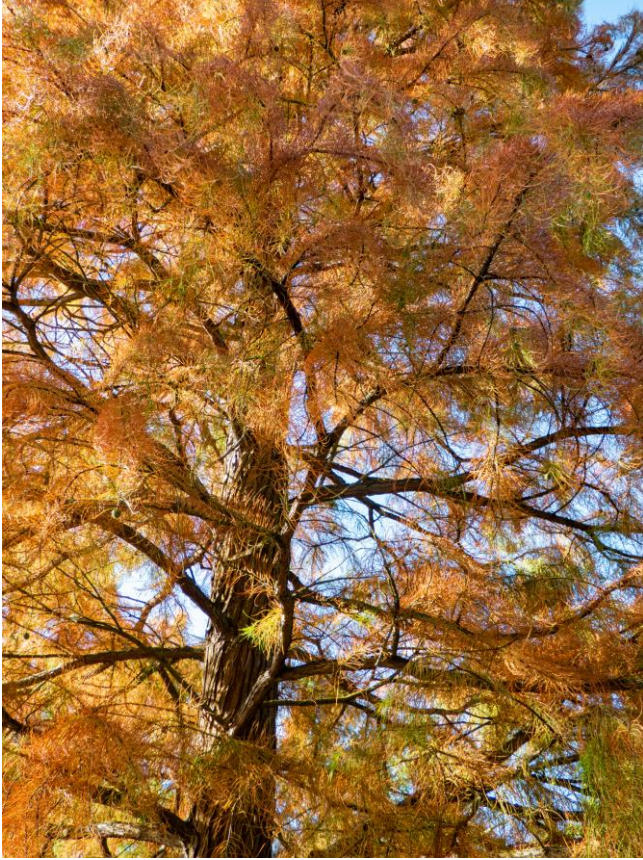


St Martin's West Acton Parish Magazine



Autumn 2023

St Martin's Church, Hale Gardens, London, W3 9SQ

(Registered charity no. 1132976)
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The Vicar is available for consultation and enquiries by appointment.
Please ring the Parish Office.

Articles and photos for the next season's magazine should be
sent to the editor (email: pjgrayson@hotmail.com)
Please title the email "magazine item"



ST MARTIN'S
WEST ACTON
LOVING, THRIVING, WELCOMING

Dear all,

welcome to this autumn edition of St Martin's Church Magazine. Normally at this time of year we see the leaves beginning to don their vibrant shades of crimson and gold, and the air generally turning crisper with each passing day. But instead, at the time of writing, we have a heatwave – continental style - reminding us of the uncertainty of what is happening in our world.

It is also a nudge for us to take responsibility for our environment and to do what we can. I find the 3 R's helpful as a reminder – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. As a church we are doing what we can to play our part in what seems an enormous task. If anyone is interested in joining the 'Eco' group looking at this, then do get in touch.

In a general sense the season of autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go. Just as trees release their leaves to prepare for the coming winter, we can let go of the burdens and worries that we often carry in our hearts. In the letting go we make space for new blessings. As Ecclesiastes 3:1, we are reminded, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

In autumn we also have our harvest celebration. This year we are having a barn dance on the 23rd September – all welcome. The harvest celebration is about thanking God for the many blessings we have but also a reminder to give to those less fortunate than ourselves. I was lucky enough to go to the Greenbelt Christian arts festival at the end of August this year where new campaign called 'Let's End Poverty', was launched involving many major charities. – In fact the charity 'Child Poverty in Action', reports that 4.2 million children in the UK (29%) live in poverty today - up from 3.6 million in 2010-11. As a church there is a moral responsibility to support this campaign in some way.

But as we journey through this autumn season, remember that change is not to be feared, but rather, it is an essential part of our spiritual growth. May we find joy in the colourful tapestry of autumn (when it eventually arrives) and use it as a source of inspiration for our own spiritual renewal.

Wishing you a blessed and reflective autumn season filled with peace, love, and the warmth of God's grace. I hope you enjoy reading the magazine.

Blessings

Julia Palmer.

Autumn Reading List

As the weather finally begins to cool down it's the perfect time to settle in at home with a good book. Check out some of our recommendations! If you've got book recommendations for the winter issue email the editor at pjgrayson@hotmail.com, we'd love to know what you're reading!

