

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

August 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	Alex Chan

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
The Parish Office (email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com)
Please title the email "magazine item"

They should reach the Editor by 14th August.

The September magazine will be on sale by 28th August.

Why can't we have Christmas in August?



Although it is not known why December 25th became our date of celebration – there is no indication in the biblical accounts as to the time of year of Jesus' birth. Some Eastern Orthodox Churches still use the old Julian calendar and have

Christmas on 7th January but there are several factors that may have influenced the midwinter choice. December 25th was the date the Romans marked as the winter solstice, the shortest, and therefore darkest day of the year. Jesus was also identified with the Sun based on an Old Testament verse (Malachi 4 verse 2). The date is also exactly nine months following the Annunciation to Mary when the conception of Jesus is celebrated. Finally, the Romans had a series of pagan festivals near the end of the year, including the debauched Saturnalia that early Christians may have wished to 'clean up' so Christmas may have been scheduled at this time to appropriate, or compete with, one or more of these festivals.

Nevertheless, I've always thought that given all the rush and bustle of the December season it might be better to choose a quieter time of year like August, so why not have the festival now? In any case it'll only be a matter of weeks before the shops begin to sell Christmas items. Christmas music always starts in the Costa Coffee shop around bonfire night, so you'll see what I mean.

Of course such a change would be well nigh impossible to achieve and it would certainly not be possible to get any kind of consensus on the matter. Something similar has periodically been tried by way of standardizing the date of Easter (at least Christmas is always on the 25th) and the British government actually put a proposal to parliament in the 1920's to make Easter always on the first Sunday in April – to zero effect.

This raises an important issue about our relationship to the world and in particular the highly secular environment in which we live. It's something that has long exercised Christian thought.

Martin Luther, whose quincentenary we celebrate this year, used the phrase "two governments" a doctrine later labelled that of "two kingdoms". In this view the Church should not exercise worldly government, and princes should not rule the Church or have anything to do with the salvation of souls. Luther was confronted with seemingly contradictory types of statements in the Bible. Some biblical passages exhort Christians to obey rulers placed over them and to repay evil with retribution, but others, such as the Sermon on the Mount, call for passivity in the face of oppression. Luther reconciled these and in doing so took a middle course in that the sword is necessary to restrain evil committed by non-Christians. The spiritual kingdom, made up of true Christians, does not need the sword. The biblical passages dealing with justice and retribution, therefore, are only in reference to the first kingdom. Christians, however, should only use the sword against evildoers, and never amongst themselves.

All a bit heavy you might think but we are daily subjected to an onslaught in horrific news of fighting and carnage, which we as a country are directly or indirectly involved in. We sell arms to Saudi Arabia who in turn uses them to bomb people in Yemen. We are horrified by Russian and Syrian government action in Aleppo but turn a blind eye to our own involvement in severe fighting in Mosul. Those at the receiving end of bombing and bullets will be hard put to notice the distinction.

... yet surely we can't stand idly by when terrorist organisations pursue a policy of domination and mayhem?

These are serious questions that each thinking Christian should consider. Perhaps not least of all in August, when ironically the greatest war of the 20th century started and when the old world order overthrown, never to be the same again.

It would be nice to have at least the spirit of Christmas during August, even if it is an unfulfilled aspiration 'Peace on Earth goodwill to all people'.

Nicholas

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Christenings in St Martin's

Arabella Shipton was Christened at the 10am service on Sunday 25th. Pictured below with her parents Lizzie and Tom, and her godparents.



Christening of Elliot Pictizela pictured below with his parents Octawia and Patryk, and his godparents. Elliot was baptised on Sunday 3rd July.



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EALING COMMON POST OFFICE

Christian Aid Week

Congratulations to everyone involved with Christian Aid Week in May and early June – St Martin's raised £685.25 for their important work.



Farewells

Farewells to Amy Page and Emma Stehlin who are both moving with their families to Australia . We said good bye and Godspeed on Sunday 18th June.



