

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

March 2019

50p



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

Email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com

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(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)

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Parish Administrator (weekdays: 9.30am – 1.30pm)

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Reader Dr Margaret Jones (020 8997 1418)

Reader Emeritus Mrs Lynne Armstrong (020 8992 8341)

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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 26th March.

The April magazine will be on sale by 5th April.

Note from Lynne

This Lent we at St Martin's are going to look at prayerfulness. The London diocese has taken the theme of Modern Slavery as its focus, and I think that the two ideas fit together very well. Prayer is an important part of being a Christian, and is also very much underrated by most people. The general idea of prayer seems to get stuck at the childlike "God bless Mummy and Daddy" kneeling by the bed.

Here at St Martin's we have a strong lay intercessions team who lead our group prayers every Sunday, usually following the guidelines laid down by the Church of England, covering the world, our local life, our families, people who are sick or in need etc. Before the subject of Modern Slavery became current I must admit that the idea of slavery had never struck me as something I needed to consider. Slavery, at the most recent, in my mind, was linked with America's Deep South and cotton plantations, or sometimes the White slave trade in the 1920's.

When I consider the subject now I wonder at my own naivety. Greed, desire for riches, cruelty and other unpleasant behaviour has continued in the human world since those times, why should the desire for power over people and their lives have stopped?

So prayer is a strong weapon against that. I am a firm believer in the acronym PUSH. Pray until something happens. I pray for people, situations, for change of ideas, for all sorts of issues and things, and sometimes, if what I am praying for is in God's plan for our world, those prayers are answered in the way I hope for. One very important piece of information I was given as a young woman was "Remember that "No" is an answer."

If we don't realise that we need to act as adults in this exercise, and accept that our prayers are a request that may or may not be the best thing for the situation we are praying for, then we make our God and his power less. There is a phrase in a lovely hymn we sometimes sing "there is a wideness in God's mercy like those wideness of the sea" which sums it all up. We have a limited, human being's view of the world. Therefore, we do not know best.

I am looking forward to the Lent course. Brandy and Rob have made me think about the subjects we have covered in a new and broader way, so the meetings are always interesting and stimulating. And the soup supper is always good, too!

Lynne

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Assistant curate for St Martins

As you may know, Bryony Franklin was selected for training for ordination in the Church of England about three years ago and been studying for a theology degree since September 2016. She finishes this training in June this year and will then be ordained as a Deacon in St Paul's Cathedral at the end of June. While ordinands are usually asked to move to a different church to serve their initial curacy (the first three years after ordination), Bishop Pete has suggested that Bryony stay at St Martins. She will therefore be starting as part time Assistant Curate following her ordination on 29th June. Bryony will continue working four days a week in her existing role and will work, unpaid, for St Martins on one day a week plus Sundays. We are very pleased that Bishop Pete has thought it appropriate for Bryony to do her curacy here, and look forward to seeing her grow in her vocation.

Bryony comments as follows:

I am absolutely delighted that I will be staying at St Martins. I have real love for those who are part of St Martins and the wider parish, and am so pleased to have the privilege of staying in this community. My family are also delighted not to have to move to a different church!

Ever since I've felt a sense of being called to ordained ministry, I've felt that this should be alongside remaining in my current secular job in order to span both the church and secular worlds, while also living out my faith in the

workplace as most Christians are called to do. This also means that I can be self-supporting in not needing accommodation or to be paid a stipend from the church.

For the first year of my curacy I will be a deacon, which is a role based on service, symbolised by the way deacons wear their stole diagonally across their body to represent the towel that Jesus used to wash his disciples' feet. After a year, God willing (or bishop willing!) I will be ordained as a priest. A key purpose of the three-year curacy is to obtain a wider range of experience and training in ordained ministry - I am very much looking forwards to this aspect of the role, learning from our current clergy and lay ministers and our new vicar once we have one. In the meantime, until we have a new vicar, Bishop Pete is going to make alternative arrangements for me to have an interim supervisor as this is a requirement for a training curacy.

I am aware that this will represent a transition from one role to another, not just for myself but also for everyone at St Martins. I'm confident that we will all be able to work through this transition, but of course if you have any concerns or suggestions, please do let either me or one of the church wardens know.