**Terry Pratchett
& Neil Gaiman**

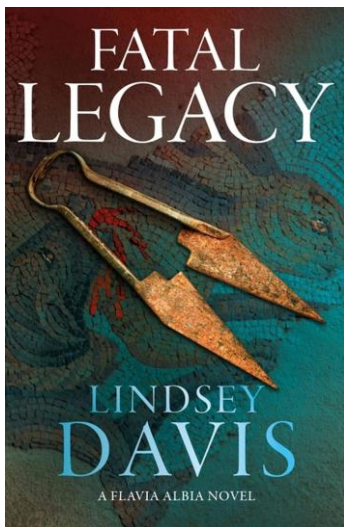


Good Omens (2014)

By Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman,

What if, for once, the predictions are right, and the Apocalypse really is due to arrive next Saturday, just after tea?

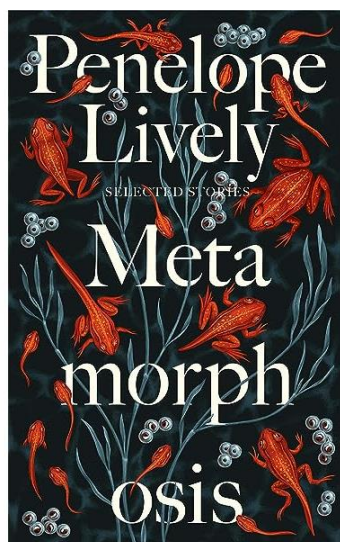
It's a predicament that Aziraphale, a somewhat fussy angel, and Crowley, a fast-living demon, now find themselves in. They've been living amongst Earth's mortals since The Beginning and, truth be told, have grown rather fond of the lifestyle and, in all honesty, are not actually looking forward to the coming Apocalypse



Fatal Legacy (2023)

By Lindsey Davis, **Recommended by Angela North**

An unpaid bar bill leads Flavia Albia to her most bitter and complex case yet. Decades earlier Appius Tranquillus Surus wrote his will: it freed his slaves and bequeathed his businesses to them. He left an orchard to the Prisci, a family he was friendly with, on the condition that his freedmen could still take its harvest. The convoluted arrangement has led to a feud between the two families, each of which has its own internal strife.

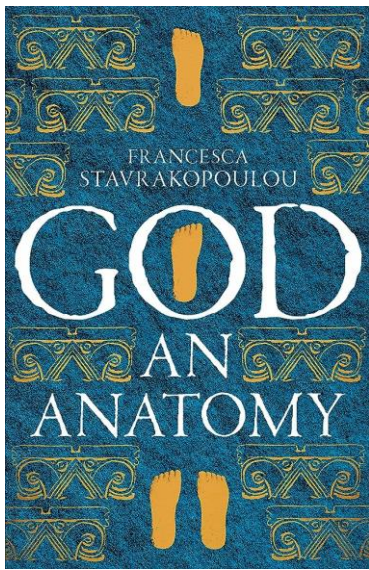


Metamorphosis: Selected Stories (2022)

By Penelope Lively, **Recommended by Kathy Oliver**

I was attracted to this 2021 publication by a newspaper review with the author, now aged 90 and still living up to her name. It's a collection of short stories which I normally avoid, but I'm a fan of the author so thought I'd overcome my reservations. These tales offer glimpses of growing up and growing old, reflections of encounters over her long and well travelled life, that get beneath the everyday to the beating heart of human experience.

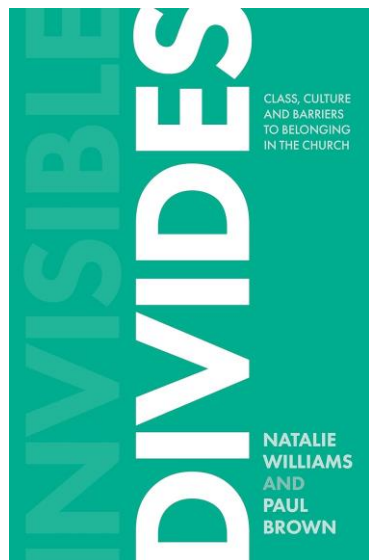
Dame Penelope is a prize winning writer for adults and children, and has the knack of producing page turners with a difference.



God: An Anatomy (2021)

By Francesca Stavrakopoulou

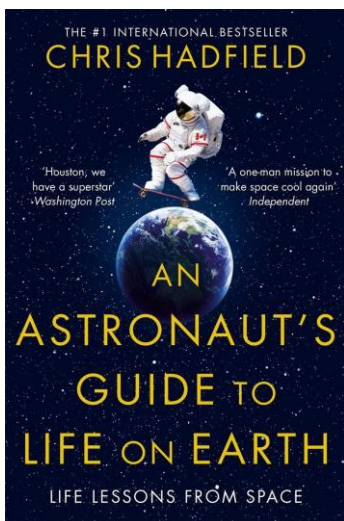
Three thousand years ago, in the Southwest Asian lands we now call Israel and Palestine, a group of people worshipped a complex pantheon of deities, led by a father god called El. El had seventy children, who were gods in their own right. One of them was a minor storm deity, known as Yahweh. Yahweh had a body, a wife, offspring and colleagues. He fought monsters and mortals. He gorged on food and wine, wrote books, and took walks and naps. But he would become something far larger and far more abstract: the God of the great monotheistic religions