Visiting Old Friends

The vicar went over to Havering to visit old friends and parishioners, pictured here Maureen Fenton, Geoff and Shelia Jackson.



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Summer in the City



Ken Bartram is holding a 'Summer in the City' lunch at Camilla Reed's in Twyford Avenue at 1pm Sunday 20th August. Lunch for £10.00, with proceeds going to St Martin's 32.5K Fund – sign up on the list in the church – don't miss it!



Junior Church

Bread made and baked by the Junior Church for the 'End of Term' All-Age Eucharist on Sunday 9th July. The next All-Age Service will be Harvest Festival at 10am on Sunday 1st October.



St Edmund's Course in Christian Studies

The Diocese of London



The Course in Christian Studies is a two-year non-accredited course, suitable for both those with and without prior theological training. Learning is tailored to each group.

The course is designed to give a foundational knowledge of the key themes of Christianity, and how to apply them to both ministry and everyday life.

What does the course contain?

The course contains six modules, spanning over the themes of:

- The New Testament Today
- Understanding the Old Testament
- Christian Theology Through The Ages
- The Nature and Role of The Church
- Ethics and Pastoral Care in Ministry
- Exploring Christianity in the Modern World

Why should I take this course?

There are three main reasons why people take this course:

- You may want to learn more about the Christian Faith.
- You may want to consider becoming a Licensed Lay Minister.
- You may wish to use the course as the first two years of your Licensed Lay Ministry training.

Who else will be on this course?

The majority of people will be going for one of the three stated reasons. Whatever your motivation, you are welcome to come!

How much does the course cost?

*Each module costs £75;
the full course costs £450*

What will the assessments be?

Don't worry if you do not consider yourself to be academic! There are a range of assessments for each module; creative, essay based, or practical. We will work with you to tailor a method that suits you best!

When are the meetings?

Wednesday evenings from 6:30, teaching begins at 7:00 and ends 9:00 latest. Each module lasts 8 weeks, and avoids half-term school breaks. The course begins in mid-September.

Who runs the course?

The Principal

The Principal is **Rev Dr Steve Griffiths**. Steve is the Vicar of Enfield. He was ordained in 1993, and has ministered in multiple dioceses, and was a member of the Faculty at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, for 14 years; 5 of which as Director of the Centre for Youth Ministry.

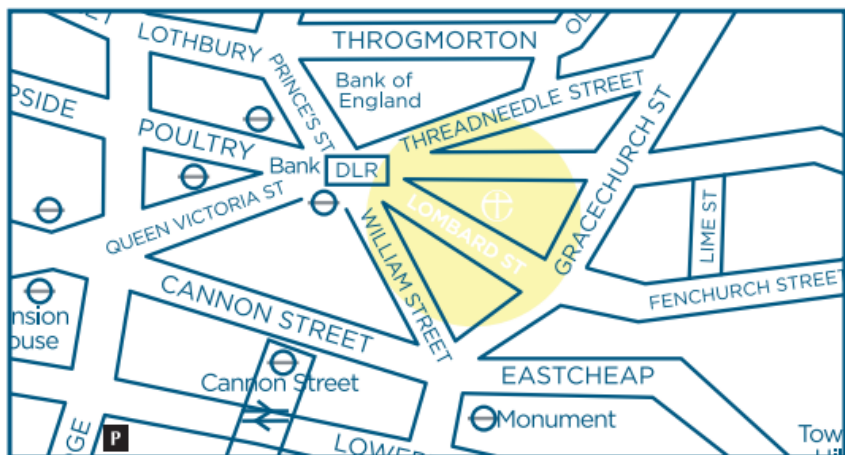
Steve's passion is making theology applicable and relevant to everyday life. He has trained youth and children's workers for the past 15 years, both domestically and abroad. He has also written six books on pastoral ministry

The Chaplain

Rev Steve Gayle will be acting as group Chaplain. He will be available to discuss opinions and formulate thoughts on the topics within the course.

