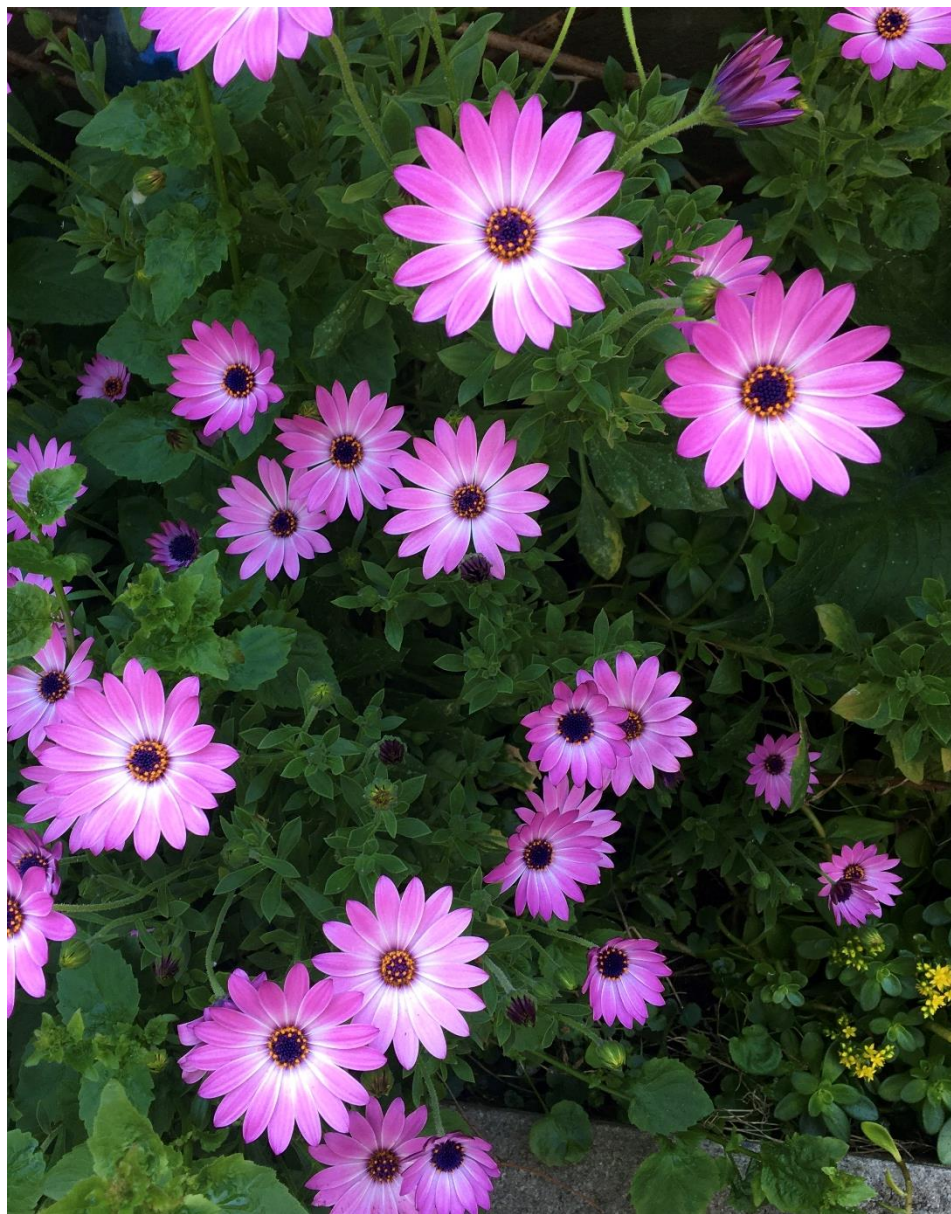


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

May 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)
Churchwarden	Mrs Liza Ambridge (020 8992 3029)
Magazine Editor	Ren 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)
Please title the email "magazine item"

They should reach the Editor by 18th May.

The June magazine will be on sale by 25th May.

NOTICES

YouTube: We are “St.Martin’s, West Acton” on YouTube – our icon is a photo of our church. Subscribe to our channel to be alerted when videos are posted.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmartinswestacton/. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view the page.

Sunday 3rd May: 10am Parish Eucharist, plus junior church service, on YouTube and Facebook.

Sunday 10th May: 10am Parish Eucharist. Beginning of Christian Aid Week.

Sunday 17th May: Rogation Sunday, all-age service. To help us think about our parish and all who attend our church, we invite you to email Bryony a picture of yourself or your family either inside of outside your home (adhering to physical distancing requirements of course!) that we can use as part of a photo montage in the service.

Poetry: If you would like to write a poem about your experience of lockdown, or anything else, please send to Brandy. We can post on Facebook and/or in the magazine.

Would you like us to call you? If you are feeling out of touch with us, need any help, or would just like a friendly phone call, please contact the parish office.

Finances: We have lost all our income from renting the hall and with no Sunday services our regular giving has gone down. Many of you give financially through standing orders but if you give regularly in cash or by envelope, please consider giving direct to the bank or setting up a standing order. Our account details are: St Martins Church West Acton, Sort code: 40-11-58, Account 60482676.

Dear all,

As I write this article, I can see out into the vicarage garden which is awash with bluebells, forget-me-nots, weeds, squirrels and various birds. It's a bit wild, but lovely, in an unkempt sort of way. It's getting warm enough to sit outside and breath in the fresh spring air.

