

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

January 2018

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	Alexander 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 21st January.

The February magazine will be on sale by 28th January.

Having Hope

What do you do to mark the New Year? – Maybe you roister in Trafalgar Square, or maybe you go to bed early (with earplugs against the fireworks). I will be watching Jules Holland's Hootenanny on BBC 2, from the variety of TV programmes available. Whatever you do – the New Year will come. In the way we measure the passage of time, 2017 will click over into 2018, because time passes, that is what time does.

And as time passes, so the world changes. Again, that is what it does. The whole creation is forever coming to birth, growing and dying and being born again - from year to year, from second to second. And this year, that includes major changes here at St Martins. Nick will spend the next three months moving out of the vicarage, and will appear again to lead the Annual General Meeting and then again for us all to say goodbye on March 6th. For some of you it may seem that he has always been here, and maybe that makes you feel anxious. What will it be like? During the Interregnum, nothing much will change, from week to week services will remain the same – but it won't be exactly the same. And, of course, as time passes we will be looking for a new vicar.

What is important to remember is that God is always with us, through all the changes and chances of life. As God was with the people of Israel for forty years in the wilderness, God is with us now here in West Acton. If you feel alone, look for God, in your prayers, your reading of scripture, in the Eucharist and all the liturgies at St Martins

In words from the ancient Irish prayer, St Patrick's Breastplate:

*"Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ within me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ at my right, Christ at my left..."*

Brandy Pearson

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who attended the bazaar and donated towards the Church; your generosity is what keeps the Church we know alive, and we could not be more grateful. An additional thanks to Jackie, who organised the festivities.

The total takings for the day were **£1841.21**, once again many thanks for all the donations.

There was even a surprise visit from Santa himself!





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Letter from the Archbishops



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The Revd N P Henderson
The Parishes Office
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12241

November 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

‘Receive the Holy Spirit, as the Father sent me so I send you...’

Thy Kingdom Come: 10th -20th May 2018

Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. He brings us hope. Christian disciples are made alive by his saving grace in the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to this living hope. The difference that the love of Jesus brings to individuals and the world is eternally transformative. When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray, he puts the cry, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ on their lips. When we pray for the coming of the Kingdom we are praying for the difference Jesus makes. In the days between Ascension Day and Pentecost we pray each year for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church. We do this, so that, filled with the life-giving Spirit, we are enabled to proclaim and bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. So that families, friends, neighbours and colleagues discover and experience for themselves the difference Jesus makes.

In July the General Synod of the Church of England clearly expressed the view that we should continue to set these ten days aside to pray, ‘Thy Kingdom Come’. It has been a great joy to see the Church engage in prayer for the coming of God’s Kingdom, and for our proclamation, witness and service in the wider world. In the last two years we have been profoundly moved hearing of the participation of local churches and cathedrals, chaplaincies and colleges, schools and prisons across the traditions, in every denomination, in this great wave of prayer.

The reason we write is twofold:

1. To encourage you to do all you can to enable your community to participate in Thy Kingdom Come 2018. We will be providing help and resources to facilitate a vast variety of events and ways of being involved, across the traditions and practices of the church. These will be available on www.ThyKingdomCome.global
2. To invite you, in response to all that was prayed this year, to consider what you might be called to do. We ask ourselves in faith – how can we allow God to use us in answer to our prayers? Our great hope would be that every church, every chaplaincy team, every fresh expression, every cathedral involves themselves in activity which has as its hope,

prayer and expectation that people encounter Jesus Christ and know the difference he brings. We hope that this booklet, based on a model by Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, will help this process. May we encourage you to share it with your colleagues, PCCs, teams and chapters in order to discern what you might do.

Providentially in 2018, Christian Aid Week falls within the ten days of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This is a gift to us, as it makes the vital connection between the coming of the Kingdom of God and the prayer 'Come, Holy Spirit'. Jesus, the Christ, anointed to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, announces the year of God's favour. By his incarnation, teaching, works of power, commitment to the poor, passion, death, resurrection and ascension he embodies and inaugurates the coming of the rule of God on earth. We are sent in his name, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the King and do the work of the Kingdom.