Invisible Divides: Class, Culture and Barriers to Belonging in the Church (2022)

By Natalie Williams and Paul Brown

We're called to be like Jesus, not like each other - so why are most Western churches predominantly middle class? Could it be that we're reaching out to people in poverty, but struggling to connect them into church life? Packed full of surprising insights and helpful advice, Invisible Divides will change the way you see church life. Essential reading for anyone concerned with the class divide within the church, it will challenge you to look at the ways in which we inadvertently exclude, alienate and offend people who aren't like us, and equip you to start working towards making church a more open, inclusive space for everyone.



An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth (2015)

By Chris Hadfield,

Colonel Chris Hadfield has spent decades training as an astronaut and has logged nearly 4,000 hours in space. During this time he has broken into a Space Station with a Swiss army knife, disposed of a live snake while piloting a plane, been temporarily blinded while clinging to the exterior of an orbiting spacecraft, and become a YouTube sensation with his performance of David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' in space. The secret to Chris Hadfield's success – and survival – is an unconventional philosophy he learned at NASA: prepare for the worst – and enjoy every moment of it.

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Harvest Festival

As usual, our Harvest gifts will be taken to the local women's refuge. The congregation of St Martin's has been supporting the work of the refuge for many years; the need for help continues and is always gratefully received.

The refuge provides accommodation for 12 women and their children who are fleeing from domestic violence. They usually stay in the home for about six months and in this time have an opportunity to rethink their lives and plan a new future for themselves and their children. Many of the women have had to leave their homes in a hurry and arrive with few possessions and no money. The staff at the refuge support them in sorting out finances, accommodation, and independent living.

This year, the refuge has asked us to donate non-perishable items of food, including tinned fish and meat and tea and coffee etc, as the everyday cost of food continues to rise alarmingly. The refuge always keeps a store cupboard with food so that new arrivals and emergencies can be provided with some immediate help; any of the harvest food that is not needed immediately will be stored and used during the course of the next year.

The refuge has also requested donations of sheets and duvet covers. These are always needed especially as when women leave the home they take these with them.



Throughout the year we make up welcome packs for new arrivals at the refuge. These contain toiletries, towels, underpants etc and gifts of towels are always particularly welcomed. At Christmas we try to give the women a few luxuries in the way of extra toiletries. The refuge is managed by Hestia which runs several other refuges and they usually get donations of toys for the children so they particularly appreciate it if we provide gifts for the women.

Once again, the women of the refuge would like to thank St Martin's for its continued support.

Margaret Jones



Racial Justice Pilgrimage

Monday 16th Oct

Join the
Bishop of Willesden
Lusa Nseng-Ngoy in a

Journey of Lament and Praise

Visiting Black History Sites Westminster to Ladbroke Grove. Total distance to walk 7.6 miles.

Please bring a packed lunch

From Ignatius Sancho, to Mary Seacole to Kelso Cochrane and the Notting Hill Carnival founders.



Meet at Windrush Memorial
Waterloo Station 9am

Finish Grenfell Tower 3.30pm



God Is Not a White Man

Chine McDonald
Sunday 1st October
1.00 – 2.00pm

What does it mean when God is presented as male? What does it mean when – from our internal assumptions to our shared cultural understandings – God is presented as white? Chine McDonald will reflect on what happens when we examine and overturn these assumptions.

CHINE MCDONALD is the Director of Theos Think Tank.



