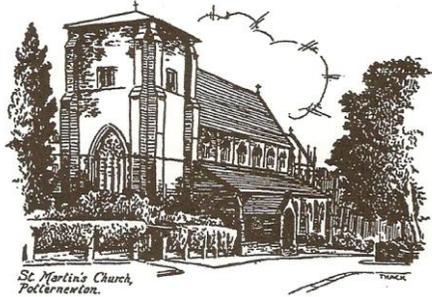


Reach Out

St Martin's Church Magazine

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



January 2020

£ 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



@FrNicholasLP

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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.
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Editor's Comment:

A Happy New Year to you all! As our deadline for contributions to this magazine was early in December we'll have to promise you a round-up of our Christmas celebrations in the February issue. It has however given us space to add a little more variety into this magazine with poems, prayers and a quiz. We hope you enjoy.

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Pastoral Letter

THE APPOINTED TIME

Dear Friends,

Some time ago I heard on Radio 4 a short but inspiring meditation by Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the theme of "the appointed time." He was referring to the end of South Africa's *apartheid* that – at the appointed time – finally came about.

His words made me think of how true it is what we believe and proclaim, that God is the Lord of History and that the unfolding of the years is not marked by chance or fate, but by God's benevolent, caring awareness and presence.

The phrase "appointed time" in Greek (the language of the New Testament) is *kairós*, which actually is another word for *time*. The other word for *time* in Greek is *chrónos*. *Chrónos* is the measurable time, sequential, *chronological*. *Kairós* instead is time understood as season, or right moment, or opportune, *appointed* time.

The New Testament is full of references to an appointed time, the time when God acts (*kairós* is used 86 times, as opposed to 54 times for the word *chrónos*).

Another phrase for "appointed time" in the Bible is "fullness of time," as in Galatians 4:4, "When the *fullness of time* came, God sent (God's) Son."

By mentioning the phrase "appointed time" in his radio meditation Desmond Tutu was actually referring to a famous theological document called the Kairos Document, a 1985 statement by a group of South African theologians calling on the people of South Africa to recognise "the appointed time" and join the struggle for their own liberation.

Recognising the appointed time is about acquiring a sense of destiny. It is about being capable of looking at time not just as a chronological passing of the days and the years (*chrónos*), but as *kairós*, a favourable time for God to act, in the belief and awareness that history belongs to God, as does our personal story too. And yet, we are free to keep ourselves shut inside the works of an imaginary clock, helpless at the inexorable passing of time.

A new year begins. Will it be for us just about adding another digit to the counting of the years, or about opening our existence to the action of God, so that our private life and the unfolding of history around us may become the opportunity for the transforming and renewing grace of God to make a difference in us and in the world?

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful New Year, ever yours in Christ

Fr Nicholas



Poem

"The Year"

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?
The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.
We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.
We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.
We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of the year.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1910)

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/>

Calendar



January

Weds 1st	9.30 am	Eucharist
Sat 4th	12 noon	Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 5th	<u>Epiphany</u>	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
	11.30 am	Bible Class in the Institute until 12.30
	11.45 am	Choir Practice
Weds 8th	9.30 am	Eucharist & Home Communion
	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union meeting in the Institute
Sat 11th	12 noon	Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 12th	<u>Baptism of Christ</u>	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
	11.45 am	Choir Practice
Weds 15th	9.30 am	Eucharist
Sat 18th	<u>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th</u>	
	12 noon	Community Kitchen in the Institute until 2.00 pm
Sun 19th	<u>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</u>	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
	11.45 am	Choir Practice
Tues 21st	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 Third Sunday of Epiphany</u>	
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist with children
Weds 29th	9.30 am	Eucharist

A Seasonal Prayer



In the cold January wood, a snowdrop lightens our darkness with its soft gleam.

Tightly closed at first, its pale bud suddenly bursts into wonderful green, lace edged delicacy, fluttering bravely above the frost and snow.

Lord, may we be like your snowdrop, at first tightly closed in upon ourselves as we are once more drawn into the story of Christ's birth, yet ready to burst out into joy and thanksgiving.

May our faith shine out bravely, lightening the darkness of the world's winter so that it blossoms into the spring of new life in Christ.

Amen.

