

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

July 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

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 "July Magazine"

They should reach the Editor by 18th July.

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

3rd July: 10am-12pm Japanese Café

4th July:

8am - Holy Communion

10am – All Age Service, Sea Sunday

6.30pm – Evening Prayer

11th July:

10am – Holy Communion

6.30pm – Evening Prayer

18th July:

8am – Holy Communion

10am – Holy Communion, Disability Awareness Sunday

3pm – Japanese Church

6.30pm – Evening Prayer

25th July:

Lockdown restrictions lifted

10am – Holy Communion

Refreshments and cake served after the service.

1st August:

8am – Holy Communion

10am – All Age Service

Livestreaming:

Please note that the 10am service will not be livestreamed after lockdown restrictions end. The last livestreamed service will be at 10am on 18th July. Evening Prayer will continue to be via Zoom.

Our commitment to creation care

Did you know that the Earth's average temperature has increased by about 1.2 degree Centigrade in the last hundred years or so? That may not sound like a lot, but very small changes in temperature mean enormous changes in the environment. Global climate change has already had huge effects – glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes is breaking up, plant and animal ranges have changed, and some have become extinct. Scientists predict that the planet can only sustain an increase of up to about 1.5 or 2 degrees C – so we need to take action urgently. Specifically, we need to reduce our production of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, which surround the earth and stop the heat escaping.

But why does this matter to us as Christians?

Well, as we read in Psalm 24, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”. God made the earth – it belongs to God. And not just that, but as we are told in Genesis, God created humankind and put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it – and in the same way, God has given us the world to look after.

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We also know that climate change is likely to affect some people more than others – particularly those in parts of the world already affected by food insecurity, water scarcity, flooding, infectious diseases, extreme heat, economic crises, and so on. So those who are already struggling are likely to be affected most. This is also something we should be concerned about – Jesus always demonstrated particular attention, love and respect to those who were marginalised and disadvantaged in his society – and calls us to do likewise in ours.

So this is definitely something we need to take seriously as Christians. The question is, what should we do?

Here at St Martins we marked Climate Sunday on 6 June, with an all-age service in which we considered the environment and in particular the huge problem of climate change. We talked about the many things that we can each do as individuals – the 3R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and lobbying our politicians, policymakers and leaders for more environmentally-friendly policies in our country, and in our schools and workplaces. But what about our actions as a church community? I wonder, can we make a commitment to become a more eco-friendly church?

One option is to commit to working towards an Eco Church award <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>. This is an award scheme for churches who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. Churches complete an online survey about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work. The idea is to complete

the actions in order to gain the points necessary for an award. For example, using a green energy company or starting to use Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies (when we are allowed refreshments again!) are just two examples that gain Eco Church Award points.

More than 3,500 churches in England and Wales are already part of this network. So I wonder, is something that we can do here at St Martins? I would be delighted to lead or facilitate a group to get involved with this – to do an initial audit of how we are doing, and then see what else we might need to do, to work towards a bronze award in the first instance.

So I wonder, is anyone else interested? It wouldn't be a lot of work – and we can do the survey by Zoom, or sitting around a table outdoors, or whatever best suits... Please do let me know if you would like to get involved!

Rev Bryony Franklin
bryonyfranklin@gmail.com



Thank you to Ren Balcombe!

This edition will be Ren's last as Editor, as Ren will shortly be handing over the reins to our new editor, Anna. We would like to thank Ren for their hard work and commitment, editing the newsletter for almost two years, including during a global pandemic, bringing some fresh ideas, wider perspectives and thoughtful reflections... thank you so much Ren!

Rev Bryony Franklin

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Noon

By John Clare

The mid-day hour of twelve the clock counts o'er,
A sultry stillness lulls the air asleep;
The very buzz of flies is heard no more,
Nor faintest wrinkles o'er the waters creep.
Like one large sheet of glass the waters shine,
Reflecting on their face the burnt sunbeam:
The very fish their sporting play decline,
Seeking the willow-shadows 'side the stream.
And, where the hawthorn branches o'er the pool,
The little bird, forsaking song and nest,
Flutters on dripping twigs his limbs to cool,
And splashes in the stream his burning breast.
O, free from thunder, for a sudden shower,
To cherish nature in this noon-day hour!



Dates for the diary

July: National Picnic Month

Talk To Us – a Samaritans campaign

Plastic Free July

2nd-11th July: National BBQ Week

3rd July: International Plastic Bag Free Day

Alice's Day, celebrating Alice in Wonderland

4th July: USA Independence Day

7th July: World Chocolate Day

9th July: On this day in 1877, the inaugural Lawn Tennis Championship was played at the croquet lawns at Wimbledon.

10th-18th July: National Doughnut Week, fundraising for The Children's Trust

12th July: National Simplicity Day

14th July: Bastille Day

15th July: World Youth Skills Day

17th July: World Day for International Justice

18th July: Black Leaders Awareness Day

19th July: On this day in 1545, King Henry VIII's newly refitted flagship the Mary Rose sank off England's south coast. 700 lives were lost.

21st July: On this day in 1969, Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the Moon.

23rd July: Summer Olympics 2020, postponed from last year and running in Tokyo, Japan until 8th August

24th July: Samaritans Awareness Day, or The Big Listen

29th July: International Tiger Day

30th July: World Friendship Day



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July's folk history

July is a busy month in the natural and agricultural world, with spring fledglings and new lambs filling the countryside with activity. Crops ripen and harvests approach, and there is often little time between haymaking and harvest itself. In folk beliefs, it was considered unlucky to marry at this time – possibly because there was so much else to do!

*Married in July with flowers ablaze,
Bittersweet memories on after days*

Soft fruits such as strawberries, raspberries and blackcurrants are in season, making for plenty of opportunities to 'pick your own', and even make jam from your spoils.

Although July is usually one of the hottest months, weather lore is preoccupied by rain. According to legend, if it rains on St Swithun's Day (15th July):

*St Swithin's Day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain:
St Swithin's Day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nai mair*

Another prediction chooses 1st July for its indicator:

*If the first of July be rainy
weather, 'twill rain more or less
for four weeks together*

Keep an eye on the weather this year to see if either tradition holds true!

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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 July.

From *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young:

"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

-Titus 3:5

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

-Isaiah 43:19

"Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame."

-Psalm 34:5

"And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.""

-Isaiah 6:3

From *Amazing You* by Phillipa Hanna

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

–1 Peter 4:10

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

–1 Corinthians 12:27

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.”

–Ephesians 1:18

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

–Romans 5:8

St Martin's, West Acton, London



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email: smartins@smartinswestacton.com

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