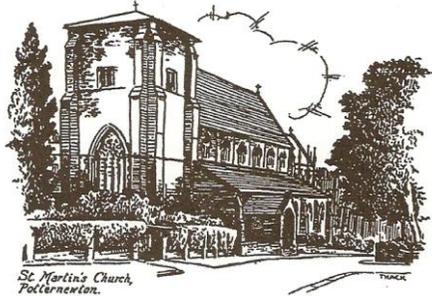


Reach Out

St Martin's Church Magazine

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



May 2019

£ 1



Sundays at 10 am:

Parish Eucharist in Church
Sunday Club in the Institute

Wednesdays at 9:30 am:

Holy Communion / Morning
Prayers in Church

www.stmartinleeds.org.uk



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To arrange Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Funerals, Confession or for other matters please contact Fr. Nicholas.

Reach Out

St Martin's Church aims to praise God, to share the good news,
to be a welcoming loving church serving all.
Praise, Share, Welcome, Love, Serve.
There is a place for you at St Martin's

Editor's Comment:

We trust you had a prayerful Holy Week and a joyous Easter Sunday. The magazine had to be printed before we could include reports of the Easter events at St Martin's but hopefully we'll give you a flavour of what happened in the June edition.

An important mention for this month is for Christian Aid week (13th-18th May). Please do consider helping us to collect for this charity and supporting the service in church on Sunday 19th May at 5pm. Also, please make a note of the date for our Garden Party: Saturday 15th June 2-4pm and do offer your help or donations to make this a successful fundraiser.

Many thanks in anticipation!

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Pastoral Letter

THY KINGDOM COME

Dear Friends,

Over the past three years Christian communities around the world have dedicated the time between Ascension (this year on Thursday 30 May) and Pentecost (this year on Sunday 9 June) to pray – in the words of Jesus - Thy Kingdom Come, and Come Holy Spirit, asking for God’s assistance in bearing witness to the message of the Gospel – Jesus’ Good News – to the people of the world. In particular, Christians are asked to offer in prayer to God daily, during this period from Ascension to Pentecost, five individuals whom we know may not yet have met Christ in their lives.

This year this global wave of prayer is being promoted by 65 different Christian denominations in 114 countries, with the participation of countless Christian communities, organisations and networks, and once again the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York are asking us, the Church of England, to be part of it in our private and communal prayer. They write, in part, “After the very first Ascension day, the disciples gathered with Mary, the mother of our Lord, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing. This is why through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.”

The Good News is that the Holy Spirit is already here, a living presence in the heart of every person. Therefore, praying to the Spirit is about opening to the action of the Spirit of the Risen Christ in us, that we may be set free of the bonds of sin and death that enslave the world, the planet itself. This freedom, this liberation, this redemption, is what we call the Kingdom of God. Action, much action from all men and women of good will of all faiths and beliefs shall be required, but as Christians we begin every action with prayer.

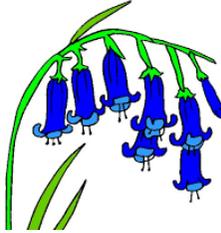
Resources are being produced in many different languages. Please visit the following website to read more and discover available resources: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Fr Nicholas



Calendar



May

Weds 1st	Philip and James Apostles
	9.30 am Eucharist
	10.30 am Home Communions
	7.30 pm Choir Practice
Thurs 2nd	7.00 am Local elections in the Institute until 10.00 pm
Sat 4th	12 noon Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 5th	<u>The Third Sunday of Easter</u>
	10.00 am Parish Eucharist
Tues 7th	7.00 pm PCC in Church
Weds 8th	9.30 am Eucharist
	10.30 am Home Communions
	2.00 pm Mothers' Union
	7.30 pm Choir Practice
Sat 11th	12 noon Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 12th	<u>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>
	Christian Aid Week begins
	10.00 am Parish Eucharist
	12 noon Holy Baptism
Tues 14th	7.00 pm Archdeacon's Visitation Service at Holy Trinity Cookridge
Weds 15th	9.30 am Eucharist
	7.30 pm Choir practice
Thurs 16th	7.30 pm Churches Together A.G.M. at St Martin's

