

# ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

March 2021

50p



# **St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ**

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

[www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk](http://www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk)

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<b>Parish Administrator (weekdays: 9.30am – 1.30pm)</b>	Parish Office, rear of Church Hall, Hale Gardens, W3 9SQ 020 8992 2333
<b>Reader</b>	Dr Margaret Jones (020 8997 1418)
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<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Ren Balcombe
<b>Cover image by</b>	PJ 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](mailto:stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com))  
Please title the email "September Magazine"

**They should reach the Editor by 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

**The April magazine will be on sale by 28<sup>th</sup> March.**

# NOTICES

## **Sunday services:**

10am – All Age Holy Communion on YouTube, link below.

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

**Sundays 11.30am Church Chat:** grab a cup of coffee and sit down for a chat with us after the Sunday service via Zoom – see the service sheet for access details.

## **Tuesdays 7.30pm Lent course 2021: The Bible**

This course from the Bible Society provides a bird's eye view of the world's bestselling book. It combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings. We are running it on Zoom with St Marys' Church, Acton. Please see the service sheet for full dates and topics.

## **YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ9miqua4kIhXkXjMp2b0FA> Subscribe to be alerted when videos are posted.

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stmartinswestacton/](http://www.facebook.com/stmartinswestacton/) You do not have to have a Facebook account to view the page.

**14<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday:** All Age recorded service on YouTube at 10am.

**4<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday:** 10am service in Church, where six of our young people will be confirmed by Bishop Pete.

## **New Beginnings**

The month of March brings us the start of Spring – ‘officially’ starting Saturday 20 March – traditionally a time of new beginnings. We look forward to the first of the Spring flowers, to seeing the leaves start to unfurl on the trees, and towards Easter with its promise of new life for us all. Traditionally we might do some spring cleaning, once the weather gets warm enough to open the windows and doors to shake out our dusters and to beat out our rugs.

This year, March also represents the anniversary of the first national COVID-19 lockdown, which started Monday 23 March 2020. It’s been a year of loss, anxiety, grief, disruption, loneliness, and loss of income and livelihoods. It’s also been a year that has shone a light on the numerous disparities and inequities in our world - and in many cases, made them even worse. And so now, as we move into Springtime, perhaps it is time to reflect on the past year, on what we have learned – both good and bad – but also to think about new beginnings - personally, as a society, and as a church.

On a personal level, amid the losses, it’s been a year in which many of us have become more aware of those things for which we are grateful. Our friends and families. The natural world and the beauty of God’s creation all around us. The scientists who developed vaccines in record time and a National Health Service that has already vaccinated those most at risk. What can we take forward from our experiences? When lockdown restrictions are lifted, what do we want to keep, and what do we desperately want to change about how we live our lives?

As a society, there are clearly many things we need to address. The disparities between the rich and the poor – both in our country and around the world. Racial injustice. The harm we are doing to God’s world. What do we need to do differently to move a little nearer to being God’s Kingdom here on earth? And what do we feel passionately about, for which we might be able to bring about change?

And here at St Martins, we are giving some thought to what church should look like as we move forwards and look towards lockdown restrictions being lifted. As part of this planning, we are currently running a ‘listening campaign’ in partnership with Ealing Citizens. This involves setting up small groups and listening to what really matters to members of our church community. If you would like to take part in a one-hour small group discussion (via Zoom) to share your views, or would just like to find out more, please speak to me, Julia, Lynne or Shelley.



This Spring, I therefore pray that this will be a time of new beginnings and moving forwards for us all, with God at the centre. As Isaiah tells us with such beautiful imagery, "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy." (Isaiah 35 1-2a)

Rev Bryony Franklin



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## **Wine and beer glasses**

During this last year, Julia and Camilla have been doing sterling work to clear all the stuff from the cellars under the church and sort it. In the process, they came across dozens of wine and beer glasses. As many as we have storage room for have been put away, but we still have many, many more which are surplus to requirements, as follows:

Long-stemmed wine glasses: 6

Paris goblets: 5 dozen

Beer glasses ½ pint: 5 dozen

Tumblers: 6

If anyone would like to give some of these glasses a good home in return for a donation to church funds, please contact Michael in the Parish Office or Liza Ambridge.





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## **A Light Exists in Spring**

By Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring  
Not present on the Year  
At any other period –  
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad  
On Solitary Fields  
That Science cannot overtake  
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,  
It shows the furthest Tree  
Upon the furthest Slope you know  
It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step  
Or Noons report away  
Without the Formula of sound  
It passes and we stay –

A quality of loss  
Affecting our Content  
As Trade had suddenly encroached  
Upon a Sacrament.

## **St David's Day**

St David's Day is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> March every year, marking the anniversary of the death of the patron saint of Wales in 589 AD. It is a celebration dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, after St David was canonised by Pope Callixtus in 1120.