Adapted from 'The Prayers We Breathe'.

News

Advent visit by Mill Field School

On Tuesday 10th December 2019, thirty Year 3 pupils from Mill Field Primary School, one of our local schools, took part in an Advent event in church.

The children sat in front of the crib scene at the altar as Fr Nicholas described the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Baby Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem.



Three wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, followed the Star of Bethlehem to the stable where He lay. Jesus was born in a stable as there was no room in the inn for his parents Mary and Joseph. There was a brisk exchange of questions from the children and answers from Fr Nicholas. Even today, many people have no homes or places to stay. Some live on the streets. We need to pray for these people and indeed for all others in need.

At the end of the session, the children happily accepted small Christmas canes which they could hang on their Christmas trees or eat and enjoy.

Jennie Collins



News

Tots Service

33 toddlers came to St Martin's for the Christmas Tots Service, along with their teachers, making it our biggest gathering to date! They came from three nurseries: Noah's Ark, who have supported Tots from the start; Precious Ones, who all arrived in their yellow safety jackets; and Bracken Edge, who deserve credit for walking the furthest - a long way for little legs. There was space for everyone round the crib up at the high altar, however, and the tots had chance to spot the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and the donkey, and some of them even got to hold a sheep. We spotted the star up above, while some children and their leaders very carefully brought the kings to the stable. We heard that Jesus loves us so much he wants us to have presents on his birthday too, reminding us of the gifts he received from the Wise Men. Some adults read prayers on parcels, then the children placed them by Jesus's cradle. We sang plenty of songs: 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', 'Away in a Manger', 'Twinkle Twinkle', and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. The children sang beautifully and gave themselves a well-earned round of applause. Then we all enjoyed some tasty refreshments made by our dedicated Mother's Union team, Maddy, Doris and Jennie.

The nursery teachers told me how much the children enjoy coming to church, and that they were still talking about their previous visit at Harvest. We love having them too, and we're now looking forward to their next visit at Easter.

Revd Jane

100 Club (drawn in church on 3rd Sunday of the month)

November winners:

1st prize: £60: N Samson
2nd prize: £20: D Balmforth
3rd prize: £10: E Forbes

For a chance to win these monthly prizes you just need to pay an annual fee of £60 to join the 100 Club- see Maddy or Carrie.

December winners:

1st prize: £60: N Samson
2nd prize: £20: G Bartlett
3rd prize: £10: J Clark

News

PCC Digest

On Tuesday 3rd December the PCC met and here is some information about its deliberations:

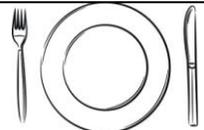
- Doris was elected lay vice chair of the PCC.
- Financially, we ended the month of November in the black. Thank you once more for your contribution to the upkeep of our two buildings.
- As we continue to plan for the installation of a curved stair lift chair to allow access to the downstairs hall of the Institute to at least some of the people currently unable to go down the steep steps, we have been instructed to seek approval from the City Council.
- In the meantime, we have learned that we will be hosting once more a poll station in our Institute at the General Election on 12th December.
- Jason has installed some pigeon spikes on one of the Institute's windows to protect the stairs to the boiler room below, and has made other repairs to the fabric of the church.
- The PCC learned that the ReSpire artistic sound installation attracted 54 visitors who, added to the 52 people who listened to it during the Sunday service, makes a total of 106.
- The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd March at 7:00 pm.

Fr Nicholas

Volunteers needed:

We need volunteers to help serve refreshments on a Sunday morning and to clear / wash up afterwards. Please contact Jennie or Maddy if you can help.

We are also looking for volunteers to help in our Community Kitchen once a month or every two months – no cooking skills required.



From All Souls

New Year greetings from your friends at All Souls, it seems a little premature as I am writing this in the middle of December with many Christmas services and festivities still shouting at me from my diary!

Now January 2020 we walk together into a New Year, we may look at the past year and give thanks for all that we have achieved or not in many cases! Yet we thank our God for guiding us where we have walked, for the people we have met and for the good that has come across our paths in 2019. After a very busy December, January for many people seems dull and a long dark cold month to get through, yet there is a glimmer of hope because in January we have a few more minutes of light shining through the darkness every evening.

