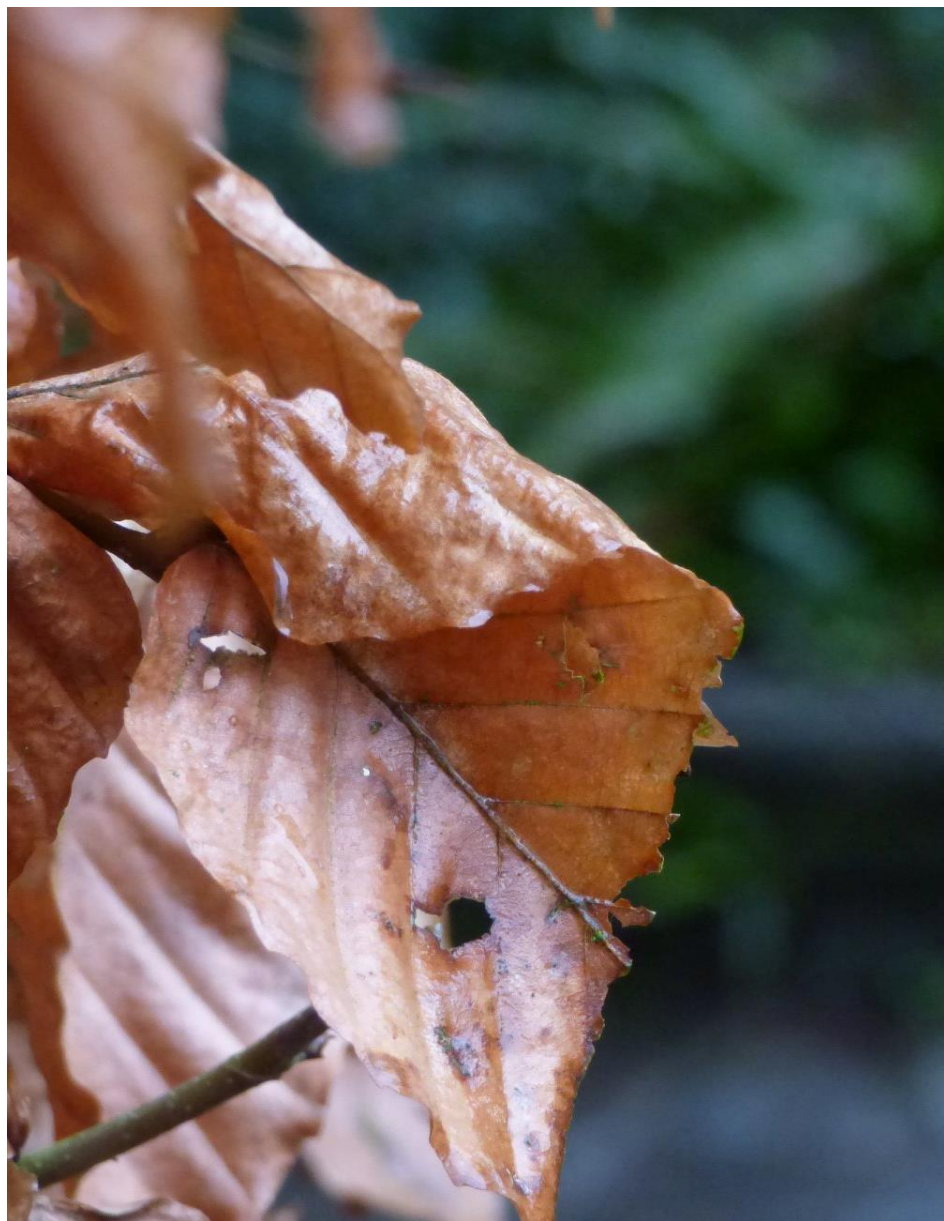


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

November 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 November.

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

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/UCJ9miqua4kIhXkXjm-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)

Would you be willing to join the rota for leading the intercessions for our 10am Sunday services?

We would welcome more people to join this team if you are interested in sharing this important ministry. Please contact Margaret Jones if you are interested.

