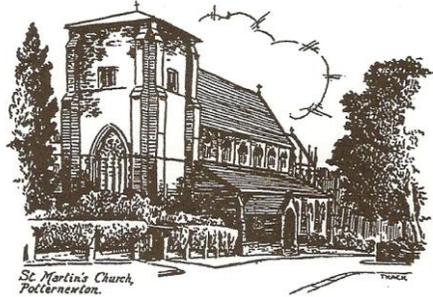


# Reach Out

## St Martin's Church Magazine

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds



## August 2020

**£ 1**

**Services:** Sunday Eucharist at 10am in church and via Facebook;  
Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 10am on Zoom  
Evening Prayer Wednesdays at 5.30pm via Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/StMartinPotternewton/>

[www.stmartinleeds.org.uk](http://www.stmartinleeds.org.uk)



[@FrNicholasLP](https://twitter.com/FrNicholasLP)

# **St Martin's Church Directory**

## **Vicar**

Revd Dr Nicholas lo Polito:  
St Martin's Vicarage, St Martin's View, LS7 3LB 0113 2624271  
nicholas.lopolito@stmartinleeds.org.uk

## **Associate Priest**

Revd Prof. Jane de Gay: 0113 2582673  
revjane@stmartinleeds.org.uk

## **Assistant Curate**

Revd Ericcson Mapfumo  
fr.mapfumo@stmartinleeds.org.uk

## **Churchwardens**

Jason Clark 07731 616123  
Doris Herbert 07958 623906  
churchwardens@stmartinleeds.org.uk

## **Treasurer**

Carrie Rowsell 0113 2696583

## **Secretary**

Susan Bain 0113 2686548

## **Organist & Choirmaster**

Matthew Lazenby 07854 079418

**Mothers' Union** – Doris Herbert 07958 623906

**Sunday Club Co-ordinator** – Caroline James 07957 378185  
sundayclub@stmartinleeds.org.uk

## **Community Kitchen Co-ordinator**

Emily Forbes 07940 498209

## **St Martin's Institute Booking Secretary**

May 07526 072381

## **Church Flowers** – requests & donations

Jennie Collins 0113 2946018

**Guides:** Laura 07983 469347

**Brownies:** Cath 07717 046651

Sarah 07597 494878

**Magazine Editor:** - H Sanders magazine@stmartinleeds.org.uk

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:*

Summer is marching on and life is slowly and gradually changing once more. Not quite a return to normal but August is hopefully the month when St Martin's sees the return to Eucharistic services in the church building. See all the information later in the magazine. Do keep safe and well for another month.

## **Contents**

Pastoral letter	pages 4-5
PCC digest	page 5
Calendar	page 6
News	pages 7-11
Eco top tips	page 10
From All Souls	page 12
Mothers' Union	page 13-14
Articles	pages 14-19
Advertisements	pages 20-22
Readings	page 23
Thought for the Month	page 23
From the Registers	page 23
Information about St Martin's	page 24

# Pastoral Letter

## ***Building on the Rock (Mathew 7:24-29)***

Building a house is a complicated process and made even worse if one chooses to build on a piece of land which is not strong enough to carry the weight of the building (walls and foundation). The strength of the land is determined by the type of soil. If one decides to build on weak soil, then you have to think of building using a 'special foundation' which is a foundation reinforced with steel to make it strong enough to carry the building load.

If two builders decide to build a house quickly without paying attention to the soil on which they are building they risk the chance that the building will not last a long time, especially if the soil is weak. This makes me think that perhaps it's not the skill, or ability of the builder to build, but the 'condition of the land or soil' in which they want to build.

Our Christian life is like a building, and as Christian disciples we ought to build on a strong foundation of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Is our foundation being tested by the strong wind of Covid-19 pandemic? It has been a challenge for all of us to figure out what is happening in the world, perhaps we might also have asked ourselves: ***if God is there, then what is God doing when people are suffering and dying like this?***

It is normal to question our faith at times during hardships, but in all this, let us remember that God is in control of our lives. In the Bible, in the book of the prophet Isaiah 43:2 (RSV) says:

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you."*

This means that whatever that we go through, God will be with us through thick and thin. The troubles of a weak foundation for me became explicit, when Cyclone Idai, posed a challenge to people as well as to the building structures (houses, shops and other commercial buildings), in Southern Africa. Buildings that have stood for decades if not centuries were simply swept away because the foundation was not strong enough. It took the force of the cyclone flood waters to uproot the foundation of the buildings.