In January we continue to celebrate our Saviour's birth with hope and goodness born anew in our hearts. On the 1st. January at eight days old it is the naming and circumcision of the Baby Jesus as the tradition of every Jewish baby boy. On the 6th January is the feast of The Epiphany, The Revealing of, or the Manifestation of God to the gentiles. With the visit of the Wise Men or Kings from the East this shows that the child Jesus, God-with-us, is for every man, woman, and child in our world not just the few. The Wise Men travelled a long way to visit the Christ Child, they gave their time, energy and most of all with their gifts they gave to the Christ Child they gave the best they had, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. We don't have to give expensive gifts to the Christ Child what we all can give is our time, our goodness and our love to the people who need it the most in our communities, these are the most expensive gifts the Christ Child Jesus would want us to give in His name at His birthday celebrations and all through the New year of 2020.

Every manifestation of the Christ Child to our communities, to our world, to the church to a particular person is an Epiphany, a Christmas Day, a New Hope.

May 2020 give us all New Hope, a new sense of Goodness, and a new sense of Eternal Love, that God has freely given to us in His gift of Love, His Only Son Jesus.

A Happy, Blessed and Peaceful New Year, Love and prayers,

God bless,
Mother Helen

Regulars

Mothers' Union

A Whirlwind Year!

Sheran Harper reflects on her first year as Mothers' Union's Worldwide President.



My first year as your Worldwide President has been a whirlwind in many ways, as my feet have barely touched the ground, but I have loved every minute of it! Each month has been blessed with rich experiences of the love, passion and dedication of faithful members who warmly welcomed me to their homes, churches and communities.

I started this triennium with new beginnings, just like so many of us who were elected to new roles with new responsibilities. I immediately recognised that success lies in our total dependence on God and at the same time deepening our relationships with each other and with ourselves. The Worldwide Council gathering in Kigali back in June gave us this opportunity to reconnect with God and each other in meaningful ways and with renewed vision and identity. It will certainly take faith and determination in the coming years for us to collectively ensure that our work increases *its focus on stable livelihoods; reconciliation and conflict resolution; strengthening women's and girls' voices to influence change; literacy and education; gender justice and protecting the environment*. It is my fervent prayer that our work in these key areas will provide lasting gifts to all as we transform nations.

As we welcome 2020 under the theme of 'Building hope and confidence', may our hearts connect and our voices unite saying:

"We will walk in hope and confidence, trusting each other and loving each other. Together we will build the hope and confidence of families and communities everywhere; always reaching forward as God's hands and feet, and reflecting a life filled with purpose and meaning, grace and love, peace and joy". Amen.

Article provided by Jennie Collins

Articles

ANSWERED PRAYERS

An article by Joanna Moorhead, first published in *The Tablet: The International Catholic News Weekly*, 25 May 2019, p.21. Reproduced with permission of the Publisher. Website address: <http://www.thetablet.co.uk>

THE BIGGEST Christian structure to be opened in the UK for decades will be here in three years' time. But, though it will be as tall and as long as the average cathedral, here's the thing that may strike you as strange: there won't be a smidgeon of iconography in sight. No statues, no altars, no religious pictures – and absolutely definitely no crosses or crucifixes.

Creating a vast structure that would reflect Christianity, without any of the traditional accoutrements, was the brief put out to tender via the Royal Institute of British Architects three years ago. Companies around the world were invited to enter designs, and by the close of the competition there had been 133 entries from more than 20 countries. This week, the winning design was unveiled: a gentle, oval- shaped loop that dances around the landscape in the computer-generated images, reaching up to the skies and curving back to the ground to unite heaven and earth in one fell swoop.

That is certainly the intention, confirms Paul Bulkeley of Snug Architects, which produced the successful bid. "What we're going to create is a Möbius strip – in other words, a mathematical form with no beginning and no end. It will be around 50 metres high, and 80 metres across. You'll be able to stand inside the structure and see the countryside beyond beautifully framed. We hope it will be a beautiful and powerful space, a place for reflection and space and questions – a place where people will begin to ponder how the spiritual touches life."

