St Martin-in-the-Fields

Review of the Year’s Activities

2018/19

Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JH
Annual Review of Activities 2018-19

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Contents
Introduction from the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields 3
Introduction from the Churchwardens of St Martin-in-the-Fields 4
St Martin-in-the-Fields Limited 5
St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity 8
St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust 10
Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association and Community Centre 11
The Connection at St Martin’s 12
Archers 13
Archives 13
Artists and craftspeople 15
Bellringers 15
Bread for the World 16
Breakfast Group 17
C-Club 17
Chinese Congregations 18
Club Wednesday 20
Cricket 21
Disability Advisory Group 22
Education 23
Flower Arrangers 24
Friends of St Martin’s 24
Friends of The Connection at St Martin’s 25
Global Neighbours Committee 26
God of Surprises 27
HeartEdge 28
Hospitality 29
Liturgical Ministry and Prayer 30
Meditation Group 30
Music 31
Nazareth Community 32
Open Circle 33
Safeguarding 33
Stewards 34
Sunday International Group 36
Theology Group 37

Front cover image from Encounters: an exhibition by Nicola Green on display at St Martin’s from September - November 2018
Introduction from the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields is a complicated community – some might say weird and wonderful; certainly unique. I’ve started to think of it in four layers.

Layer one is the difference we want to see in the world. We talk about reimagining church and society. The practical way we do that is through our Frontline Network and Vicar’s Relief Fund, which benefit so many homeless support workers and vulnerably housed people across the UK, and through HeartEdge, which now has a hundred member churches as part of a movement dedicated to catalysing kingdom communities.

Layer two refers to the things we do most of here in Trafalgar Square. That means congregational life, public ministry (including broadcasting and major services), work with homeless people through The Connection and Sunday International Group, and music. We do many other things, like innovative work around disability, but homeless, music and congregation are what we’re best known for.

Layer three is simply the building itself, in all its Grade 1 glory. Of course church means more than a building, but James Gibbs’ masterpiece and its location is the lynchpin of everything we do.

Layer four is our way of raising money to pay for what we do. Congregational giving is vital, but that’s really part of congregational life. The specific things we do is to run a business, whose concerts, cafés, shop and events enterprises make the difference between our daily sink-or-swim existence – and provide the first point of welcome for most of our visitors. In addition we have the Trust, whose work with grant-makers and major donors enables us to envisage the St Martin’s of the future – both what we need to secure, and what we long for. The business helps us sleep at night; the Trust helps us dream.

This booklet tells of all the activities of our vibrant community. By reading it you’re joining in this whirlwind of beauty, truth and goodness. I hope like me you’ll say a word of heartfelt thanks to those people whose love and skill and effort and struggle make it all possible; and to the God who calls us and inspires us to follow in the way that leads to eternal life.

Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar
Introduction from the Churchwardens of St Martin-in-the-Fields

The first words that Jesus speaks in John’s gospel are: ‘what are you looking for?’

In some ways, everyone at St Martin’s is looking for something. A visitor looking for a cappuccino. An office worker looking for a moment of quiet before a difficult day. A homeless person looking for respite after a stressful and sleepless night on the streets. A local business looking for a venue. A musician looking to start a professional career. A worshipper looking for peace and grace. A staff member looking for stable employment. A donor looking for a worthwhile cause. A listener looking for inspiration in words and song. A community of faith looking for a renewed vocation.

Much of this is recorded in these pages. Much more is not.

High and low, rich and poor, one with another, looking for beauty, shelter, food, kindness, work, community. Many do not, or cannot, or think not to name what they find; others give it the Name above all names. But for all of them, may they find more than they were looking for. May God make this place life, light, and a glimpse of glory.

Chris Braganza and Catherine Jackson, Churchwardens
St Martin-in-the-Fields Ltd (SMITFL) is at the heart of St Martin’s and also enjoys a strong external reputation. We generate employment for around 130 staff with all employees paid the London Living Wage as a minimum. Our staff team is drawn from many faiths and nations and reflects the wonderful diversity of London.

The surplus from running our operations supports the ongoing activities of the PCC. In addition we provide support for the organisations across site and the infrastructure of the building through our administrative and premises teams. Profits from the commercial enterprises in 2018 were £323,000 compared to £221,000 in 2017. SMITFL also paid a license fee of £97,000 to the PCC.

