

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

October 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
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 October.
The November magazine will be on sale by 28th October.

NOTICES

Sunday services:

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/UCJ9miqu4kIhXkXjm-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.

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: We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

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

Junior church: We would like to hear from our young people and their parents on whether to continue running Junior Church via Zoom or to consider face to face sessions in the hall, in line with social distancing guidance from the government and the Church of England. If you would like to contribute your thoughts, please email Bryony.

Thankfulness

This month we have much to be thankful for at St Martin's. We have continued to worship God during the Covid 19 pandemic. Initially we held online services, but we have gradually been able to see a little of each other in a socially distanced manner in church, whilst continuing to stream our services on YouTube. This has meant that we can celebrate our community and encourage each other, whilst aiming to serve our Lord.

We have been fortunate to have Julia as our vicar for a year now. We have rejoiced at the loyal service of Brandy and Rob Pearson who have served us faithfully for the last 5 years and tided us over our interregnum. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

We are delighted that Rev Professor Bryony Franklin has been priested and will continue to serve us at St Martin's. We are full of admiration for her many varying skills, her hard work with the Junior Church and her mastery of technology. We are also very proud of Yuki Johnson who has been studying for the last 3 years and will be licensed as a Lay Minister. Yuki works tirelessly on behalf of the Japanese community and encourages us all in our sense of unity and service.

This year, the lockdown gave many of us the opportunity to watch the development of spring and summer in our gardens as we took our local walks. We were also clearly reminded of our dependence on the work of those who provided our food, those who worked to distribute it and the shopworkers.

On October 4th we shall celebrate our Harvest Festival. It is our chance to thank God for the many good things which we enjoy and to celebrate the work of the many people on whom we depend. In a practical way we show our gratitude by bringing our various gifts to church. Our donations will go to the local Women's Refuge. The refuge provides a temporary home for women and their children who are fleeing from domestic violence. Many of these women are forced to flee their homes at a moment's notice and find themselves with no money and few possessions. The donations of food help them in the emergency and are always welcomed. They are also requesting sheets and bed linen for single beds, cooking utensils and cutlery. It seems that the residents in the refuge have now embraced the national plans for fitness and would welcome resistance bands and skipping ropes if anyone has these to donate.

We thank God for our many blessings. "The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is".

Margaret Jones

Brandy and Rob Pearson



On Sunday 6th September, many of us gathered at St Martin's for Brandy and Rob's last service with us to celebrate them both and give them a good send-off as they move to a flat in a complex of accommodation for retired clergy in Bromley.



They have been here for five fruitful and challenging years, guiding and supporting the St Martin's community through Nicholas Henderson's retirement in 2018, leading us and developing our worship throughout the subsequent 18 month interregnum while we searched for the right person to come and be our new Vicar, and then supporting Julia as she started her new role as Vicar of St Martin's a year ago. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude and a huge thank you for all their hard work, support and unfailing good humour.

We have been hugely enriched by their skills, work and personality in our community, and we will miss them greatly.

Farewell, Brandy, Goodbye, Rob!
You've done the most fantastic job!

You helped us keep our church alive,
And more than that, you helped it thrive!

So now you want a little rest -
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Valediction: Rev'd Alec Griffiths

The Rev'd Alec Griffiths, our old friend and former assistant priest at St Martin's, died in Largs, Scotland on 24th August after a long struggle with declining health.

Born in 1942 and educated at St Chad's College, Durham University, Alec served his curacies at St Ninian's, Pollokshields, and St John's, Greenock, 1968-72 before going to Holy Cross, Glasgow as Rector 1972-79. Afterwards he moved south to be amongst the Sassenachs to become vicar of St Phillip's Birchencliffe in Huddersfield. Later he moved again to become Chaplain to Kingston Hospital in Kingston upon Thames. He came to us in 2004 as assistant curate and SSM at our then sister church of All Saints, Ealing Common.

Always the Scot, Alec moved back to Scotland to retire and live in Largs in 2010. Having celebrated his 40th anniversary of priesthood with us in a fabulous service, he marked the 50th golden jubilee anniversary of his ordination in 2016 in St Columba's, Largs where he had assisted as a priest until ill health finally slowed him down. A number of us went to that wonderful and moving occasion. Alec was by then in a wheelchair but as he had been Bishop John Taylor's (Bishop of Glasgow and Galway) first curate, there were many priests, lots of people and two bishops including Bishop John attending the celebration.

