

ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

November 2021



AMWSS

50p

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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)

www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

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The Vicar is available for consultation and enquiries by appointment.

Please ring the Parish Office.

Articles for **next month's** magazine should be sent to

The Parish Office (email: stmartins@stmartinswestacton.com)

Please title your email 'December Magazine' in the subject heading

Articles should reach the Editor by 21 November.

The December magazine will be on sale by 30 November.

November: Remembering the past, and looking to the future

November is a month in which we remember. We remember all Christian Saints on All Saints Day on 1 November. We specifically remember our patron Saint, St Martin, on 11 November. We remember all those who have tragically lost their lives in wars or other acts of conflict or terrorism on both 11 November, and on Remembrance Sunday, which is on 14 November this year.

We have been given the gift of memory – both our individual memories and our collective memory in society. A gift that allows us to learn from the past, whether by inspiring us to emulate those who have done good things, or by working to avoid repeating past mistakes and disasters. Remembering also allows us to keep alive the memories of those people who we see no more.

And of course, Jesus himself asked us to remember – to remember how he died for us whenever we share in the bread and wine of Holy Communion: “do this in remembrance of me”. So how will we be remembering, here at St Martins?

At our all-age service on Sunday 7 November, we will celebrate All Saints and St Martin in particular, thinking about what we can learn from the example of St Martin. Then on Thursday 11 November, I am sure that many of us will observe the two-minute silence at 11am, whatever we are doing at that time, as we remember the horror of war and all who have died and suffered as a result. We will then mark Remembrance Sunday on 14 November at the church with our traditional service of remembrance, with our Brownies and Guides in attendance, as we lay wreaths at the War Memorial outside. After the service, our monthly online Reflections Group will discuss the topic of Pacifism.

However, if one of the purposes of remembering the past is to shape the future, we also need to look forward. On the evening of Thursday 11 November, the actual feast day of St Martin, we

are hosting an event for local churches (including ourselves!) to find out more about Eco Church. Eco Church is an award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate their commitment to climate care. Churches complete an online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God's earth in five different areas of their collective life and work:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

It seems particularly appropriate to host this at St Martin's Church on the date of our patronal festival. St Martin is probably most well-known for sharing his cloak with a poor man who needed it to stay warm and dry – his response to the needs of others and perhaps also to the injustices that so often exist in our world. In the same way, we urgently need to respond to the needs of a world increasingly affected by climate change, and to the injustices that this brings, with the poorest communities affected most. Do come along if you would like to find out more and/or hear about how other churches have approached this subject.

So, this month, as we look back but also look forward, may we know that God is God of the past, God of the present, and God of the future.

Rev Bryony Franklin



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To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?
 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too -
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
 Among the river sallows, borne aloft
 Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
 And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats



Church side path in Autumn (AMWSS)

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UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

- Thu 4 Nov:** **6.30pm – St Martin’s Bonfire** – Vicarage garden – fire pit, and hot dogs and soup
- Sat 6 Nov:** **10.00-12 noon - Japanese Café** in the Church - stalls and refreshments
- Sat 6 Nov:** **5pm - Confirmations at St Paul’s Cathedral**
- Sun 7 Nov:** **8am – Holy Communion** (Book of Common Prayer)
10am – All Age Service with Baptism
6.30pm – Evening Prayer on Zoom
- Thu 11 Nov:** **7.45pm – ‘Everything you wanted to know about Eco Church but were afraid to ask’** – in St Martin’s Church
- Sun 14 Nov:** **Remembrance Sunday**
(no 8am Holy Communion Service)
10am – Remembrance Sunday Service - Holy Communion (Common Worship). No Junior Church
6.30pm – Evening Prayer on Zoom
- Sat 20 Nov:** **4pm Community Listening Event –**
St Martin’s Church Hall
- Sun 21 Nov:** **Christ the King**
(no 8am Holy Communion Service)
10am – Holy Communion – (Common Worship). Junior Church
3pm – Japanese Church
6.30pm – Evening Prayer on Zoom