Find out more stpauls.co.uk/adultlearning

Miracles

Walt Whitman

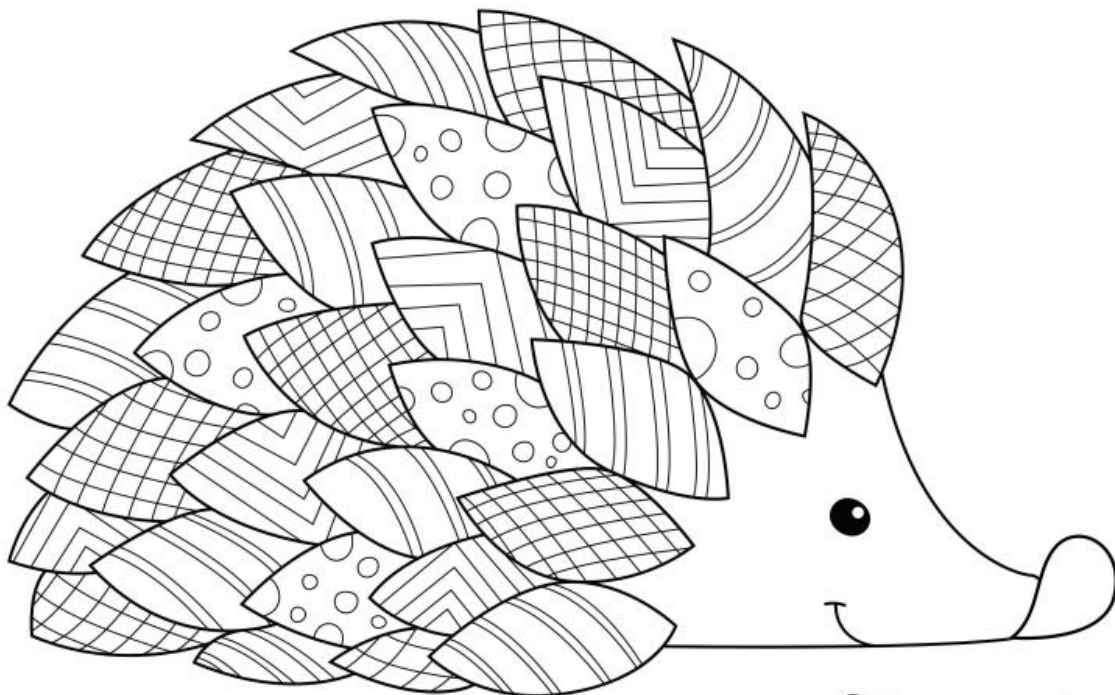
Why, who makes much of a miracle?
As to me I know of nothing else but miracles,
Whether I walk the streets of Manhattan,
Or dart my sight over the roofs of houses toward the sky,
Or wade with naked feet along the beach just in the
edge of the water,
Or stand under trees in the woods,
Or talk by day with any one I love, or sleep in the bed at
night with any one I love,
Or sit at table at dinner with the rest,
Or look at strangers opposite me riding in the car,
Or watch honey-bees busy around the hive of a
summer forenoon,
Or animals feeding in the fields,
Or birds, or the wonderfulness of insects in the air,
Or the wonderfulness of the sundown, or of stars shining
so quiet and bright,
Or the exquisite delicate thin curve of the new moon in
spring;



These with the rest, one and all, are to me miracles,
The whole referring, yet each distinct and in its place.
To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle,
Every cubic inch of space is a miracle,
Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread
with the same,
Every foot of the interior swarms with the same.
To me the sea is a continual miracle,
The fishes that swim—the rocks—the motion of the
waves—the
 ships with men in them,
What stranger miracles are there?



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What is Church For?

PJ Grayson

The latest in assignment extracts. I had to answer this question for my Christian Doctrine module last term in 2500 words, I probably could have used 10,000! As I begin my final year of assignments I think this is an interesting one to lead me in to my last year of my apprenticeship.

When considering the purpose of the Church in society today, it is important to consider both historical ideas of what role the Church should fulfil alongside the critical impact of modern scholarship. Ephesians 1:20-23 states that the Church is the body of Christ, and that God has appointed Him the head of the Church. If the Church is therefore to be the body of Christ, this would suggest that the purpose of the Church and, indeed, what Church is for, is to be Christ-like.

In order for the Church to be Christ-like, there first has to be an understanding of what Christ was like. Scholars such as Robert Goss argue that Jesus acted in a way that was proactively radical and politically offensive to those in authority, particularly demonstrated in Mark 14:53- 65. Jeremy Myers agrees with Goss, and points out that the Biblical Jesus wasn't a figure who stood passively on the sidelines, but was in fact somebody who primarily used his actions to demonstrate what the kingdom of God would look like, and backed up his actions by using his parables and lessons to instruct others to act similarly.

These scholars point out that Christ was active in his community, often at odds with the political leadership of the time, and worked closely with scripture to guide his people. Matthew 18:1-9 is an example of Jesus' radical teaching, and supports Beth Felker Jones' argument that the weakest members of the body of Christ deserve special respect and protection. This passage also demonstrates Jesus' work in inverting or challenging social power structures, in pronouncing that a child is the greatest in heaven.

A further Biblical example of Jesus' challenge to societal norms is when Jesus heals the haemorrhaging woman in Matthew 9:20-22. This woman would have been ritually unclean and unable to enter the temple, as mentioned in Leviticus 15:25. However, Jesus addresses her as 'daughter' before a crowd, challenging the religious and societal norms of the time and inviting the community to welcome her as a member rather than exclude her because of the instruction of traditional scriptural readings.