For everything there is a season

At the end of September, I had the privilege of being ordained as a priest in the Church of England, after having been a Deacon for just over a year. The first reading at my ordination service was Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, which starts: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens". This felt particularly appropriate to me personally – it was a passage of scripture through which God spoke to me when I first felt a call to ordained ministry about six years ago. I recall it now – I was attending Holy Communion with my daughter's school, and this passage was read, rather hesitantly, by an eight-year-old. But however falteringly it was read, what I could hear, loud and clear, was God telling me that while there was a season to be a pharmacist, there was also a season to train for ordination. And that this season was now here. It was therefore very moving to hear the passage read again at the ordination service – perhaps even more so as it was my daughter who was asked to read it.

This passage also reminds us that there is indeed a season for everything, and that God has "made everything suitable for its time". The text refers to many things for which there are times and seasons. One verse reminds us that there is "...a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing." This feels particularly relevant for the season that we are in currently, in which we have to limit physical contact with others to avoid spreading infection. However, we are also reminded that this is just a season, that it will pass, and that we will be able to enjoy and appreciate contact with others again in the future.

Looking ahead to this month, it is also a time to remember those members of the military and civilian services who were killed or injured in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts, in our Remembrance Sunday service on 8 November. May we remember them, and pray for peace in our times and in the times to come.

It is also the time of year when we celebrate our patron saint, St Martin, who shared what he had, his cloak, with a poor man who needed it. As autumn and winter arrive let us, like Martin, seek to help those who are homeless and cold, and others whom society has forgotten, so that their season of hardship may be eased.

Rev Bryony Franklin

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Rev Bryony Franklin's priesting

Having been a deacon for just over a year, we are delighted that Rev Bryony Franklin was ordained as a priest by the Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, on Friday 25 September. This should have taken place at the beginning of July, but was postponed due to the pandemic. It went ahead in a small service in St John's Church in Southall, and was a very special occasion in spite of the required infection control precautions. The service was streamed online and remains available to watch here:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsouthallgreen/videos/805208563588397/>. The ordination service includes the laying on of hands by the bishop. Following this, the newly ordained priest adjusts their stole (representing the towel that Jesus used when washing his disciples' feet) from wearing it diagonally across their body, to instead wear it hanging straight down.

As with all ordained clergy, Rev Bryony remains a deacon as well as now being a priest. The deacon's role emphasises loving service to others, whereas a priest's also includes administering the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, and declaring the absolution and forgiveness of sins in Christ's name, as well as a greater focus on leadership. Both priests and deacons seek to proclaim the word of the Lord, to teach, and to nurture others in their faith.

Rev Bryony says, "I am passionate about the importance of community, and wanting others to experience God's love.

I am delighted to now be able to assist the Vicar of St Martins, Rev Julia, as a priest, while continuing to serve St Martins and the wider local community.” She also continues in her paid roles at UCL School of Pharmacy and at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.



The photo shows Rev Bryony with Bishop Pete following her ordination.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a seed...

Earlier this year, on Sunday 26th July, we heard the parable of the mustard seed. The young people were given some sunflower seeds to plant to remind them how something small can grow into something amazing. Two of our young people sent us this picture of the incredible flowers that grew from their seeds.



I pray that we may all plant seeds of faith and hope that grow like these did!

Rev Bryony Franklin

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Harvest

For our Harvest celebrations, our young people created this Harvest patchwork. Everyone created a picture separately, with Bryony putting them together at the end of the service to form this beautiful Harvest patchwork!



Harvest Donations for the Women's Refuge

The residents and staff at the Women's Refuge have asked me to thank everyone for their harvest gifts. Even though we have had limitations on our church services, we were able to deliver a good quantity of food together with lots of brand-new sheets. There is a steady turnover of residents in the home and they all need new sheets, both for when they come to Ealing and again when they leave. I also delivered lots of good quality children's clothes and toys which Mary Cook has kindly collected from her friends.

