

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

April 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 22th April.

The April magazine will be on sale by 29th April.

The Power of Images

Having studied illustration at art college, I have always collected picture books, which can be great works of art – or at least that's my excuse! For Mother's Day, my daughter (who works in a bookshop) gave me a children's picture book called, "After the Fall" by Dan Santat (Anderson Press 2018) The title sounds theological, until you realise it's about Humpty Dumpty!

However, after I read it a couple of times, it seemed to me a good story for Easter, and not just because it is about an egg. In the story, Humpty loves to sit on his high wall because he is fascinated by the birds. When he falls, he **is** put back together again by the king's men, but, to quote Humpty himself:

"There were some parts that couldn't be healed with bandages and glue. After that day, I became afraid of heights. I was so scared that it stopped me from enjoying some of my favourite things..."

including climbing the high wall to see the birds. Eventually he has an idea, after seeing a paper aeroplane, and after much hard work, makes a beautiful paper bird that he flies.

One day, the wind catches hold of his paper bird and whisks it up over the high wall. He nearly walks away again, but decides to climb the wall, no matter how scared he is, in his own words:

"I didn't look up. I didn't look down. I just kept climbing one step at a time... until I was no longer afraid."

What happens to him at the top of the wall... well, I wouldn't want to spoil it for you, but he is given a new and wonderful life. I'll show you the book if you want to know more!

At Easter we celebrate Christ rising from the dead, but it is to diminish what we are celebrating if we think it is about something that happened two thousand years ago. We are promised new life – if we are willing to go through suffering and brokenness, willing to face our fears and wounds – then we will be granted New Life, Resurrection Life!

Brandy Pearson



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Saints in Our Windows

Patrick - Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland

Patrick was born somewhere on the west coast of Britain around the year 390 and was captured by Irish raiders when he was 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped after 6 years, probably to Gaul, eventually returning to his family, where his previously nominal Christian faith grew and matured. He returned to Gaul where he trained as a priest, much influenced by the form of monasticism under Martin of Tours.

In his early forties, he returned to Ireland as a bishop, making his base in Armagh. He spread the good news by walking all over the island, gently bringing men and women to Christ. Although he faced fierce opposition, he continued his missionary journeys. His monastic foundations became the necessary infrastructure needed to maintain the faith after his death on March 17th in 460.

FEAST DAY: March 17th

PRAYER:

Almighty God,
who in your providence chose your servant Patrick
to be the apostle of the Irish people:
keep alive in us the fire of the faith he kindled
and strengthen us in our pilgrimage
towards the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

George - Martyr, Patron of England



George was probably a soldier living in Palestine at the beginning of the 4th century. He was martyred at Lydda in about the year 304, the beginning of the Diocletian persecution, and became known throughout the East as "The Great Martyr".

There were churches in England dedicated to Saint George before the Norman conquest. The story of his slaying the dragon is probably due to his being mistaken in iconography for Saint Michael (in the neighbouring window).

George replaced Edward the Confessor as Patron Saint of England following the Crusades, when returning soldiers brought back with them the renewed cult of Saint George. Edward III made George patron of the Order of the Garter which seems to have finally confirmed his position.

FEAST DAY: April 23rd

PRAYER:

God of hosts,
who so kindled the flame of love
in the heart of your servant George
that he bore witness to the risen Lord
by his life and by his death:
give us the same faith and power of love
that we who rejoice in his triumphs
may come to share with him the fullness of the
resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen



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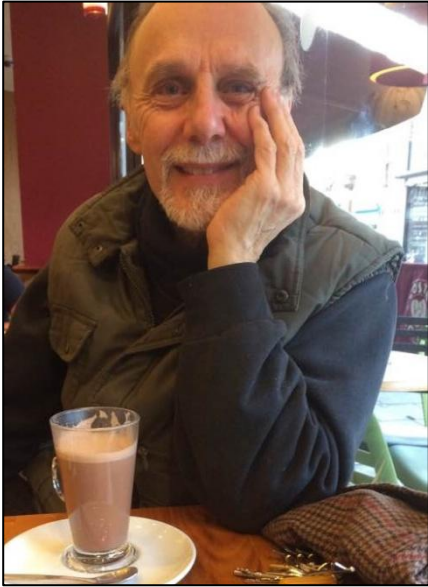
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A Message From Nick



Dear Friends,

This will be my last 'round-robin' mailing to you all but I wanted to say a big thank you for my send-off last Sunday.

It was an emotional time preparing to leave you after all these years as I have so many happy memories and you have been my life. However, I know that friendships will remain and that we are all one in the body of Christ, so parting is made a little easier.

I want to say special thanks you to all of you, to those who catered on Sunday, to those who have been at St Martin's for as long as I have and to everyone new and old for all you have meant to me.

I'll be praying for you all, especially during the interregnum, and I will always remember you.

With every blessing,

Nicholas

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Are you relatively new to St Martins? Would you be willing to take part in a research project?



Until his recent retirement, the vicar personally welcomed all newcomers to the church. Previous surveys of church attenders suggest that this was important in newcomers feeling welcomed and valued. The church council therefore think it is really important to find out how we should best provide a welcome to newcomers during the time between the vicar retiring and a new one being appointed and beyond. I need

to do a research project this term as part of my theology degree, and so have chosen to do my research project on this topic.