Sat 18th	10.00 am	Away Day at Hollin House (by invitation)
	12 noon	Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 19th	<u>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</u>	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	5.00 pm	Christian Aid Service
Mon 20th	11.00 am	Institute meeting
Weds 22nd	9.30 am	Eucharist
Sat 25th	12 noon	Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 26th	<u>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with children
Tues 28th	7.00 pm	Standing Committee
Weds 29th	9.30 am	Eucharist
Thurs 30th	<u>Ascension Day</u>	
	7.00 pm	Ascension Day Eucharist



IMPORTANT: ADVANCE date for your diary:

Sat 15th June: 2-4pm – St Martin’s Church GARDEN PARTY

We need volunteers to help on the day; donations of bottles of drink for the bottle stall (not water) - please bring them into church as soon as possible; donations of buns / cakes nearer the day. See Sue Bain or Fr Nicholas to offer help. Thank you in anticipation.

From the Registers

Baptisms:

14/4/2019: Zane Z. Warsop
Omari A. Green
Lexi-Elle B. Avery

News

Mothing Sunday

Mothing Sunday was celebrated at St Martin's with the Mothers' Union and Sunday Club out in force and taking a prominent part in the service. Revd Jane had prepared a lively and thought-provoking talk which saw the Mothers' Union holding up pictures of well-known mums and the Sunday Club holding up pictures of well-known children. It was up to the congregation to match up each mother to their child. Such pairings included Victoria and Brooklyn Beckham; Kate and Madeleine McCann; and Elizabeth and John the Baptist.



Each pairing represented something of what it meant to be a mother, whether that be a busy working mum providing for a family, a mum who provided encouragement or a mum who had been separated from their child. It was also acknowledged that many people lived out a "mothing" role, be that a mum or dad, grandparent or aunt or uncle. During the prayers of intercessions a flower was placed in a vase to mark each prayer. During the last hymn the Sunday Club members handed out little posies of daffodils to all members of the congregation.

At the end of the service Revd Jane was enrolled into the Mothers' Union by Pat Ainsworth, Leeds' Area President of the Mothers' Union. She was warmly received by the existing members of St Martin's Mothers' Union.



Helen Sanders

News

Pilgrim Lent Course

This year's Lent course centred around The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) through a booklet provided by the Church of England written by Steven Croft:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

For 5 weeks a group of people met after the Sunday Eucharist for an hour to discuss the booklet and the issues raised within it. We considered what Lent meant to us and how we responded to Lent through our abstentions and by increasing our spiritual discipline. The Lent booklet highlighted a Bible passage for each day in Lent and during the group we considered these Bible passages and how they challenged us or inspired us. The booklet also provided suggestions for action, such as: "carry out at least one act of service today to bless someone in your work or home life".

This is Pamela Colbourne's experience of this year's Lent course:

"I found the Sunday Lent get-togethers a time to reflect on not just what happens between the pages of the booklet but how this was all playing out in the world around us: humanitarian, political, community issues. Mindful of those who are without good health, those who have passed away, issues that sometimes get sidelined as we strive to find true meaning. As a group we touched on all these issues, how they may affect us personally and especially during Lent. One conversation stood out for me, the simple one of where we pray: anywhere at any time, even in my car and during exercise. Prayer is so important".



News

Annual Church Meeting

On Sunday 7th April, immediately after the Eucharistic service, we held our 2019 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). A number of reports were submitted from the different departments that constitute the rich canopy of St Martin's engagement in Christian witness, worship and fellowship. Two of them were also delivered verbally, by the Treasurer and by the Vicar.

Highlight of the APCM were the elections of the Churchwardens, Mr Jason Clark (re-elected) and Ms Doris Herbert, and of two members of the PCC, Ms Sue Bain (re-elected) and Mr Apostol Zapos, as well as the co-opting to the PCC of Revd Colin Henderson.

Fr Nicholas

Reports

Here are abridged versions of the reports received for the APCM:

St Martin's Community Kitchen

Our doors continue to open each Saturday from 12noon-2pm to feed the homeless, families struggling to make ends meet, asylum seekers and refugees. They are served a delicious 3 course hot meal.

