion be) shall notice be given of the Communion; and Briefs, Citations, and Excommunications read. And nothing shall be proclaimed or published in the Church during the time of Divine Service, but by the Minister..."

"Are there any notices?" the minister asks after welcoming everyone to the service, and sometimes someone shyly explains that the Tuesday meeting is now on Wednesday of this week, and the Wednesday meeting is now on Monday and...

Ever wonder when this all started? The above quotation is taken from the notes to the prayer book service written in the Seventeenth Century. It is interesting that even then there were notices to give out.

In those days, Notices could only be announcements of holy days, days of fasting or celebration or what was approved by the bishop or monarch. A "brief" was a letter to a community on a point of discipline and a citation was news of a court case probably a church court case. Notices were for important church or state business only. These were the days before newspapers, so church notices would be the main source of news.

So when is the best time to have them today? If you have them at the beginning of the service, it can be a bit of a let-down, welcoming people to your service of praise and thanksgiving - but don't forget the fish and chip supper next Saturday is at 6 pm not 8 pm, in the village hall not the church hall, and also, the flower arranging has been re-arranged, and Mrs Boggins' leg is much better.

Or you can have them at the end, just as some folk are shooting off to see if the roast has burnt (only to find they forgot to put oven on), and everyone is dying for a cup of tea.

Perhaps notices work best in the middle of the service, like a commercial break. It avoids spoiling the welcome, and yet gets them in while people are still interested. Perhaps there is never a good time.

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



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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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