The uplift in profit was due to a combination of factors, including:

- A successful campaign to draw new visitors to the Café, using the strapline ‘London’s Hidden Café,’ resulting in an additional 38,818 people visiting the Café over a twelve-month period
- Revising the Café opening time from 8am to 10am Monday to Saturday
- Reviewing the menu offer in the Café at different times of the day
- Reviewing the pricing strategy for our concert programme
- Working with an event specialist to refine our offer to external hirers

Visitor numbers to St Martin’s have held up very well in 2019 year to date and we are confident that we will surpass our budget net profit for the PCC this year of £363,000.

In June, with funding support from the Trust, we appointed a Business Development Director to join the SMITFL team to develop our business plans for our commercial activities as part of Building Futures. The initial focus of this new role is to help grow our Events business and to develop plans for the future investment in the Café in the Crypt to ensure its long-term sustainability.
Other operational highlights across SMITFL in the past 12 months have included:

- Cafes: In early summer the Café received accreditation by the Coeliac Society. The team completed a lengthy questionnaire and the kitchen was audited by an external inspector, achieving A grade.
- Events: Upgrade of the AV facility in St Martin’s Hall including a drop down screen and improved audio facility. We also reviewed our pricing, menu offer and speed of our response to enquiries.
- Retail: A re-ordering of the foyer space to give the brass rubbing offer a higher profile.
- Exhibitions: Alongside the congregational art, highlights in the foyer have included the Encounters exhibition linked to the Autumn Education series and the Museum of Homelessness show curated by clients from the Connection.
- Premises: The replacement of damaged glass panels in the pavilion and lightwell was an intricate operation involving the glass manufacturer Tuchschmid and our premises team.

Within SMITFL working has seen the introduction of:

- A brass rubbing and afternoon tea package – available to buy in the Café and the Shop
- A Café discount voucher for event clients booking meetings rooms but no catering
- 20% off hot drinks in the Café if a customer uses their own cup.
- A display of Shop re-usable cup merchandise alongside the coffee machines in the Café
- Vouchers for food and drinks for jazz nights are now available to purchase via Spektrix when booking tickets.
- A working group to attract more group bookings and tour operators to visit SMITF. Over 30 operators attended an evening event hosted by the team to showcase all that SMITF can offer groups with feedback being very positive.

Marketing: The team has run two customer surveys for the Café and Shop, gathering 1000 and 200 responses respectively. Data collated from the survey has created a clear understanding of our current customer base and where we will need to work to develop new customers. Much of the Café feedback has been used to form the basis of the brief for the future development of the Café as part of the Building Futures development programme.

Cross Site Working:

- At the beginning of the year we implemented a new room-booking system Rendezvous, which brings together the room bookings for all spaces across site.
- The Shop team retails the guest speakers’ books for the Autumn Lectures series and reading materials for the Lent Education course and continues to take donations for the Christmas Appeal.
- The Café team provides refreshments for the Sunday coffee, Bread for the World and the Sunday International Group.
- We have representatives from across the SMITFL team who worked on the Accessibility Audit over the summer, and others who meet with the SMAP project group looking at Unconscious Bias.
The Connection:

- The Garden group has expanded its planting in the courtyard in addition to the boxes in the lightwell
- We were delighted to host the Connection’s community breakfast in the Café in the Courtyard in August. This trial will help develop a joint SMITFL / CSTM Café in the Courtyard offer for 2020.
- The Café in the Crypt has sold 4,020 Connection cookies in the past 12 months

Partnerships:

- St James’s Piccadilly - We continue to provide Estate Management services
- Archbishop Tenison’s and St Martin’s High School for Girls - We offered six week-long work placements to Year 10 and Year 12 pupils including students from our partner schools
- Northbank Business Improvement District (BID) - We have supported our local BID through the provision of space in the foyer and courtyard for wellbeing activities for the local community. We also represent SMITF on the Northbank Steering Group for the development of the public realm at the west end of the BID’s footprint.

The second cross-site Summer Party held in July brought together over 100 staff, volunteers, trustees and directors from across the Connection, Trust, Charity, PCC and SMITFL over delicious food and drinks. It was a lovely occasion for people to get to know one another and find out more about other parts of the organisation and we look forward to more opportunities such as this.

Allyson Hargreaves, Executive Director
St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity

The St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity helps people affected by homelessness and those who find themselves vulnerably housed.

We are best known for our annual BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal with St Martin-in-the-Fields. The money we raise directly supports people through The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields and across the UK through the Vicar’s Relief Fund (VRF) and the Frontline Network.