Therefore let us pray 'Come Holy Spirit', trusting that God is more willing to give than we are to receive and that the supreme gift, by which we are renewed daily, is abundantly poured out on us, that we may proclaim faithfully and effectively the living hope Jesus Christ is for all.

Yours in Christ,



+Justin Cantuar



+Sentamu Eboracensis

The Advent Carol Service



After the Advent Carol Service on the evening of Sunday 10th December some of the congregation enjoy a glass of port.

Christmas Soiree and Pantomime

The 'Banned' entertain at the Players Christmas Soiree and Pantomime and party on Friday 8th December.



The Players on stage at the Soirée with their lavish production... 'an excerpt from Cinderella or something similar'



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The Questor's Choir

The Questor's Choir, who rehearse in St. Martin's Church, enjoyed their annual Christmas concert in St. Martin's on Saturday 9th December.



Christenings in St. Martin's

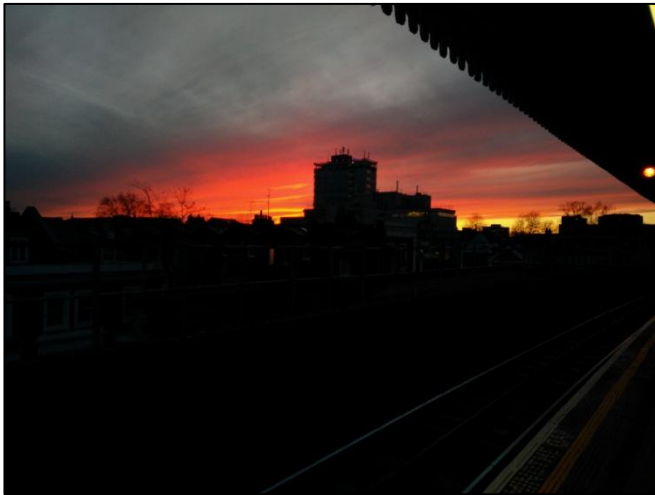
Congratulations to Emma Wang, who was christened at the 10am Parochial Communion Service on Sunday 10th December. Pictured with her parents Paul and Min, her godparents, and further family.



The Editorial

The New Year is practically upon us. The future we step into seems uncertain, insecure. Tax returns and other worries seem to overshadow the joy of the previous year, and although the days are lengthening, there seems to be little sign of the warmth we remember so fondly despite its choking grip before.

It seems only natural to ask for change, or to desire it. To improve your life by some small fraction, to gain satisfaction. Yet somehow, it also seems natural to fear change; to hide yourself from it or to run far away. Much as the sun dawns and sets, so does the year.



This does not happen effortlessly. Determination to change, or fear of change, has a specific root cause. This year, instead of making a loose and unrealistic target, try finding what stops you from achieving. Fear can be overcome, and methods can be changed.

So, *carpe diem*, and make it one you can be proud of.

Alex Chan
Editor

St Martin's, West Acton, London



Charity No:1132976

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, HALE GARDENS, LONDON W3 9SQ January & February 2018

Sunday January 7th at 6.30pm



Epiphany Carol Service
Celebrate the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas with the Magi

From January 7th

Welcome the Welcome Team!

If you are interested in becoming a part of it – see Bryony Franklin

Reflections Group

after the
10am Service
January 14th
February 11th



Reading & discussion on issues that affect our daily lives - a sharing of ideas and experiences

To find out more contact John Beastall on 020 8998 6315 or jsbeastall@hotmail.com



Sunday February 4th
At 10am
All Age Service
For
Candlemas

Wednesday February 14th

Ash Wednesday
11am – Informal Eucharist at the Vicarage with Ashing
8pm – Eucharist with Ashing



'JUST GIVING' - the 32.5K Fund



Don't forget our fundraising for essential repairs and renovations to St Martin's – new kitchen being installed in February!

Our 'Just Giving' page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/st-martins-west-acton>

How could you help with our fund raising?
What ideas do you have?