THE STRUCTURE is to be called *The Wall of Answered Prayer*: it's the brainchild of Richard Gamble, a software entrepreneur and evangelical Christian, who 15 years ago heard God's voice speak to him, telling him to build a monument to answered prayer. Prayer, he says, is the great mystery at the heart of faith: in an age when fewer people worship in conventional churches, he felt there was a need to create something that drew people's thoughts to the

possibility of communicating with something beyond the here and now, something bigger than ourselves. And though the genesis is Christian, and he is unapologetic about that, the idea is to create something that will speak to people of all faiths and none, bringing people raised with a vague idea of God to perhaps rethink what belief might mean; and to those who adhere to a particular faith, maybe the realisation that more unites belief of any kind than divides it.

Prayer and intercession is at the root of every manifestation of the relationship between humankind and God; plenty of agnostics, humanists and even atheists have had recourse to prayer, when the chips were down. So prayer seems a clever focus for an all-encompassing religious artwork that's trying to be not very religious at all. And how it's injected will be clever, too: *The Wall* will be made of a million bricks, and 75,000 of them will contain the story of a real-life answered prayer. From lost possessions to scary exams to cancer operations to coping after bereavement – the stories cover all manner of requests, says Gamble. And this is prayer filtered via technology: visitors will be able to use their mobile phones to unlock the stories of prayer contained within each brick, and to listen – and hopefully be inspired, moved and fascinated – to the tales therein.

THE MONUMENT will be sited in Coleshill, near Birmingham, and, says Gamble, a better location he could not have imagined. "If God had looked at the map of Britain and chosen the finest spot, he would have come up with this one," he says. "The visibility it will have is incredible: it will be seen from the M42, the M6 and the M6 toll road. HS2, when it's built, will go within 150 metres, and it's on the flight path into Birmingham Airport. We've calculated that half a million journeys will be made past it every week." He hopes it will have the same reach as Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North*, which has become a nationally treasured landmark with a spiritual dimension since its inception more than 20 years ago. It's ironic, perhaps, that Gormley's artwork features a clearly identifiable religious figure, and yet was not an outwardly Christian piece.

The foundations of *The Wall* are distinctively evangelical, but Gamble has garnered support for his project from across the Christian spectrum. [...] And it certainly feels interesting, in the wake of the fire at Notre Dame in Paris and the arguments that

swirled around the smoke and flames about who that august cathedral actually “belongs” to: is it the property of the Catholics/Christians for whom it was originally built, and the community that still worships there, or has ownership somehow morphed to the tourists who come to gaze on its beauty and to learn about its history?

IN LAW, Notre Dame – like the great Duomo of Florence – belongs to the state; and as states become more secular, the original devotional elements of the buildings may be, and certainly often are, less to the fore. So *The Wall* feels like a brave and bold project: here we have a group of Christians who, instead of arguing about what cathedrals of the past mean, are prepared to spend time and energy (and plenty of both) on constructing a 21st-century monument to the faith they still know and believe to be relevant. Churches, says Gamble, “are only as effective as the people inside them. If people change, so does the role of the building.”

What of cost? Gamble says that’s been “the least of my worries”, but all the same, he needs to raise £7.2 million, much of which will come from crowdfunding. Again, thinking of Notre Dame, and the outcry over how quickly the funds to repair it were raised from a handful of extremely (excessively?) wealthy donors, it seems quietly noteworthy that this symbol of Christianity will have been funded from the pockets of the ordinary many, not the privileged few. “This is a project about a very broad idea of Church,” says Gamble. “If we create something that appeals to only one group of Christians, we will have utterly failed. This is all about God being multifaceted, and infinite, and it’s about representing those different facets of God and sharing the idea that out there is a God who listens.”

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

In the course of our Christian life, we are enabled to pass from one beginning to another beginning. But this process burns out if it does not draw its energy from an underlying continuity.

Articles

The Birds in your Garden – Mike Gray



Garden birds continue to surprise us with their behaviour, not least where migration is concerned. You might think, seeing a Robin on your feeder, that it is 'your' friendly Robin, the one you've been feeding all summer, but it could just have travelled over from Europe.

Most Robins live a sedentary lifestyle, staunchly defending their own patch from rivals, including fighting to the death if necessary, and won't move more than about 5km whatever the season. Nevertheless, a few, mostly females, do head for warmer climes before winter arrives, often as far afield as Spain or Portugal.