The greater the force (pressure) we experience in our lives, the greater the chance that we will be vulnerable. But, let us remember

that we are not alone in all this, the Bible in book of Psalms 46:2-3 (RSV) says:

*"Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult."*

God is still God even during Covid-19. He is our strong foundation, the "*Big Boat that cannot be sunk, The great Rock that we hide behind*" (Afua Kuma) !

*God bless you!*

Fr. Ericcson



## **PCC DIGEST**

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July the PCC met online via Zoom and here is some information about its deliberations:

- The 2019 Accounts, skilfully prepared and presented by Ms Rowsell, were approved and will be submitted to the Diocese.
- The future of the Institute was discussed at length. We heard of the on-going efforts by Ms Collins and Revd Colin to secure reliable plans and funds towards a new kitchen, hot water in the toilets and the stair lift (funds only; the chair is already installed and in working order).
- Although ALL the groups that used the building before the pandemic (plus new ones) are willing to return (thanks to the indefatigable Ms Arthurton), we may not be able to open the Institute to them for the foreseeable future because of Government restrictions and practical issues of virus-proof cleaning between sessions. This will have a considerable impact of the financial position of our Parish Church.
- Having said that, the PCC – with the help of Ms Forbes - will continue to assess the feasibility of opening the Community Kitchen possibly in September (limited however to the distribution of food – including hot food – in bags at the door) and maybe to one other group only, ensuring an interval of at least 72 hours between the two, which would exempt us from having to continually sanitize the building.
- We are confident we will be able to safely open St Martin's church to public worship on Sundays beginning with the first Sunday of August. Seating will be reduced. The service will be recorded and broadcast live online. It will remain accessible to others who may want to watch it at a different time. People unable to go online and to come to the church, will be invited to follow by phone (audio only) morning and evening prayers to be recited on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings respectively.

*Fr Nicholas*

# Calendar

## August

- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>** **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Weds 5<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom  
4.00 pm Church open for private prayer until 5.30pm  
5.30 pm Sung Evening Prayer (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>** **Transfiguration**
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup>** **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Weds 12<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom  
4.00 pm Church open for private prayer until 5.30pm  
5.30 pm Sung Evening Prayer (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup>** **St Maximilian Kolbe**
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup>** **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Weds 19<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom  
4.00 pm Church open for private prayer until 5.30pm  
5.30 pm Sung Evening Prayer (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>** **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup>** **St Bartholomew the Apostle**
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 pm Standing Committee Meeting on Zoom
- Weds 26<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom  
4.00 pm Church open for private prayer until 5.30pm  
5.30 pm Sung Evening Prayer (also streamed on our Facebook page)
- Sun 30<sup>th</sup>** **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**  
10:00 am Parish Eucharist (also streamed on our Facebook page)

# News

## Coronavirus Pandemic

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to share with you some of the decisions taken by the PCC in view of a safe, gradual opening of the church for private prayer first and then for public worship, in keeping with current Government and Church of England legislation and advice.

At the time of writing, the church is already open for private prayer every Sunday morning from 11:30 to 12:30, and every Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00. Here are some of the safety measures already agreed:

- Physical distancing of at least 2m/3steps.
- Singing limited to one cantor, while the congregation following from the hymnbooks in silence or whispering.
- Sunday sheets, hymnbooks, and service books left out for over 72 hours before the service. People are invited to pick up one each without handling other books. Sunday sheets can be taken home.
- Clear signs have been placed in church to assist the public in maintaining physical distancing, in keeping a one-way circular flow on the way in-out and for Holy Communion.
- Hand sanitizers have been made available on entry and in the toilets; one of the toilet cubicles has been shut to help physical distancing.
- Seats are marked to guarantee physical distancing (which of course considerably reduces the number of seats available). Reserved seats are provided for "extremely clinically vulnerable" or self-isolating people.
- Holy Communion distributed silently in one kind only (bread) near the pulpit by the gloved priest wearing a mask, and placed on people's hands. People with their own gel are invited to use it before receiving Communion. People should line up keeping the established distance.
- Ventilation is paramount. All doors kept open in summer. When the season changes, we'll see: we may have to consider drastically reducing the numbers of people in attendance or having more than one service each Sunday. People are invited to come to church with a mask.
- The church is being cleaned as before and will not be used

for at least 72 hours before a service.

