

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

September 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 "September Magazine"

They should reach the Editor by 18th September.
The October magazine will be on sale by 28th September.

NOTICES

Sunday services:

8.30am – online Junior Church breakfast. Email Bryony for more information.

10am – All Age Holy Communion. The service is also live-streamed on YouTube, see the link below.

6.30pm – Zoom Evening Prayer. See the service sheet for access details.

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ9miga4kIhXkXj-m-p2b0FA> Subscribe 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.

Sancia Rosoman: Sadly, a longtime member of St Martin's Church, Sancia Rosoman, passed away on 12th August. Her funeral is at 12pm on 16th September at Mortlake Crematorium. If anyone would like to attend please ring the office on 020 8992 2333.

Finances: We have lost a lot of income over lockdown. 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.

Fundraising: Following discussions in August, we are looking for volunteers to help plan the following:

- Online quiz night (contact Bryony)
- Sponsored events (contact Shelley)
- Online raffle (contact Shelley or Bryony)

Junior church: We are interested in hearing the views of our young people and their parents on whether to continue running Junior Church via Zoom, or whether to consider restarting face to face sessions in the hall, in line with relevant social distancing guidance from the government and the Church of England. If you haven't received an email asking for your views and would like to contribute your thoughts, please email Bryony.

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Looking forward with hope

There's no doubt about it – the past six months have been like no other in living memory, with the total lockdown of communities, normal routines gone, and people dying from a virus which has no vaccine. It's the sort of thing we find in a science fiction film – but now it's real life. For some, not being able to see loved ones or attend a funeral would be unthinkable a few months ago. But that has been the harsh reality.

As a church we share a Gospel of hope. We hold the light in the darkness and in the midst of suffering we know that Christ stands with us. St John of the Cross writes: "In the dark night of the soul, bright flows the river of God." So, what is the light in the darkness? What are the blessings in all of this? You may have your own, but I've come up with three: the importance of relationships and connecting as the body of Christ; the gift of technology and how it has connected people together and spread the Gospel; the blessing of a prayer routine which has helped to anchor me in the maelstrom of this present time.

But more than this is the hope we find in the Gospel. September gives us reason to hope. We now have the church open for services. They may be a bit different, but we are there, worshipping and connecting as the Body of Christ. We have the priesting of Rev. Bryony Franklin, which should have happened in July, but is now on 25th September. We are blessed and grateful for Bryony's ministry. We are also grateful for the ministry of Revs. Rob and Brandy Pearson, who will be retiring on the 6th September. We hope for health and happiness for their future.

In September we also see a stark change in the seasons as autumn approaches. The harvest is brought in, the nights become darker, temperatures drop and the leaves swirl in the autumn winds. We are reminded that change is inevitable, and nothing is permanent, although we do know there will be more summers to come.

So in all the chaos of the pandemic let us remember that “This too shall pass”, first used by Abraham Lincoln as a mantra to help him through difficult times. But do not forget to notice and count your blessings too.

Amen.

Rev. Julia Palmer



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Wedding!

Congratulations to Joss and Paul, who were married in St Martin's Church on 7th August with Joss' father and Paul's parents as guests. We wish you many happy years together!





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Fax: 020 8992 0208

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Speaking of weddings...

Congratulations to Lynne and Richard Armstrong! They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary together on 15th August with a socially distanced event after church, where Lynne had preached on the Wedding at Cana.



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Dates for the diary

Organic September: A month-long campaign to raise awareness and consumption of organic products, while also supporting the farmers, producers and brands who make them possible.

5th September: International Day of Charity. This day commemorates the anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa. It encourages countries, organizations and individuals to take public action and support charitable work worldwide to alleviate poverty and suffering.

8th September: International Literacy Day. A day to raise awareness globally on issues surrounding adult and child literacy. While great progress has been made, 773 million adults and young people lack basic literacy skills. Literacy is also an integral element of eradicating poverty and inequality.



10th September: World Suicide Prevention Day. A day to remember victims of suicide and raise awareness of suicide. It's OK not to be OK. Why not take a minute out of your day to ask if someone is OK? It could help to lift someone out of crisis.

15th September: International Day of Democracy. It's important to spread the values of freedom, human rights and genuine elections worldwide – now more than ever.

19th September: International Talk Like a Pirate Day. A fun one! Many websites and social media sites will allow you to switch your viewing language to Pirate for the day.

21st September: International Day of Peace, or World Peace Day. A day to reflect upon the cruel price of war and call for a global ceasefire in all combat zones.

22nd September: World Car-Free Day. Every year, road closures and other events are organised across the world to encourage people to use other methods of transport.

26th September: European Day of Languages. A day to celebrate all the world's languages and cultural diversity and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning.

Devotionals

Over the years, I've found great comfort in reading a daily devotional. It's an opportunity to spend just a moment with God in stillness before rushing about my day, and often the selected quotes encourage me to think about something I hadn't considered before. Below are a few verses selected for September.



From *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young:

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong." –2 Corinthians 12:9-10

"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."
–Jeremiah 31:25

"The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." –Numbers 6:25-26

From *Amazing You* by Phillippa Hanna

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." –Zechariah 4:10

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." –Matthew 6:34





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

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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