There has been a lot in the media about the problems of domestic violence that have been exacerbated by the lockdown and our local refuge is always full. The women and children stay for around 6 months; this gives them a chance to reorder their lives. Many of the women have very few possessions so that when they leave they have to "set-up home" afresh. For this Christmas, the charity has particularly requested donations of cutlery and kitchen equipment (pots and pans etc). It always comes in useful!

At St Martin's we have been making donations to the Women's Refuge for more than 20 years. We make up welcome packs for each new resident. These include 2 new towels, toiletries, tissues, toothpaste, new underpants, a notebook, etc, and these are always well received. I know that they are particularly grateful for our continued support. Once again, thank you all.

Margaret Jones

14th October: An update from Brandy and Rob!

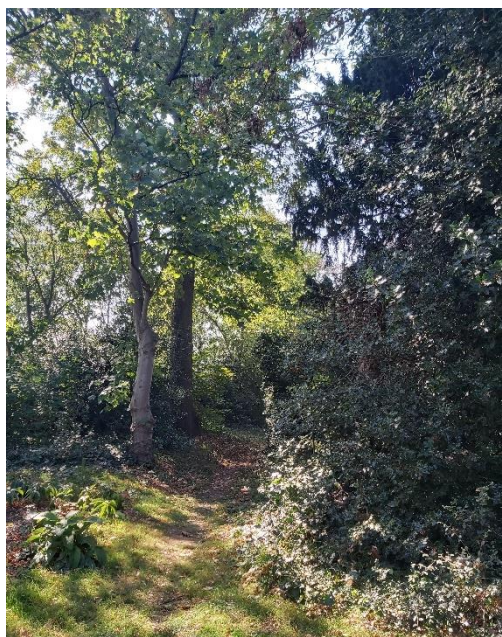
Here we are in Bromley. We still occasionally feel that we are on holiday, staying in a very untidy holiday flat. Outside our front door is a 17th century quad. The pillars are said to have been reclaimed from the Great Fire of London. The New Quad, added on a little later, seems to have matching pillars. But if you tap them, they are made of wood! The word “quirky” might have been invented for Bromley College. No wonder we are beginning to feel at home. We feel we have been incredibly lucky.



Yesterday afternoon Rob and I, with three other new residents, were installed as Collegians of Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges. This sounds very grand, but was a very friendly event. As with everything else in these Covid times, it was not the way it usually happens. We cannot yet meet in the chapel, so we were in the cloisters of the Old Quad, wearing warm coats, and out of the rain that fell steadily on the grass and flower beds. Many of those who live there were there to welcome us all. We were each

introduced by a fellow Collegian. Our introduction was informed by a pleasant evening earlier in the week where wine was drunk as we told Father Bob the story of our lives. Then we signed the book, which felt a little like getting married! After that, everyone was given a glass of prosecco, and we were each shown our stall in the chapel, with our name on it. Then we chatted with people out in the quad, until we all got too cold and went back to our flats!

We are beginning to get our flat sorted, by which I mean the number of boxes to be emptied, is diminishing. I have a beautiful view of trees outside my bedroom window, and can watch the many squirrels potter about, getting ready for winter. In pre-Covid times there were many social events here, but people still find ways to be sociable. It is hard to go out without a socially-distanced chat with a neighbour. During the day, the Administrator and the Chaplain are on hand in the Office and have been really helpful to us.



We are still finding new interesting things in the college grounds. Yesterday we discovered two beehives. There are so many kinds of trees, bushes and plants, many cared for by fellow collegians. There is a feeling of being in the countryside, yet only a few minutes from a very large Sainsbury's, and a few minutes further from Bromley High Street. We feel privileged to be here.

We are so grateful for the money you kindly gave us, and now we are getting settled here in this flat, we have a couple of pieces of furniture we need to buy (as well as a couple we do not want!) The cats are happy. Romero has taken to sitting in the kitchen window, watching what goes on below. We will soon let them outside. There are several college cats, some indoor cats and some outdoors. People here seem pleased with the prospect of a couple more.



It was so good to watch Bryony's Ordination to the priesthood via the internet – every bit as odd as our installation here! We watched her first Eucharist too. At the moment, we are still attending the Sunday outdoor Eucharist here. We all hope to be back in the chapel before it gets much colder!