- The children's corner is no longer available. Children to remain on their seat, otherwise carers may be asked to take them outside thus avoiding having young persons approaching other members of the congregation.
- No offertory procession, but people who are not giving already by standing order/direct debit/other arrangements are invited to leave their weekly donation in a basket at the back.
- No refreshments are provided after the service.
- The Sunday service is recorded and broadcast live online. It will remain accessible to others who may want to watch it at a different time. People unable to go online and to come to the church, will be invited to follow by phone (audio only) morning and evening prayers to be recited on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings respectively.
- Morning and Evening Prayers will also be recited in church by a priest every Sunday.
- Thank you for bearing patiently through these restrictions. I know how difficult it has been especially for some of you undergoing harsh isolation and how hard it is for some having to decline for the time being the opportunity of returning to church. Courage, and may the assurance of the Lord's presence give peace to your heart.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr Nicholas



## **New Facebook page / Zoom services**

Matthew has started a Facebook page for St Martin's:  
<https://www.facebook.com/StMartinPotternewton/>

Do take a look at it regularly to keep up to date with any news. The links for joining in our services are also on there.

# News

## 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)*

We at St Martin's Community Kitchen are pleased to announce we have reached six years on 14th July 2020 since our doors have been open to feed the homeless, refugees, asylum seekers and anyone in need of a delicious hot meal.

We could not achieve so much without our lovely volunteers both past and present who have given so much of their time and effort to make our kitchen a warm friendly family atmosphere. Thank you all so much. I'm sure Revd David Stevens will have a big smile on his face when reading this article. In the 6 years of being open we have gained 4 & 5 stars rating, and I know we will continue to endeavour to keep up our high standard of hygiene and care towards our clients 100%.

Unfortunately, in mid-March 2020 we had to cease providing sit down hot meals for our clients because of the pandemic of covid 19, which has turn our world upside down, and had a knock on effect on all of us in one way or the other. The death toll in Leeds alone had spiraled out of control with church members and the community losing their loved ones. We continued to provide for our clients the best way we could with cups of soup and a goody bag with whatever provision was available , with Jessie & myself (Emily) sometimes collecting food items from Fareshare and some of the supermarkets.

I had to impose strict guidelines to protect both volunteers and clients. We had to place a long table across the front entrance door barring all clients from entering the building, and not even to use the bathroom facilities. Each client had a cup of soup and bag handed to them at the door. And everything that was touchable had to be sanitized: doors & knobs & tables. I, Emily, did the first week and Mrs Hilda Barker did the second week, but we could not continue to do so because we were in the high risk categories, so Revd Nicholas and his two daughters took over for three weeks until we had to close the building completely because one of our volunteers had a mild form of this dreadful virus, but thank the good lord that person has recovered and returned to work.

It's the very first time we have had to close our doors and for such a long time(3 1/2 months). My thoughts and prayers have gone out to our clients, praying that they were safe and were able to reach the various outlets to collect whatever was available for them.

During the months of May & June I contacted each volunteer as a courtesy phone call to see how they were coping with the lockdown. And everyone had been okay. All the volunteers have agreed they will return upon opening which is such good news to hear. Thank you all.

I had a discussion with Revd Nicholas regarding opening the kitchen in the later part of September 2020, with guidelines in place both for staff and clients. I have decided we will do a take away cooked hot meal for each client, plus a cup of soup and a goody bag. The same guidelines apply as has before. We will continue to serve our clients with a hot take away meal until such time when the government have cease all restrictions before we can return to a sit down meal for the clients.