Latterly, when his health deteriorated, he moved to Moorburn Manor Nursing Home in Largs where he still, working 'till the end, was able to narrate the Annual Nativity Play!



When Alec came to us to live in St Martin's Cottage he still very much missed his beloved wife Elizabeth, who had died the previous year but he settled into parish life here with enthusiasm. His two children often visited him and stayed with him. In those days Alec could be found treading the boards at the annual pantomime, in it must be said seriously overstretched black tights, as one of the dastardly villains. Alec's almost legendary parish pilgrimages took us out, singing all the way, in

the coach to a suitable cathedral where holiness was combined with good shopping, coffee and cakes. He was an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes and seemed to know pretty well every important person both in the Church of England and the Episcopal Church of Scotland. Thanks to him and his many connections we got some really good speakers for our Lent courses.

In many ways those were golden days, it was a joy to work with colleagues like Alec. He was a wise and experienced counsel and people really loved him. Latterly, he couldn't stand for long periods so his sermons (always fascinating and informed) were delivered seated to a seriously attentive, even enrapt, audience.

I got great praise from Alec when I changed my car and the new car's seats were about a foot higher than the earlier sportier model. Shoehorning Alec into the vehicle to ferry him from church to church was always a challenge; but on arrival his ministry continued seated over coffee (and lots of cake) as people came to him to receive genuine deep wisdom and much humour.



Before I conclude this valediction, I must also recall the annual Burns Night Suppers with special Scottish cheese, which had been anticipated literally all year as it had been ordered 'straight from the cow'!

There are many who will still remember this God's faithful servant. He goes now to his rest, reunited with his wife and no doubt still presiding at coffee!

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Nicholas

Yuki Johnson

Following training as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) and obtaining a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology, Ministry and Mission at Queen's Foundation Birmingham, Yuki Johnson was welcomed to ministry in the Diocese of Worcester on 19 September. The photo shows Yuki with the Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester, in Worcester Cathedral. Yuki will be admitted and licensed by the Diocese of London on 7 October - a link to watch the live stream of this service will be made available nearer the time.



Yuki became a commissioned lay minister for worship in Japanese in November 2011, and leads the Japanese Anglican Church (UK) that meets in St Martin. Following recommendation for LLM training, she

completed this training nearer her home in the Diocese of Worcester.

"The training has been really brilliant and will definitely help me in my ministry," said Yuki. "I feel like I've got a much greater biblical knowledge and can see things from different points of view. It has given me more confidence in my preaching and lots of creative ideas for bible study – I'm looking forward to putting them into practice!"

Yuki helped to start the monthly Japanese services at St Martin's Church. She now leads services, runs bible study and compiles the community newsletter. She also helped to start a monthly community café in the church, which sees 60 attendees and gives more isolated local people a chance to speak the language.

Congratulations, Yuki!



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Rev'd Bryony Franklin

Sunday 27th September was Bryony's first communion service after being priested on 25th September. Congratulations, Bryony!



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Dates for the diary

Black History Month: Celebrated annually in October in the UK since 1987 when it was organised by activist Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, this month aims to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people, as well as educate everyone on black history. For more information and events, check out the official website: www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: A month-long campaign to encourage people to visit the doctor for a check-up, especially if you experience a breast lump, painful breast or armpit, or discharge from the nipple. Early detection saves lives.

1st October: National Poetry Day, founded in 1994, encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. This year's theme is Vision.

4th October: World Animal Day is celebrated on St Francis of Assisi's feast day and raises awareness worldwide for animal rights and welfare.

5th October: World Teachers' Day is celebrated worldwide after the UNESCO Recommendation, to centre and honour educators internationally.

6th October: National Badger Day celebrates just how magnificent and important one of our oldest native species is to the British countryside and its people.

10th October: World Mental Health Day is a day of raising awareness of mental health issues, driven by the Mental Health Foundation.

11th October: National Coming Out Day supports queer and LGBT+ people to “come out of the closet” – and reminds us to support those of the community who can’t do so safely due to laws, social expectations, or unsupportive families.

30th October: British Summer Time ends – don’t forget to put your clocks back one hour!

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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 October.

From *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

–Matthew 11:28

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on to the heights."

–Habakkuk 3:17-19

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

–Psalm 105:4

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

–John 15:5

From *Amazing You* by Phillipa Hanna

"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs."
–Proverbs 10:12

"Beloved, let us love another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."
–1 John 4:7

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
–1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless."
–Isaiah 40:29





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

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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