On 21st December 2018 we laid on a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for 50 people – everyone was very appreciative and especially so for their parcels of new hats, gloves, scarves & socks donated by church members; and for the blankets, fleeces and underwear donated by David and Sandra.

We have found more clients are now attending the Community Kitchen for a hot meal and somewhere to keep warm for a couple of hours, especially over the cold winter months.

We need more volunteers so please come and join us in serving our local community in this much-needed way.

I would like to thank all the existing volunteers for their hard work and the time given. I would also like to thank St Georges Crypt; Fareshare; Tesco; Asda and Morrison's for their kind contributions and also the Barrister law firm and the local Councillors for their generous support.

In July 2019 we will be celebrating our 5th year anniversary – do come along and support this special occasion.

God bless, *Emily Forbes (Community Kitchen Co-ordinator)*

Safeguarding

No incidents, worries or concerns have been reported this year.

Sunday Club report

The Sunday Club meets at 10am on Sundays in the Institute. Any child from 4 years old is welcome. Our number remains at 11 children. Georgette, Myrla and Apostol remain committed to Sunday Club and we thank them for their support. We would always welcome more Sunday Club leaders to help.

We have raised funds for parties or trips through monthly cake sales and are going to see "Joseph" the musical in June.

On the last Sunday of the month children remain in church and participate in the service. During the Sunday Club sessions we say the Lord's Prayer and the Grace, have Bible teaching and activity and participate in circle times.

St Martin's has a strict Safeguarding policy and all Sunday Club leaders have been subject to enhanced DBS checks.

Caroline James

St Martin's Church choir

The choir meets weekly to rehearse on Wednesdays between 7:30-8:30pm with 10 members participating regularly. As interim organist I have been touched and impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of this group. Anyone interested in joining the choir is most welcome – please speak to the organist or a member of the choir.

Jane Flynn (Interim organist)

The Flower Team

Thank you to all who generously contributed to the flowers for Easter, Harvest and Christmas and to all members of the congregation who provide the flowers during the year in memory of loved ones or to celebrate a special family occasion. Please speak to a member of the flower team if you would like to do this over the coming year.

The flower team has been responsible for beautiful displays for weddings in church, for the Jamaican Independence service at St Aidan's Church and for the St Kitts & Nevis Independence Service at St Martin's Church. Plus we ensured displays were in place for the Art and Carnival Costumes exhibitions held in church.

Jennie Collins

Church cleaning

The hero of the cleaning team is Leonora Hanley who faithfully comes every week to mop all the floors. Sadly age, illness and death have reduced the number of our cleaning team and it is increasingly difficult to keep the church as clean as we would like. If you have noticed a difference and would like to help us maintain the beauty of our church please consider volunteering for an hour or two either on the first Wednesday in the month during the morning or the first Saturday of every month from 10am. Many thanks.

Sue Bain

Magazine

This continues to be produced monthly at a cost of £1 and remains well-received and cost-effective by printing in-house, although this is reliant on volunteers giving up time to copy and staple the magazine. We currently print 150 copies per month, as we use the magazine as part of our Outreach project to local organisations.

Helen Sanders

Website

Our church website has been described as the best in the Deanery by the former Lay Chair of Allerton Deanery! The website is used as an essential communication tool in today's modern world. It helps the church to promote its aims and beliefs, to advertise its upcoming events and report back on them. Enquiries about baptisms, weddings and the hire of rooms in the Institute can be made through the website and donations can also be made. Many thanks go to Jeff Browne for his hard work to edit the website.

Churches Together

The Chapeltown and Harehills Churches Together group meet once a month in a different church to pray about issues concerning the area and the world. There is an opportunity to discuss issues of concern, for example street crime. The Easter Walk of witness continues to be held on Good Friday, meeting for a service in Potternewton Park.

Maddy Hunter

Deanery Synod

The Synod meets at regular intervals at St George's Church and holds services at different churches around the Deanery. It is with deep sadness that we learned of the death of Nick Flood who was Lay Chair of Deanery Synod as he was a great supporter of the events held at St Martin's Church.

Maddy Hunter

The Institute Team

The Institute is a Grade 2 listed building. With the passing of time many rooms and services in the building have needed to be modernised. Much remains to be done.

