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Welcome

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARTIN'S WEST DRAYTON

Challenge

May all who enter the Church find the peace of Christ and feel welcome.



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From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

It has been a long and cold January. News has been bleak and probably all of us have often felt tired and low in spirits. As a nation we have reached the distressing milestone of over a 100,000 deaths after testing positive for Covid 19, while knowing that across the world many other families are bereaved due to this dreadful disease.

Lent begins on 17 Feb, when by tradition our worship includes ashes, a sign both of repentance for our sins, and a reminder of our mortality, which the pandemic also does only too well and too often. Life can be fragile and it is certainly finite, therefore we need to turn again to Christ, and place our trust in him, and ask for his help to live it wisely and well, with courage and compassion.

The 40 days of Lent are austere days, and perhaps the last thing we feel like is imposing more strict disciplines on ourselves like giving up a favourite food. But spiritual disciplines can be a kindness, as they are designed to draw us closer to God, and they can inspire us to reach out with care and kindness to one another, making and maintaining connections we all benefit from. This year I suggest we commit ourselves to the discipline of gratitude and intercession. Each day, or several times a day, can we pause to think and pray? To give thanks for all that is good, and to pray for others, those known to us personally, and those we see in the news. Problems may seem huge, but prayer is never wasted, and thankfulness can be an empowering experience as we remember God comes to us with blessings in his hands.

Despite the cold, the daylight is slowly stretching out, and primroses have flowered in my garden all winter. The tired earth still brings forth the spring, and we must hold fast to God's promise, to be with us, to sustain us, to guide us, and to give us new life, "the desert shall blossom and burst into song; like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly...and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (*Isaiah 35*)

With my blessing, Revd Rosy

St Martin's is open on

Sundays from 10 am, 10.15 am Holy Eucharist, with music, followed by private prayer until 11.30 am

Wednesdays 10-11 am, Peace and Quiet Hour. Do pop in and out any time, to light a candle, sit, read, think or pray.

The Season of Lent

There will be a Eucharist on **Ash Wednesday 17 Feb at 6.30pm**. This will include, for those who wish to participate, the Imposition of Ashes. We shall be following the example of some of the churches in the Philippines by sprinkling ash on the head rather than marking the forehead (thus being Covid compliant).

You're invited to keep a holy Lent by using the Church of England resources, #LiveLent: God's Story, Our Story.

Find out more on-line at churchofengland.org/livelent

The Lent Appeal from the London Diocese this year concerns youth violence and highlights three charities that support the wellbeing of our 10-24 year olds. Further details from london.anglican.org/lentappeal2021

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday 28 March**. There will be the opportunity to receive a palm cross at our 10.15 Eucharist.

Maundy Thursday 6.30pm (April 1) Eucharist.

Good Friday (April 2) the church will be open for **Private Prayer from 12** with the **Good Friday Liturgy** (a service of words and music) at **2.30pm**.

Please check on the 'notice board on the church gate post, or on our website for any changes to our worship services, which might happen at short notice depending on Covid 19 restrictions.

Hats, Hats and More Hats.

The attached picture is of hats which have been knitted for the hospital in Mukura in Kenya by members of the congregation and their friends who began knitting them before Christmas. The Challenge was to try to make 100 hats for new born babies in the hospital.

It all began from an article and photograph I saw in a Newsletter sent by Sister Kathy to Hilary Stone. Hilary, when she was teaching at Heathrow Primary had a very good link with the Mukuru Project Centre which was founded by Roman Catholic nuns who had started 5 schools, an orphanage, clinic and other services. Hilary and Rachel Raven have both visited Mukuru and seen the living conditions for themselves. For many years, the School and congregation at St Martin's contributed to the cost of school uniforms and other equipment. Some members of the present congregation still sponsor girls so that they can attend school.

The area of Mukuru is the second largest slum in Nairobi, where home to thousands of families is a one room corrugated hut, with no running water or sanitation. Both essentials have to be purchased and for us it is hard to imagine how people cope in those circumstances. Fires from kerosine lamps often devastate parts of the slum and people lose everything.