Tutors

There will also be a range of tutors throughout the course. Each will bring a different area of expertise.



Would you like to find out more?

Contact Maxine for an application form.
email: maxine.leonard@london.anglican.org

If you would like a bit more information before applying,
contact the Principal, Rev Dr Steve Griffiths, through:

email: principal.stedmunds@london.anglican.org
telephone: +44 (0) 7905 861234.

St. Edmund's is conveniently located just 2 minutes walk
from Bank tube station:

St. Edmund the King and Martyr Church, Lombard
Street, London, EC3V 9EA.


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Katie's Psalm

Congratulations to Katie Franklin, whose psalm was featured in the popular magazine TOPZ!

TOPZ is a bimonthly devotional magazine which helps 7- to 11-year-olds get to know God and His Word through an exciting day-by-day look at the Bible. Daily Bible readings and prayers are augmented by readers' contributions, along with fun and colourful:

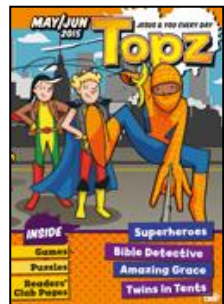
- Word Games
- Puzzles
- Cartoons

A Psalm by Katie

*When I'm skiing, God will keep me safe on the mountain,
In the desert, God will let me drink from a cool fountain,
In the sand or in the snow,
God will show me where to go.*

*When I'm stressed, on the bus or train,
God will help me bear the pain,
When I'm hurt and I've scraped my knee,
God will help me know and see.*

*When me and my friend have had a fight,
God tells me to confess and forgive, not bite,
When I'm sad, angry or cross,
God will kindly remind me that he's the boss.*



Katie Franklin – Age 10

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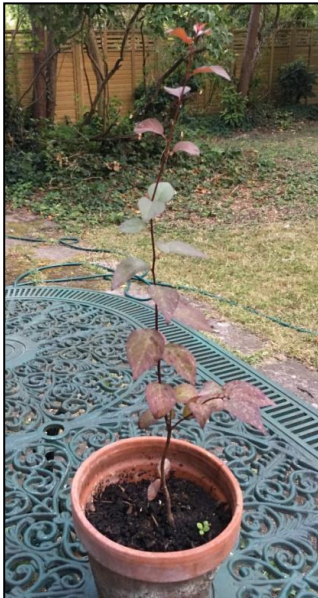
Dedication of the Colours

The 4th Acton Brownie and Guide colours were formally dedicated in St Martin's at the Parade Service on Sunday 9th July, and are now permanently laid in St Martin's Church.



Plums and Prunus Trees

Shown below are some of the Vicar's plums from his prunus trees. If anyone would like a sapling for planting, please contact the Church Office as there are a number going spare.



St Martin's and Edward Monson

Edward Monson Jr was a Civil Engineer, who lived between 1847 to 1935. He was born in Ipswich. Training in the office of his father, a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Monson Jr rose from being Assistant Surveyor to the Acton Local Board in London in 1866 to becoming Diocesan Surveyor to the Bishop of London, having set up an independent practice in 1870. He was also architect to the Acton School Board 1875-1904, and a J.P. He retired in 1915.

Monson had five sons, the youngest of whom was killed on active service in 1915. Two of his sons would also go on to study architecture.

His works include:

- The Sutton Dwellings
- St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens, West Acton.
- St Alban's, Acton Green, London.



The Exterior

St Martin's Church in Hale Gardens is a locally listed building of 1906 by Edward Monson & Sons (as inscribed on the memorial stone).

Constructed of redbrick with stone dressings, chequer-work to the transept gables, and

turrets to the transepts, it is described by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner as "old-fashioned for its date" but nevertheless "lofty and ambitious". Unfortunately it was never completed, and the church hall was eventually built where the temporary chancel had been.