I would like to find out what adults who joined the church shortly before our vicar retired, and those who have joined the church afterwards, think about how we should best provide a welcome to newcomers.

The research will involve taking part in a confidential half-hour interview, at a mutually convenient time and location, so that I can ask about your views on the welcome given to newcomers to the church.

If you would be willing to take part, know someone who may be willing, or would like any further information, please do contact me on bryony@davidandbryony.co.uk or 07940 549167, or speak to me at church.

With many thanks!

Bryony Franklin



Editorial

April signifies many things, namely the start of British Summer Time and the height of Spring. Earth Day is approaching, and I would like to use this opportunity to talk about the environment. God gave humanity dominion over the creatures of the Earth, entrusting us to look after the Earth.

Perhaps, this month at least, we can collectively make an effort to reduce what we use and what we waste, opting instead for the greener approach. While it does seem that this may cost us more, both in senses of time and money, it will repay over and over in the future of humanity. Therefore, this month we can try to look after God's Earth as he gave it to us, and not reduce it into ruins.

Alex Chan



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OUR LENT COURSE – TELL, TEACH AND TEND

This year at St Martin's we have been hearing sermons and taking part in a Lent Course on the five marks of mission, to help us think about how we can reach out further, as a church, to our neighbours near and far. At time of going to press, we have held three of our five Lent groups, fuelled by tasty soup made by Lynne and Anne. The snow prevented one from happening, but we will hold our last one in Holy Week. All our reports will be published on the website, and displayed in church. Here are some of the results of our discussions:

TELL – *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*

Our personal experiences of the good news being proclaimed to us:

going to the Oberammergau Passion Play

going forward at a Billy Graham Crusade in London

going into our local church for the first time for a coffee morning

a prisoner in HMP Wandsworth taking care of the chaplain by inviting him into his cells for a cup of tea

sharing a real experience of God with my best friend when we were thirteen

The church proclaims the good news of the Kingdom when ...

...it is in relationship with others, loves others in demonstrable ways, and is faithful to God, trusting in God's help

...we give of ourselves, sharing our lives, trust in the people we love

...it enables, supports, equips its people to go out and proclaim the good news

...it speaks joyfully, prepares well and shares with everyone

...it is in relationship with the wider community

...it is speaking to everyone, not just the believers

TEACH – *To teach, baptise and nurture new believers*

Where and when does teaching happen in this congregation?

Sunday school, sermons, Reflections Group, Prayer Support Group, but also in how we treat one another and what we are able to draw out of one another.

Who teaches?

Leadership Group, Sunday School teachers and other group leaders, everyone in the way we behave to one another, the relationships we build and how we support the church

How can the rest of us support an environment of teaching and learning?

By being open ourselves to learning, sharing what we have learned in how we treat one another.

What do we need to do to teach across the lifespan, including children and teens?

Educate, i.e. draw out of people the values and attitudes being taught, reinforcing good behaviour, being patient, welcoming, honest

How can we incarnate the values and attitudes being taught?

Developing a lively relationship with God ourselves, through prayer, reading, Eucharist

What do we do well?

Well organised Sunday School, opportunities in groups after the service on Sunday mornings,

What can we work on?

Encouraging those with busy lives and many responsibilities to take seriously the need to continue learning about our faith.

TEND – *To respond to human need by loving service*

Looking at Mark 10:41-52 - challenges us:

to look at our own prejudices and assumptions about the people we meet.

In a distrustful and doubting society, challenges us to have trust and faith in one another

to face issues of distrust of our neighbours, breakdown of community

to question media fears of contact with one another

to question the need to be “recognised”, even “famous” and get status through the things we own – being sold a lifestyle

desire for instant gratification – impatient when looking at complex problems

1. In what way does it encourage what is already happening in your community?

that in church we do build a community of many different kinds of people

we are encouraged to trust one another

2. In what way does it call to question what we are doing?

lack of outreach to those in this area as a church community

3. Are we being called to reach out to new people or in new ways?

need to look at what is going on around us in this parish and wider area

4. What ministries or communities are already doing this? How can we support them?

supporting Women’s Refuge

informal support of Food bank – perhaps we could collect as a church

Nick's Farewell in Pictures

On March 4th, St. Martin's Church said farewell to its vicar of over 33 years, The Rev'd Dr Nicholas Henderson. Here are a few of the pictures of the service and following lunch.





Quiz Page

Below are the 10 best places to live in the UK, according to a BBC survey. Rearrange into the correct order, starting with the best.

1. Harrogate, North Yorkshire
2. Poole, Dorset
3. Leigh-on-Sea, Essex
4. Chichester, West Sussex
5. King's Lynn, Norfolk
6. Wirral, Merseyside and Cheshire
7. Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
8. Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent
9. Richmond-upon-Thames, London
10. Epsom, Surrey

Please write answers below.

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

Last Week's Answers

1. *Star Wars VIII*
2. *Beauty and the Beast*
3. *Wonder Woman*
4. *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*
5. *Spider-Man: Homecoming*
6. *It*
7. *Thor: Ragnarok*
8. *Despicable Me 3*
9. *Logan*
10. *Fate of the Furious*

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 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

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