

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

July 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
Cover image by	Paige Grayson

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 July.

The August magazine will be on sale by 28th July.

NOTICES

10am Sunday 5th July will be our first public worship since March. This will be a Holy Communion Service with social distancing and hygiene measures in place. The service will also be filmed so that those who cannot attend will be able to share the time with us.

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.

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.

Dial-in worship: from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dial in to listen to prayers and reflections at any time by calling 0800 804 8044.

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.

People of the Way

Like most people in lockdown, I have been doing some “sorting out”. I am really looking forward to two sorts of shop openings – one being hairdressers, the other charity shops, so that I can dispose of the results of my sorting out.

Something I rediscovered while sorting was a book by Liz Babbs called *Celtic Heart: Reflections for Life’s Journey*. It contains a poem that, for me, really sums up the journey that Christians take, either singly or together. It talks about journeying to the Pearl of Great Price, as mentioned in the parable in Matthew’s gospel, and listening to the voice of the soul and the voice of the spirit on our way.

Life is full of divisions – both temporal, like days, weeks, months, or more spiritual, like Lent, Easter, Pentecost. We split our time up according to our interests: tennis, or football, or Glastonbury, or the Proms etc. But for the last three months all of that has been missing this year – except the internal journeying in our souls.

We have been reaching for more from our spiritual leaders – from Archbishops to the local, where Julia has set in place really helpful things like Youtube services, the daily reflections, Zoom meetings etc. We have needed the extra comfort of our faith – one of my cousins is also Christian and he said to me: “I’m not brave enough not to believe in God”. I really see what he means.

The Christian journey is an adventure, as is all life, but it isn’t as scary as some. We have the comfort of knowing we are loved, and the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit if we

ask for it – how amazing it that? So as we go on our journey through life, take the time to listen to the soul, and to the spirit.

One of the helpers we all have is music and rhythm – church music and other music, too, a lot of the sound tracks to our lives are very uplifting. We have had the benefit of music during these three months – especially from Isabel Reid who has sung for us so beautifully at our Youtube and Facebook services. If your soul and your spirit are uplifted by music and poetry then you have another helper on the journey we are all taking.

Another helper is visual – from great art to crayon rainbows for the NHS – all give help to the spirit and the soul. The great art in museums and galleries that we like or loathe, paintings or colouring that some of us do, down to the patchwork project – all of these are visual helpers to make your journey easier.

So, as people of the way, listen or look at the helpers we have been given, take the time to listen to your Soul and spirit, and remember that we are blessed by the Pearl of Great Price, in the love of God.

–Lynne Armstrong

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Junior church exploration of The Trinity

On Trinity Sunday, 7th June, our junior church session explored the question of "What is The Trinity?" A tough question for any of us, but our young people were very much up for it.



We played a game involving thinking of three different uses for a rather random range of household objects, to get us thinking about the number "three". We watched a fun video about The Trinity and then invited our young people to create or share something to represent the Trinity for them. Some of their creations are shown in the pictures. Several

used a triangle to represent the idea of “three in one” – one of our young people also commented that a triangle has a lot of strength and that this is very appropriate as God is stronger than anything else.



At the time of writing, our junior church sessions are taking place at 10am each Sunday morning via the Zoom online conferencing platform – if your young people would like to join us and if you aren’t already on the mailing list to get the link for these, please let me know.

Rev Bryony Franklin bryonyfranklin@gmail.com

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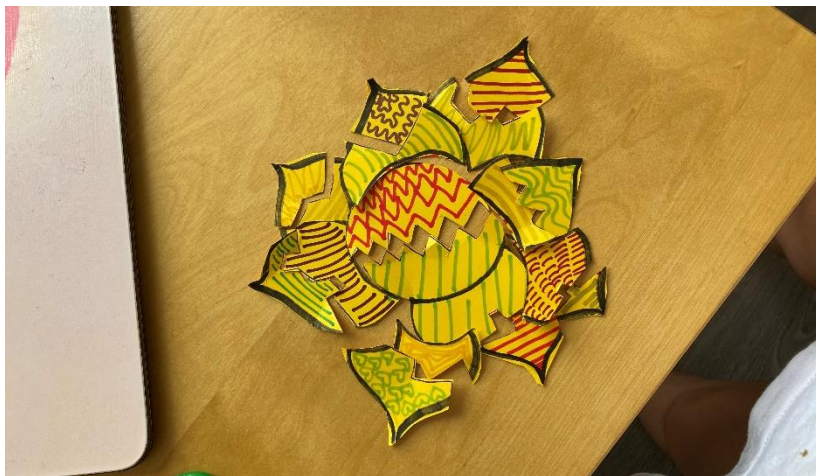
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Junior Church – Celebrating Diversity



On Sunday 14th June our online junior church focused on Celebrating Diversity, based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-21. We watched a great video on this passage from Virtual Sunday School on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfbjttWNRV8&t=459s>



The video shows how crazy it would be if our body was all made up of eyes, or noses, or hands... instead, we need all these different parts.