I continue to believe and trust in the good Lord almighty, that he will see us through this difficult, unprecedented upheaval. He divided the Red Sea so his people could cross over safely so I'm sure he will guide us safely each waking day. (Exodus chapter 14 verses 21-22). God's blessing

*Emily Forbes*

---

## **Eco top tips**

### **August – Lighting your home**

1. Light bulbs! If the average household replaced all of their bulbs with LEDs, it would cost about £100 and save about £35 a year on bills. [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins)
2. Use natural light when you can to save energy. Sit by the window. Decorate your home in light colours to maximise natural light.
3. Turn your lights off when you're not using them. If you switch a light off for just a few seconds, you will save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again, regardless of the type of light. [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins)

If you have lights in your garden use solar powered lights that charge during the day and don't require electricity.

*Provided by Jemima Parker, Diocesan Environment Officer*

## News

### Lockdown Diary - Cooking Up a Storm



We were into the fourteenth week of lockdown.

The pictures of scrumptious food in my cookery books have really got me going. As a result, I am doing more cooking than I have done for quite a while. I find that cooking these days can be a calm and orderly activity now that I have more time to better plan ahead and to be less rushed.

I am also helping to cook for a family member who is unable to do so and whose diet is a vegetarian one. As a lover of rich, meaty foods, this has presented me with quite a challenge! Pretty pasta shapes such as bows and shells have added interest to dishes while brightly coloured beans and peas have added attractive colours.

Sweet treats and comfort foods have become very attractive and I must admit that I have succumbed to their temptation! In some respects, cooking during lockdown has not only been a necessity but a joy.

*"We may live without poetry, music and art  
We may live without conscience and live without heart  
We may live without friends, we may live without books  
But civilised man cannot live without cooks"*

Owen Meredith  
Article by Jennie Collins

# **From All Souls**

*'Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,  
I would still plant my apple tree'*

Martin Luther

Martin Luther in this saying, had a confidence in the future and God's hand in the continuance of creation. And the news from All Souls this month reflects our confidence in our future and our continued contribution to the neighbourhood of Little London.

For some time now we have been discussing the need to refurbish the undercroft of the church. This is a facility underneath the church, consisting of a long room used as a sacristy in the past, a large meeting room, storage areas and a small kitchen. The undercroft has needed upgrading for many years and though we have been offering a counselling service and a food bank from the undercroft for some years, the conditions were poor and needed total refurbishment.

After much discussion, the DCC took the plunge and with excellent support from our church architect embarked on plans for renovation. Contractors were hired and at the point of the start of the project, the pandemic struck. As a result the builders were held up by lack of materials and more seriously our fundraising efforts were sadly affected by the need for all charitable funds to be focused on the needs of those dealing with Covid-19.

But this is the point where the words of Martin Luther become relevant. The renovation has gone ahead; we have faith that funds will become easier to obtain and with that trust, we can now see the end of the project and the undercroft looking ready to share with the local community. It looks attractive, adaptable for multi-use and above all an asset for the area.

What then are our plans for this comfortable, good-looking facility? The counselling will resume, we will be able to offer support with food to those in need and in addition, we will begin to open up to the whole community. Consultation is important, as well as being able to publicize the undercroft, so that it becomes a focal point for many activities in the area.

Our mission as a church is to serve, following the example of Jesus - 'the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve'

*Ann Nicholl - Licensed Lay Minister and Churchwarden*

# Regulars

## Mothers' Union



### The impact of the Corona virus pandemic

Sheran Harper, Mothers' Union Worldwide President, explains the impact that the Corona virus pandemic is having on Mothers' Union and makes an urgent appeal for your help:

My beloved Mothers' Union family across the oceans, I greet you with the love and courage of Jesus Christ. So much has happened in such a short time, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope that like me, you take comfort in the words of Our Lord from Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". Through all the uncertainty, one thing that remains constant and gives me hope is **you**. I am so proud of all you continue to do – it is this commitment that will help those we serve get through this pandemic and its longer term impact on our world.

Measures such as quarantine and self isolation are being taken to protect us and are proving to be effective in halting the spread of the virus. However, they come with the cost of loneliness for some, financial hardship for families and increased pressures on relationships for others, which in turn increases the risk of domestic abuse, particularly towards the vulnerable. These are areas where inspired by faith, Mothers' Union members have always been active, leading the way in supporting those in need.