Paul Tillich, when speaking about the Church and how it should behave, believes that a community of love that is centred around loving, compassionate relationships is paramount. Both Goss and Myers agree with Tillich, and also more precisely argue that a Christ-like Church would be inclusive with compassion at its heart, in order to ensure that its religious authority did not become oppressive to its community.



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



‘A Moment in Black History’ *Bishop Wilfred Wood*

Born in Barbados to Wilfred Coward and Elsie Elmira Wood, in Proute, St Thomas, Wood [later Sir Wilfred] attended Southborough Boys’ Primary School and Combermere School. Having being ordained Deacon on the island after completion of studies in 1962, Bishop Wood’s journey had just begun as he was sent to the Diocese of London, first serving in a parish called St. Stephen’s Shepherd’s Bush, where he served as a curate, then honorary curate, of St Thomas With St Stephen, Shepherd’s Bush, until 1974.

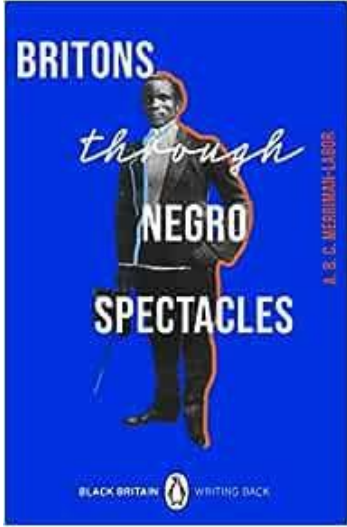
He soon came to wider attention in Britain for speaking out on racial injustice. In 1974 he joined the Diocese of Southwark, where he stayed until his retirement.

In 1977 he was appointed Rural Dean of East Lewisham and Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral. He was Archdeacon of Southwark from 1982 until his consecration as Bishop of Croydon in 1985, where he oversaw the Croydon Episcopal Area and assisted the Bishop of Southwark.

He holds honorary doctorates from the Open University, the University of the West Indies and the General Theological Seminary, New York, when he was described in the citation as “a wide and trusted defender of the rights of minorities”.



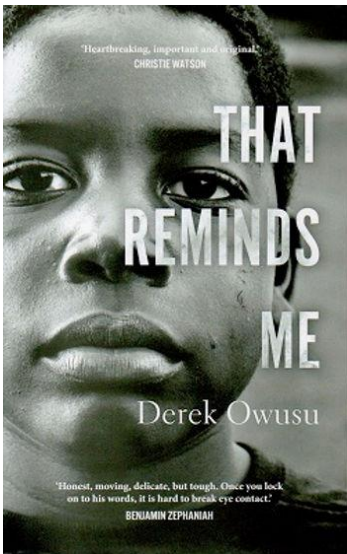
International Black History Month's Top Reads for Black History Month 2023



Britons Through Negro Spectacles

by Augustus B.C. Merriman-Labour

In his book, Augustus narrates a day spent accompanying a newly arrived African friend around London. Part travelogue, part reverse ethnology, and part spoof of books by ill-informed 'Africa experts.' He slyly subverts the colonial gaze usually placed on Africa, and introduces readers to the citizens, culture and customs of Britain with a mischievous glint in his eye.

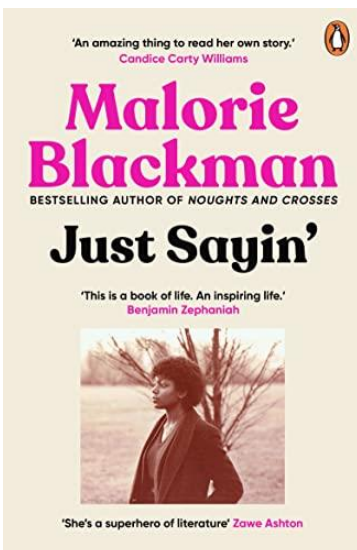


That Reminds Me

by David Owusu

The debut novel of David Owusu and the first novel to be published by Stormzy's publishing imprint, Merky Books, tells the story of K, a boy born to Ghanaian parents in London.

That Reminds Me is the story of one young man, from birth to adulthood, told in fragments of memory. It explores questions of identity, belonging, addiction, sexuality, violence, family and religion. It is a deeply moving and completely original work of literature from one of the brightest British writers of today.



Just Sayin'

by Malorie Blackman

Malorie Blackman OBE is one of Britain's best loved and most widely-read writers. For over thirty years, her books have helped to shape British culture, and inspired generations of younger readers and writers. The Noughts and Crosses series, started in 2000, sparked a new and necessary conversation about race and identity in the UK, and are already undisputed classics of twenty-first-century children's literature. She is also a writer whose own life has been shaped by books... This book is an ¹⁷ account of that journey.



