

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

December 2018

50p



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

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 Lizzy Edgington

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 December.
The January magazine will be on sale by 6th January.

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On Sunday 2nd December St. Martin's will hold its annual Christingle service! Which means... we need to make 80 x Christingle oranges the day before!

If you would like to help, we need a team of volunteers to come to Bryony Franklin's house on **Saturday 1st December**. All the materials will be provided and it is sure to be lots of fun! For further details, please contact Bryony directly: bryony@davidandbryony.co.uk

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 **Tradycyjne Polskie Pogrzeby**

Support and dignity

The history of the Christingle

Every December members of Junior Church make Christingles and bring them to an all-age service during which they are lit, but have you ever wondered how the tradition originated?

Back in 1747, the German Bishop John de Watteville wanted to find a way to explain to children in his Moravian Church congregation the meaning of Christmas and the love of Jesus. He gave each child a lit candle wrapped with a red ribbon along with a prayer "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts." The light of the candle represented Jesus and the red ribbon symbolised Christ's blood.

Christingles did not become popular in the UK until 1968 when John Pensom used it for a fundraising event for the Children's Society charity. In return for a purse of money, children were given an orange pierced with a candle. Over the following decades the Christingle became increasingly popular. The addition of sweets is typically used to represent god's creations and the different seasons.

This year we will be celebrating 50 years of Christingle and proceeds from the all-age service on Sunday 2nd December will go to the Children's Society.



The Children's Society – No child should feel alone

The Society is a nationwide charity which provides support for vulnerable children and young people. It works directly with those who need help, from rebuilding relationships and trust, providing counselling, somewhere safe to live and getting them back on track. The Society also campaigns for positive changes in government policies. In 2017 the Children's Society worked with over 11,000 vulnerable children who face issues ranging from depression, trauma and homelessness.

The Children's Society has its origins in the late 1800s when Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher and

civil servant in South London, saw first-hand the brutal effects of poverty on the lives of young children. In 1881, when two young boys failed to turn up for his Sunday school, he went to look for them and was shocked to find them begging for food on the streets. Their father had died, leaving their mother struggling to bring up seven children under the age of 11. Theirs was not an isolated experience and children in their situation generally ended up in a workhouse – very much a last resort and not a good environment for children. Rudolf felt compelled to act.

Edward Rudolf set up a series of cottage homes for poor, homeless children aged 5-14 allowing them a secure home and the opportunity to grow up as part of their local community.

In 1969 the Children's Society opened its first day-care centre followed by many more across the country. These centres provided nursery care for the children of one-parent families and those affected by illness or severe poverty. Over the course of the following decades British society changed and the Society closed many of its children's homes and moving away from fostering and adoption. Instead the Children's Society now focuses on helping young people solve their own problems and giving them the help they need to rebuild and move on with their lives and campaigning for social justice.



In case you missed it....

The Times recently reported on how the Church of England's parishes organise or support more than 32,000 community projects including food banks, toddler groups, debt advice services and night shelters, according to the first census of the church's social impact. The survey of almost 13,000 churches showed that they ran 13,100 "social action projects" last year, hosted 3,600 schemes run by other groups, worked in partnership with external groups to run 4,900 projects, and supported 11,100 more with volunteers and donations. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Justin Welby, said: "These figures spell out the sheer scale and range of our churches' commitment to their communities."



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Sunday 2nd December

St.Martin's Christmas Fair!

Straight after the 10am service
Gifts, refreshments, crafts and fun!

£2.00 adults
£1.00 concessions



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Japanese Community Café

Need ideas for a New Year's Resolution?

Why not help fight climate change?

With 16,000 churches and 42 cathedrals, what has climate change got to do with the Church of England? There are strong theological reasons to take action, in fact the Archbishop of Canterbury recently said that reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. Many faith communities actively engage with environmental issues as part of social justice, motivating individuals to live lightly on the Earth and take action to protect our common home.

As the Church of England we are lucky in having an amazing network – with a presence in every community in the country it is important that we not only state our beliefs but live them out.

With so many buildings, most of which are highly listed there are also obvious benefits to improving energy efficiency, reducing costs and making these places of worship and community hubs more welcoming and comfortable for all.

Recent projects have included the construction of a straw bale church hall in south London, improving biodiversity in the way we manage our 10,000 churchyards and this year's Lent plastics campaign. Even staff at Church House in London have been issued with re-usable coffee cups.

Ideas on how you can fight climate change in 2019:

- Walk or cycle where possible, and if not, if it is available and affordable use public transport.
- Buy fewer things and consume less, recycle where possible and if possible re-use things.
- Use re-usable water containers and coffee cups.
- Insulate homes, even just draft-proofing doors and windows will help significantly reduce our energy consumption this winter.
- Eat less dairy and meat – particularly beef. A study published in the journal 'Science' earlier this year concluded that avoiding meat and dairy products is the single biggest way to reduce your environmental impact on the planet. A drop in consumption would reduce the amount of farmland required and loss of wild areas to agriculture is the leading cause of current mass extinction of wildlife.