Not everyone who is homeless sleeps on the street. People affected by homelessness have no place where they have the right to stay, or that is reasonable for them to continue living in. Homelessness remains a pressing and significant issue across the UK.

St Martin-in-the-Fields has been known for helping those affected by homelessness for 93 years. This history of care and support has helped to shape both the Vicar’s Relief Fund and Frontline Network, making them sensitive and responsive to the issues facing those on the frontline, and we listen carefully to ideas from those who use our services.

Vicar’s Relief Fund

The Vicar’s Relief Fund (VRF) helps people experiencing homelessness, throughout the UK, through small quick grants that prevent eviction or help people access accommodation. This year we distributed 3,827 awards through 1,569 support workers who had applied on their client’s behalf, representing 967 organisations. This year our average grant increased to £328 (an increase from £271). The team respond to applications quickly, with 84% of decisions made either the same or next day after submission.

Following feedback last year, we were also able to respond to the need for grants for ID which is needed to access accommodation and introduced this into our core grant category of ‘Accessing Accommodation’.

Feedback from support workers

‘I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for supporting my client with this grant. I thought it might also be good to let you know that Mr B has settled well into his new home and feels very thankful for all the support the Vicar’s Relief Fund and other Charities who helped him to gain the essential items to turn his house into a home. Mr B states that words are not enough to explain this but wanted me to pass on his thanks to you.’ - Support Worker, Self Help HA, Bristol

‘Introducing the VRF to the company I work with has saved at least three tenants from homelessness.’ - Anonymous Support Worker

‘These grants are literally a lifeline, and are saving so much heartache and trauma for people who are struggling. This client has three adult children in full time education in this household. And this grant has stopped them from being evicted. Amazing.’ - Support Worker, Shelter Scotland, Edinburgh
St Martin’s Frontline Network
The Frontline Network supports workers from the public, statutory and voluntary sectors working on the frontline with those experiencing homelessness. We work with frontline workers’ ideas and expertise to find ways to support them and their work, and provide opportunities for over 1,200 frontline workers from across the UK to network and share best practice. We also provide funding to support the people frontline workers are supporting, as well as their own professional development.

Since 2017 we have been working with partner organisations across the UK. Our partners have helped us to build the Frontline Network’s work at a local level, by facilitating their Network activities and regularly bringing together frontline workers. Our partners provide:

- Opportunities for frontline workers to regularly come together in their areas – to network, share experiences and expertise
- The potential to explore solutions to key issues affecting staff and people they are supporting
- Links between the frontline voice and decision makers

At a national level we provide opportunities for frontline workers from across the UK to come together at our annual conference, as well as providing funding to turn their ideas into practice. We also provide a regular opportunity for frontline workers to have their voice heard through our Annual Frontline Worker Survey.

As the Frontline Network has grown over the past year, so has our impact. Our Impact at a glance:
• 1262 registered members
• 800 frontline workers responded to the Annual Frontline Worker Survey 2018
• 40 events for frontline workers held across the UK
• 1150 frontline workers attending Frontline Network events
• Facilitating a Scottish Government consultation with frontline workers on how to spend £50 million over the next 5 years to end rough sleeping and homelessness in Scotland
• Building good relationships with DWP – and subsequently being invited to their consultation on updating their homelessness guides for DWP practitioners, a key area of concern with the introduction of Universal Credit

Feedback from conference attendees
‘Encouraged that there are many services pushing for some changes with the system and people who care’

‘New information and positive vibes’

‘Ideas to take back to work. We are great people trying to change lives. Had a good moan, feel better being able to talk freely about pressure and demands’

‘Be kind to myself, mindfulness in life and work. Suggestions to share at the office about wellbeing’

The Connection at St Martin’s
Our support for The Connection at St Martin’s is more essential than ever. It provides services to people who are experiencing homelessness to identify their strengths, and to help them to avoid, move away and stay away from the streets. We made a grant of £1m to support the work of The Connection.

Tim Bissett, Director

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust

In October 2018 the St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust officially launched the Building Futures campaign. The campaign will keep our beautiful buildings open, provide opportunity, sanctuary and support for everyone, and will also enhance our social, cultural and theological programmes. Over 20% of the £25m goal has been raised, giving us a solid foundation to invest and plan for the future.

