

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

June 2021

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)
Licensed Lay Minister to Japanese Anglican Church (UK) St Martin's	Mrs Yuki Johnson (07503 893880) shunoheiwa@gmail.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	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)
Please title the email "September Magazine"

They should reach the Editor by 18th June.

The July magazine will be on sale by 28th June.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 6th June:

8am: Communion service (BCP)

10am: All Age Service with Junior Choir (baptism, no communion)

Sunday 13th June:

8.30am: Junior Church on Zoom

10am: Holy Communion service

Sunday 20th June:

8am: Communion service (BCP)

10am: Holy Communion service with family activities (baptism)

Tuesday 22nd June

7.30pm: Bible study, St John's Gospel. You are invited to read through the gospel beforehand. Ask Julia or Bryony for details and Zoom information.

Sunday 27th June

10am: Holy Communion with singing and tea & coffee after the service. We are then having a celebration event after the service in the church grounds outside, with food, music, raffle, games and a bouncy castle. If you would like to help with any of this please be in touch with Camilla.

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ9miga4kIhXkXjm-p2b0FA> Subscribe to be alerted when videos are posted.

Thankfulness

A few months ago we heard talk of “the new normal”. It is still, however, unclear what this means – and in fact the future is always uncertain to us all. We continue to live in a time of change. We are grateful for the covid vaccines but we face economic uncertainties as well as the many other global problems. There will always be unpredictable crises both here in the UK and throughout the world.

Meanwhile we have much for which we can thank God. We see a freshness in nature, in our gardens and parks. We see new energy in our children as they engage in outdoor play and sports. We can make tentative plans to meet our friends and share time with our loved ones. In St Martin’s we have been able to welcome our congregation back for church services, and our clergy and church council have been thinking hard about how we can serve God and each other as well as our whole community.



We are grateful for the ways in which we have been able to stay in contact with each other, for the faithful work of our clergy and all who have continued to support the church during the various lockdowns and now we can really look forward to our future together.

I have always found comfort and support in reading the Psalms. In them we join with real people who also struggled to make sense of their lives. They praised God, they asked for help. They thanked God but also questioned him – they expressed anger, bewilderment, even feelings of abandonment, but they continued to trust in God, who loves and lives within his creation.

In the words of Psalm 67, we ask that God will continue to show us his mercy, blessing and light. God be merciful to us and bless us and show us the light of his countenance.

Margaret Jones



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Pentecost

For Pentecost, our young people helped to make this collage, representing the creative power of the Holy Spirit as we come together. Perhaps we can all think on what the Holy Spirit might create in our lives.



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June: Pride Month

History of Pride

Pride Month, celebrated worldwide every June, is a time of celebration, affirmation and protest for queer and LGBTQIA+ people and communities. The 28th June marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 1969, when New York police raided a gay club called the Stonewall Inn.

Rioting and protesting continued over the next six days, led by prominent voices in the community – many of them Black and transgender. Protestors demanded the right for LGBT+ people to exist without fear, shame and threat of violence, arrest and death. The conversations and battles that began that week are still continuing now, and though great strides in the rights and safety of queer people around the world have been made, we still have some way to go before all of God’s children can exist without risking their dignity and their lives.

Pride Month is credited to Brenda Howard, a bisexual activist who organised Gay Pride Week and the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade a year after the Stonewall Riots.

The now widely-used rainbow flag, with its distinctive six colours, was designed by Gilbert Baker at the request of gay politician Harvey Milk.

UK Queer History

Male homosexuality was criminalised for the first time in the UK in 1533 under the reign of Henry VIII. The death penalty that this law demanded was not repealed until 1861, when the punishment became 10 years’ imprisonment. As the

British Empire grew, these laws were imposed all across empire, with widespread violence enacted as a result.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act in 1885 went still further, and made any male homosexual act illegal – often allowing prosecution after a simple letter expressing affection between two men. Oscar Wilde was found guilty under this law in 1895, as well as Alan Turing after the Second World War.

In the 1940s and 50s, culture had shifted enough that trans people were able to be more open about their identities, and some of the first surgical gender reassignments were successfully completed.

In 1967, two years before the Stonewall Riots in New York, the government partly legalised same-sex acts between men over 21 in private in England – Scotland and Northern Ireland followed suit over a decade later.

In the wake of the Stonewall Riots, the Gay Liberation Front was founded in 1970. The GLF fought against oppression, and organised the first UK Pride march in 1972. However, it took a further 30 years for age of consent equality.

