

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

October 2019

50p



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

[www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk](http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk)

Email: [stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com](mailto:stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com)

<b>The Vicar</b>	The Rev'd Julia Palmer 020 8992 2333
<b>SSM Assistant Priest</b>	The Rev'd Brandy Pearson (c/o Parish Office)
<b>Permission to Officiate</b>	The Rev'd Robert Pearson
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	The Rev'd Bryony Franklin (Fri & Sun)
<b>Commissioned Lay Minister to Japanese Anglican Church UK</b>	Mrs Yuki Johnson (07572 324107) <a href="mailto:yukifunakawa@btinternet.com">yukifunakawa@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Parish Administrator (weekdays: 9.30am – 1.30pm)</b>	Parish Office, rear of Church Hall, Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ 020 8992 2333
<b>Reader</b>	Dr Margaret Jones (020 8997 1418)
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	Mrs Lynne Armstrong (020 8992 8341)
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Liza Ambridge (020 8992 3029) Mr John Wilson
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mr Kenneth Bartram (c/o Parish Office)
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	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](mailto:stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com))  
Please title the email "magazine item"

**They should reach the Editor by 18<sup>th</sup> October.**  
**The November magazine will be on sale by 27<sup>th</sup> October.**



## **October – Food, Francis and Flying Birds**

Food, Francis and flying birds are the themes I am reminded of as I reflect on the month of October. On the 4<sup>th</sup> we remember St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), the patron saint of animals, merchants, and ecology. He grew up in a wealthy Italian family, trained as a soldier, fought in a war, was captured and had a religious experience which changed his life. He gave up his wealth, formed a new movement of friars called the Franciscans and spent most of his time caring for the poor, the sick, and looking after animals. He had a great respect for the environment and God's creation which is something very relevant today. With climate change, and our exploitation of natural resources and our over-use of anything plastic we would do well nurture a Franciscan spirit of being good stewards of our world.

Then of course in October we traditionally have a harvest festival. (All Age Harvest Service on the 13<sup>th</sup> October). This is about giving thanks for the food we eat and the water we

drink. But a key aspect is about being mindful of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. There are 3.9 million people (National Statistics) who live in poverty in the UK and approximately **1.1 billion people** in the world who live in absolute poverty according to the World Bank. So, find a charity (there are lots of them) and give something, it all helps to make the world a better place.

Then as I sit in the vicarage garden, I notice an abundance of birds and am reminded that many fly south for the winter, away from the cold and in search of food in warmer climates. The goose is one of these birds and if you see geese on their annual migrations flying in a "V" formation, it tells us a lot about working together. As each bird flaps its wings in the V formation it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following which adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. Similarly, if people share a common direction and sense of community they can get where they are going more quickly and easily, supporting each other. Then when a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. When the head goose gets tired, it goes to the back and another goose takes the lead. The goose teaches us how to work together and support each other. As we start a new chapter at St Martin's let us have a sense of goose!

Reflect, enjoy but also think of others.

Blessings,

Julia Palmer



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**The Installation of  
the Reverend Julia Palmer as Vicar,  
St. Martin's, West Acton  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**



Julia with Bishop Pete

This month, with great joy, St. Martin's welcomed our new vicar, the Reverend Julia Palmer. The institution was undertaken by the Bishop of Willesden, the right reverend Pete Broadbent and the induction and installation by the Archdeacon of Northolt, the venerable Duncan Green.

Father Robert Chapman from St. Thomas' Hanwell led a series of heartfelt commendations for Julia, and members of his congregation also attended to show their support.

The service was followed by a reception in our newly revamped hall, and everyone there appreciated the extra space.

Please join with us in praying for Julia and her family and for this community as we begin this new phase together.





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**10 a.m.**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**All-age service**

**Harvest Festival**



## **Harvest Festival Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Once again we are planning to give our harvest gifts to the local Women's Refuge. The refuge provides a safe temporary place for women and their children who are fleeing from domestic violence. These women often arrive with very few possessions and very little money.

We are asking for donations of food. The women have cooking facilities and can use non- perishable goods such as tinned food, cereals, biscuits, tea, coffee, rice and pasta. They also welcome donations of fresh fruit and vegetables. Most of the food will be distributed immediately, but some food will be kept to be given to new residents who arrive in the coming months

St Martin's has been supporting the refuge for many years now and our donations are always gratefully received.

Please bring you harvest gifts to the 10am service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Margaret Jones

## **WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT AS A JUNIOR CHURCH LEADER?**

Do you enjoy the company of children and young people? Would you like to help to inspire them to learn about our Christian faith at the same time as having fun?

We are looking for a few more people to join our rota of junior church leaders at St Martins, to help us continue our thriving junior church.

This would involve helping plan and run the session as part of a team of two once every 6-8 weeks (depending how many people we have on the rota). We have a range of resources available with plenty of ideas for activities to fit in with the seasons and scripture readings, and training would be provided. A full Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check would be required, which we would arrange, in line with our safeguarding policy.

If you think you might like to help, or would just like to find out more, please speak to our assistant curate Bryony Franklin, or email her on [bryonyfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:bryonyfranklin@gmail.com)



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On 26<sup>th</sup> October is the feast day for....

## **Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons and Anglo-Saxons (848/9-899)**

Alfred was the son of the King of Wessex, born at a time when Britain was divided into different kingdoms. The youngest of at least six children, his three elder brothers were successively kings of Wessex before him.

At the age of about 19, Alfred married Ealhswith, the daughter of an Earl with whom he had five children. Then, two years later in 871 he became King of Wessex. Immediately he was under pressure to provide strong leadership as the West Saxons were involved in a series of major battles with the Vikings.

Many will have heard the story of Alfred burning some cakes. This happened in 878 when in the midst of battle against the Vikings, he was forced to retreat to the marshes of Athelney (Somerset). Legend has it that Alfred took refuge in the home of a peasant woman. She asked that Alfred keep an eye on her cakes (small loaves of bread) which were baking by the fire. However, Alfred was distracted by his problems and let them burn. The woman roundly scolded the king. Whether or not she knew who he was is unknown.

In a period of intense fighting, when the average life expectancy was low, Alfred was determined to survive. He proved his worth as military leader, reforming Wessex's military and building a strong fortress from which they could fend off the Vikings. By 886, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, "All the English peoples acknowledged Alfred as their king except those who were still under the rule of the Danes in the North and the East".

What makes Alfred remarkable for his time, was rather than just being a military leader, he was also an academic. The two did not tend to go hand in hand. Alfred studied widely and promoted the translation of texts into what we now call 'Old English'. This meant more people could understand the works and share their meaning. It's possible that Alfred wanted his people to identify as English rather than Scandinavian. He also embraced Christianity, as opposed to the Paganism of the Vikings. In thanksgiving for his eventual victory against the Vikings and in gratitude to those who protected him, Alfred had a monastery built on the Isle of Athelney in 888. Sadly the building was destroyed in 1539 during the dissolution of the monasteries.

Alfred died on 26<sup>th</sup> October 899 and was buried in Winchester, Hampshire.



There is a statue of King Alfred the Great in Winchester, near the city's medieval East Gate. It was erected in 1899 to mark one thousand years since Alfred's death.

## To Autumn

John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:  
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozy hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river shallows, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

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## Puzzle Page

October Word search

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Alfred  
Donation  
God  
Vicar

Bishop  
Festival  
Goose

Charity  
Food  
Harvest

Climate  
Francis  
Kindness

Creation  
Giving  
Refuge

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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

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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