In the meantime, I'm very much looking forward to continuing to serve at St Martins, and working together with you all as we journey in faith.

Bryony

Editorial – Resolution number 3: Sugar

The challenge for February was to use more positive language and in turn try to make daily life less stressful. This was partially successful, but some familiar phrases kept creeping back in. In fact, last month, the thing that made the most profound impact was the unexpected heat wave. The weather was fantastic and the daffodils and blossoms have all started to come out. I even hung out the washing in the garden, in February. Thinking that the weather could break anytime, we have been out and about making the most of it. Whilst February's resolution was about how we talk to one another, my main take-away has been to simply make the most of each day, whatever is going on.

The challenge for March is to give up sweets, or in my case, sugar. I am going to incorporate this into Lent and keep going until Easter. Wish me luck!



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Support and dignity

Children's Champion

St Martin's is looking for a new Children's Champion starting in July. Please have a look at the job description below and if you would like more information contact either our current Champion; Jackie Nicholls, or Bryony or the Church Wardens Liza and John.

Role description - Children's Champion

The Diocese of London (and its parishes) is committed to ensuring that all children and young people within our diocese are listened to. The Children's Champion is a key role in ensuring that the voices and needs of the children and young people are heard.

Each Parochial Church Council (PCC) should appoint a 'Children's Champion' who will give children and young people this voice within the work of the parish and is there to ensure the question 'How does this impact on our children?' is always asked. We would recommend that the person fulfilling this role is not the Church Safeguarding Officer.

Main Responsibilities

- To engage and build positive relationships with children, young people and other members of the congregation and parish.
- To actively communicate with children and young people and ensure that their perspectives and wishes are reflected.
- To raise the profile of their role in the parish by providing information about the activities for children and young people that are available (i.e. articles in the weekly notices / parish magazine).
- To make use of the Children's Charter to develop provision for children and young people within the areas of worship, welcome, nurture and mission.
- Be responsible for asking the necessary questions to ensure the presence, needs and interests of children are recognised and promoted within the parish, attending a PCC meeting at

least twice a year in order to achieve this. (One of which should be the meeting at which the safeguarding policy is discussed and reviewed.)

- Work closely and confidentially with the Church Safeguarding Officer and parish clergy to inform / report / discuss any concerns, seeking support and advice when necessary.
- To keep up-to-date with developments in ministry with children and young people in the Diocese by liaising with the Children's Ministry Advisor and Children's Society Youth Project team as appropriate and reading the Children's Ministry newsletter on the Diocesan web site.

Preferred qualities / skills for the role of Children's Champion

- Be a regular member of the congregation, demonstrating a commitment to the parish's work with children and / or young people who shows respect for, and empathy with, children and young people.
- Have the necessary communication skills to be able to speak with children / young people and be able to clearly state their needs.
- Have a child-focused approach with some experience relevant to the role (i.e. teacher, youth worker, experience of caring for children).
- Be willing to attend training in Safeguarding initially on appointment and then to regularly update this knowledge (at least every 3 years).
- This role requires a criminal records disclosure to be requested.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Coffee rota handover:

St. Martin's would like to say a big thank you to Min Hsia Chen for organising the coffee rota to date, and for ensuring that we all have a cup of something and a biscuit after each service.



We are delighted that Amy Stubbs is taking over the role of organising the rota, and as ever we are looking for volunteers. It's a sociable and fun job, and very straightforward. For those who are interested, please speak to Amy or the tea/coffee team after the service.

Saturday 30th March.

Posy making for Mothering Sunday!

In the Church at 10 am.

All welcome to help.

All flowers provided and ribbons etc.
Refreshments too.



Jackie

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This year, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on 28th April.

In the meantime, we are asking everyone to complete an Electoral Roll form. These are available in the church at the end of each service or directly from the Parish Office.

Please fill in the entire form!

Shrove Tuesday

This year, Shrove Tuesday falls on 5th March! Are you ready? Make sure you have your eggs, flour, milk, butter and toppings of choice to hand this weekend as there always seems to be a last-minute dash at the supermarket leaving empty shelves.