You are in our prayers and send our best wishes for all at St Martin's. Good luck with your fundraising and the whole of your lives together. In this pandemic, there are many challenges – but we have confidence in you all!

Brandy and Rob Pearson

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Dates for the diary

NaNoWriMo: National Novel Writing Month is a month-long creative writing challenge which runs every November. During the month, participants attempt to write 50,000 words of a novel.

Veg Pledge 2020: Challenge yourself to go vegetarian for the month of November to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

4th November: National Stress Awareness Day is dedicated to identifying stress-causing factors and working to reduce them.

5th November: Guy Fawkes Night, Bonfire Night or Fireworks Night commemorates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, of which Guy Fawkes was famously a member. On 5th November 1605 Guy Fawkes was arrested guarding the explosives beneath the House of Lords.

16-20th November: Anti-Bullying Week is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, with this year's theme being United Against Bullying.

13th November: World Kindness Day is a global day promoting the importance of being kind to each other, to yourself, and to the world. Compassion for others is what binds us together.

20th November: Universal Children's Day promotes international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare.

20th November: Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1999 to honour the memory of Rita Hester, who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorates the transgender people lost to violence in the past year and raises awareness of violence against trans people and their continuing fight for basic human rights around the world. On Sunday 25th October Joana Domingos, aged 19, became the 141st trans person known to be killed in 2020 in Brazil alone.

25th November: White Ribbon Day is also known as the International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women, and is an annual day to raise awareness of family violence.

30th November: St Andrews Day, celebrating the patron saint of Scotland.



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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 November.

From *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young:

"The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you."

–Psalm 116:5-7

"The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze, and your strength will equal your days."

–Deuteronomy 33:25

"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."

–Habakkuk 3:17-18

"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

–Isaiah 58:11

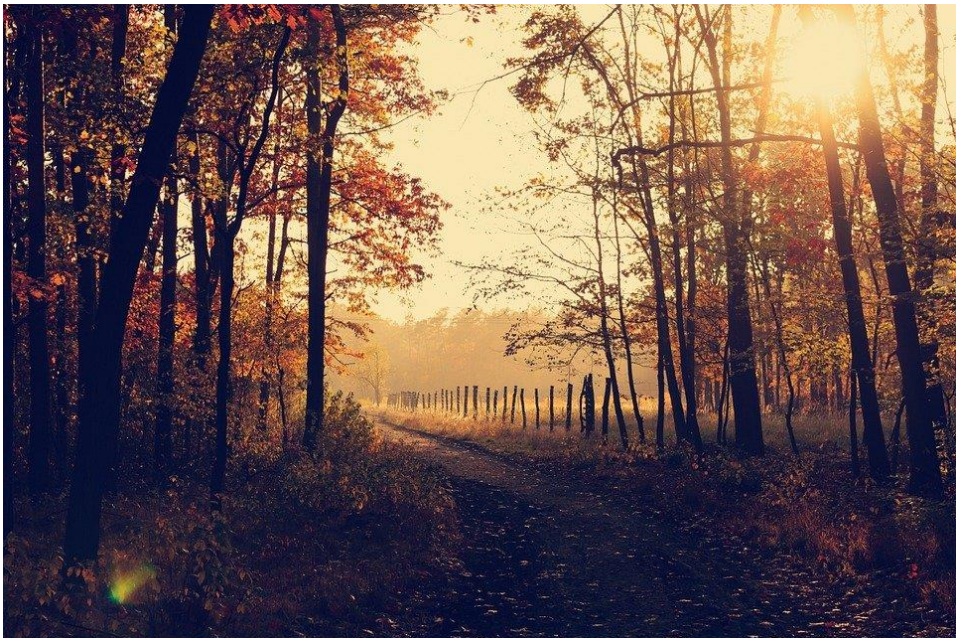
From *Amazing You* by Phillipa Hanna

"On the day I called, you answered me; you made me bold."
–Psalm 138:3

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God."
–Isaiah 41:10

"Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
–Proverbs 31:9

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."
–1 Corinthians 10:13





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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



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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