

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

June 2019

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

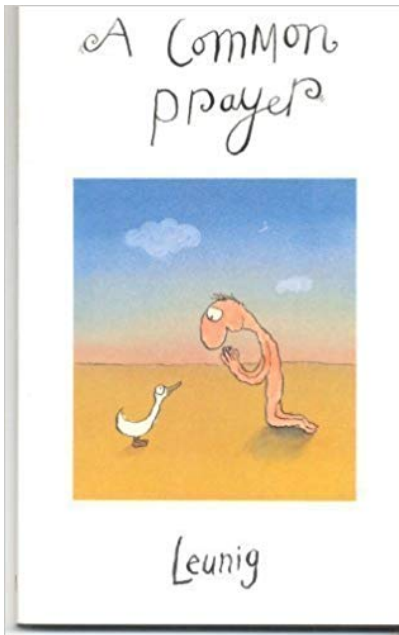
The Vicar is available for consultation and enquiries by appointment.
Please ring the Parish Office.

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 20th June.

The July magazine will be on sale by 30th June.

Note from Brandy



I enjoy using Facebook. While I am aware how distracting it can be, it keeps me in touch with friends across the world, and occasionally connects me with treasures I would not otherwise ever have come across. A little while ago I discovered Michael Leunig. Typically referred to as Leunig (his signature on his cartoons), he is an Australian cartoonist, artist, poet and cultural commentator. His best known works include *The Adventures of Vasco Pyjama*. He was declared an Australian Living Treasure by the National

Trust of Australia in 1999, and has a tram named after him in Melbourne, and a fossil!

I love his quirky, gentle cartoons, but one of his books that I discovered (also online) is "A Common Prayer" – published in 1991. This is a little book of prayers originally published weekly in a Melbourne Sunday paper. As described in the blurb, "In this book he explores the poetry of the inner life and expresses it through this small, ancient, wonderful, free-form, do-it-yourself ritual of connection, love and transformation: the common prayer."

If you are wondering about the duck (an image often found in his art and cartoons), as he writes in the introduction: "*The duck... can be seen as a symbol of the human spirit, and in wanting connection with his spirit it is a symbolic picture of a man searching for his soul*" – or

indeed, a woman searching for her soul. There is a mystery in each expression of God's creation.

We are all called to search for that connection with the Divine, but each one of us is unique. While we may not have the skills and imagination of someone like Michael Leunig - indeed, he may not be your cup of tea at all - he encourages us to find our own symbols and ways of praying.

Where, in the world around you, do you see a sign of the Divine? I open my window when saying my morning prayers, so that I can hear the birds singing – including the cawing of rooks and the squawks of the parakeets – a choir to accompany my prayers! A few weeks ago, I was sitting quietly in Chiswick House Park, on my way home from St. Mary's Convent, listening to the birds singing, when a robin came and sat on the arm of the bench at my elbow, a little scrap of life, a tiny spark of God's creation – a message from the Divine, a sign of my own heart and to my own heart.

Where, in your everyday life, is a prayerful place, what the Celts call a thin place, nearer to the Divine World? – somewhere where you like to sit in your lunch hour – a nearby church, or just a quiet corner of a park or garden?

And finally, how might you express your prayers, creatively? Have you ever thought about writing your prayers in a notebook, or even draw a little sketch? You don't need to show anyone – let alone people across the world!

One of Michael Leunig's prayers (also found on his website):

God help us to change.

To change ourselves and to change our world.

To know the need for it. To deal with the pain of it.

To feel the joy of it.

To undertake the journey without understanding the destination.

The art of gentle revolution. Amen.

Brandy Pearson

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Pizza and Possibilities

- Are you 10-15 years old?
- Would you like to share your ideas about what St Martin's should be doing for your age group?
- Do you like pizza?

if so.... please come along to "Pizza and Possibilities" at St Martin's on **Sunday 14th July at 12noon** where we would like to hear your ideas. And eat pizza.

For more information or to sign up (if you haven't already), please email Bryony on bryonyfranklin@googlemail.com



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The Japanese Community Café and taiko drumming workshop

The monthly Japanese community cafe and table-top sale took place at St Martin's on 4th May, which this month meant amazing cakes, a cafe, a lovely selection of stalls, live music with choir and ukulele and a taiko drumming workshop. For those who haven't had experience of taiko, it involves enormous drums, played as a group, and vocalising the different types of beat at the same time. The sound truly filled even the large space of St Martin's and everyone who took part, of all ages, had a great time. We are going to ask Liz, the instructor, if she can do another workshop for us later this year.

The Japanese community cafes will next take place on Saturday 1st June and Saturday 6th July, from 10-12am, in the church. Please do come along, tell others about it, and/or contact Yuki Johnson if you would like more information.





Thanks to Bryony and Liza for the review and photos



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June editorial – resolution 6: Grumpiness

May's resolution, or challenge, was fasting. All I can say is I am glad that each of these resolutions are for one month only.

Next up is positivity – identifying what makes you negative and making changes. I have a book on mindfulness and hopefully after a busy month of deadlines some time to reflect. If anyone can recommend a good yoga class for a complete and utter beginner let me know!

Date for your diaries:



ST. MARTIN'S SUMMER FETE!!!