Renewals and replacements:

- The upstairs hall floor has been replaced with a new wooden floor
- The fire alarm panel has been replaced due to a faulty sensor
- Essential emergency lights were replaced
- More efficient LED lighting has replaced some existing lighting
- Light sensors have been fitted near outside doors
- A new cooker has been installed in the kitchen

Bookings:

Several new bookings have been secured for the upstairs hall. These have mainly been for exercise classes which will not damage the new floor. In the downstairs hall bookings are taken for small parties such as children's birthday parties.

Thanks to all the members of the Institute team and to Verna Lee for cleaning and to Slawko, Morice & Jason for undertaking repair jobs.

Mothers' Union

St Martin's Mothers' Union meets in the Institute on the second Wednesday of the month and membership is open to all, (single people or men). It is a worldwide organization but locally we have speakers at our meetings and these have included the Police Safety Officer and a representative from the Refuse Recycling Group. The Mothers' Union raise money for various projects at home (including the upkeep of two caravans at the seaside for families who can't afford a holiday) and for overseas mission. The Mothers' Union is pro-active in St Martin's particularly assisting with refreshments at important services and functions during the year. St Martin's Mothers' Union is proud to take its turn reading midday prayers at Ripon Cathedral or Leeds Minster, which is an opportunity to meet other groups. Please do join us and come along – all welcome.

Maddy Hunter

Treasurer's report

An external auditor examined the accounts for the year and found no concerns. The church was only slightly in the red but due to some upcoming expensive repairs a stewardship campaign will soon be launched. If you would like to support the church with a regular Standing Order please speak to Carrie Rowsell.

Secretary's report

The Parochial Church Council has met 8 times during the year to discuss various matters including: finance; maintenance of buildings; safeguarding policies; exhibition plans; social events; outreach possibilities; Away Day and conference opportunities; Charitable giving; and worship plans.

Sue Bain

Upcoming News

Christian Aid Week: 13-18 May 2019



'We believe in life after birth.'

That is the striking message of this year's Christian Aid Week, as

the campaign focuses on childbirth in Sierra Leone as an extremely worthy example of what your donations can do. Unlike expectant and new mothers in this country, mothers and babies in Sierra Leone face an uncertain future – but with the support of Christian Aid, communities can work to make childbirth a much safer experience and give children a chance to thrive. Christian Aid has 70 years' experience of working with communities in this way – providing them not with charity but with the means to overcome poverty and to build their own lives.

Christian Aid Week is always a special time in the St Martin's calendar, as teams of church members go out knocking on doors to ask for donations to this worthy cause. This year, sadly, we won't have Franklin Pond leading us and delivering envelopes on his bicycle, but we are determined to make a very special effort to keep up Franklin's good work. If you would like to help out, please speak to me or Fr Nicholas, Carrie Rowsell or Sue Bain; and if you're reading this in the community, please dig deep when we call, to help this worthy cause. Thank you.

We are also having a **service to celebrate the work of Christian Aid** and to pray for all of its endeavours, on **Sunday 19th May at 5pm**. in Church. Please do come along and support this too.

Revd Jane

Regulars

Mothers' Union

Remember, Remember

One hazard of getting older is our increasing forgetfulness. We forget words, names, tasks to be done, important dates and much more, as they slip through the holding net of our memory which once held so firm and fast.

We can remember incidents from times long past but are at a loss to recall what we ate for breakfast yesterday or why we went into a particular room in the house. Yet, regardless of how good or how bad our memory is, it is very important to us.

In the bible, remembrance is a recurring theme. From the Israelites' celebration of Passover to remember their deliverance by God from Egypt, to Christ's words to His disciples and followers to partake of the Lord's supper in remembrance of Him, remembering is highlighted as being important and significant.

It is helpful to remember the many times that God has helped us out in the past. This can strengthen our faith in his ability to help us out in the present and in the future.

We know that prayer is an essential part of what we do in Mothers' Union. We pray that our memories of God's love through the years will fill our present with joy. We remember his unchanging steadfastness and pray that we can greet our future with hope.