In 2018/19 we renewed our relationship with Eric Parry Architects to help us better understand our building and spaces and identify ways to improve them for the entire community. As a result of many generous donations from individuals, grant-making trusts, legacy gifts we have been able to commit funding for the HeartEdge Network, both the Choral Scholars and St Martin's Voices programmes and the filming of the Quality of Mercy Autumn Lecture Series. We’ve been able to invest in the much-needed renovations to the North Range, and even found time to develop and launch a new initiative with St Martin’s Charity called the Key Fund, tackling homelessness in London.
Every gift we receive is vital to helping someone lead a better, safer or more enriched life, and we are incredibly grateful to all of our supporters and Cornerstone Club members. But there is still a long way to go. We need the support of our friends and networks to ensure that St Martin’s remains a force for good.

If you want to be part of our story, please contact the Trust on development@smitf.org or telephone 020 7766 1132. We’d love to hear from you.

*Katy Shaw, Director*

**Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association and Community Centre**

Founded in 1984 in memory of Bishop Ronald Owen Hall, Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association and Community Centre (BHMWA) is an independent charity. Its mission is to enhance and improve the quality of life of all residents, particularly the Chinese community, in London through support, influence, information and enrichment.

Our work focuses on helping vulnerable and disadvantaged people and promoting social integration and community spirit. About 82% of our 1,000+ membership are older Chinese people, with many having spent their working lives in all Chinese environments. In 2018/19 over 250 regularly travelled from across Greater London and nearby counties to take part in activities we offered. To many, the Centre provides a safe environment for socialising, keeping fit and healthy, learning new skills, and finding new ways to integrate into society whilst retaining one's culture.

In 2018/19, the Luncheon Club served 2,800 freshly cooked healthy Chinese meals. The Healthy Living programme ran regular classes in Tai Chi (135 sessions) and Line Dance (99 sessions); held monthly Health Talks and Chats-after-Lunch (20 sessions) and organised 9 community walks across the London region. The Enrichment programme offered opportunities to learn English, Chinese, Chinese Painting and Chinese Calligraphy (35 sessions each). Chinese-speaking Befrienders paid home visits to 39 elderly people. The Homework Club service for new immigrant children completed its fifth year. In partnership
with the Metropolitan Police, a trial Volunteer Police Cadet Unit was run in January 2019 attracting 9 young people aged 11-16 years to join.

In order to meet a variety of needs that are ever changing, we constantly explore new and improved services in ensuring holistic approach is taken in what we do. Without the support of many individuals, our work would not be possible. We particularly want to thank St Martin’s, our staff, trustees and volunteers for their hard work and everyone who supports us, giving us the confidence to move forward. We are also very grateful to our donors who very generously responded to our appeal for financial support.

*Alice Chan, Chair*

**The Connection at St Martin’s**

The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields helps thousands of people every year to move away from, and stay off, the streets of London. We do this by tackling the underlying causes of rough sleeping as well as offering practical help.

We are based just off the Strand in Westminster, the most concentrated area of rough sleeping in the UK. It’s estimated that 1 in 15 of all rough sleepers in England are found here, and the total number of people on the streets is up 20% on last year.

We provide tailored employment support and training, volunteering opportunities and housing advice. We also provide a variety of specialist services to help clients cope with the physical and psychological effects of being homeless, empowering them to develop their strengths and ability to change their own future and recover from homelessness – working with clients, not for them.

We provide a range of activity groups which reduce isolation and encourage people to explore or discover new interests.

We also offer hot meals and showers, access to medical appointments and somewhere warm and safe to sleep in our Emergency Accommodation.

This year we have helped 2,683 people through our range of services.

Aside from ‘business as usual’, this year we have designed and implemented our new service model, which launched in October 2018. This has been developed to focus provision on working with clients through their ‘journey’: from engagement, through recovery towards independence.
The implementation of this new model provided the opportunity to embed important principles of co-production (working with our clients in partnership) and a strengths-based approach (acknowledging the skills and attributes of our clients as well as what has gone wrong) across all aspects of service provision. We have worked with clients on the design, delivery and evaluation of services, recognising their expertise having used our services themselves to influence and shape our work. This has included launching a new Client Advisory Panel, re-designing our assessment materials and reception area and reviewing our Recovery Programme.

We have also launched our pioneering day time Street Engagement Team, who are working with some of the most vulnerable people in our community. The team has engaged with over 370 rough sleepers so far, many of whom were disengaged with services prior to our involvement.

We also expanded our Emergency Accommodation from 45 to 75 beds, ensuring we can help more rough sleepers to transition away from the streets.

Supporting homeless people is a complex job and we can’t do it alone. Therefore we’ve been working closely with other professionals including NHS nurses, mental health and substance misuse specialists. We have also established new relationships including the development of a legal advice service with our partners at Release.