Sunday 23rd June
12 – 3pm

We still have a few stalls that need manning, so if you'd like to volunteer, please talk to Ellen and Shelley.

If you have any items that you would like donate,
we need:

Bottles for the bottle tombola
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My visit to Mystras

Anon.

The Peloponnese region is in south-west Greece, stretching out into the Mediterranean Sea. Here you will find the fabled land of the Spartans and the sublime landscape of Arcadia.

At the end of the thirteenth century, as the Frankish Knights returned from the fourth crusade, William II de Villehardouin captured the port of Monemvasia a Byzantine. Subduing the rest of the countryside he built the fort of Mystras, high on Mount Taygetos which commanded an imposing vista of the plains of Arcadia, to the mountains beyond.

I had read so much about Mystras that it was to be the high-point of our trip to the Peloponnese. Armed with books and maps, we set out in the early morning, however we did not take into account the Greek motorways. Some are fine but the ones we chose to drive on required nerves of steel and a sense of the bizarre. One main road suddenly terminated in a tiny mountain village and the only way forward was through a garden terrace, manoeuvring past lines of washing and playing children. The next road simply had never been tarmacked, although this did not worry the vast speeding lorries nor did the fact there was no barrier to the sea some three hundred feet below.

The upshot of this adventurous journey was that we arrived at Mystra just as the last tourist coach was leaving. The UNESCO site was now closed. I suppose my disappointment was obvious, so the caretaker shrugged his shoulders and unlocked the gate and let us in pointing to a hole in the fence for our exit.

It was a perfect June evening the sun was sliding down in the west taking with it the heat of the day. The town was silent except for the chatter of sparrows and the hum of bees on the lavender and rosemary bushes.

We walked down the precipitous cobbled main street, a carved stone drain running down the middle. Perfect stone-built houses were clustered along the roadside. Some by their frontage might have been shops, others houses. It was a Byzantine city in miniature. Narrow lanes

snaked between the buildings like a labyrinth, everywhere there were churches and monasteries. Some of these were locked, others were open. We went into the cool dark interiors with the lingering scent of incense and candle wax. During the Islamic invasion of Greece, many holy murals were white-washed. Although seen as sacrilege at the time, it has many places preserved the paintings underneath. I remember a mural of the twelve disciples sharing a bed. It did not look very comfortable.

As we walked down the through the town, in front of us was the wonderful view over the plains of Arcadia, the vibrant greens fading to distant blues. One monastery appeared occupied, so giving in to my curiosity, I crept into the courtyard. Lying in the last rays of the sun was a tabby cat nursing her kittens and purring with the happiness of her situation. From an open door came the voice of a woman singing, the scents of the herbs and flowers filled the air and I felt, was it for seconds or minutes this was a place where heaven met earth. All the history, tribulations, invasions and strife of the world had come to rest.

It was an experience one keeps.



Have your say!

The Big Church Survey is being run by the Renewal & Reform project and is funded by Church of England Strategic Development Funding.

St Martin's have been invited to take part in the initial launch.

Many churches have asked for ideas to help reflect on how their individual church is helping people grow in faith, discipleship and mission. The survey is being tested to see if this helps understanding and idea generation.

The survey is easy and will take no more than 10 minutes. It can be completed online via the link below or via a smart phone app - searching for Big Church Survey.

It's completely anonymous and once we have completed the survey we can download our churches own results. Both adults and children are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and can do so by going to:

<https://www.bigchurchsurvey.org/>

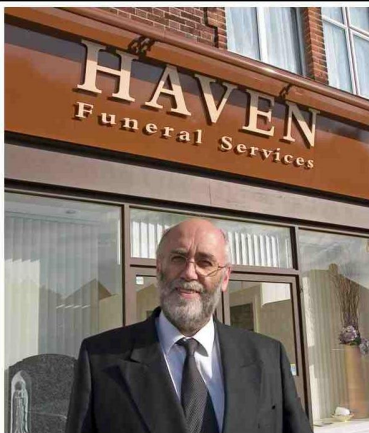
And Click on the Complete Survey button

The church ID code for St Martin's is: 33969

(We're registered as: S Martin West Acton)

It would be great if as many people as possible complete the survey by the end of June and I will share the findings with you all as soon as I get them.

Many thanks



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MAGPIE

By Leunig

Magpie, magpie, dive on me,
Swoop down from your holy tree;
As I pass the flower bed
Stick your beak into my head.
Magpie, magpie, make a hole,
Through my head into my soul:
As I pass beneath the sun
Bring my troubled head undone.
Magpie, magpie it is spring
Is my soul a happy thing?
As I pass around the tree
Make a hole so you can see.



PRAYER FOR SUMMERTIME

Loving God, Creator of all times and places,
we thank you for the gift of summertime,
the days of light, warmth and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere
we look:

the multi-coloured flowers,
the deep blue of the sky,
the tranquil surface of lakes,
the laughter of children at play,
people strolling in park,
families gathered around picnic tables and
the increased time to spend with family and friends.

As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature
and people,
open our hearts to receive all as gift.
Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist.
Help us to realize and appreciate that you are labouring
to keep all in existence.
And warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer
deepen our awareness of your love
so that we may share this with others and enjoy
a summertime of re-creation.

Amen

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