

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

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

NOTICES

Sunday services:

8.30am – online Junior Church breakfast (email Bryony)

10am – All Age Holy Communion (also via Youtube)

6.30pm – Zoom Evening Prayer

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ9miqua4kIhXkXjMp2b0FA> 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.

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.

Wearing a face covering in church

Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and in shops and supermarkets. People are also encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a place of worship. So the question is whether or not we should wear face coverings in church when we attend a service.

The Diocese strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

The St Martin's Leadership meeting discussed this issue and have concluded that celebrants should not wear face coverings while in the Sanctuary delivering the service, but will wear them during the Procession and Recession, and while distributing the Communion.

So should the congregation wear face coverings? It is not yet mandatory, but as noted above, it is strongly recommended by the Diocese. We do have effective distancing in place in St Martin's, and it seems to be working well. However, and erring on the side of caution, the churchwardens suggest that, if you can, you should seriously consider wearing a face covering when attending the service on Sundays.

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Farewell from Rob and Brandy

When we moved here nearly five years ago, we came from down the road in South Acton, up into the quirkily named St Martin's Cottage, a different church in a different area, though only a twenty minute walk from where we were before, from a former council estate in the throes of regeneration, to the quiet mansions and magnolia trees of Hale Gardens.

When we came, it was to assist Nick Henderson here, with the idea of seeing the parish through the interregnum following Nick's retirement. That all took longer than we thought, but we have never regretted it, because we have got to know a great community of people. When Julia became the vicar, no one could have predicted our present situation. What a beginning for her ministry here!

However, the people of St Martin's have remained loyal and have come together, to create online worship, to care for the isolated, to clean and sort the church and we have now returned to socially distanced church worship, long before many of the parishes around. It is a great sign of the depth of fellowship here that St Martin's has been able to respond creatively to the crisis and put in place online services and the Zoom children's church, which have not only been responses to the pandemic, but point the way to new and deeper ways of fulfilling our ministry.

But now it is our time to leave. We have been offered a flat in Bromley and Sheppard's College for retired clergy, and feel it is time for us both to be full-time retired and getting on with new projects. Since moving to London in 1974, we have lived in the south, the east, the north and now the west. It seems fitting to move back south again to Bromley. We intend to move at the beginning of September.

We feel ourselves to be truly blessed by our time here. We have received many kindnesses, especially during the pandemic with the creation of a secret garden where Brandy could be outdoors during her convalescence while we were shielding.

While we are not looking forward to the process of moving, we are looking forward to the next phase of our lives together, in a seventeenth century building with unexpected doors that may lead to Narnia, or perhaps just the loft!

Brandy and Rob

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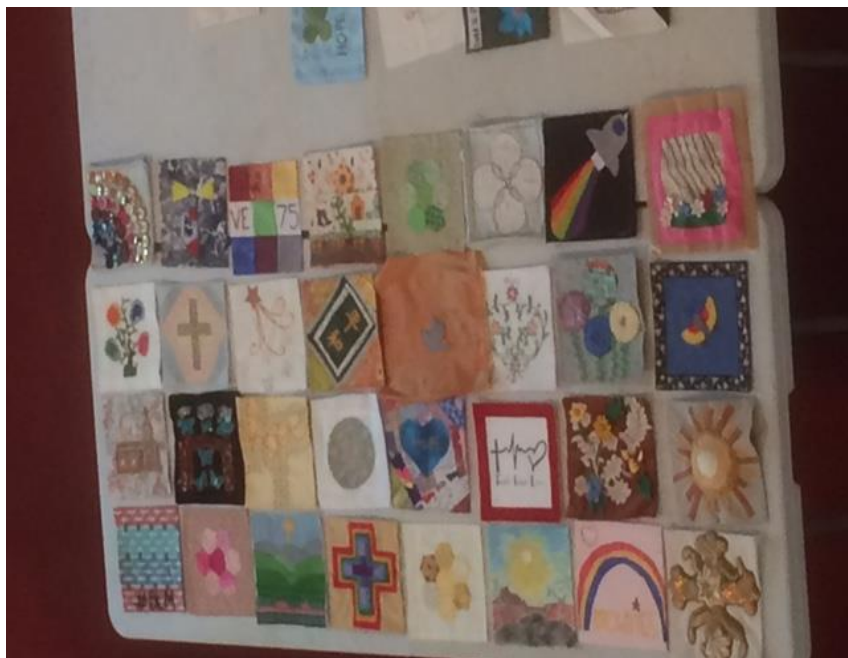
Lockdown Patchwork Project

As many of you will know during lockdown it was suggested that people might like to make a 'patch' to be incorporated into some sort of commemorative work to be used in church and which recorded the essence of the 'strange times'.



