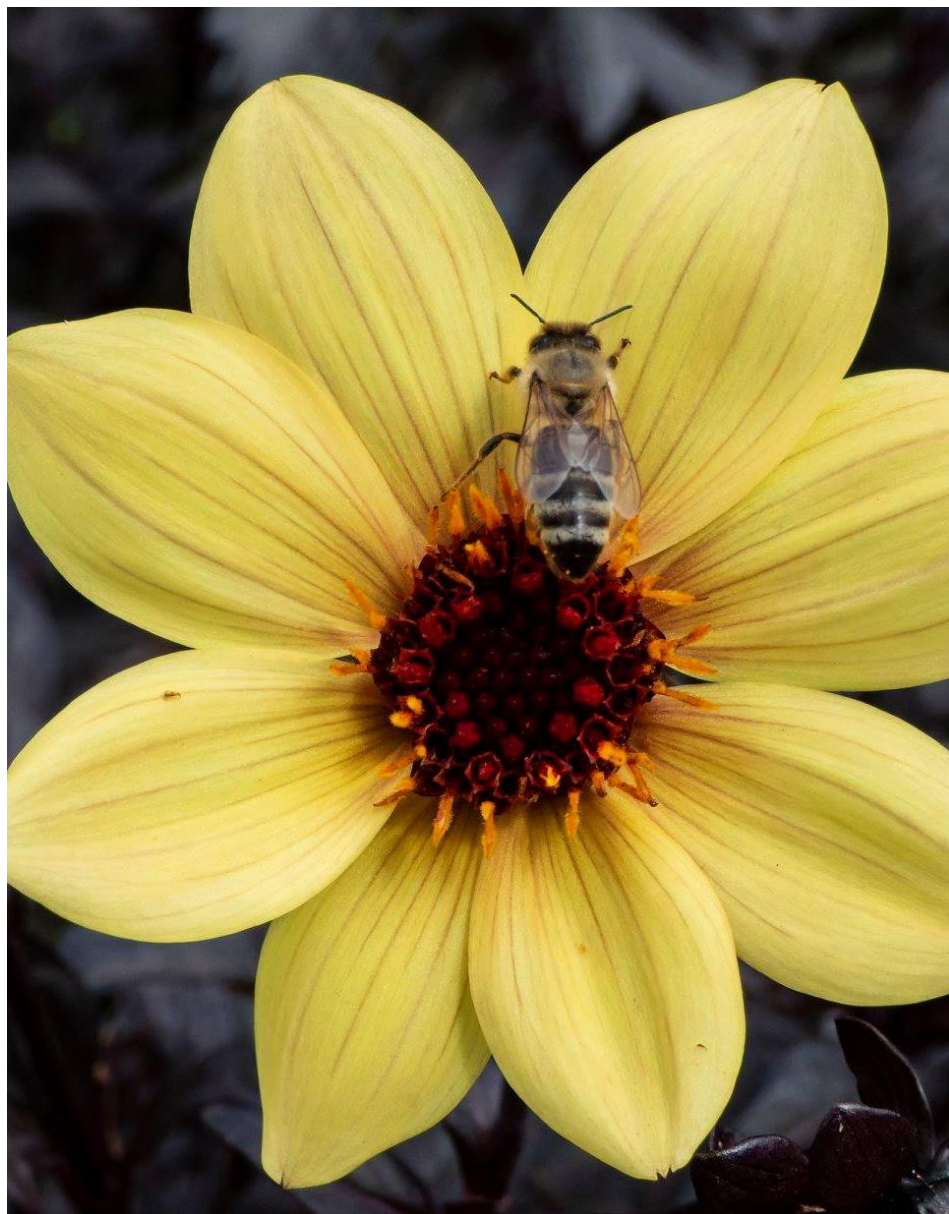


ST. MARTIN'S MONTHLY

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

NOTICES

Sunday services:

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

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

We are now open for public worship on Sunday mornings at 10am. This will normally be a communion service apart from the 1st Sunday of the month.

Junior Church will continue on Zoom for the immediate future, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Music & choirs Congregational singing will hopefully be back when Covid restrictions lift after the 21st June. The first service with singing will be Sunday 27th June. In preparation for this we are looking to reform our adult choir and a junior choir. Becky Stockland has agreed to be our Choir Director. Anyone interested in joining a choir should see the service sheet for details.

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ9miga4kIhXkXj-m-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.

Spring, and Truth

I think most people look forward to the Spring, as an easing of cold weather and a start of sun and summer. But of course, in England, weather never quite does what you expect. Easter was not very sunny and warm this year, certainly not where I was – indeed it snowed – and the weather since then has featured snow from time to time too.

Even so, the clocks have changed, and the sunsets seem later, so it seems less wintery. Even if it did snow in April! It is not supposed to snow in April! The rhyme says “March Winds and April Showers, bring forth the May flowers” – no mention of April snow! I read somewhere that it was the coldest April since 2013.

Weather rhymes are not necessarily truthful, though. I once read a book by a very funny man called George Mikes (pronounced Mi-kesh), called “How to be an Alien”. He was a Hungarian, and enjoyed gently laughing at the English. One thing that he said was a quote from an English girlfriend of his – “Truth does not depend on geography”. She said this when he told her that his mother would consider her an alien – to this she said that she wasn’t, but his mother was - and the geography quote.