All is good, apart from - it isn't! Something is very wrong. We are in lockdown. The church is locked until further notice – something that hasn't happened since the 1500's at the time of the Reformation. We all have to stay at home. People can't go to work, unless they are a key worker. Nobody can go within 2m of another person unless they are of the same family unit and thousands of people are dying everyday, with a virus that there is no vaccine for.

Many churches are trying to keep people in touch through using different social media technologies. I have learnt more about social media in the last two weeks than I have in the last ten years! Lent just gone was the 'lentiest' Lent I have experienced and Easter was probably the most 'un-eastery' Easter I have lived through. Theologically there is a question and a challenge – how do we celebrate Easter in a Good Friday world? Asking people to be joyful because 'Jesus is risen' all feels a bit incongruent.

But having said that, the risen Christ comes to us as he always has. He is with us in this broken world, he grieves with us, he works with us to heal, to bring calm, to bring peace and yes even joy. It's about hanging onto a truth as Desmond Tutu writes: 'Good is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, life is

stronger than death'. The principle of the resurrection is that good will always prevail. Trust, spot the signs, see the hope and keep the flame burning.

St Martin's is trying to keep the flame of faith burning by providing a Sunday Service at 10am every Sunday during lockdown. To find it, go to www.youtube.com and search for 'St Martin's West Acton' and you should find us there. We are also sending out Daily Reflections by email and on Facebook so make sure you are on our email list. The leadership team and others are praying everyday for people and the parish – if you have any prayer requests then send them to me or the office. Also, if you know of anyone who needs help during lockdown, then let us know. There is a team on stand.

It was Dame Vera Lynn's 103rd birthday in March and she used it to urge people to find a moment of joy in these dark time and to remind us that music is good for the soul. So, in the words of the iconic song – 'We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but we'll meet again some sunny day!'

Keep safe and blessings,

Julia Palmer

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Junior church – we may be in lock-down but we are still connected!



As well as moving to online church services for the whole congregation, we have been giving some thought to how we can help our children and young people remain connected with their faith, with St Martin's, and with one another.

With this in mind, we had our first online Junior Church service on Palm Sunday. Recorded in Bryony's dining room, we had our usual prayers, the relevant scripture reading, a craft activity to do at home, and prayers for one another based on prayer requests that the children had sent to Bryony in advance. Several of our young people sent in photos of their finished craft afterwards, as shown in the photos. The other photo is of Bryony recording the service on her mobile phone, completely with a cardboard "autocue". The videos are on our YouTube channel (search for "St.Martin's, West Acton" if you haven't seen them yet!

We plan to continue doing these junior church services on as many Sundays as possible – please do email Bryony on bryonyfranklin@gmail.com with any prayer requests from your children and young people.



We will also be setting up an online youth group meet-up via Zoom for high school age children – please let Bryony know if your young person would like to join in.

Rev Bryony Franklin

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May Day – celebrate the spring!

The first day of the month of May is known as May Day, Beltane, or Garland Day in some parts of Britain. It marks the time of year when spring has truly sprung, with the weather getting warmer and flowers and blossom blooming. The Anglo-Saxon name for May was Tri-Milchi, because the new growth of grass meant that the cows could be milked three times a day.

If you're lucky, you may even spot some baby birds! I've been seeing a magpie pair and a blackbird pair visit the garden, so I'm hoping that if I keep my eyes peeled, I'll spot the fledglings. May Day traditionally celebrates joy and hope after a long winter – something I think we're all looking forward to!



The Festival of Flora: Celebrated by the Romans, this festival was held annually from 28th April to 3rd May to honour Flora, the goddess of fruit and flowers.

Morris Dancing: Passed down through generations in rural England for hundreds of years, the Morris Dance is famously performed on the May Day, but is also danced at Whitsun (also known as Pentecost, this year celebrated on 31st May) and Christmas.



Maypole Dancing: Maypoles were traditionally kept from one year to the next, with schools practicing skipping round the pole for weeks before the final show on the village green. The ribbons held by the dancers would plait into beautiful patterns around the pole as they danced – depending on how well they'd practiced!

The tallest maypole is said to have been erected in London on the Strand in 1661. Standing over 143ft high, it was felled in 1717 to be used by Isaac Newton to support Huygen's new reflecting telescope.

May anniversaries

5th May 1930: Amy Johnson was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

6th May 1954: Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes.

8th May 1945: VE Day – Victory in Europe.

10th May 1994: Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa.

18th May 1991: Helen Sharman became the first British woman in space.

29th May 1953: Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Everest.



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Pentecost

This year, Pentecost falls on 31st May. The seventh Sunday after Easter, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples after his ascension into Heaven. It is otherwise known as Whitsun, an evolution of 'White Sunday', as the newly baptised traditionally wore white. However, it is also tradition to wear red clothing, as red is the liturgical colour of the day.

In medieval times, Christians would dramatize the Pentecost symbols of the dove, evoking Christ's ascension, and the flames, inspired by the Holy Spirit appearing as tongues of fire resting on the heads of the disciples at Pentecost. When the priest intoned:



"Come, Holy Ghost", choirboys might hiss and hum, and rattle their benches. From a hole in the wall an image of a dove would be lowered, suspended above the church as a shower of flowers and water were flung down to represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit and baptism. In the 13th century, French cathedrals would even release doves inside the building, and some towns in central Europe even dropped pieces of burning straw to represent the tongues of flame – though this custom was eventually abandoned for safety reasons.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church online

In these unprecedented times, the Church of England is holding its weekly services online. If you're left wanting more connection with the wider Church community after our services, please do check out the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online> to view their online services and a list of resources to help you walk with Jesus, including a variety of prayers and reflections.

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Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen
life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.





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