In common with many charities, Mothers' Union is facing a significant shortfall in income, currently forecast to be well in excess of £1 million this year alone. The income we would normally have received from conference room hire at Mary Sumner House as well as summer fund raising events has been swept away as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Without these funds, we simply cannot meet the costs of staffing, safeguarding, development work and governance. By the end of 2020, Mary Sumner House, the core of Mothers' Union may simply not be there to provide support to our movement. Ultimately, it means that the heart of Mothers' Union is being torn out by the ravages of Covid-19.

**So, I am asking for your help. If you are able and please, only if you are able, could I ask you to make a donation so that we will still be here after the crisis has passed.**

I'm sure that you feel as I do, that we must ensure that Mothers' Union can continue to serve God and show God's love, just as we have done for almost 150 years. With your help, we shall continue to bring God's love to those who need us most.

Yours in Christian love,  
Sheran Harper, Worldwide President.

**Online donations can be made at:**  
[www.support.mothersunion.org](http://www.support.mothersunion.org)



*Article provided by Jennie Collins*

---

## Articles

### GOING PRIVATE

An article by Peter Selby, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark, first published in *The Tablet: The International Catholic News Weekly*, 2 May 2020, p.8. Reproduced with permission of the Publisher. Website address: <http://www.thetablet.co.uk>

**Peter Hennessy** wrote in his column ... that future generations will speak of British institutions "BC" and "AC" (before and after coronavirus): parliament, higher education, commerce, criminal justice, the NHS – the list is endless. What will this new defining midpoint mean for the Churches in Britain, in particular the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church?

What was striking about the tearful appeal by Lorraine, a London bus driver, for her life to be taken seriously enough for PPE to be provided and people not to use her bus needlessly, was that she also said: "I'm proud to drive a London bus. I'm proud to do my job."

Those to whom the Churches' witness is deeply important – lay members and clergy – might use different words but have much the same to say. Their calling as lay Christians or as priests is deeply important to them, but many in the CofE feel like Lorraine, let down by the official response. The Anglican bishops chose to go beyond government advice and declare church buildings closed not only for church services but for private prayer or even for clergy to livestream worship. While Mass is being livestreamed from Catholic churches, Anglican clergy have had to do so from their homes. Not much sign of ecumenical decision-making at this midpoint.

Many of us have been enriched by some immensely imaginative offerings from our priests' homes this Passiontide and Eastertide. Yet the CofE bishops' decision, and even more the reasons they have given, leave some uncomfortable questions hanging. Those Anglicans who feel patronised go far beyond the "usual suspects" who invariably grumble at episcopal directives. It is clergy and churchwardens, not bishops, who have charge of parish churches, and they and fellow church members should surely be trusted to find their own way to live within the government's regulations.

Even more significant questions relate to the substance of the decision and the reasons given for it, and they are questions about where the Churches will be, as Hennessy put it, "AC". Clearly the CofE bishops felt that they had to "do something". It was a wise senior civil servant who observed that the hardest advice to give ministers was, "The best thing to do is nothing", because nobody gets any recognition for doing nothing. But why did the bishops think they had to "do" something?

The government's instruction, given with statutory authority, was clear: people were to stay at home except for very limited reasons, and any kind of group gathering was prohibited. That obviously meant that people could not attend public worship but clergy were explicitly not prevented from attending their own churches to celebrate the liturgy. Did clergy or laity need further episcopal instruction?

They did need something, of course: their bishops' prayers, their availability at the end of the phone for advice and listening, a sense of their sharing the isolation and the fear, that they'd embraced the wisdom of the incoming Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, who once wrote: "Don't just do something; sit there!" Such pastoral care has of course hap-pened up and down the land, and those private interactions will leave their spoken and unspoken gratitude behind them. But what value did it add for the bishops to come up with an "instruction"? Is one result of all the safeguarding issues that bishops will feel more and more pressure to "do something" even when it isn't necessary?