**Sun 28 Nov: Advent Sunday
(no 8am Holy Communion Service)
10am – Holy Communion – (Common Worship). Junior Church
4.00pm – Memorial Service**

Advance notice: Sun 5 Dec, St Martin's Christmas Bazaar

Harvest Festival and Lunch -

As we come out of 'lockdown', we are beginning to pick up the traditions of the past and celebrate them again today. One such tradition is the Harvest Festival service and the communal meal afterwards. After a lovely All Age Service, over 30 of us celebrated Harvest together with a Lunch, reminding us of the importance of community as we celebrate these very ancient festivals. Thanks to all who helped organise it, those who decorated the Church so beautifully, and all those who brought food to share. Collectively, we created a memory to cherish.

Rev Julia Palmer

(photos: C Reid; E Armstrong)





Thank you for the Harvest gifts

The residents and staff at the Women's Refuge were really pleased with all the donations that we sent them after our Harvest Festival. They are always grateful for the food which we give to them each year and use it to meet both regular and emergency needs.

This time we also asked for gifts of crockery, saucepans and kitchen equipment. The congregation was really generous and the staff at the refuge were exceptionally pleased; they told us that they had just been planning to go out to buy new replacements and our donations were just what they wanted. They have again stressed their thanks for our ongoing support which means a lot to them.

The Women's Refuge continue to make welcome packs containing toiletries, towels, etc for new residents and they rely on us to supply them. Please continue to think of the women in the refuge if you are clearing out unwanted crockery, towels and usable bedlinen.

Dr Margaret Jones, Lay Reader



Taizé – an ecumenical tradition

'Taizé' is now shorthand for a style of worship, but it derives from a tradition developed within an 'ecumenical monastic fraternity' of roughly 100 monks who have come together from both Catholic and Protestant traditions, and from all over the world, to live and work as a united religious community – trying to have a 'Christ-centred communal life'.

Taizé itself, the place, is in the Saône-et-Loire département in the region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (Burgundy) in eastern France. It is an area known for its fine regional wines and cheeses, attracting travellers from far and wide, and that 'reach' is relevant to the principle behind the Taizé tradition: if you research 'Taizé' online, the top response is a website which opens with the option to continue in no fewer than 36 different languages. This openness is central to Taizé's foundation: inclusivity, accessibility and community.

Ecumenism - a movement promoting Christian unity among different Churches and faiths – is the key to Taizé's appeal, making it a magnet for people of many different Christian cultures and traditions. Personally, I am a massive fan as it allows me to champion my faith as an individual whilst sharing it with others, and savouring their traditions simultaneously.

Founded in 1940 by Swiss-born Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche (Brother Roger), the Taizé community has a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Brother Roger's original community house opened in occupied France, sheltering war refugees and spreading the message of peace. There are now several Taizé fraternities in other countries – India, the Philippines, the USA to name but three – basing themselves in the poorest neighbourhoods where the Brothers feel they can best be "signs of the presence of Christ among men, and bearers of joy".

Complimenting the meditative approach is the singing of distinctive and repetitive prayer chants, composed of simple phrases, usually taken from the Psalms or other parts of scripture. These lines are combined in a number of ways, but always through repetition: in unison, in harmony, with an obligato verse sung over the repeated chant, sometimes even by means of a canon. This repetition is designed to aid the meditation and focus the prayers of the congregation.

We gathered on the evening of 26 September for our first Taizé service at St Martin's. We sat in a semi-circle in front of a display: a simple wooden Cross, some icons, and candles - some already lit, some waiting to be lit. There was an air of tremendous calm and serenity, many finding the guided meditation profoundly moving. The second Taizé service - 'Living Waters' - on 24 October was equally powerful. For me, it offers a moment of pure escape, one of a deep faith enveloping me with comfort, telling me that - to quote my Mum - 'everything will be alright in the end'. Do come to the next Taizé service - they really are quite special.