During the year, we also prepared the ground for developing enterprise and trading activity – for example working with St Martin-in-the-Fields Ltd to develop plans to supply the Café in the Crypt from our own kitchen in the future. We also intend to create an on-line trading platform to sell merchandise, some of which will include design work from our clients.

Alice Williams

Archers

Archers is a group comprised mostly, but not exclusively, of more senior members of the congregation. The group meets monthly, usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. Each meeting starts with a Eucharistic celebration followed by a meal and a discussion, usually on a spiritual or seasonal topic. The monthly gathering is usually attended by 15-25 people. The group conveners are Ruth Hutchinson and Michael Moran. Revd Richard Carter is the group chaplain and chief cook with Jamie Poncia and the food is always delicious. New members are always welcome.

Michael Moran

Archives

Looking forward through the rear-view mirror
The volunteer archival team are a varied group who have focused on particular aspects over the past year. Norma Fromow has maintained our photographic records of the work of the Congregational Arts and Craftspeople, of the church buildings, and the many and varied...
events held throughout the year, as well as pictures of individual congregational members and clergy. Dudley Green has identified articles in the St Martin’s Review Parish Magazines of the 1920s that are of particular interest today. Michael Hellyer has put together commemorative displays of long standing members of our community, and to mark selected events such as Revd Katherine Hedderly’s move from St Martin’s to All Hallows-by-the-Tower, and answered the day by day enquiries from the public in both the UK and Overseas. Helen Riley has researched and written about the PM Boys' Club. Sally Scott has reviewed articles and lists of musical performances over the past 70 years. Ursula Sullivan has continued the regular weekly by week filing of church newsletters, Pipelines, services, concert flyers, hard copies of sermons, HeartEdge and the Nazareth Community. Peter Wood has continued his thorough historical research about Social Care at St Martin’s over the past 100 years and gave an excellent talk on this at an event organised by The Connection at St Martin’s. Victor Grant, who now lives in Bristol, has kept in touch; and Stephen Green has been a wonderful resource and supplier of press cuttings and references related to St Martin’s, which the rest of us would not have discovered without his initiative.

The Archives work closely with, and are dependent upon, many other parts of St Martin’s: the Vergers; the Trust; The Connection, to whose Homelessness exhibition in the Crypt we have contributed historic pictures; Club Wednesday; the Church Co-ordinator, Harriet Merz (enquiries); Jasmine Oakes (newsletter); Sarah Jackson and Julie Emig (communications); the Friends; Sarah Martin (shop); Music Dept; and the clergy on a whole range of items.

One particular project illustrates something of the interaction of these links. At the turn of the year 2018 to 2019, we received two enquiries about the PM Boys' Club: one from Robert Bellingham in Australia, a former member of the Club, the other from the current Chair of the PM Trust, Ruston Toms. Both wanted to know how St Martin’s had become involved in the provision of a vault from 1946-1982 for young men and women in catering. Their work occupied them at lunchtime and dinnertime, but they were at a loose end, and free to get into mischief during the afternoons, because there was nothing for them to do at that time. St Martin’s provided space for the club and facilities, such as snooker and table tennis, to keep them meaningfully occupied. The Trust hosted a lunch to bring the interested parties together to complete the story. St Martin’s had collaborated with the catering industry, relevant government and local government departments and the PM Trust to meet this need. It was named ‘PM’ because it met in the afternoons. PM also meant ‘Prime Minister’, and Clement Attlee agreed to be patron of the Club. Helen Riley has been at the centre of this project and the paper ‘Archival Anecdotes No 1 - SMITF and the PM Boys Club’ tells the full story. It is available, free of charge, either as an electronic document or hard copy, by contacting us by emailing archives@smitf.org.

Michael J Hellyer, Church Archives
Artists and craftspeople

The artists and craftspeople’s group continues to run a monthly Drawing Club, the monthly Foyer display and Oasis workshops in Advent and Lent. The group also supports the organisation of two talks per year on aspects of Chinese Art, together with our Chinese congregations. This year these talks were on the themes of 'The meaning of decoration on Chinese Ceramics' and 'Pots and thrones: ritual bronze vessels of the Shang and Zhou dynasties'. ‘Leaves for Healing’ was a two-part exhibition organised by the group. During Lent the exhibition ran from 6 March - 20 April and in Eastertide from 21 April - 9 June. The theme was taken from Ezekiel 47:1-12, a vision of a transformed desert landscape. Eighteen artists from the congregation showed work; some of which was created in the Drawing Club and art workshops organised by the group. The exhibition utilised imagery the Ezekiel passage to explore themes of flourishing, growth, healing and worship. The two halves of the exhibition reflected the transition from wilderness to fertile land. Our thanks to Vicky Howard for leading the Drawing Club, Sarah Sikorski and Noriko Inagaki for Oasis workshops, Genevieve Hamilton for the Chinese Art talks, and all who exhibited in ‘Leaves for Healing’ and the Foyer displays.