British Red Cross'
*How children and young people can
practice anti-racism*

Children can practice anti-racism by:

- Supporting their friends who say they have experienced racism or bullying
- Actively listening to their experiences
- Telling a teacher or adult when they witness or experience racism
- Accepting that they might not understand what it feels like, but can try to imagine and build empathy
- Using their own voice to make other people listen to their friend
- Not speaking for them or making the situation about themselves
- Think about how their friend might feel and supporting their wellbeing

Young people can practice anti-racism by:

- Supporting their friends who say they have experienced racism or bullying
- Actively listening to their experiences
- Telling a teacher or adult when they witness or experience racism
- Accepting that they might not understand what it feels like, but trying to imagine and build empathy
- Using their own voice to make other people listen to their friend
- Not speaking for them or making the situation about themselves
- Think about how their friend might feel and supporting their wellbeing



Half-Caste John Agard

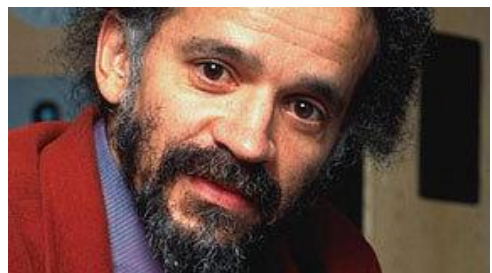
This John Agard poem criticises the use of the term “half-caste”, a popular British slur against mixed-race individuals. The poem demonstrates Agard’s subtle cleverness. He assumes naivety and mock-stupidity, asks the listener to ‘explain’ what is meant by the insulting term ‘half-caste’. Agard then applies the idea of incompleteness to the world around us.

Excuse me
Standing on one leg
I'm half-caste

Explain yusef
Wha yu mean
When yu say half-caste
Yu mean when picasso
Mix red an green
Is a half-caste canvas?
Explain yusef
Wha u mean
When yu say half-caste
Yu mean when light an shadow
Mix in de sky
Is a half-caste weather??
Well in dat case
England weather
Nearly always half-caste
In fact some o dem cloud
Half-caste till dem overcast
So spiteful dem dont want de sun pass
Ah rass
Explain yusef
Wha yu mean
When yu say half-caste?
Yu mean tchaikovsky
Sit down at dah piano
An mix a black key
Wid a white key
Is a half-caste symphony?

Explain yusef
Wha yu mean
Ah listening to yu wid de keen
Half of mih ear
Ah looking at u wid de keen
Half of mih eye
And when I'm introduced to yu
I'm sure you'll understand
Why I offer yu half-a-hand
An when I sleep at night
I close half-a-eye
Consequently when I dream
I dream half-a-dream
An when moon begin to glow
I half-caste human being
Cast half-a-shadow
But yu come back tomorrow
Wid de whole of yu eye
An de whole of yu ear
And de whole of yu mind

An I will tell yu
De other half
Of my story



Opportunities to get involved at St Martins

Sidespeople

Welcoming people and bringing up bread and wine for communion

Junior church helpers

To be an extra adult during Junior Church sessions

Junior church leaders

Helping lead our popular junior church

Stay and Play

Helpers for our toddler group on Tuesday mornings

Leading prayers

In our Sunday service

Flower Arranging

Providing refreshments

After the 10am service



Falldoku!

Beginner

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		1	4

Advanced

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	7			2	8	6		
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Answers on page 28

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Brown

Chilly

Fall

Fires

Gusty

Harvest

Leaves

Rain

Squash

Windy

COMMUNITY WALK

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permanently affordable housing

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2023

**Meeting point: Gurnell Leisure
Centre, Car Park W13 0AL**

10:00am-11:30am



Trusting God's Guidance on My Journey of New Adventures

Psalm 127:1 reminds us “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.” These profound words have been etched into my heart since my final year at university, serving as a constant reminder of the importance of seeking God's guidance in everything we do.

A few days ago, when PJ asked me to write an article for the church magazine, I found myself stepping out of my comfort zone. I am not a writer and I don't particularly enjoy writing about myself. Nevertheless, I realised that sometimes growth requires us to embrace new challenges, so here is a glimpse into my journey.

During my university years, I inscribed the aforementioned Bible verse into my dissertation. While it has been many years since I completed my degree, this verse continues to resonate with me, particularly when embarking on new adventures. It reminds me to make room for God in every aspect of my life and to seek his guidance.

September marks the beginning of a new chapter for many, as children start new schools or classes. It's a time filled with a unique blend of anxiety and excitement, not just for the children but also for their parents and teachers. Having spent years teaching preschool children, I know that September can be emotionally challenging due to the settling period.