**THEN CAME THE** reasons. The late John Habgood, when Archbishop of York, said the reasons behind decisions were more important than the decisions themselves, because they decide what will happen next time. And the reasons were seriously deficient.

Foremost among the reasons given why clergy could not enter their churches was the need to “set an example” of clergy as law-abiding citizens staying at home. The case was never made that clergy are key workers, exercising an essential *public* function, one rooted in the architecture and layout of their churches and the liturgical function they carry out within them, especially in Passiontide and Eastertide.

That isn’t about “worshipping church buildings”, as one bishop’s office responded, demeaning the motives of those of us for whom our churches are vital aids to following the Via Crucis. Rather, livestreaming from within our churches and cathedrals would have showcased their message to a wider public, reassuring them that the fundamental fabric of our common life and history – of which our large and small churches (including the historic Lambeth Palace chapel) are an integral part – had not succumbed to coronavirus fear.

**INSTEAD THE** medium became the message. That removal of Holy Week and Easter to the domestic realm reflects, without any element of challenge, faith becoming a private matter and our public life belonging to be the realm of practical secularity. In a Radio 4 discussion the sociologist of religion Linda Woodhead commented that after this terrible pandemic the institutions that will gain credit will be those seen by the public not just to do good things but also to be the public expression of our shared values. Her surmise was that the NHS, quite apart from the amazing skill so sacrificially displayed there, had emerged as the most significant holder of our national values of generosity, sacrifice and solidarity; will it be the NHS that is recognised as our “national church”?

Where will that leave the Churches “After Coronavirus”? The CofE bishops will surely seem to have accepted the idea that Christianity is a matter for the domestic realm, that our cathedrals and parish churches are just optional when useful and available, no longer the eloquent signs of the consecration of our public life and public spaces. The conviction that the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the places of beauty set apart is an “essential work” undertaken by “key workers” will have become a wistful “BC” memory. In truth, especially “AC”, the work is essential and the workers are key, not just for those who happen to opt in but as signs of hope and healing for our communities and our nation.

## **SAINT OF THE MONTH**

### **Maximilian Kolbe 14<sup>th</sup> August**

A few years ago my wife Val and I had the privilege of visiting the museum at Auschwitz-Birkenau - the old Nazi Concentration Camp in southern Poland, It was a visit we shall never forget. The place was a reminder of the worst people could do to each other - thousands of Jews and others were tortured and murdered there.

Yet after the war stories came out of this dreadful place which tell of people who shine as the very finest examples of what a human being can be. I discovered one such man in our list of saints in the Anglican Lectionary. His name was Maximilian Kolbe, our Saint for this month whom we remember especially on August 14th.

Max was born in Poland and as a young man, he became fascinated by the emerging science of space exploration But, after a vivid spiritual experience, he turned his considerable talents to exploring religion instead. Never one to do things by halves he became a Franciscan friar and in 1918 was ordained priest. During the next twenty years he devoted himself to setting up a branch of the Franciscan order committed to evangelism. He believed in using modern technology to the full, setting up a publishing organisation, a radio station and even planning a movie studio.

But, in 1939, Poland was invaded by the Nazis. Fr. Max was arrested by the Gestapo and in 1941 he arrived in Auschwitz Concentration Camp. There, survivors remember the way he worked with great compassion among his fellow sufferers and, at the same time, begged them to forgive their captors as Christ Himself would.

One day a man escaped from the camp and ten men from Fr. Max's hut were chosen to be executed as a reprisal. One pleaded with the guards to be released as he feared for his family's survival if he was killed. Fr. Max promptly volunteered to take his place. As a result, he joined the others in a hut where they were all slowly being starved to death. Others in the camp witness the fact that they could hear Fr. Max singing hymns in his prison (like St. Paul) until he was so weak he could only pray in whispers. Eventually, on August 14<sup>th</sup> there were only four of the ten left alive. The Germans wanted to use the prison hut for others so they simply put the four to death by lethal injection - including Fr. Max.