The schools we support are now run by the state, but the nuns still have a huge input into the day to day running, working closely with social workers. There is also a live-in rehabilitation centre for Street boys, a clinic which offers free or inexpensive medical support and links to the Mater hospital. Originally the hats were destined to go to the hospital, but as there is quite a variety of size it is possible some will go to the local needy children. We are supported by B.A. cabin staff who are sometimes able to take items for us as sending by post is both expensive and items can get lost in transit.



As lockdown has affected us all it has been fun to be doing something positive to help others, and at the same time has kept us entertained. Hopefully they will be of some use. It would be good to know if there are other simple items which could be knitted particularly while lockdown continues.

Sylvia Taylor

Lent Appeal 2021

The 2021 Diocese of London Lent Appeal will focus on

Youth Violence.

Youth violence, which is prevalent in London, is the intentional use of physical force or power to threaten or harm others by young people aged between 10-24 years. It typically involves young people hurting peers who are unrelated to them and who they may or may not know well.

Youth violence can include fighting, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. A young person can be involved with youth violence as a victim, offender, or witness.

In England and Wales there were 47,349 Police-recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the 12 months to June 2020 [1]

- There has been an 85% increase in knife crime in England and Wales since 2014 (comparing the 12 months from Jun 19 to Jul 20, with 12 months from Apr 13 to Mar 14)
24 children aged just 17 or younger were murdered with a knife or sharp object in 2019. This represents the highest number of children murdered in over a decade.

The lent appeal, which begins on Wednesday 17 February, will focus on both raising awareness of the issue, and raising money for three charities that challenge it.

OUR MISSION: TO FIND



SOMEONE TO BLESS TODAY!!

The charities the Diocese are supporting



[XLP](#) stands for 'The eXcel Project'. In 1996, in response to a stabbing in a school playground, the school's headmaster asked Patrick Regan, who was then a local church-based youth worker, to come into the school, work with their students and teachers and help with difficult behavioural issues. XLP now operates across nine inner-city boroughs around London, working with over 4,500 young people each year through education, mentoring, sport and the arts.



[TLG](#) work through a nationwide network of partner churches, and are committed to reaching out to some of the most vulnerable children in the UK. With expertise in school exclusions, emotional wellbeing and holiday hunger, TLG is one of the UK's fastest growing children's charities.



[Redthread](#) embeds specialist youth workers in hospital A&E departments across London and the Midlands. They meet young people during times of crisis, fear and trauma and endeavour to transform their experience of health systems and professional networks. As a result of working with Redthread, 95% of young people are less likely to be harmed again.

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CHARITY'S WEBSITE

Prayer Page



A Prayer for help *(based on Psalm 130:5-6)*

Dear God,
I wait for your help
in my time of sadness
as eagerly as I wait for the dawn
to scatter the dark of night.

New Moon

*(a Celtic prayer from the book
'Songs of the Isles' Kathleen Jones)*

New moon of the heavens,
how many of us have gone
across the black abyss of death
since the last time you shone?
So many men and women
have crossed, yet even so
God's mercy still allows me
to praise him here below.

**Let us give thanks to
Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd**

who laid down his life for us all.

We thank you, Jesus our Lord.

You lead us out, and we find pasture.

We thank you, Jesus our Lord.

You call us by name, and we hear your voice.

We thank you, Jesus our Lord.

You came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

We thank you, Jesus our Lord.

You lead us through the valley of the shadow of death,
and we fear no evil.

We thank you, Jesus our Lord.

(from Common Worship Daily Prayer)





WINTER-TIME

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.



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During the second world war on a foggy day the Americans and British had the following conversation:
Americans: "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision."
British: "Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision."
Americans: "This is the Aircraft Carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, the second largest ship in the united states' atlantic fleet. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees north or counter measures will be taken."
The British were unarmed and did not move. What made the Americans change their minds?

