

# **ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY**

March 2020

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>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Liza Ambridge (020 8992 3029)
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Rachel Balcombe

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> March.**

**The April magazine will be on sale by 28<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Change

Change is something we all react to differently. Some of us are very change-averse, really disliking the everyday changes that happen in our lives. Others are more accepting, looking for the positives in new things. Most of us are firmly in the middle! I have never quite seen the truth of the old saying that change is as good as a rest, though.

All of us find change challenging at times; clearly it depends what the changes are. There are a great many “for” and “against” quotes about change – one of the most favoured is “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”. I like the one by Eckhart Tolle, the spiritual writer, who said: “Some changes look negative on the surface, but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge.”

David Attenborough has a more down-to-earth perspective: “the snake that does not shed its skin will die”. The basis of a good and vibrant church is, of course, that the good news, or Gospel, is at the heart of everything. In order to have that sort of church in this changing world we need to appeal to all ages, and keep up with the current thinking, choosing the best of it to develop to suit ourselves. Just staying the same is not an option, because if change is not allowed, a church will not grow. In my experience locally I have seen this happen – churches have been so reduced in size that they have been closed or combined.



Here at St Martin's we have had a big change. Nick Henderson had been our vicar for a very long time. When he retired, we were very lucky that Brandy and Rob were available and willing to help us through what might have been a very difficult interregnum. Friends have told me about their experiences and I think we got off very lightly.

Now we have Julia, we can look with more confidence to the future of St Martin's. She has had good experience, and can help us look again at some of our approach to the great festivals of the church relatively painlessly. She is just getting her feet under the table; we have had her first Christmas, and now we are rapidly approaching Easter.

I was really surprised to find that we have had our red Common Worship booklets for more than 15 years, although from the look of some of them they have certainly seen some hard service. I think that the new "seasonal" booklets that Julia is trialing are a welcome new look at our main service – and to avoid waste we need to remind ourselves not to treat them as souvenirs and take them home with us! Brandy's artistic and layout skills have made the new ones look very attractive.

The Great Annual Egg Rolling competition is coming – gentlemen, maybe this will be your lucky year! – or maybe not!

–Lynne Armstrong, February 2020



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# **DATES FOR THE DIARY!**

## **Saturdays 15<sup>th</sup> Feb to 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Opportunities to help at Ealing Churches Night Shelter at St Matthews. Contact Bryony for information.

## **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February**

2pm: Questors Choir rehearsal, all welcome. To register: [www.questorschoir.org/mendelssohn](http://www.questorschoir.org/mendelssohn) or 07939 064 247.

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March: First Sunday of Lent**

6.30pm: Taize Service

## **Lent course on Christian meditation**

Mondays, 2<sup>nd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March 12-1.30pm: St Martin's vicarage

Weds, 4<sup>th</sup> March-1<sup>st</sup> April 7.30-9pm: St Mary's vicarage

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

10-12am: Japanese community café

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Mothering Sunday

## **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Remember, the clocks go forward!

# Lent & Easter 2020

**Shrove Tuesday –  
Feb 25th – 6 – 8pm  
Pancake Party at the  
Vicarage**



**Ash Wednesday – Feb  
26th – 11am and 8pm  
Eucharist with Ashing**

**Sat Feb 29th - 10am to 4pm  
PCC Away Day at St Matthew's  
Ealing Common**

If you have anything you wish the PCC to discuss, make sure you talk to a member of the PCC



**Sunday March 1st –  
6.30pm  
Taize Service - a  
meditative service  
of Taize songs and  
worship**

**Mon March 2nd & Weds March 4th  
1st Lent Group – Maranatha  
– see Lent Poster for details**

**Mothering Sunday – March 22nd –  
10am - All Age Worship**



**6.30pm – Eucharist**

**Sat March 28th – REMEMBER!  
the clocks go forward**



**Sun April 5th – 10am –  
Palm Sunday with  
Procession  
beginning in the Church  
Hall**



**Maundy Thursday  
– April 9th – 8pm  
Celebration of the Last  
Supper with Foot  
washing and Stripping  
of the Altar**



**Good Friday – April  
10th  
10am - Children's  
Messy Church**

**12 noon – Stations of the Cross  
followed by Meditations  
3pm – Good Friday Liturgy**



**Holy Saturday – April  
11th – 10am  
Cleaning and  
Decorating of the  
Church  
8pm – Service of Light  
with Easter Fire, Easter Vigil and  
Eucharist**

**Easter Sunday – April 12th –  
8am - BCP Holy Communion  
10am – Eucharist for Easter Day**



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#LiveLent is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything.

This year's #LiveLent challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

It has been inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio (SPCK).

Visit the Church of England website or social media for further details of different ways to engage with the 40 reflections throughout the season of Lent.

## Ken Bartram's retirement

After an incredible 27 years playing for us at St Martins, on Sunday 9th February it was Ken's last official engagement as our organist. As well as giving Ken some gifts during the service, we shared what can only be described as a banquet after the service (with many thanks to Camilla!). As well as heartfelt thanks from the present vicar and other members of St Martins, our previous vicar Nick Henderson, who worked with Ken for most of those 27 years, sent a speech which was read out afterwards, and we all had opportunity to thank Ken for his service to our community, and for his friendship. Ken, we will miss you!





## From *Spring* by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –  
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;  
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush  
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring  
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;  
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush  
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush  
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their  
fling.

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## **Opportunity to Help Out at Ealing Churches Together Winter Night Shelter**

One of the suggestions made by our young people earlier this year was that they wanted to have opportunities to help those in need in our community in practical ways, particularly highlighting homeless people as an example.

We have therefore been in collaboration with St Matthews Church at Ealing Common who host the Ealing Churches Night Shelter on **Saturday nights between 15th Feb and 28th March**. While those under the age of 18 are not permitted to be there when the guests are present, they would love it if our young people can help set up the shelter, get the beds set up in the church hall and the tables and chairs in the vestry, between **5pm and 6:45pm each Saturday**.

Here are some links to a video about the work of the shelter, if you are would like more information:

<https://youtu.be/r6HsJv9SqII>

<https://www.ecwns.org.uk/>

If you or your young people would like to help out, please let Bryony know which dates would work best, so that she can liaise with the team at St Matthews.

Separately, they would also welcome over 18's to help out on the evening, overnight and breakfast shifts – again let Bryony know if you are interested!



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## **1<sup>st</sup> March: St David's Day**

St David is well-known as the patron saint of Wales. To mark his day, Welsh people around the world often wear one or both of their national emblems – a daffodil and a leek.

Every year, a National St David's Day parade is held in the centre of Cardiff, with many children wearing traditional Welsh clothing and performances from dragons and theatre groups.

St David was born on the south-west coast of Wales at some point between 462 and 515AD, near to where the city of St Davids is today. It was said that he lived for more than 100 years and died on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 589.

It is believed that his last words to his followers before his death were: "Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do."





# **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