Ideas for Prayer

- *Pray for those whose ability to remember has diminished in later years.*
- *Give thanks for memories which rekindle the fun and laughter of the time.*
- *Remember with gratitude Christ's sacrifice celebrated through bread and wine.*

N.B. Dementia Action Week runs from 20th -26th May and unites people to take action and improve the lives of people living with dementia. Look out for a dementia-friendly service at St Martin's coming soon.

We publish our magazine online halfway through the month so if there are any photos that you would like to take a closer look at in colour you can find them at:

<http://www.stmartinleeds.org.uk/magazine-issues/>

From All Souls

This month marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci. Along with other art spaces through the country Leeds City Art Gallery has been displaying a selection of his drawings. Leonardo dissected body parts to gain knowledge of how to portray the human form accurately. His sketches show great accuracy and delicacy. When he uses this preliminary learning to paint living and clothed human figures the humanity of the subjects become apparent. Breaking with artistic tradition, Leonardo often dispensed with halos and gold in painting biblical figures so that his audience could see realistic forms: Gabriel looking very determined as he meets Mary, and varying reactions of the disciples at the Last Supper on being told by Jesus that one of them would betray him, for instance.

Whilst in this way Leonardo can be seen as an inspiration for faith, he was critical of several aspects of religious practice at the time. In my view it is an example of how people who do not nominally share our religious beliefs can still supply us with spiritual nourishment. Three of my friends, a Jew, a Muslim and a Buddhist respectively provide me with challenging discussion, compassion and enduring warm friendship, closely allied to what some of us might interpret as the workings of the Holy Spirit. The political beliefs that I might regard as promoting the kingdom of God are the same as those held by people who regard religion as 'the opium of the people'. I am no less 'in fellowship' with these people than I am with those with whom I share Holy Communion.

We cannot necessarily expect such women and men to attend formal worship at All Souls because they require the expression of their deepest and most meaningful thoughts to have a different language and their sense of sisterly and brotherly solidarity to be represented in different 'rituals'. However, I think that our church offers opportunity for people to do non-religiously what many of us do religiously: take stock of their behaviour, express gratitude, make commitments, empty themselves of futile thoughts and simply marvel. The stillness, quietness, solitude, colour and creativity that is to be found there, the symbolism of a lighted candle, the presence of water and the images of suffering and glory may address those universal needs that are held by all people.

It's hard to know how effectively we can be the hosts who enable this kind of secular use of our sacred spaces to be made. We may

say that having a church open several times a week with a volunteer custodian on duty on the off-chance that someone may pop in is not an economical use of time. Yet we quite often find that visitors do call under such circumstances. Perhaps a fundamental question to ask ourselves is this. Are we prepared to facilitate opportunities for people to obtain their own distinct form of spiritual nourishment irrespective of whether or not that leads them towards our form of Christian worship?

If you would like to express your views on this I would be pleased to hear from you, whether or not you agree with the content.

Warwick Turnbull

Deacon, All Souls. warwick.t@ntlworld.com

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

From the book: *Peace of Heart in All Things*, by Brother Roger Shutz, founder of the ecumenical community of Taizé, GIA Publications

Our prayer is a simple reality. Is it perhaps no more than a poor sigh? God hears us all the same. We should never forget that, at the heart of every person, the Holy Spirit is praying. (Romans 8:26)

Articles

The Birds in your Garden – Mike Gray

The Tree Sparrow

We are lucky here in Yorkshire to have the Tree Sparrow as a reasonably common garden resident. Nevertheless, it is one of many species that have declined significantly, with numbers nose-diving from the 1970s until the early 1990s, when a slow revival began. It is estimated that nationally, numbers are only about a thirtieth of what they once were.



Photo by John Harding / BTO

I think their numbers continue to rise in North and East Yorkshire; certainly, I've seen an increase in the number visiting my feeders, in

with parallel with the loss of House Sparrows which used to outnumber and mix with them.

For garden bird watchers who are not sure of their sparrows, Tree Sparrows, both male and female, are the ones with the warm red-brown crowns and white patches at the sides of their heads, plus a small black cheek patch. The chestnut crown is the real point of difference from the other "little brown jobs". Male House Sparrows have a grey head and nape and a prominent black bib; their females are completely different, being generally stripy all over. Dunnocks (Hedge Sparrows in my youth) are altogether more delicate looking with almost spindly pink legs, and behave completely differently, being shy, mainly solitary, ground feeders.