Rvvd Jonathan Evens

Bellringers

Since September last year the St Martin’s ringing room has hosted hundreds of ringers from across London and the UK. With various bands, including our own, ringing for practices as well as attempting more complex, longer pieces of ringing. These have included quarter peals rung after services - Stedman Caters in March as a farewell to Katherine Hedderly, Bristol Maximus in April - a first for the Vice Captain, and Bristol Major in May - a first for the Treasurer, first on 8 for a new member of the band, rung to welcome Sally Hitchiner. The Guild of Medical ringers rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples for the memorial service of Dr Peter Fisher.

On top of this we have also rung for a number of weddings and memorial services. We’re always proud to send off happy couples to the traditional sounds of bell ringing, as well as
having the chance to honour the memory of notable individuals. On Remembrance Sunday, we ring the bells half-muffled – an unforgettable and moving sound.

The most important (and busy!) time for us is Christmas, last year just a few of the services we rang for were the Advent Carols service, Nine Lessons and Carols, Community Carols, Christmas Eve and of course Christmas Day, this is in addition to the regular Sunday services. We’re very pleased to contribute to the traditional sounds of London by ringing out across the city during the Christmas period.

We also have a few notable events coming up in the year, these include opening up the tower to the public for London Open House on 21 September. This is a great opportunity to showcase the ringers and the bells, as well as for visitors to get a fabulous sneak peek over Trafalgar Square from the ringing room.

This has been a challenging year for the band, with several members having serious health issues. Thankfully we have managed to attract some new people into the regular service band and for the most part, numbers have slightly increased compared to last year, following a decade of decline.

Looking ahead, both the Southwark Cathedral and Middlesex Association will ring quarter peals for services. There will also be peal attempts by a Hertfordshire band and the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.

We’re always up here on a Sunday, and anyone is welcome to come and see the ringing 9.00-10.00. www.smitf-bell.co.uk

Geoff Foster, Secretary

**Bread for the World**

On Wednesday evenings Bread for the World brings together a mid-week community around the Eucharist, with music from our Choral Scholars and reflections and liturgy, led by members of the community. This last year attendance has really grown with a lively and diverse congregation of between 60-80 people gathering each week including many members of the Nazareth Community. The evening continues with supper together and the opportunity to explore faith in small listening groups. These groups seek to listen to one another as we reflect upon the meaning of the Gospel in the context of our own lives and are places where everybody’s voice is important. Bread for the World evenings have been led by different groups at St Martin’s, including, our Global Neighbours Committee, our Choir and Choral Scholars, our Nazareth Community, our Disability Advisory Group and our Sheppard
Scholars. We have focused on areas including Prisons Week, Homelessness, Christian Aid, Black History Month, contemplative prayer and Godly Play.

We have welcomed guests speakers and groups Fr Bernard Lynch speaking about his ministry and work with those with HIV/AIDS, Br Sam from the Society of St Francis talking about the vows of religious life, Refugees are Us, talking about the experiences of asylum seekers in this country, the Melanesian Brothers, Solomon Islands speaking about religious life in the South Pacific, and individual members of the community have shared about their life and faith. The BFTW community hosts the Lent Course each year. This year was the most successful ever with 120-140 people gathering each week to reflect upon The Confessions of St Augustine.

Wednesday nights have become a focus in the week to come together as an open welcoming community and build one another up through Sacrament, Sharing and Scripture. It is open to all. There are many ways to be involved in the evening, in the service, the groups and in the hospitality and welcome, so do let our Pastoral Assistant know if you’d like to take part.

Revd Richard Carter

**Breakfast Group**

The St Martin’s Breakfast Group is a small group that meets fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays at 7.45am. Although we met in the Crypt for many years, we now currently meet in Café La Roche on St Martin’s Lane. Over breakfast, we read a Bible passage, selected from the lectionary for that particular day, and discuss what it means to us. We then share what’s going on in our lives. We started out nearly a decade ago as a work-focused group, but we certainly don’t mean to exclude those who aren’t in ‘traditional’ work. Dan Kaszeta and Phyllis Santa Maria are the co-coordinators of the group. Feel free to contact Dan via the Verger’s vestry or at dan@kaszeta.org to be added to our email list.