The unknown can be daunting, but the assurance of God's presence has always provided me with a sense of peace. I view my life journey as a construction of a house with God at its centre.

This perspective doesn't shield me from feeling lost or sad at times but it emphasises the constant learning about myself and God. His love surrounds me, guiding me through each step.

Earlier this year, I decided to make some significant changes in my life. As a passionate Early Years Teacher, I became disheartened by the system that often stifles children's innate creativity and natural curiosity. This feeling of disconnect was further fuelled by a period of medical issues that prompted me to rethink my path.

I made a decision to leave the conventional path and set up a platform where children can learn maths through engaging, hands-on activities, providing them with an opportunity to flourish and fulfil their potential.



Simultaneously, during this transformative period, I had the privilege of exploring our church's 'Godly Play' room. This experience ignited my curiosity as I observed that the approach bore a resemblance to my teaching philosophy. Intrigued and inspired, I eagerly enrolled on a 3-day course led by Jeanny Wang and Mine Yidirim. The course not only deepened my understanding of how to retell Bible stories but also revealed the profound way to let God guide children in their spiritual growth.

As I completed the course, I was unsure about what to do next. That's when Psalm 127:1 resurfaced into my mind, reminding me that God would be with me and provide all that is necessary. I am profoundly grateful to learn from Jeanny Wang, who established the remarkable 'Godly Play' room at our church. and I am excited about starting Saturday's Godly Play session for ²⁴ young children who wish to join.

Additionally, I am launching a baking club at our church hall for young children on Monday afternoons. While I cannot predict where my journey and these new adventures will lead me, I am certain that I must place my trust in God and let Him guide my life.

In conclusion, my journey is a testament to the power of faith and the transformative impact of trusting God's guidance. As we navigate the unknown and embrace new challenges, let us remember that, indeed, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain."

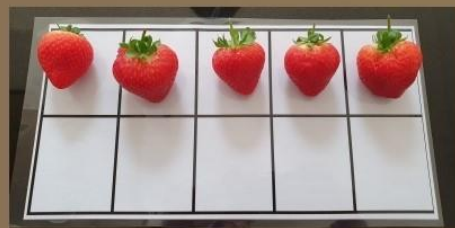
Zuzana Chan

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Starting 25th September 2023



Monday 4 - 5pm, term-time only

at St Martin's Church Hall, Hale Gardens, London W3 9SQ

Contact: 07917 564 897

buzzthroughmaths@gmail.com



WEST LONDON CITIZENS CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 7th November 2023 | 18:00 – 20:00

**St Anselm's Catholic Church
The Green, Southall UB2 4BE**

Join us to celebrate our achievements as West London Citizens!

We will be:

Sharing our organising work across Ealing, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster over the past 12 months

Celebrating our campaign to encourage NHS Trusts in West London to pay the living wage
Recognising the NHS Trusts who have accredited

Laying out our goals for the next 12 months, including around work, wages, climate, migration and housing as we look ahead to the Mayoral and General Elections

18:00 Doors open, with snacks and refreshments

18:30 Prompt celebration start

20:00 Close

There will be music, singing, drama and lots of joy for the West London community!

sign up here!



お願い
過日ウクライナのカーソン地区ではダム破壊によって多くの人びとが食料、水と薬品不足にあっています。Martin's 教会では、被害を受けた人々のうち、ウクライナ難民支援活動を通して個人的に知っている 62 家族の為に募金活動を開始しています。コミュニティカフェ開催中、募金を募ります。ご協力をお願いします

Help Needed in Kherson, Ukraine

Many families are without food, water and medicine because of the dam bombing in Ukraine. The refugee project at St Martins is trying to help 62 families who they know personally.



Falldoku Solutions

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9	6	1	4	7	5	2	8	3

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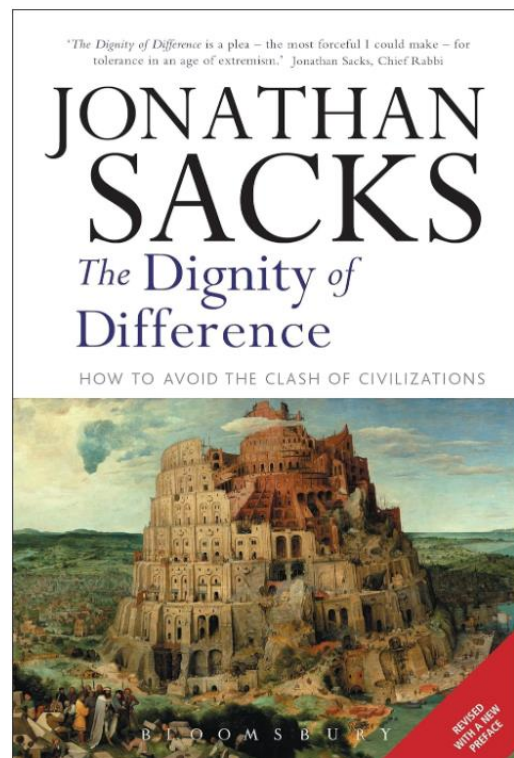
Book Review: The Dignity of Difference by Jonathan Sacks