Truth does not depend on anything; it is or it is not – it is your attitude to that truth which changes. Belief or disbelief is the issue. One of the problems that happens when people lie and are found out, is that they lose the trust of those round them. And if people can’t trust your word, then they can’t trust anything about you.

Christianity is a religion which has rules about behaviour. It is or they are, very easy to understand – if you would not like it done to you, do not do it to others. Love your neighbour as yourself, in other words. When you think about the concept it is not self-limiting – not easy like “Do not walk on the grass”. So you need to think about your conduct all the time. Is what you are thinking of doing something which would hurt someone else? Then you should not do it.

Lies can therefore be down to words as well as actions. Another interesting point is a sin of omission as well as commission. Therefore, intent comes into it – did you intend to lie to someone? The upshot of it all is that you need to think about the effect of your actions/words on other people, and make sure you do not mislead or deceive.

Going back to the weather, the next weather/time rhyme I know is about bees – “a swarm of bees in May is worth a load of Hay, a swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon – but a swarm of bees in July isn’t worth a fly”. And I do not know if that is true or false, as a city dweller I have no idea.

Lynne Armstrong

Home Pictures in May

By John Clare

The sunshine bathes in clouds of many hues
And morning's feet are gemmed with early dews,
Warm daffodils about the garden beds
Peep through their pale slim leaves their golden heads,
Sweet earthly nuns of Spring; the gosling broods
In coats of sunny green about the road
Waddle in extasy; and in rich moods
The old hen leads her flickering chicks abroad,
Oft scuttling 'neath her wings to see the kite
Hang wavering o'er them in the spring's blue light.
The sparrows round their new nests chirp with glee
And sweet the robin Spring's young luxury shares
Tootling its song in feathery gooseberry tree
While watching worms the gardener's spade unbares.

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Our church at Easter

We had a very special service on Easter Sunday when our bishop, Pete, visited us and Confirmed six of our young people. Our musicians excelled themselves and provided us with some inspiring live music which was much appreciated by the congregation. It was a very happy occasion and helped to demonstrate that the work of St Martin's has continued even when the building was closed to the congregation.



An important vote of thanks must go to all the people who helped to make the day so successful. The church looked lovely and we were pleased to have fresh flowers again. This year we had an Easter Tree on which were hanging hand-decorated

eggs. We may have felt sad that we were unable to enjoy a cup of coffee after the service, but our usual serving area was being used for a lovely new purpose. We had an Easter Garden and we must congratulate all those who decorated the eggs and those who made the paper flowers for the Easter Garden. This included paper flowers made by our

children together with lots of Japanese origami flowers which Yuki and her family had kindly made for us.

Every member of the congregation was invited to take an Easter candle with them when they left the church as a reminder that Christ is Risen.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped to mark Easter 2021 as a Red Letter Day.



Margaret Jones



'We Won't Forget You'

This year the Japanese Anglican Church (UK), based at St Martin's West Acton, organised two special events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami which struck on 11th March 2011. It was the biggest earthquake ever recorded in Japan and resulted in more than 16,000 deaths. The resulting tsunami caused massive damage and a nuclear accident. It was a triple disaster. This remains an unforgettable event, especially for Japanese people.

On 6th March this year, we planned to live-stream a Memorial service, with pre-recorded videos including a sermon by the Rt Rev. Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield. Many people contributed and assisted, including our vicar Julia Palmer, Tony Legge and Jack Wilson. Unfortunately, we had various technical problems and the live-streaming was not possible. However, with the wonderful help of many members of the Japanese community, we have since managed to produce the video, which is now on YouTube.



This video was produced and edited by Miyuki Tanaka, with added photos taken by Shu Tomioka and additional recordings. The result, which we can share with you, is the full service as planned. <https://youtu.be/djD6twPmfaA>

On 11th March, the actual anniversary day, we opened the church for private prayer. With restrictions of the pandemic we only had small numbers of visitors – about 20 during the course of the day. They were very pleased though to find the church open, welcoming them to find space for reflection and prayer on that day.

Yuki Johnson

Licensed Lay Minister Japanese Anglican Church (UK) St Martin's West Acton Diocese of London



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May Day

Celebrating on the first of May marks the halfway point between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice, and the event is rich in history and folklore as 'bringing in the May' is a very old tradition.

At this time of year in agriculture, cattle are driven to pasture and seeds are beginning to sprout. Doors are often decorated with yellow May flowers.

Some communities still crown a May king and queen with floral garlands, and dance around a May pole or May tree with ribbons. These dances can be incredibly elaborate.

One folk tradition was washing your face with dew on the morning of 1st May, to beautify your skin and bring good luck. Beekeepers would also traditionally move bees on 1st May.



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Dates for the diary

May: National Walking Month
National Share a Story Month

3rd May: International Dawn Chorus Day

4th May: Firefighters' Memorial Day

4th-9th May: Red Cross Week

9th May: International Lost Sock Day

10th-16th May: Mental Health Awareness Week

15th May: Hats for Hedway

17th May: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

18th-21st May: Walk to School Week

18th May: World AIDS Vaccine Day

19th May: Agender Pride Day

21st May: World Meditation Day

24th May: Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day

24th-30th May: National Epilepsy Week

28th May: World Hunger Day

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

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www.stmartinwestacton.co.uk
email: stmartins@stmartinwestacton.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