## Martin Ellis Tribute written by Judy Peace

In February many of St. Martin's congregation attended Martin Ellis' funeral in Ipswich. It was a most uplifting service. Martin had arranged the service and St. Martin's Choir had been asked to sing, along with David Pipe, Martin's first protege playing the organ, together with Dr. Jo Fort who conducted them. Martin had stipulated the hymns - 8 in all - although this was reduced to 6! He had also requested 5 people to do tributes, together with communion - a very full service. Below is the tribute while Martin was at St. Martin's between 1986 and 2014



What can I say about Martin in 5 minutes?

He arrived in Dorking from Taunton in 1986. Everything fell in place, as the job of Head of Music at Reigate Grammar School became vacant about that time and two Methodist members of St Martin's were moving so Martin and Miriam were able to move in to 22 Church Street. Martin remained director of Music at St. Martins to both Anglican and Methodist congregations for 28 years, until he retired and in 2014 they moved to Suffolk. Not only was he Director of Music, but he was also a lay Methodist preacher and ecumenical officer.

As we know Martin had a great love of music and was passionate in helping young people achieving their potential. His first prodigy was David Pipe who played the organ at St. Martin's, at first, very hesitantly but he gained hugely from his time at St. Martin's and now is now director of the Diocese of Leeds Organ School and Organist of Leeds Cathedral, and, of course, is playing for us today. If my memory serves me correctly, David was followed by Jo Fort, who is conducting the choir, some of whom have travelled from St. Martin's. There followed a large number of young people, some from Reigate Grammar School who were lucky enough to have the experience of playing the organ for services and being mentored by Martin.

Martin was instrumental in enlarging the church choir after Rosemary Field re-established an excellent choir at St. Martin's, and giving them the experience of singing at various Cathedrals including St Paul's Cathedral, York Minster, Canterbury Cathedral and they sang many times at Southwark and Guildford Cathedrals during his tenure as Musical Director.

In 2007 Martin set up the William Cole Church Music Trust to promote and encourage young musicians. The Trust provides financial support and encouragement to young people either as organ scholars, or choral scholars, generally before going to university. The first scholar was Anthony Fort who was our organ scholar and again has gone on to a fine career. Between 2007 and 2014 he organised weekly organ recitals at St. Martin's to fund the Trust and on his retirement the recitals have continued monthly on the first Saturday of the month and we have been extremely fortunate in having a wide variety of performers who give their services free, apart from travelling expenses for which we are very grateful.

Martin loved organising large musical events, not without some stresses, and got everyone involved. He organised a Vaughan William Festival in 2008, and who can forget Martin's 65th birthday bash and his farewell concert in July 2014 before moving to Suffolk. Of course he has been blessed to have been married to

### Martin Ellis Tribute contd.

Miriam who has been such a staunch support.

We are hoping to hold a memorial concert for Martin later in Dorking.

Finally I cannot end this tribute without mentioning Martin's love of chocolate and puddings! There are many memorable photos of Martin and large knickerbocker glories!

And, of course, his terrible jokes. I will never be able to read a Christmas cracker joke or hear a school boy joke without thinking of him.

Martin spent a lifetime teaching and nurturing young people, both in his academic career and in churches and had kept in touch with a large number of former pupils and protégés. He will be sorely missed by many.



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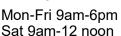
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## Sir Hugh Guy Cubitt, CBE, JP, DL

With great sadness, we have to record the passing of Hugh Cubitt, a man whom so many of us were proud to value as a good friend.

Sir Hugh Guy Cubitt, CBE, JP, DL, was born on the 2nd July 1928, the son of Lt-Col Hon Charles Guy Cubitt, who was the youngest of the six sons of the 2nd Baron Ashcombe.

One of Hugh's early recollections was when on a family visit to Denbies to see his grandparents "Mr Dobinson the Estate Carpenter whose workshop was off the stable yard made us boys superb wooden rifles". Hugh made a decision early in life to pursue a career in the Royal Navy rather than the Army as his father and uncles had done or the RAF where his cousin Harry was serving. He used to say



Hugh Cubitt, midshipman

that the reason for his decision was because "you don't need Latin for Dartmouth" but there was probably more to it. After Dartmouth he completed his training at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich and then he was commissioned Midshipman in the last few months of the Second World War and posted to the Far East where he "dashed about in destroyers" and saw action as a Lieutenant in the Korean War 1949-51.