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Thomas Becket

Feast Day: 29th December

Thomas Becket was born circa 1120, the son of a prosperous London merchant. He was well educated and became an agent to Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket was sent on a number missions to Rome and came to the attention of Henry II who made him Chancellor. When Theobald died in 1161, Henry made Becket archbishop. This signalled the end of Becket's life as fun-loving courtier and he embraced his new role as a serious cleric.

Over the following years Becket and Henry's friendship came under increasing strain as they had numerous disagreements and Becket defiantly stood up for the church. Their relationship was so bad that in 1164 Becket fled into exile in France, returning in 1170.

On 29th December 1170, four knights, believing the king wanted Becket out of the way, confronted and murdered Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.

Becket was made a saint in 1173 and his shrine in Canterbury Cathedral became an important focus for pilgrimage.



Prayer for Children

Loving God,
your Son told his disciples
to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare
and protection of all young people.
May we respect their dignity
that they may flourish in life,
following the example of the same
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

On the Morning of Christ's Nativity, John Milton

On the Morning of Christ's Nativity

This is the month, and this the happy morn
Wherein the Son of Heav'n's eternal King,
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of Majesty,
Wherewith he wont at Heav'n's high council-table,
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
He laid aside, and here with us to be,
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

Say Heav'nly Muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a present to the Infant God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, or solemn strain,
To welcome him to this his new abode,
Now while the heav'n, by the Sun's team untrod,
Hath took no print of the approaching light,
And all the spangled host keep watch in squadrons bright?

See how from far upon the eastern road
The star-led wizards haste with odours sweet:
O run, prevent them with thy humble ode,
And lay it lowly at his blessed feet;
Have thou the honour first thy Lord to greet,
And join thy voice unto the angel quire,
From out his secret altar touched with hallowed fire.

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CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

- ^{BE} ~~buy~~ presents
- wrap ~~gifts~~ <sup>SOMEONE
IN A HUG</sup>
- send ~~gifts~~ ^{PEACE}
- ^{DONATE} ~~shop for~~ food
- ^{BE} ~~see~~ the lights

Christmas Word Search:

R	V	Q	O	H	J	G	H	P	S	Z	C	F	C	C
X	J	F	D	G	Z	R	B	S	T	C	Y	H	R	A
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	A	Z	R	Y	S	N
C	A	R	O	L	E	O	I	S	R	I	M	R	E	D
L	P	Z	I	R	R	T	R	Q	S	B	R	R	I	L
B	O	L	D	A	E	E	A	T	N	G	G	E	P	E
H	C	V	N	B	K	J	I	L	T	W	W	H	E	G
P	X	G	E	C	F	N	Z	P	O	J	Y	S	C	E
F	E	P	A	U	G	H	B	K	U	C	I	A	N	F
O	Q	R	C	L	Y	X	O	K	R	D	O	U	I	G
M	C	D	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	D	H	M	L
T	N	E	V	D	A	U	K	K	X	O	N	I	C	R
X	F	X	X	K	S	L	I	R	M	O	U	C	N	Z
T	F	C	J	E	R	S	C	W	U	R	F	G	T	G
N	P	T	J	T	E	X	B	E	A	T	F	A	D	D

**Advent
Christingle
Love
Pudding**

**Candle
Christmas
Mince pies
Sherry**

**Carol
Crackers
Orange
Star**

**Chocolate
Jesus
Present
Turkey**



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10 fun facts about Christmas

1: Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St. Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

2: The Christmas cracker was invented by a London sweet shop owner called Tom Smith. In 1847, after spotting French bonbons wrapped in paper with a twist at each end, he sold similar sweets with a "love motto" inside. He then included a little trinket and a "bang". His "Bangs of Expectation" included gifts such as jewellery and miniature dolls. By 1900, he was selling 13 million a year.

3: It is technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th Century, Oliver Cromwell

banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded.

4: Holly and ivy have been used to decorate homes since the 9th century because they symbolise everlasting life. The holly represents Christ's crown of thorns and the berries his blood.

5: For a Christmas to be officially classified as "white" a single snow flake needs to be observed falling in the 24 hours of 25th December on the rooftop of the Met Office HQ in London.

6: The video of Last Christmas was the last time George Michael was filmed without a beard.

7: The film 'It's A Wonderful Life' was mentioned in an FBI file in 1947, when an analyst expressed concern that the film was an obvious attempt to discredit bankers, a "common trick used by communists."

8: The story from the film 'Jingle All The Way' was based on the shopping craze for Cabbage Patch Dolls in the '80s.

9: Research by Jarlsberg cheese declares the strain of cooking a big Christmas dinner sees the average Brit start to sip their first alcoholic drink at 11.48 am.

10. Christmas pudding was originally a soup made with raisins and wine.

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** in the Parish Room

11am: Informal Eucharist followed by the Coffee Club at 11.30am

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