The now-infamous Section 28, brought into law under Margaret Thatcher in 1988, was a significant blow to queer rights, as it banned local authorities from 'promoting homosexuality' and prevented them from funding relevant educational materials. In real terms, Section 28 made teachers and school staff frightened to acknowledge homosexuality, allowing gay and queer students and staff to be bullied and attacked without being able to stand up

for them. Though the act was repealed in 2003, its effects were felt for a long time after.

Further ground was gained – acts in 2004 and 2013 allowed same-sex couples to marry, though this was not enacted in Northern Ireland until January 2020 – last year!

Though much progress has been made, and queer people today are far safer than in previous decades, there is still much to be done. Same-sex couples cannot be married in many churches in the UK, alienating queer Christians from being married as other members of their congregation can. Debates still rage over the legitimacy of trans identities, and healthcare waiting lists extend up to five years – far beyond the NHS target of 18 weeks for other healthcare needs.

In the UK, charities and activist groups such as Stonewall, Mermaids and AKT continue to fight for queer equality, safety, healthcare and dignity. Pride is a celebration of queer identity, but it is also a protest, and will continue to be so until true equality has been achieved.

Famous British Queer & LGBTQIA+ Figures

William Shakespeare

Dr James Barry

Oscar Wilde

Alan Turing

Miriam Margolyes

Carole Ann Duffy

Mel B

Sam Smith

Jacqueline Wilson

Steven K. Amos

Eddie Izzard

Pride 2021

Pride in London will be taking place on the weekend of 11th September 2021, with the theme based on the values of Visibility, Unity and Equality.

Focuses of protest and awareness this year include:

- Enacting the Gender Recognition Act Amendment Bill
- Outlawing conversation therapy
- Providing young trans people with advice and support, including appropriate social and healthcare
- Erecting an AIDS memorial to remember those who died and those who cared for them

During the month of June, please pray for the government's attention on these actions, and ask God to support and lift up queer people during these celebrations and protests.

Other Events

Belfast Gay Pride: 31st June

Brighton Pride: 6th August

Crawley Pride: 28th August

Croydon Pride: 17th July

Edinburgh Pride: 12th June

Isle of Wight Pride: 17th July

Liverpool Pride: 31st July

London Trans Pride: 26th June

Manchester Pride: 27th August

Oxford Pride: 5th June

Pride in Surrey: 25th September

Southampton Pride: 28th August

Swansea Pride: 17th July

York Pride: 5th June

"June" Sang the River

Annette Wynne

"June" sang the river, "June" sang the sky;
"June" sang the trees and the flowers together,
"June" sang the meadow-lark, "June" sing I;
June is the month of singing weather.
June is the time for swinging clover,
Time for the rumbling old fat bee-rover,
Time for the sky to bend sweetly over,
And whisper, "Earth dear, from the East to the West
You are lovely all seasons—but in June far the best!



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Dates for the diary

June: Pride Month 2021

1st June: World Milk Day
International Children's Day

1st-7th June: Volunteers Week

4th June: National Fish & Chip Day
Hug Your Cat Day (US)

5th June: World Environment Day
The Big Lunch

6th June: Cancer Survivors Day

7th-13th June: National Growing for Wellbeing Week
Carer's Week

7th June: Tourettes Awareness Day

8th June: National Best Friends Day
World Oceans Day

9th June: UK Clothing Poverty Awareness Day

13th June: Sewing Machine Day

14th-20th June: BNF Healthy Eating Week
Learning Disability Week
Loneliness Awareness Week

14th June: World Blood Donor Day

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15th-20th June: Refugee Week

15th June: National Beer Day

17th June: National Clean Air Day
Plastic Free Beauty Day

18th June: Autistic Pride Day
International Picnic Day

20th June: Father's Day
World Refugee Day

21st June: World Music Day
Midsummer's Day
Bring Your Dog to Work Day

23rd June: Public Service Day

24th June: National Writing Day

28th June-18th July: Children's Art Week

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



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Usual Sunday Services

8am: Holy Communion, BCP
(1st & 3rd Sundays from June)

10am: Parish Communion (CW)
(All-Age Service - non communion -
1st Sunday of the month)

6.30pm: Evening Prayer on Zoom

Junior church is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays
on Zoom at 8.30am

Japanese Anglican Church UK

meets on the third Sunday of the month:
(except August and December)

3pm Bible Study and Evening Worship in Japanese