The Interior

In the background of the font is the light of the three-light stained-glass window by C.E.Moore, shown in its entirety below. It depicts St Cecilia, holding a scroll of music, "In memory of MAUDE LEWIS RAYNER-SMITH 1880-1936, a singer in the congregation for 25 years. Also PERCY, 1884-1974, beloved husband and sidesman of this Church." There are other windows on a similar pattern by the same firm on both north and south walls, dedicated to other members of the church

who died in the twentieth century, including a church warden (the window depicting St Martin); a teacher (the window depicting St Katherine); those who returned safely from war (a window depicting St Michael); a physician (a window depicting St Luke); and so on. This makes a very fine collection of the firm's glass.



The very attractive row of lancets at the west end area also mostly by C.E. Moore, but three are more recent windows by Goddard and Gibbs. Together, these are (from left to right): "He called the name of the place, 'House of God'" — a window commemorating the 60th anniversary of the church, by Goddard & Gibbs (1967); St. Ambrose & St. Augustine by C. E. Moore (1954); St. Christopher with the Christ child by C. E. Moore (1945); The Song of Simeon, by C. E. Moore (c. 1942); and two more windows by Goddard and Gibbs, both of 1967: "Jesus also was baptised" showing John the Baptist baptising Jesus, and "They brought young children unto Christ"

The individual windows all have something to tell us, teaching us about the church, the fathers of the church, and important Bible passages. They are also examples of the skills of their designers — here, in renowned stained-glass firms dating back to Victorian times. A whole row such as this, in the "welcome area" of the church, also makes a lovely contribution to the atmosphere of the church as a whole. As so often, these and other windows in St Martin's carry dedications, which may mean a great deal to the families of those commemorated by them. An example here is the "Song of Simeon" window, dedicated to members of the Dicker family, whose descendants recently returned to see it.

A Brief Outline of Church Finances – Part 1: Income

The Treasurer

As we start the exciting project to refurbish the kitchen in the Church Hall which is funded by the grant from the Lottery Fund and your generous donation, Nick and I think it's a good idea to provide you with a little bit of background information on how the Parochial Church Council (PCC) looks after the Church's finance on your behalf.

While this may sound complicated, it's rather simple if you see this just like managing your own finances. In the simplest terms, it's all about three things: income, outgoings and the difference between the two, i.e. surplus or deficit.

I would like to focus on income now and the other two in the following months. As a Church, our income is predominantly coming from the money given by you. This may come in from different channels such as giving through regular bank transfers and the envelop scheme, fund raising events such as the annual Gift Day and those under the umbrella of our £32.5k Fund. In 2016, total giving (including Gift Aid reclaimed from the Government) accounted for more than 68% of our income! I would like to thank you for your ongoing kind support.

The other sizable source of income is Hall rental. It is classified as Trading Receipts in our Annual Account. This was almost 21% of our total income last year. Any change in this will obviously make some significant impacts on our finance. The PCC has been working hard to find ways to maximise the rental income. The investment in a new modern professional standard kitchen will put us in a stronger position at rent reviews, which in turn we hope will bring the rent back to market rate in 5 years' time.

I would not be perfectly honest if I don't mention that we have to increase our income. Although increasing Trading Receipts is focused on monetary value such as return on investment, increase in Church giving is not entirely about money in my view.

Give more if you can obviously, but the "more" may be in money, time, knowledge, goods etc. I urge you all to dig deep into your creative thinking so that we can harness the collective power. I shall leave you with three starters for ten on the alternative "mores" to get you thinking. For example, walk instead of taking public transport or driving and donate the money saved from fares / petrol, allow the Church to claim Gift Aid if you met the criteria but haven't done so yet, and last but not least, give your time.

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 next All-Age Services will be:

Sunday 1st October: Harvest Festival

Sunday 5th November: St Martin'side

Sunday 3rd December: Christingle

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 make a donation from your mobile phone.

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You can donate any amount you wish.