So perhaps you can see why I was so pleased to discover this amazing Christian man hidden away in the recesses of our Anglican Calendar of "saints". He was officially canonised as a saint by the

Roman Catholic Church just over twenty years after his death (and the man he saved was at the ceremony). There is now a shrine to his memory within Auschwitz itself. But his inclusion in our own list of heroes of the Faith speaks to us of his example to all Christians – a man whose enthusiasm for his faith was so strong that he was willing to try any way possible to pass his beliefs on to others – and whose love was so deep that he was willing to follow his Saviour by giving his life for the sake of others.

*Brian Pearmain*

## **The Birds in your Garden – Mike Gray**

Finch numbers in my garden seem to have reduced significantly over the last few years. This in itself is not unusual, as bird populations move around, and feeding preferences change. But, reading various BTO publications and emails made me realise that I am not alone. Greenfinches have been scarce for a while, but Chaffinch numbers have more recently plummeted too. They are still around, I can hear them, but I don't see many on my feeders.

More widely, volunteer data have highlighted the developing Chaffinch population crisis. Long-term trends show not only that Chaffinch numbers are in steep decline, but also that these changes vary between UK regions. Does this mean Chaffinches are facing different pressures in different places? Why did Chaffinch numbers only start to decrease dramatically in 2012, and not when the trichomonosis outbreak first occurred amongst Greenfinches?

There used to be 6 million plus chaffinches in the U.K., so their numbers are not a cause for concern just yet, though we can't afford to allow the decrease to continue.

We know that Chaffinch populations were hit in 2006 by the outbreak of trichomonosis, with a decline of 20% in some regions. Things seemed to improve after a couple of years but then there was another decline. Was this trichomonosis reappearing or was there more to it?

Disease apart, there are many reasons why finches, particularly chaffinches, have been in trouble, most being manmade problems, which affect many birds' food sources and habitat, particularly songbirds.

Agriculture has been changing constantly in response to multiple pressures to increase production and reduce costs. Inevitably such

changes will affect the environment and ever-increasing efforts will be needed to minimise their impact.

The issues are multiple, and farmers' responses are equally varied. For example, field margins, valuable corridors for much wildlife, are under constant pressure; autumn sowing plus the virtual elimination of crop rotation, leaves neither stubble nor fallow periods between crops, and removes a vital resource for over-wintering birds. All these changes reduce the food supply.

A less obvious aspect of the specialisation which is being forced on farmers is that farms are now either arable or livestock, rarely both, resulting in a loss of the diverse habitats upon which many birds depended for survival. They used to transfer from one to another as the seasons progressed.

Less controversial, but still important: increased efficiency in harvesting means less cereal spilt or left in fields; a larder which used to keep birds fed for many weeks. More effective and secure food storage also means birds can't access grain stores or spills anymore!

Sadly, the chaffinch is not just susceptible to Trichomonosis, but also to leg lesions, commonly known as 'scaly leg' or 'tassel foot', caused by Papillomavirus virus or Cnemidocoptes mites. Neither is particularly harmful, but it does leave them with uncomfortable and unsightly growths on their feet and legs, and can make them more vulnerable to predators.

Climate change complicates matters too. Species that rely on each other in the food chain are changing the timing of phases within their life cycles; plants are budding earlier and the invertebrates upon which woodland passerines, including chaffinches, rely, appear at a different time of the year, causing phenological mismatch, (Phenology is the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate, plant and animal life.) i.e. things are happening at the wrong time of the year.

These are complicated, gradual processes; most small birds rely on a seasonal abundance of bugs and buds, and things are changing. Maybe you are lucky and see Chaffinches regularly; here's hoping for a change in their fortunes.

If you find the lives of our garden birds to be of interest, and would like to join in and count the feathered occupants of your garden, please contact me or visit the BTO Garden BirdWatch website ([www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)): **Mike Gray** or [gbwmike@gmail.com](mailto:gbwmike@gmail.com).

## Advertisements



# **JPC ROOFING**

**07731 616123**

**0113 210 9518**

**[jpcroofing@gmail.com](mailto:jpcroofing@gmail.com)**

All roofing work undertaken, full re-roofs, repairs, lead work, pitched roofs, flat roofs, fascia and soffits, guttering.