Dan Kaszeta

**C-Club**

After the 10am service, and a suitable number of biscuits, the children gather together in the Dick Sheppard Chapel for their time to unpack and explore faith, with friendship, fellowship and fun, led by the Pastoral Assistant. Children from the age of 5 up are very welcome to attend, as are adults when accompanied by a child.

Our sessions seek to respond creatively to one of the Bible readings from the 10am service - asking some of the questions that the passage encourages, thinking what is meaningful to me in the passage, and embedding these things in a craft or a drama.

The children stay in for the 10am service, with several taking part in carrying the Gospel candles, and reading. Each week there are reading guides, with colouring and word searches included to make the texts more accessible.
Over the past year, the children have continued to have key roles in the dramatization of the Christmas Nativity and their own Good Friday service in the morning.

A crèche for under-4s runs throughout the year, staffed by two trained childcare workers during the 10am Sunday service.

Brandon Fletcher-James

Chinese Congregations

Our Story
The Chinese Congregation started at St Martin over 50 years ago, with the help of Revd Austen Williams. In the beginning our services took place in the old unfurnished crypt, and the first service had 13 attendants. The services mainly catered for the restaurant workers working in Chinatown, who came from Hong Kong and spoke Cantonese. In the 80s, with the rise of economic growth in Hong Kong, our congregation saw an increase of overseas mature students, who brought lots of energy and talents to our community and, as a result, we grew in size as well as diversity. There were different groups and fellowships to suit different needs, and our services are now held in the Church rather than the crypt. Shortly after the millennium, again with the rise of China’s economy, the then Bishop of London, Rt Revd Richard Charters saw the change in the Chinese community in London, and encouraged us to listen once again to the needs of our congregation, and the first Mandarin service was held in the old Dick Sheppard Chapel. Since then the Mandarin service has taken place at 1pm followed by a Cantonese service at 2.15pm.

The pattern of Chinese services remained the same until June this year. After 19 years, we said goodbye to our beloved Revd Paul Lau, who offered his faithful service to the Chinese Congregation and wider St Martin’s and retired in June. A beautiful joint English and
Chinese service was held in the morning, and a joint Cantonese and Mandarin service with Bishop of West Kowloon (Hong Kong), Rt Revd Andrew Chan, was held in the afternoon to mark Revd Lau’s ministry and retirement. The send-off for Revd Lau by the St Martin’s clergy and Bishop Andrew was very touching and meaningful, and we are thankful for everyone who planned and took part in both services.

New Beginning
For 55 years, the Chinese Congregation has been a part of St Martin’s but also remained a separate entirety. We are on the same electoral roll but yet we operate separately; we share the same space but yet we (sometimes) do things differently or at least same things but at different times; we are proud of being part of St Martin’s but we celebrate our own identity as well.

Some years ago we started to explore the possibilities and options for the future for the Chinese Congregation. We have looked outwards and inwards, we have made plans for different paths, but in the end we found that we are back to where we started. In April 2018, at our Annual Church Meeting, the Chinese Congregation has voted to be totally integrated into St Martin-in-the-Fields. If this has been a journey, we have been on a humble, exciting, fruitful, confusing, agreeing, disagreeing, happy, sad, adventurous one, and we are ready to embrace our new but familiar identity.

Our Activities
Sunday Service
After the retirement of Revd Lau, given that he was our main preacher and officiant for our Eucharists, we have combined our two Chinese services into one joint service at 1.30pm. For now, a Eucharist takes place once a month, officiated by a member of St Martin’s clergy team; and non-Eucharist services on other Sundays. Our two Lay Ministers, Mr Eugene Ling and Mrs Ruly Tsang, preach in Cantonese; and Miss Wendy Zhao, who is training for Lay Ministry, preaches in Mandarin. The services use both languages (Cantonese and Mandarin), and the Eucharist has all three languages (English, Cantonese and Mandarin). It is a great challenge for us to make sure the services run smoothly, and a lot of effort and time has gone into making sure the translations are available.

Choir
Our choir members are originally from Hong Kong and sing in Cantonese, although sometimes, with practice, would sing in English and Mandarin as well.

Sunday School
Our children’s ages range from 4 to 11. The lessons are taught in English and children learn through Bible text and fun activities. We also set aside some time for some Chinese learning during lessons.