Hugh was appointed Flag Lieutenant to Admiral Sir Cyril Douglas-Pennant, Head of the Naval Element, British Joint Services Mission at the Pentagon Washington in 1952 and then to the Commander-In-Chief Nore (Thames Estuary) in 1953 before he retired from the Navy in 1954. He qualified first as a Chartered Auctioneer and Estate Agent and then as a Chartered Surveyor (FRICS) working with Rogers Chapman and Thomas in London before he joined his father's firm Cubitt and West as a partner.

In 1958 Hugh married Linda Ishbel Campbell, daughter of the Hon. Angus Campbell, and they settled in Westhumble in 1960. They have a son Jonathan and two daughters Joanna and Victoria.

Hugh served on many notable boards and committees, including the National Westminster Bank, English Heritage and the Peabody Trust. He was elected to Westminster City Council in 1963, later becoming its Leader, and was Lord Mayor of Westminster from 1977 to 78.

The Deputy High Steward of Westminster Abbey is an ex officio role of the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Hugh served the Abbey for some years becoming Head of the Honorary Stewards and prolonged his tenure while a new Dean settled in. The stewards have a useful parking space in Central London. From 1964 he held the office of Justice of the Peace for Surrey. Fellow Magistrate Prof. Richard Selley recalls "Hugh ran the court like one of Nelson's captains at Trafalgar. I guess that was his naval training. Hugh often forgot to consult the two 'wingers' in his rush to justice. But as he was always right in fact, law and sentence one could not complain.

"When the Dorking, Reigate and Oxted benches were amalgamated in 1993 Hugh emerged as the new Bench Chairman. It was largely due to Hugh's personal skills that by the end of the third year of his tenure the cohesion of the new bench was established."

In 1977 he was awarded a CBE and in 1978 he was appointed Deputy (Lord) Lieutenant (DL) for Greater London.

Hugh's tireless work as Chairman of The Housing Corporation was recognised with a knighthood in 1983. The Housing Corporation was the non-departmental public body that funded new affordable housing and regulated housing associations in England, established by the Housing Act 1964. Hugh was also High Sheriff of Surrey in 1983.

Hugh and Linda took a great interest in St Barnabas Church even though it should be pointed out that the Cubitt family had passed the church over to the Church Commissioners in the 1960s. A copy of the St Martin's Church Magazine in 1970 lists 'Mr H Cubitt' as Churchwarden at St Barnabas Ranmore.

## Sir Hugh Guy Cubitt, CBE, JP, DL

Hugh said that he had inherited the post of PCC Treasurer from his father and when Miss Fisher, the Schoolmistress, retired he also took on the duties of the PCC Secretary. He deftly steered the PCC and the church through what might be described as some 'interesting years' until he decided to retire from the PCC in 2012. At PCC meetings Hugh was often apt to remark "I don't think so" after some proposals from members but he could be persuaded by a well reasoned argument, eventually.

In 1997 Hugh and Linda visited the battlefields and cemeteries of the First World War to find out and understand more about "the uncles he never knew" (Harry, Alick and William Hugh who are commemorated in the Cubitt Chapel). Hugh wrote a very moving article for the newsletter which is now included in the history leaflets in the church.

For some years Hugh and Linda, very generously, hosted the meetings of the PCC. Their dining room at Chapel House was a much more comfortable and warmer venue than the vestry at the church.

'Who's Who' lists Hugh's recreations as: country sports, travel, photography but he also painted in oils and had a great interest in and knowledge of music.

He was a member of The Castaways' Club, a dining club for retired warfare officers of the Royal Navy who left the service whilst still junior officers, typically



Pentagon, Washington DC, 1952

Left: Captain Michael Wyndham, ADC to Air Chief Marshai Sir William Elliot, Head of the British Joint Services Mission.

Centre: Hugh Cubitt, Flag Lieutenant to Admiral Sir Cyril Douglas-Pennant, Head of the Naval Element

Right: Tony Betheil, PA to Air Vice Marshal Breakey, Head of the RAF Element

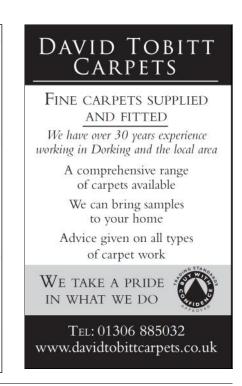
with the rank of Lieutenant or Lieutenant Commander, and, of course, he was a member of Boodle's, a gentlemen's club in St James's Street.

He will be greatly missed by us all but we will be able to pay our respects at a Service of Thanksgiving and Interment of Ashes on Monday April 20th at 12 noon.

Dick Gover, former Churchwarden, with additional research by Margaret Maynard.