It's thought that Robins return to their territories, contesting the same summer and winter patches, despite their being hundreds of kilometres apart.

This autumn, for the first time, a Robin's winter migration from Germany to the UK was tracked using a 'nanotag'. It revealed an incredible journey across the North Sea under the cover of darkness. Most likely it chose to cross at night to avoid the attention of predators.

This tiny bird made a sea crossing of 140 miles in just four hours, meaning it was traveling at an average speed of 35 miles-per-hour. For a species that weighs just 19 grams, that's pretty impressive, though a following wind might have helped.

The minute size and weight of the Robin has prevented scientists from tracking their migration in the past, as there wasn't a device small enough. Regulations state that a tag can weigh no more than 3% of the bird's body weight, so that it doesn't affect their flying ability.

The Robin was fitted with the smallest available nanotag radio transmitter, in Heligoland, Northern Germany. It weighed just 0.3g. The tiny tag communicated with a newly installed network of radio receivers which were able to follow its travels.

Clearly, Robins aren't the only small birds which head for the UK to avoid the harsh winter in their own countries when their local food supply has been consumed.

For example, between September and March, some 10-20 million Chaffinches arrive from Scandinavia and Western Europe. They can be differentiated from our resident birds by their foraging behaviour. The visitors search for food in large flocks on open farmland, while their UK cousins gather in smaller numbers and favour woodlands and hedgerows.

Migration numbers are often quite staggering. Last November Recorders at Portskewett, Cardiff counted almost 110,000 Woodpigeons flying overhead, whilst at Kemple End, Lancashire 20,000 Redwing were recorded.

As I write this, the numbers of Waxwings in Southern Sweden, Norway and Finland will be steadily growing, though only a few birds have turned up this side of the North Sea. Given some easterly airflows combined with falling temperatures on the continent we may well see them move to the UK together with various finches (hopefully including some Bramblings) alongside the usual Goldfinches, Greenfinches and Chaffinches.

It's all up in the air, if you'll excuse the pun, but it'll be exciting to see what this winter brings!

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

Quiz

1. Which band released the *albums A Quick One, Fence Dances, Endless Wine* and a self-titled album in December 2019?
2. In the Harry Potter novels, what is the name of Harry's godfather?
3. Which architect designed City Hall London, Hearst Tower and The Gherkin?
4. Which 1942 film featured the festive Irving Berlin classic 'White Christmas'?
5. Which term could be defined as a widespread feeling of wellbeing and financial security, helping bring on increased consumer spending?
6. In *Star Trek*, which of the Enterprise's crew comes from the planet Vulcan?
7. Which Irish County is home to the racecourses The Curragh, Punchestown and Naas?
8. Which Scottish football team changed its name from Meadowbank Thistle in 1995?
9. Which famous horticulturalist, photographer, landscape designer, writer and artist who died in 1932, has a garden named after her at Lindisfarne Castle?
10. What is the link between answers 1-9?

Answers overleaf on page 19



Thanks to Wayne Stote for setting this quiz for us!

From the Registers

Baptisms:

24/11/2019 - Olivia France

Funerals:

20/11/2019 - Judith Hodgson

Quiz answers

1. The Who
2. Sirius Black
3. Norman Foster
4. *Holiday Inn*
5. Feelgood Factor
6. Mr Spock
7. County Kildare
8. Livingstone
9. Gertrude Jeckyll
10. Doctors

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Itax "What's the rising cost of funerals?"
Star Of History Year (NFD Awards)

Rotas

Readings



January 5th	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	M Idle C Rowsell Priest
January 12th	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-end	P Daniels C lo Polito Priest
January 19th	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	A Hylton M David Priest
January 26th	Isaiah 9:1-4 Matthew 4:12-23	D Herbert Priest

Sidespeople

January 5th	L Thompson; E Mills; E Shannon
12th	P Adams; L Willie; I Manners
19th	D Herbert; M France; J Collins
26th	V Richards; I Maynard; M David

Refreshments

January 5th	J Collins; P Adams
12th	L Thompson; E Mills
19th	M Hunter; V Pearmain
26th	M Hunter; H Baxter



Sunday Club

January 5th	Caroline; Myrla
12th	Georgette; Apostol
19th	Caroline; Myrla
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.

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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
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