A friend recently lent me this book, written by Jonathan Sacks (1948 – 2020), previously Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. I'd usually pick a novel to read on holiday but once I started reading this book, I was gripped. Rabbi Sacks demonstrates the rare gift of combining immense depth of thought with a clear and engaging writing style.

Written shortly after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, Sacks highlights several things - how politics is often turned into a religion and religion into politics, the challenges of globalisation, and the risks of both tribalism and universalism.

I found his comments on globalisation particularly thought-provoking – he suggests that while we now have a global economy, we do not yet have the global governance that is needed to go with it. As a result, globalisation is exacerbating inequalities (rather than reducing them, as we may naively have hoped). Among other things, Sacks strongly advocates universal education – for those of all genders, in all contexts, in all countries – as the key to reducing these growing inequalities.

I also found it fascinating to read another faith leader's views on inter-faith questions. He clearly believed that while God is God of all humanity, this does not mean that a single faith should be the faith of all humanity. Mirroring my own experience, he also highlights that those who are confident in their faith are enlarged, rather than threatened, by the different faiths of others.



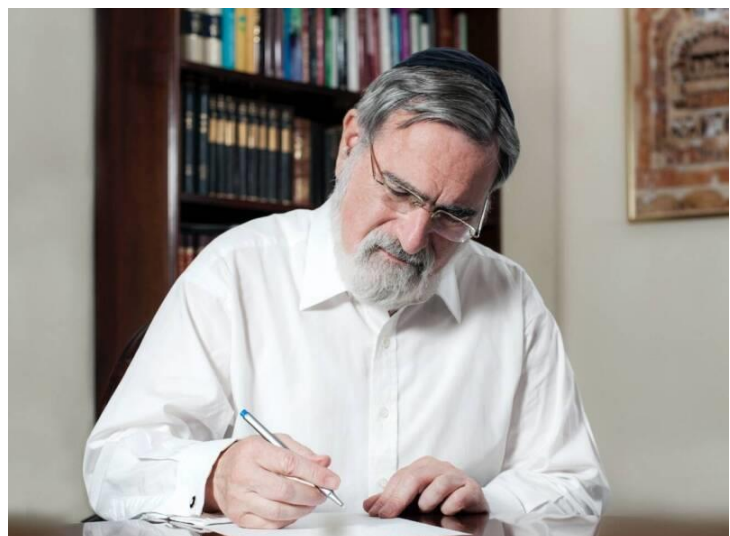
Earlier this year, I travelled back from a conference with three colleagues – Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu. The four of us spent the entire journey comparing our beliefs and practices; we arrived back at Euston with the conclusion that we had each increased our understanding of one other’s faiths while at the same time strengthening our own.

The book is framed as being written for those of all faiths and none, but does make many references to the Hebrew Bible or what we as Christians refer to as the Old Testament. For example, writing on the dangers of both tribalism (which seeks to emphasise difference) and universalism (which seems to emphasise similarity and thus eliminate difference), he highlights how the book of Genesis starts with universalism in the first few days of creation

but then introduces particularism with the creation of many different plants, animals and people. He also suggests that the bible makes far more references to loving the stranger than to loving our families and neighbours – reflecting its greater importance and its greater difficulty. His conclusion is that God intentionally introduced difference into the world and that this is therefore to be celebrated and respected, rather than eliminated.

Overall, I’d recommend this as a thought-provoking read – and its impact will certainly stay with me longer than a novel would have done!

Rev Bryony Franklin



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ST MARTIN'S WEST ACTON

LOVING, THRIVING, WELCOMING

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Regular Services @ St Martin's

Communion Service every Sunday 10am with Junior Church
Book of Common Prayer Service first Sunday of every month 8am
All Age Service first Sunday of every month 10am
Weekday Communion Service Wednesdays 11am in parish room
Japanese Worship third Sunday of every month 3pm

Regular Events @ St Martin's

Junior Choir rehearsal 6pm every Monday
Adult Choir rehearsal 7pm every Monday
Stay & Play Toddler Group 10am every Tuesday
Japanese Community Café first Saturday
of every month 10am

How You Can Donate

You can make a one off donation by bank transfer to:
St Martin's PCC West Acton
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