It was perhaps a fitting date ("a Leap Day") that members of the Church Council met in the lovely surroundings of St John's North Holmwood Community Building to start work that will produce a new Church Development Plan. The Standing Committee has had only a quick digest so far of the raw findings from the day, and the full PCC has yet to see even these, so what follows is very much just a quick personal take on a day which was excellently facilitated by Danny Wignall from the Diocese Parish Development and Evangelism Team (and excellently nourished by Maggie and Julia - there must be some adaptation of the Napoleonic saying about "armies and stomachs" appropriate to PCCs and Vision Days!).

It is easy to go into these days with two very downbeat sentiments. The first is "we've been there before, done that, got the tee-shirt" and second is "the challenges are so overwhelming, it is all just a case of managing decline". I think I can honestly say none of us left the building with either. Why was this? It was probably because, first, we achieved a strong degree of consensus about what we still needed to do while recognising and celebrating that there were many things we had achieved (and continue to do well week in and week out). Second when we looked at the sorts of

forward goals we might home in on, there were plenty of things which looked eminently do-able (the "easy wins"). That isn't of course to say there are not really tricky challenges ahead – notably on our human resource front.

Coming back to the "Leap day" element, one of the exercises of the day, which perhaps particularly appealed to those who like to do their thinking in pictures, concerned images of angels - lots of them. When each of us was asked to identify which image particularly seemed to represent (a) the present character of our church and (b) the future calling of our church, recurrent themes in the descriptions of the latter were 'brightness', 'colour', 'flight'. Later in the day we began to tease out the implications for aims and priorities; many are of course not wholly new - better "pathways in", improved communications, more modern means on stewardship, making the building more suited to 21st century needs etc. This needs to be worked up in more detail and we will provide more information as the programme shapes up. What we can say is that it was a very productive and positive start - thank you to all who made it so, including all the many of you outside the PCC who contributed to the congregation survey.

Peter Bunn

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## Passion and Populism or What Jesus Did Next

A lesson in fickleness here we present: A week's a long time in pop-politics spent.

The Master selects a mere donkey to ride, Yet thousands of residents cheer alongside. The local oppressors, preferring things neat, Find clothing and branches all over the street. For those in authority this must subside. There's no doubt about it: it's time someone

died.

"Hello, dear Sanhedrin. I'll further your cause By shopping the one who's disturbing your laws. With thanks for my silver, the signal is this: The one to arrest is the one I will kiss." ... Oh, Judas! He's failed to escape from death's door.

"You don't want a refund? Then I'll be no more."

Control freaks come easy as Annas and team Manipulate masses to suit their own scheme. A few pop-up perjurers make their false claim; Sedition and blasphemy enter the frame. With no right of silence to lend you support You soon come unstuck in a kangaroo court.

Hosanna proclaimers now find a new voice: Barabbas the Bandit is number one choice. Says Herod the Puppet, "Don't bring me this grief As capital punishment's not in my brief." Says Pilate, enslaved by hysterical howl, "It's nothing to do with me. Fetch me a towel." "Hey, you - Galilean! I know from your twang You're bound to be one of that prisoner's gang." "Yes, I'm from up country, but do leave it out -

I don't even know who you're talking about." For self-preservation, allegiance soon creeps Away in a crisis. The rocky one weeps.

Judicial hand-washing gives in to wild will, And so we move on to Fatality Hill. Here mockers and knockers say "If you're the

Let's see it. Go on. Get yourself off that cross."

While those either side of him argue the toss. One makes it to paradise, one's a dead loss.

So what do we learn? Through inciting a crowd It's easy to see the good news disallowed, To duck the big issue, to scarper and hide, To run with the mob, to see justice denied. But give it three days and we'll see who's in charge.

Forget populism - the Lord is at large!

Note: according to one definition (offered by the Australian Catholic University):

- 1. Populism must claim to speak on behalf of ordinary people.
- 2. These ordinary people must stand in opposition to an elite establishment which stops them from fulfilling their political preferences.

It may therefore be argued, with some justification, that this month's contribution confuses populism with popularity. However, given the triumph of resurrection over rabble, it may also be argued that sophistry and sophistication alike are superfluous.

Petrus Incognitus Me Fecit

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Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has become clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise the world your love - for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar

#### WHY I WAKE EARLY

Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who make the morning and spread it over the fields and into the faces of the tulips and the nodding morning glories, and into the windows of, even, the miserable and crotchety—

best preacher that ever was, dear star, that just happens to be where you are in the universe to keep us from ever-darkness, to ease us with warm touching, to hold us in the great hands of light good morning, good morning.

Watch, now, how I start the day in happiness, in kindness.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

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