

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

January 2020

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 Julia Palmer 020 8992 2333
SSM Assistant Priest	The Rev'd Brandy Pearson (c/o Parish Office)
Permission to Officiate	The Rev'd Robert Pearson
Assistant Curate	The Rev'd Bryony Franklin (Fri & Sun)
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)
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 15th January.
The February magazine will be on sale by 25th January.

Happy New Year!

The concept of a New Year is a slightly odd thing. When does a new year begin? In the church calendar, the new year begins with the first Sunday in Advent – so I should really have wished you Happy New Year on 1st December. In my NHS job, the new year in relation to financial and performance planning starts on 1st April. And in schools and universities, the new year starts on 1st September or 1st October respectively, when the new students start. But for most of us, the beginning of January represents a particularly significant time when we start a new calendar year.

Regardless of the date, marking the transition from one year to the next is often a time to both reflect on the year that has gone, and think about the year that is yet to come. We might think about significant moments from the past year, both good and bad, as well as thinking about our hopes for what the next year will bring (and if you like to make new years' resolutions, what you might want to do differently).

Our Christian faith also includes these elements of both looking back and looking forwards. We look back as we remember Christ's birth, death and resurrection, and we look forwards to his coming again. But we also celebrate that Jesus is with us in the present, with our Christmas scripture references to Jesus as Emmanuel ("God with us") a recent reminder of this. And as Revelation 1:8 reminds us, "I am the Alpha and the Omega...who is, and who was,

and who is to come, the Almighty.” Our God is the unchanging God of the present, the past, and the future.

So, if you are someone who likes to reflect on the past year, I’d encourage you to see how God has guided you and been with you along every step, even when it’s felt like he’s far off. And I pray that you would know the closeness of Emmanuel, “God with you”, now and in the year ahead.

Revd Bryony Dean Franklin
Assistant Curate



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DATES FOR THE DIARY!



Tuesday 24th December

4pm – Children's Carol Service



11pm – Midnight Eucharist for Christmas

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

10am – Parish Eucharist for Christmas Day



St. Martin's Christingle Service

On Sunday 1st December, we had our annual Christingle service. We must thank Bryony and her industrious team for preparing all the Christingles in advance!





And who can forget, the amazing Human Christingle:



During the service, St. Martin's also lit the first of our Advent candles:



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The Christingle service was followed this year by the Christmas Bazaar. Thank you do everyone who donated items, helped set up and tidy away on the day, and everyone who bought raffle tickets and joined in with the fun. None of it would have been possible without the wonderful Ellen organising it, thank you!

In November, the members of Junior Church made Christmas cards to sell at the bazaar. Everyone got involved and worked very hard to produce great cards. Here a few pictures of the creative process....





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4. FROM BRANDY'S COMMONPLACE BOOK



This month's quotation is the most recent addition to my Commonplace Book, from the first volume of the Revd Richard Coles' autobiography, "Fathomless Riches, or How I went from Pop to Pulpit". He was a member of the Communards in the 1980s and is now a vicar and broadcaster. This piece is not about his life, but about prayer:

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

It seems obvious, but is often overlooked, that there is nothing more important for a Christian to do than pray. It is so easy to duck it, to move prayer to the margins of our lives and to the life of the Church; but what's the point of us if we don't?

And if prayer seems to have moved to the margins of the life of the Church, how marginal has it become to everything else?

It seems extraordinary to me that having prayed for millennia, human beings in the last hundred years or so in places like Western Europe just stopped.

Abandoning a practice so central to the lives of individuals and societies, for whatever reason, is inevitably going to have an effect, whether you think it fruitful or not.

If we're made for prayer, and some have said there are neurological as well as theological grounds to think so, then how is the appetite for it satisfied in a prayerless world.

Perhaps one of the causes of the unhappiness which so many seem to think of as a characteristic of our culture is the unsatisfied hunger, this spiritual starvation.

from Fathomless Prayer by The Revd Richard Coles

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New Year's Eve!

Will you be in fancy dress this year? Are you hosting a party? Are you heading into Central London to see the fireworks, or will you be asleep? However you decided to celebrate New Year's Eve this year, here are some traditions from around the globe:

Chile

Putting money at the bottom of your shoe or eating a spoonful of lentils at midnight is supposed to bring you prosperity for the next twelve months.

Greece

It has become very popular to sing new year's carols and the younger singers typically receive money from family and friends. When the countdown begins, families turn off the lights so that they can start the new year with fresh eyes.

The Philippines

On New Year's Eve, it's all about dots and circles! Filipinos wear polka dots and carry coins in their pockets. Round objects signify prosperity, so many families eat and display round fruits such as oranges and grapefruits.

Spain

It's common to eat twelve grapes at midnight, to bring good luck for each month of the new year. Each grape has to be eaten in time with each chime of the bell.

Ecuador

At midnight, Ecuadorians burn effigies of politicians and anyone else they don't like, at midnight. The idea is to get rid of the negative energy of the past year.

Brazil

Brazilians wear all-white on New Year's Eve to ward off evil spirits. Other traditions include jumping over seven ocean waves (one for each day of the week) and throwing flowers in the sea.

Cuba

If 2020 is the year of travel for you, Cubans would recommend that you circle your house with a suitcase when the clocks strike twelve – it will bring you traveling opportunities for the new year. Or, for general good luck, sweep your house or throw water out the window.

Whatever you do HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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

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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