Tree Sparrows are loosely colonial and tend to form small flocks, often mixing with House Sparrows. They are granivorous, usually feeding on the ground, though they will happily use garden bird feeders. I have seen them on peanuts, but in my garden they prefer mixed seeds, but will visit the more expensive sunflower hearts aimed at finches. I have been putting out suet balls for a while too, and they love them! Pure suet with no grains mixed in create less "fall-out" on the ground underneath too. As with many birds, they prefer feeders sited near cover to reduce predation risks.

Tree Sparrows tend to prefer the smaller seeds often produced by weeds, which modern selective herbicides have made rather scarce. This plus the loss of stubble fields during winter has doubtless contributed to their decline. You can encourage them by having a patch of wildflowers or by leaving weeds to go to seed. As with many seed eaters, finches especially, there is an exception to their vegetarian diet during the breeding season when they feed their young on small invertebrates. The use of pesticides has reduced this food source too, as shown by the recent news items on the decline of all our insects: no wonder they are struggling.

Tree Sparrows mate for life; their nests, which may be domed or cup-shaped, are made using twigs and leaves and are lined with down, moss and hair. Both birds do the building, usually in a hole in a tree, cliff, or building. They will often use nest boxes, and if you make one, the hole needs to be about 28mm in diameter as for Great Tits, but don't forget that they nest colonially, so you'll probably need more than one box.

Do visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website (www.bto.org/gbw) or contact: **Mike Gray 07596 366342** or gbwmike@gmail.com.

Articles

MAXED-OUT MORALITY

An article by Nathan Mladin – a researcher with the think tank Theos - from *The Tablet*: The International Catholic News Weekly, 17 November 2018, p.13. Reproduced with permission of the Publisher. Website address: <http://www.thetablet.co.uk>

... The facts are well known. As we are borrowing hand over fist, our debt levels keep rising. Today, personal and household borrowing are at levels unseen since the financial crisis 10 years ago. There is around £240 billion of unsecured debt in the form of credit cards, personal loans and overdrafts – a growth of 9 per cent since 2014. All the while, wages are falling by 0.4 per cent a year, taking inflation into account.

More than 8.3 million people in the United Kingdom face debt problems. Precarious work arrangements, low incomes, mental-health issues and relationship breakdowns are some of the reasons people end up stuck in debt. Young people today are one of the worst groups affected. Clearly, economic and fiscal measures could be taken to address some of these problems. Interest rates, for example, have been kept at very low levels since the financial crisis

...

THERE ARE reasons for this, but one thing is clear – the regime favours borrowing over saving. The third of the British population that has less than £500 put aside for a rainy day bears this out. What behaviour does a low-interest rates policy encourage? What message does it send? There is precious little public conversation on these questions. That has to change.

But there is something else going on, which economic and fiscal policies alone cannot address. The reasons why people get into debt problems show us something that we intuitively know but seldom discuss – that debt is never merely an economic or financial issue. It is also a moral and relational one.

Debt depends on judgements about what is right and fair, and who should bear the associated risks. It has to do with the kinds of relationships that we are creating with one another and the ability, or lack thereof, of all to participate in a common life. These are not issues that can be settled in a neutral way or decided in a technocratic fashion. This is one of the key arguments Theos and St

Paul's Institute are making in a ... report, *Forgive us our Debts*. In thinking about debt and addressing its worrying features, we should pass through, but also move beyond, the territory of technical and bureaucratic solutions into the moral and relational realms.

Research shows that people with distressing debt problems are twice as likely as the general population to consider suicide. In a recent BBC2 documentary on the debt counselling charity, Christians Against Poverty, the CAP clients profiled are seen to have two kinds of problems.

ONE TYPE OF problem is practical. Rent arrears, unpaid utility bills, payday loans and credit card debt – the daily choice between heating and eating. This is the kind of problem that state agencies could help to resolve, although, at present, they are more likely to be making the situation worse. The other problem can only be described as a radical loss of hope. This is usually brought on by a personal crisis – the death of a parent or sibling, a broken marriage, a business failure.