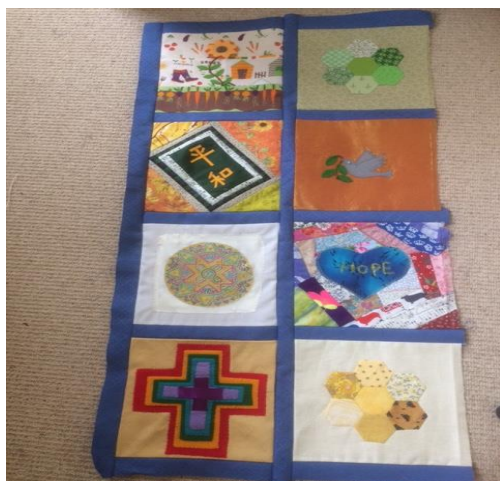
A Zoom chat with the Craft Group during lockdown

Fortunately, plenty of patches were made with very inventive designs and using lots of different materials and techniques. It was decided to put these together as an altar frontal. This is now in the process of being sewn together and the completed first stage of the process was on display on Sunday 19 July. Hopefully some of you were able to be in church and saw the frontal.



Laying out the patches to balance colour and design

A record will be made of everyone who contributed to the project. There are still some patches which haven't been used and it is intended that these will be made into a similar frontal for the lectern.



The first two rows as they were sewn together (starting in the centre)

Singing in Church

As many of you know, our in-church services have resumed with social distancing and safety measures. One such safety measure is no congregational singing – and one of our young people wanted to know why. Emily emailed Bishop Pete to ask him why we can't sing in church at the moment, even if we're wearing masks. She said:

I love being back at church but I really miss the singing. So, I wanted to ask you this:

If singing was stopped because of more germs coming out the mouth, why can't we sing with a face mask on? I know we might sound a bit muffled, but we are singing to praise God and I'm sure he won't mind. Plus singing makes me feel good too - with or without a mask.

This was the bishop's reply:

Dear Emily,

Thank you very much for writing to me.

All these things that are being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are so frustrating, aren't they? Like you, I miss singing in church!

The reason why singing isn't recommended is that the scientists tell us that singing, chanting and shouting spread a lot more droplets than ordinary talking.

Here is what the Government say on their website:

“Activities such as singing, chanting, shouting and/or playing of instruments that are blown into should be specifically avoided in worship or devotions.

This is because there is a possible additional risk of transmission in environments where individuals are singing or chanting as a group, and this applies even if social distancing is being observed or face coverings are used.”

I think the easiest way to think of it is if you use an aerosol spray and watch in the air to see where all the droplets go. Think of all those droplets being full of corona virus. Now spray the aerosol through a mask – a lot of the droplets still get through.

The good news is that there is a lot of research being done to see how we can get back to singing safely. I have attached an article from the Church Times if you'd like to know a bit more about it.

I guess in the meantime, we'll just have to hum or sing inside! At least God will hear us.

God bless you and keep you and your family safe.

Pete Broadbent | Bishop of Willesden

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Space to Be



On 26th July, members of our congregation attended the second in a fantastic ongoing series of Zoom webinars run by OneBodyOneFaith in conjunction with Diverse Church, House of Rainbow, Open Table, and Two:23.

These organisations, which all support LGBTQIA+ Christians, started Space to Be as an online gathering place for LGBTQ+ Christians to listen, pray and reflect together. The session included prayers, singing, thoughts and other worship, as well as an airing of Lee Evans' poem *Rainbow People*, which celebrates the history, strength and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. You can listen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6A40Cs2_C8

If you'd like to catch up, you can on OneBodyOneFaith's website: <https://onebodyonefaith.org.uk/spacetobe/>

And keep an eye on their Twitter page for further events: <https://twitter.com/1Body1Faith>

Upcoming Events

This year, due to Covid-19, the Inclusive Church Annual Lecture will take place online on 27th Aug, with speaker Revd. Professor June Boyce-Tillman MBE, a prominent British academic specialising in music, spirituality and theology.

Click here to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inclusive-church-annual-lecture-2020-online-tickets-101816096686?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>



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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 the beginning of August.

From *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord."

–Romans 8:38-39

"No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." –Joshua 1:5

From *Amazing You* by Phillipa Hanna

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another."

–Romans 12:15-16

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." –Philippians 2:3-4



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