As well as being the patron saint of Wales, St David is also the patrons saint of doves. Born in Caerfai in Pembrokeshire, he made pilgrimages to Cornwall, Ireland and Jerusalem, where he was made an archbishop. The 12 monasteries he founded were known for their extreme asceticism, where the monks would abstain from worldly pleasures and work hard to care for themselves and others – even plowing fields without the aid of oxen.

He was known for performing miracles, such as raising the ground into a hill at the Synod of Brefi so his sermon could be heard by all; restoring the sight of his tutor, St Paulinus; and surviving eating poisoned bread fed to him by his own monks, who had tired of their lives of austerity.

People will traditionally wear leeks to celebrate his feast day, in remembrance of St David's guidance to Welsh warriors against the Saxons – to wear a leek so that they would easily recognise their allies. When they won the battle, the leek became a symbol of Wales.

This year, Wales.com are running a 72-hour digital festival Feb 26-Mar 1 on social media channels, while the Ffwrnes Theatre in Llenalli will stream a bilingual concert on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

# St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day is celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> March every year and celebrates the patron saint of Ireland.

Born in Roman Britain in the late 4<sup>th</sup> C, St Patrick was taken to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. Though he escaped, he later returned in c.432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. By his death in 461, he had founded monasteries, churches and schools. Legends say that he banished snakes from Ireland.

Traditionally, Irish people will wear shamrocks and green to commemorate the day. Some of the biggest celebrations are in America, where many Irish immigrants settled. Chicago has coloured its river green on the holiday since 1962, while there has been a parade in Boston since 1737. Some people even dye beer green to mark the holiday.



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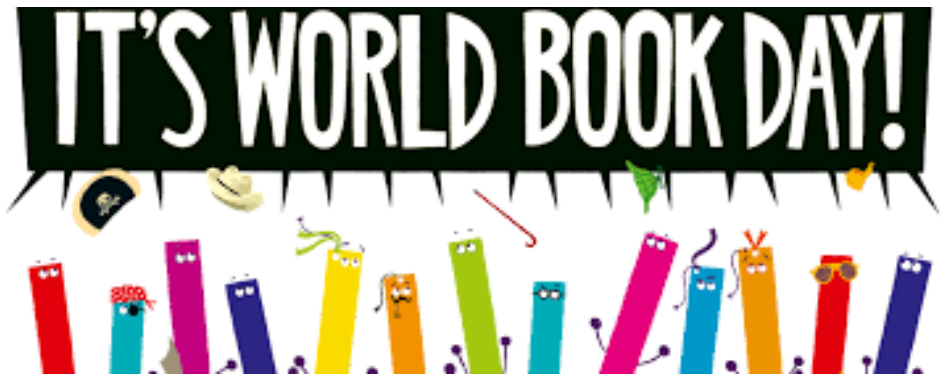


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## Dates for the diary

**March:** The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal runs throughout the month of March, and has been raising funds and awareness since 1986 to care for those with terminal illnesses and their families.

**1<sup>st</sup> March:** St David's Day. St David is the patron saint of Wales, and the anniversary of his death in 589AD is marked as a day of pride in Welsh identity.



**4<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day is a UNESCO initiative to celebrate books and reading, marked in over 100 countries around the globe. In the UK, National Book Tokens encourage children to pick up a new book, and many schools will usually have costume days for people to dress up as their favourite book characters.

**6<sup>th</sup> March:** 10th Anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. There will be a Memorial Service livestreamed – please pre-book here to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/133013062651>

**7th March-13th March:** No More Week raises awareness to end domestic violence and sexual assault, run by the national campaign UK Says No More.

**8th March:** International Women's Day celebrates the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women across the globe.

**15th March-21st March:** Neurodiversity Celebration Week aims to increase understanding of and support for neurodiverse people and their conditions, including ADHD, dyslexia, autism and dyspraxia. The Department of Education estimates that 15% of students in the UK have a learning difference, so institutional support is important to make sure that everyone can succeed.

**17th March:** St Patrick's Day celebrates the patron saint of Ireland on the anniversary of his death every year.

**19th March:** Red Nose Day uses comedy and entertainment to raise money for vulnerable people and communities in the UK and internationally.



**20th March:** Spring Equinox, marking both the first day of Spring in the northern hemisphere and only one of two days in the year when the night and day are the same length.

**22nd March:** World Water Day encourages people to think about the value of water, and how we can better protect this vital resource.

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## **Today**

by Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze  
that it made you want to throw  
open all the windows in the house  
and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,  
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,  
a day when the cool brick paths  
and the garden bursting with peonies  
seemed so etched in sunlight  
that you felt like taking  
a hammer to the glass paperweight  
on the living room end table,  
releasing the inhabitants  
from their snow-covered cottage  
so they could walk out,  
holding hands and squinting  
into this larger dome of blue and white,  
well, today is just that kind of day.

From [\*Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems\*](#) by Billy  
Collins



St Martin's, West Acton, London



## **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