We then saw how it's just the same with the people who make up the Body of Christ. We are all different, and all just as important – and we really need this diversity if the Body is to work properly. We did a craft activity where we

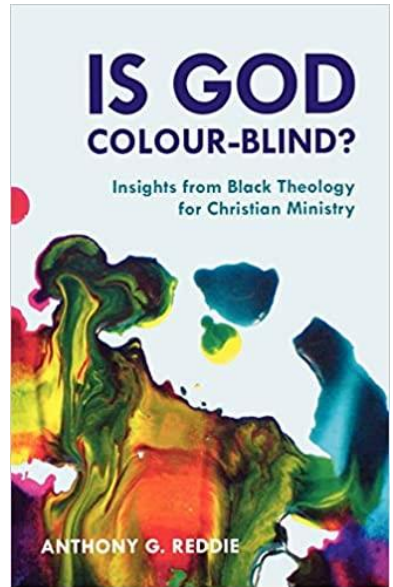
made jigsaws to show how all the different pieces of the body are needed to make up the whole – you can see some of these in the pictures. While we were doing this, we talked a bit about how there was a lot in the news at the moment about how people of different racial backgrounds and different skin colours were sometimes treated badly, and how wrong this was. We then prayed for the people and situations that the young people wanted to pray for, including for an end to all forms of racism.



Black Lives Matter

“In the UK, recent research demonstrates that black children are twice as likely to live in poverty than white children. Black people face discrimination in employment and health care. They are more likely to be stopped and searched by police, to get sentenced to prison time and to be given longer sentences than white people. As a country, we have our own stories of excessive force and of the deaths of black people in police custody. Stories that do not end with justice.” – Selina Stone

<https://www.licc.org.uk/resources/we-cant-breathe/>



If you would like to learn more about race, Britain and theology through reading, St Mellitus Tutor and Lecturer Selina Stone has put together the below reading list as a place to start:

- *Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire* by Akala
- *Jesus is Dread: Black Theology and Black Culture in Britain* by Robert Beckford
- *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging* by Afua Hirsch
- *Black and British: A Forgotten History* by David Olusoga
- *Is God Colour-Blind?: Insights from Black Theology for Christian Ministry* by Anthony Reddie
- *Working Against the Grain: Black Theology in the 21st Century* by Anthony Reddie

This reading list is recommended as a starting point to learn about Black lives and experience in a British and theological context. If you have any further resources you'd like to suggest in future issues, please do get in touch. The Black Lives Matter movement has sparked a global conversation about human rights and race, and it is more important than ever that we are open to learning about others, and standing up for those whose rights, lives and dignity are threatened.

"For those moved to compassion, it's also a time to listen, learn, and practise solidarity with your black brothers and sisters. Action is the way we bring about a new world. A world that cares, principally, for the 'least of these'."

– Selina Stone <https://www.licc.org.uk/resources/we-cant-breathe/>

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Hollow by Vanessa Kisuule

You came down easy in the end.
The righteous wrench of two ropes in a grand plié.

Briefly, you flew, corkscrewed, then met the ground
With the clang of toy guns, loose change, chains, a rain
of cheers.

Standing ovation on the platform of your neck.
Punk Ballet. Act 1.
There is more to come.

And who carved you?
They took such care with that stately pose and propped
chin.
Wise and virtuous, the plaque assured us.
Victors wish history odourless and static.
But history is a sneaky mistress.

Moves like smoke, Colston,
Like saliva in a hungry mouth.

This is your rightful home,
Here, in the pit of chaos with the rest of us.
Take your twisted glory and feed it to the tadpoles.
Kids will write raps to that syncopated splash.

I think of you lying in the harbour
With the horrors you hosted.
There is no poem more succinct than that.

But still you are permanent.
You who perfected the ratio.
Blood to sugar to money to bricks.

Each bougie building we flaunt haunted by bones.
Children learn and titans sing
Under the stubborn rust of your name.

But the air is gently throbbing with newness.
Can you feel it?

Colston, I can't get the sound of you from my head.
Countless times I passed that plinth,
Its heavy threat of metal and marble.

But as you landed, a piece of you fell off, broke away,
And inside, nothing but air.

This whole time, you were hollow.



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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