Having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday is a tradition dating back centuries and marks the last day before the beginning of Lent. We now see eggs and milk as basic everyday staples, but they used to be considered to be rich and luxurious foods. The idea was that all eggs and milk would be used up to make pancakes, the day before the fasting season of Lent began. Although seen as a Christian tradition, it is thought that Pancake Day started as a pagan holiday in which the circular pancakes represented the sun, and this was a celebration of the arrival of spring.

If you fancy something different from lemon and sugar, why not try some alternatives from around the globe....

Austria – Kaiserschmarrn

By separating the eggs and whisking the whites into the batter just before cooking, these pancakes are extra fluffy. The pancake is then torn into pieces in the pan, caramelised in butter, then dusted in icing sugar and served with whipped cream and apple sauce.

Greece – Tiganites

Thin pancakes (similar to traditional British pancakes) served with honey, cinnamon and yogurt.

India – Uttapam

A savoury choice, the batter is made from fermented rice and black lentils, mixed with spices and chopped onions.

Korea – Kimchi Pancakes

If you like spice, then this is the one for you! With finely chopped chillies incorporated into the batter, these are normally served with a spicy dipping sauce.

Netherlands - Pannenkoeken

These pancakes are large, generally 30cm in diameter and cooked as a sweet soufflé. The ingredients for 8-10 traditional British pancakes are whisked together and cooked in a single pan in the oven. Then covered in sugar, cut into wedges and served with choice of fruit.

Somalia - Anjero

This is more like a flat bread covered in air holes, much like a crumpet. Yeast is added to the batter and it is left to ferment for a couple of hours, but if you prefer a more sour tasting bread, it can be left overnight.

Sweeden – Raggmunk

Another savoury option, these are potato pancakes. By mashing the potato and separating the eggs, these are very light and fluffy, rather than dense and potato-y. Can be served with sour cream.

Italy – Farinata

Made with chickpeas and cooked like a pizza. This is another savoury flatbread option.

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Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage

The 7th March is the feast day of Perpetua, Felicity and their companions who died on 7th March, 203 A.D. as martyrs.

Perpetua was the daughter of a prosperous family from the provinces of Carthage who became interested in the Christian Church. After the Roman emperor of the time, Septimius Severus, forbade conversion to either Christianity or Judaism, the governor of Hilarian arrested Perpetua and four companions. All five had been preparing for their baptisms and along with sixth convert, Pepetua and her companions were condemned to death in the arena.

The reason that Perpetua's story stands out, is that she kept a diary during her imprisonment. It included details of how she refused to renounce her faith, even though her father begged her to. It also describes the dreams that she had in prison which she believed to be prophetic visions reinforcing her faith.

The day before her death, Perpetua handed her diary to another Christian who added his own account of the group and details of their deaths. A pregnant slave named Felicity had given birth in prison, and the prisoners had then been sent to the arena and set upon by wild animals. At the end of the ordeal, Perpetua voluntarily accepted death by sword.



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Ash Wednesday (first verse)

TS Eliot (1888–1965)

Because I do not hope to turn again
Because I do not hope
Because I do not hope to turn
Desiring this man's gift and that man's scope
I no longer strive to strive towards such things
(Why should the aged eagle stretch its wings?)
Why should I mourn
The vanished power of the usual reign?

Because I do not hope to know again
The infirm glory of the positive hour
Because I do not think
Because I know I shall not know
The one veritable transitory power
Because I cannot drink
There, where trees flower, and springs flow, for there is
nothing again

Because I know that time is always time
And place is always and only place
And what is actual is actual only for one time
And only for one place
I rejoice that things are as they are and
I renounce the blessed face
And renounce the voice
Because I cannot hope to turn again
Consequently I rejoice, having to construct something
Upon which to rejoice

And pray to God to have mercy upon us
And pray that I may forget
These matters that with myself I too much discuss
Too much explain
Because I do not hope to turn again
Let these words answer
For what is done, not to be done again
May the judgment not be too heavy upon us

Because these wings are no longer wings to fly
But merely vans to beat the air
The air which is now thoroughly small and dry
Smaller and dryer than the will
Teach us to care and not to care
Teach us to sit still.

Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death
Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk
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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 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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