Rebecca Stockland, Choir Leader



“I think that I never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone.”

Brother Roger, Founder of the Taizé Community

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A Prayer for Patience

'When my patience seems too short – help me stretch it!
Teach me how to meet a crisis with a smile.
When I'm running out of quick and clever answers
Let the questions stop – for just a little while.
When it seems as though the day has too few hours
In which to do the things I have to do,
May I always find some time for what's important,
time for listening, time for love, and time for laughter too!'

Anon

My mother used to say "patience is a virtue, find it where you can". Well, I am aware that I am not always as patient as I should be. A work colleague once said to me that she thought my patience depended on which side of the counter I thought a person were on! I was amazingly patient with clients, but with staff my patience was much shorter. Having thought about it, I can see what she meant – essentially, if I think a person is on the same side, or footing, as I am, I tend to expect them to know the basics – the things that 'everyone knows'.

But that is not fair or reasonable. Life experience is unique for everyone, therefore what I am basing decisions and understanding on is not the same as another's baseline... My friends and family all know that I am not 'good' at maths. At all. I can't deal with figures reliably. I have a version of dyscalculia, which is similar to dyslexia, but with numbers. I tell you this because my father, who was really good at maths, spent ages trying to help me with my maths homework. He was immensely patient with me, up until he and my mother realised that there was something wrong - he then gave up! My sister, on the other hand, had a type of dyslexia.

Back in the late 1950s my sister and I used to do our school homework in the dining room with Radio Luxemburg on in the background, and there was a competition that we both wanted to win. The competition was to invent a new slogan for them, and find how many cans of Coca Cola it would take to fill a Trafalgar Square fountain. They gave you dimensions, etc., and

so we started to work it out. Dad came in, and asked what we were doing, so we told him and showed him what we had done so far. Mum came in as he was reading our work. He looked up at her and said "Sweetheart, we have given birth to a race of idiots!" and went back to watching the television. Not quite so patient, then!

I suppose we might have been damaged by such a damning comment, but it was not so. Mum, my sister and I all howled with laughter, and we carried on with our entries! We didn't win, but as thousands of young people must have entered, we had no real expectation of winning. My mother was immensely patient with both of us – she would only get cross if we had not *tried*. That is, I think, a very good criteria for practising patience with someone. If they have tried, then you should be patient and forbearing. It isn't only the result that matters, it is the effort you put into it, and some people find some things easier than others!

If you think about how Jesus approached his life's work of trying to teach people how to live according to God's laws, it shows very clearly his endless patience. The only time he got really angry and showed his impatience with people was when he went into the temple and threw out the money-changers and the people selling sacrificial animal offerings to the worshippers. He was angry not because they were selling goods in the Temple, but because the sellers were dishonest - they were overcharging and cheating people. Animal sacrifice, especially of white doves and lambs, was part of the ancient Jewish ritual, so the selling of the animals wasn't the issue, it was the cheating. The money-changers were also cheating – the sacrificial animals could not be bought in the Temple with Roman coins, but only with old pre-conquest currency, which had become 'Temple money', and the money-changers were extorting money via artificially high exchange rates. As it says in Matthew Ch 21 "My father's house should be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves". With such people, Jesus had no patience at all!

Lynne Armstrong, Reader Emeritus



One of the many fantastic Harvest displays put together for us by Christine Legge, Camilla Reid, and others, to whom we give admiring thanks for their skill and effort – Anna Sargent, editor



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

(Registered charity no. 1132976)



www.stmartinswestacton.co.uk

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Usual Sunday Services

8am: Holy Communion, BCP

10am: Parish Communion (CW)

(All-Age Service – non-Communion -
first Sunday of the month)

6.30pm: Evening Prayer on Zoom

Junior Church (except first Sun of month)

Japanese Anglican Church UK

(third Sunday of the month,
except in December)

3pm Bible Study and Evening Worship in Japanese