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from EMSWORTH, 2020 from Barbara Watson Hammond.

What a topsy turvy year it has been! I do hope you have all been able to weather the pandemic storm without too much stress or loss. Luckily, I have also kept well.

For me the year began as usual, with a busy year ahead, and many fixtures in my new diary, preparations for services in Church and Emsworth House, staff meetings here each month, house groups, and the new 'birthday club' for those who gathered for the Wednesday Eucharist in Church. In addition I joined in with all the plans for a year-long series of events at Warblington Church to commemorate the 850th anniversary of Archbishop Thomas Becket's murder in Canterbury Cathedral in December. The Retired Clergy pub lunches were firmly in place for the year, as well as the monthly parish lunches at the local King's Arms; the Folk Club I have run in memory of Brian had fortnightly bookings for the year, and I looked forward to stewarding in the Chapel at Stansted House. Busy? NO. The lockdown in March cancelled it all, and by now I realise that much will never happen again.

Not to worry, other things have taken their place, and I do not know where the time has gone! I had thoroughly enjoyed an extraordinary weekend last January with my two grandsons, Isaac and Ezra and their families. It was a very happy and exhilarating time, culminating by being taken out to dinner by Isaac who asked me a question, - 'Who are you?' He has always known me as 'Grandma, faraway, of holidays, presents and pocket money, but was beginning to want to know more, so I yarned my way through a lovely meal, entertaining him with tales of how it took me 6 years to decide to marry Harry, his grandfather, and many years later, only two weeks to decide to marry Brian! We did a lot of laughing! More seriously, I came home realising that if I didn't collect all the family yarns I had heard over many years since my childhood, they would never be known. I am still busy with this, and it has brought me many happy hours of telephone conversations with my cousins to verify as much as possible.

The year has been punctuated with small visits, with family and friends, a superb VE party back in Maisemore Gardens, a heinous jigsaw of gothic architecture, planting 4 fruit trees in pots in the garden, enjoying a good harvest of ripe tomatoes, learning reluctantly to 'zoom', and producing a 12-page booklet, telling the Story of St. Thomas Becket, which was ready -(just), - for an exhibition in September. Since September 6 weeks were taken up with the disruption of having my kitchen renewed, I am thrilled with the result, and plan to cook a family Christmas meal in due course.

** It didn't happen!*

Now I look forward to next year, hoping it will be different again, with more tv to watch and books to read. I wonder what else?

I hope Christmas will be a happy celebration for you all, and with lots of good things to happen in 2021.

With love and good wishes,

Barbara

at 28, Church Path, Emsworth, PO10 7DP

⊗ The Christmas turkey stayed with my daughter, Carol, in North Yorkshire, the puddings stayed in Chalfont St Giles, and I had a mountain of vegetables, and lots of cheese!

Hall Activities

Monday

Tae Kwondo 17:45 - 19:15

Tuesday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00
Drama Group 16:00 - 18:30
History Society 19:00 - 21:00
(Last Tuesday of the Month)
Craft Group 19:00 - 21:00

Wednesday

Irish Dance 19:00 - 21:00

Thursday

Little Soldiers 10:00 - 11:15
0-3 year olds + carers
(not in school holidays)

WI 14:15 - 16:15
(3rd Thursday of the Month)

AA 7-10pm

Friday

Tae Kwondo 17:30 - 20:30

Saturday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00

Items for inclusion in the August/September issue of Challenge must be with the Editor by Sunday 21st March 2021 Items not received by this date will, if appropriate, be included in the next issue.

Email: smartinschurch@live.co.uk

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

Ankhesenamun Paula Smith - 20 December 2020

We welcome her into the world wide Church of Christ

Holy Matrimony

James Alexander Sampson & Charlotte Stone - 19 December 2020

We ask God's blessing on their married life



Funerals

Sonia Kenny - 6 January 2021

Joan Brady - 29 January 2021

*We give thanks for them and remember in our prayers
those who continue to mourn their passing.*

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