Prayer Support Group

after the 10am service

January 21st

February 18th

Nurturing our prayer life together

Lent Course

Sundays in Lent from Feb 18th –

Special Sermons

Thursday evenings in Lent

Discussion and Lent Supper

More details to come!

Annual Meeting

Sunday February 25th

At 11.15am

In the Church Hall

Sunday March 4th

at 10am

Nick's Farewell Service



Christingle Making



Many thanks to those who helped make Christingles for the service on the 3rd of December, in support of the Children's Society.

The proceeds raised will help children all around enjoy the happiness and festivity of this winter season.



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The New Vicar

As I am sure many of you know, our Vicar Nick is retiring this coming April. Before then, he is taking a brief sabbatical to clear out the Vicarage and get things in order. We will have a final farewell service on **Sunday 4th March at 10am.**

In the meantime, the Church Council have been putting together plans to ensure that the Church continues to sail smoothly after Nick's departure, including an advertisement for a new vicar.

However, they would like the congregation to engage in this process, as it is their Church and their vicar. If there is anything you would like included in the advertisement, please speak to one of the Church Council members or answer the survey in the online mailing.



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Support and dignity

Happy Birthday!

Paul Ambridge who has been a member of St Martins for many, many years, and who amongst many other things has managed our IT, celebrated his 70th birthday on 13th December. Paul and his wife (our churchwarden) Liza are pictured at Paul's celebratory lunch.



Paul Ambridge BA BSc MSc CEng

I was born at a very young age. I went to school in Luton in Bedfordshire and then to various Universities to get various degrees. Also during this time, I drove a rally car as a semi-professional for Ford Motor Company.

I spent the next years working for various companies where I fooled them into thinking that I was a good mechanical engineering designer. I did spend just over 20 years with The Design Council so I must have fooled somebody.

In 1994 I setup PBA Associates to provide new product development consultancy. I quickly found that, in addition to using my expertise in invention and innovation, I also needed to develop the expertise to generate computer software specifically for companies and organisations to achieve their management goals.

The generation of computer software then became the mainstay of the company until I became frequently requested to broadcast on various aspects of the Invention and Innovation process (by this time, I had been Chairman or President of the Institute of Patentees & Inventors for about 10 years).

My name was put onto the media's Expert List for Invention and Innovation. This meant that whenever a story contained some reference to invention, I would be contacted, and then could be found either cocooned in my dressing gown on the telephone at home pontificating about the event, ensconced in the warm R4 "Today" studio pontificating about the event, emerging from a green room into a television studio somewhere in the UK and pontificating about the event or being blown, baked or frozen on the site of the story, pontificating about the stupid director who thought that my pontifications would be better received if I stood one-legged on a five bar gate!

On top of this I ran innovation competitions all over the world and this involved, among other things, talking with the media at the opening stage, continuing to speak with the media and then giving them a final expressive speech at the end of the event.

Once I retired I spent a number of years working with the local Care Service helping some of their elderly and housebound clients to use and/or repair their computers. Favourite message, usually received at 3pm on Sundays: "Skype isn't working. Help! I always Skype my granddaughter at 6pm on Sundays."

Nine Lessons and Carols

The Choir at the Nine Lessons and Carols service held in St. Martin's Church on Sunday 17th December.



Acton Care Centre Carol Service

The vicar attends the carol service at Acton Care Centre, where he is chaplain. There was also a visit from Father Christmas!



In Celebration of St. Cecilia

St Cecilia is the third century saint and martyr who is the patron saint of music. It is customary for churches to celebrate her feast day 22nd November on the day or the nearest Sunday with music. Pictured here

lefty to right Gina Kruger (organist) Anthony Legge (piano) and Christine Legge (soprano) who played and sang for us after Evensong on Sunday 19th November.



Quiz Page

Here are the 10 most common birds found in the UK. Rearrange into the correct order, starting with the most common.

1. Great Tit
2. Robin
3. Chaffinch
4. Woodpigeon
5. Blue Tit
6. Common Blackbird
7. Starling
8. Long-Tailed Tit
9. Sparrow
10. Goldfinch

Please write answers below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Answers will be here next month.



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 an All-Age or Parade Service.

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.