At least in the cases shown in the documentary, it's not just that those who seek help with debt problems face almost insurmountable financial hurdles. It is that they face them alone. Getting someone out of debt is only half a job; the real solution to the problem of debt can only come with friendship, community and finding new purpose and meaning.

There is no single solution to problem debt. The right economic and fiscal policies would take us a long way in the right direction. But lack of purpose, meaning and hope, which may account in part for overconsumption, the breakdown of personal relationships and the loneliness that make coping with debt so difficult, are not things that can be cured by the Chancellor on Budget Day.

The Church, through its network of parishes and schools and charities is uniquely placed to offer whole-person support, to address not just the negative bank balances and the mounting bills, but the isolation and the loss of hope that either are on the surface of debt problems or immediately underneath.

PERHAPS THE Church's greatest opportunity around debt problems today, however, is to model an alternative way of living, based on generosity and sharing, on trust rather than credit score, on relationships of reciprocity rather than competitiveness and exploitation.

To a debt-intoxicated world, the Church and the Christian charities can speak powerfully, in word and action, about a God who, as the theologian Luke Bretherton says, “comes to a people in debt bondage and makes a way where there is no way, who lavishes credit on those the world considers sub-prime, who riskily invests, to the point of emptying himself, in those who cannot repay, and who seeks a dividend of love and Sabbath fruitfulness, not of material prosperity”.

Poverty, welfare and financial inclusion



The Church of England is working to end poverty, hunger, and problem debt in this country, and help create a more just economic system in which all people and communities can flourish.

Life “in all its fullness” includes being able to support yourself and your family and having the chance to develop and use your skills and gifts. Too many lives are held back by poverty and lack of opportunity.

What we do:

- We highlight economic injustice where we see it, challenging government and businesses to consider how their actions impact on the poorest and most marginalised.
- We encourage and support church-led responses to poverty and problem debt.
- We work in partnership with other organisations to campaign for an end to child poverty and hunger in the UK.
- We carry out research about the causes of poverty and how to solve it.
- We lead by example, including a commitment to pay the Living Wage to all of our centrally employed and contracted staff.

What you can do:

- Join in the End Child Poverty and End Hunger UK campaigns.
- Contact a church near you to see how you can get involved in their community work.
- Learn more about poverty in England and in your area, and about the work of Church Urban Fund in tackling poverty through the Church of England’s local parish network.
- Pray for an end to poverty and economic injustice in our country.

From the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/our-views/poverty-welfare-and-financial-inclusion>

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Readings



May 5th	Zephaniah 3:14-end Acts 9:1-6 John 21:1-19	M Bartlett E Allen Priest
May 12th	Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 Acts 9:36-end John 10:22-30	M Idle P Daniel Priest
May 19th	Genesis 22:1-18 Acts 11:1-18 John 13:31-35	M David M Hunter Priest
May 26th	Acts 16:9-15 John 5:1-9	P Cook Priest

Sidespeople

May 5th	P Adams; L Willie; I Manners
12th	D Herbert; M France; J Collins
19th	V Richards; I Maynard; M David
26th	L Williams; L Carty; N Mayne

Refreshments

May 5th	M Hunter
12th	M Hunter;
19th	J Collins; P Adams
26th	M Hunter; H Baxter



Sunday Club

May 5th	Georgette; Apostol
12th	Caroline; Myrla
19th	Georgette; Apostol
26th	Children in Church





Transport

Would you like to come to Church services but cannot get here by yourself? Please let us know and we will try to come up with a way of getting you here to worship with us.

St. Martin's Free Community Kitchen

Our doors are open to families, individuals, the homeless, underprivileged and whoever else may be in need of some delicious food.

Every Saturday, serving 12pm-2pm

Come and find us at

St. Martins Institute
St. Martins View
Leeds
LS7 3LA



Just off Chapeltown Road



Community Kitchen

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in"
(Matthew 25:35)

Started in July 2014, The Community Kitchen is open on Saturdays from 12.00 to 2.00pm. A free three course meal of soup, a main course and dessert is normally provided. Tea, coffee and fruit juices are also served.



St Martin's Institute

St Martin's View, LS7 3LA

St Martin's Institute is a very large venue offering facilities for private functions, meetings or groups for the local community at very reasonable rates.

For further information please call
07526 072381

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