Fully insured / Free quotations

# **HEATING AID**

**PLUMBING AND HEATING**

**07747 102264**

[Heatingaid@hotmail.com](mailto:Heatingaid@hotmail.com)

Specialists in boiler installation, servicing and repairs in and around Leeds

[www.heatingaid.co.uk](http://www.heatingaid.co.uk)

Gas safe registered, no.639848

## Advertisements

# John P Tempest

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

*An Independent Family Run Business  
Offering a Complete Funeral Service to all Areas*

**Tel: 239 2700 (24 hours)**



Private Chapels of Rest • Pre-paid Funeral Plans  
Monumental and Flower Service

**46 HARROGATE ROAD  
CHAPEL ALLERTON, LEEDS LS7 4LA**

**Gooding**  
FUNERAL SERVICES

**Helping the families  
of St. Martin's Church**

- Pre-paid Funeral Plans
- 24 hr. Private Ambulance
- On Site Care & Chapel of Rest
- Simple, Traditional & Personalised Funerals & Memorials
- Flowers & Catering
- Coffins, Urns & Keepsakes
- International Repatriation
- Memorial Masonry
- Easy Payment

**Contact Us:**  
**0113 210 7998**  
[info@goodingfuneralservices.co.uk](mailto:info@goodingfuneralservices.co.uk)

# Advertisements



CALL US NOW!

**01484 941011**

## TRUSTED PREPAID FUNERAL PLANS

### Personal Choice

TrustedPrePaidFuneralPlans provide a comprehensive range of options to suit all tastes and budgets. Most can be tailored to suit particular preferences...from the big things – like whether you want to be cremated or buried – to the smaller things – like your choice of music and flowers.

### Why Us

Freeze the cost of your funeral today!

Unlike a life insurance policy which does nothing to protect you from the escalating costs of funerals, this is a trust fund set up to protect and preserve more of your estate for your loved ones and immediately transferable to your chosen funeral director.

### Peace Of Mind

At TrustedPrePaidFuneralPlans we want to provide a complete bespoke service for you be it burial or cremation, to provide you with the peace of mind that your funeral will be to you and your loved one's satisfaction and with no extra cost for your family to bear. Wicker coffin, plain coffin, sparkling pink coffin or biodegradable tree seed urn can all be tailored for.

[www.trustedprepaidfuneralplans.co.uk](http://www.trustedprepaidfuneralplans.co.uk)



#### CONTACT US

Complete our simple contact form or give us a call to find out more information and to arrange a visit.



#### WE VISIT YOU

We will call over and visit you to discuss the details in the comfort of your own home. Ensuring that you get the best plan for you.



#### RELAX

Once you're happy with the plan we will then put everything necessary in place. You can now relax knowing your loved ones are protected.

Trusted By Thousands Of UK Families To Provide Total Financial Protection.

SafeHands FUNERAL PLANS



The UK's Fast Growing Prepaid Funeral Plans Provider...



AVIVA THE RISING COST OF FUNERALS  
Sep 01 - 11th May 2014 (FTD ASSOCIATES)

# Readings



**August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Genesis 32:22-31  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**

1 Kings 19:9-18  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Romans 11:1, 2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:21-28

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Isaiah 51:1-6  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

**August 30<sup>th</sup>**

Exodus 3:1-15  
Romans 12:9-end  
Matthew 16:21-end

## 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

Looking back to what has wounded us, lingering over our failures, paralyzes us down to the fibers of the soul. In new beginnings, the Holy Spirit accomplishes a miracle—he sets us free, he blots out the past, he leads us to love.

## From the Registers

### **Funerals:**

25/06/2020 – Violet Hartley  
30/06/2020 - Shirley Saddler



## Transport

Would you like to come to Church services when they start up again but cannot get there 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. Martin's Institute  
St. Martin's 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)

## CURRENTLY CLOSED

Started in July 2014, The Community Kitchen is usually 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**

## Advertise in St Martin's magazine:

¼ page - £30 p.a.    ½ page - £60 p.a.    Full page - £100 p.a.  
Email: [advertise@stmartinleeds.org.uk](mailto:advertise@stmartinleeds.org.uk)

## Donate to St Martin's Church & projects

Via the Donate button on our homepage: [www.stmartinleeds.org.uk](http://www.stmartinleeds.org.uk)