Fellowships and Cell Group
Emmaus (Mandarin) – Emmaus Fellowship meets after the service each Sunday, sharing and learning through Bible text and prayers.

Paul (Cantonese) – Paul Fellowship takes place every 2nd and 4th Sunday after service. Members consist of mainly more senior members (but not all). The fellowship enjoy each other’s company, support each other through prayers and Bible study.
Cell Group (Cantonese) – Cell Group is a smaller and closer group, where regular cell members meet every other Sunday, to have in-depth and maybe more personal discussions.

Young Adult Fellowship (Cantonese) – Young Adult Fellowship meets twice a month, members work and live in and around London. Through discussion and prayer, the group learn from and support each other. At the moment the group is looking at John Stott’s Through the Bible through the year.

Regional Bible Study Group – For those who live slightly further from London to meet on weekdays.

Away Day
In November the Away Day took place at St James the Less and Revd Lis Goddard, Vicar of St James the Less, was our guest speaker. Through the story of Exodus, she helped us to trust God’s leadership and we were assured of God’s invisible hands holding and protecting us, even though the future of our congregation was not clear.

Lunar Chinese New Year
The Lunar Chinese New Year is a symbol of unity and community. We celebrated Chinese New Year together with the English-speaking members in the 10am service and a party afterwards, where we shared our culture, our food and our joy.

Lent and Holy Week
We produced a Lent book to help brothers and sisters to pray and meditate through Lent. Holy Week begins with a Palm Sunday service where we had a small procession from St Martin’s courtyard to the church. Passover meal followed by the washing of the feet service was on Maundy Thursday, and Stations of the Cross service on Good Friday, all three of which took place in Bishop Hall Ming Wah Centre. Easter Sunday Service was a celebration and followed by an Easter party.

Other Activity
On 24 Mar 2019, we held an evangelical music sharing event organised by the Restaurant Ministry.

In October, the Chinese Congregation became the Chinese Sub-Committee of St Martin-in-the-Fields. We look forward to starting a new chapter at St Martin’s and we look forward to developing our ministry, within the big family of St Martin’s, to respond to the calling of God and the needs of our time.

*Wilson Yu*

**Club Wednesday**

Club Wednesday meets on the first Wednesday of every month. It begins with Choral Eucharist at 1.00pm held in the church. After this, regular members or visitors and all who are interested are invited over to 6 St Martin’s Place to join us for a light lunch in the George Richards Room. This is followed by a talk in the Austen Williams Room on a subject of
interest often given by interesting visiting speakers, a member of the St Martin’s community or someone connected with the church and we have enjoyed some really fascinating talks in the last year.

Richard and Brandon run the group, and are always ready to receive suggestions for new topics or volunteers. The group is especially aimed at the senior members of our congregation and other visitors, but in true St Martin’s tradition, it is open and welcoming of all who would like to come.

Revd Richard Carter

Cricket

This season saw the team take on three teams over the summer, being the standard fixtures between St Mary’s Wimbledon, All Saints Fulham and the Caribs XI.

The match against St Mary's was a somewhat under-attended affair, as we had to resort to borrowing a few players from the opposition. Nonetheless, St Martin's put on a competitive total thanks to a solid innings from skipper Roland, Adnan and Sharien. This was followed by an exemplary bowling performance from paceman Ramesh, supported well by the more steady bowling of Matt and Majid, as well as the bamboozling spin of Adnan. Newcomer Harriet also took to the field and gave a fine fielding display, resulting in us bowling them all out comfortably under our total.

Sadly, such success was short lived in our outing against All Saints Fulham, despite us having the opposite problem of having too many players this time. They put on a solid, but not unassailable lead, pinned back thanks to some truly brilliant and acrobatic fielding from both Matt and Johnathan. However, their pace attack proved too strong for us as we just fell short of the total. However, the margin is getting smaller each year, so there is hope for victory next year.

Finally, we produced a strong display against the Caribs XI this year. With both Ramesh's pace once again causing the opposition problems and a fine batting display from veterans Adnan and Sharien, as well as newcomer Luke, we managed to win by quite a substantial margin.

Finishing the year with two victories and one loss was certainly a positive for the team and we will be looking to continue on our successes next year. If you are interested in joining the cricket team, please contact Roland Merz at rolandmerzcricket@gmail.com. We are always looking for new players, no matter what skill level.

Roland Merz
**Disability Advisory Group**

The Disability Advisory Group (DAG) brings together people with experience of physical, sensory, cognitive or mental health issues or neurodiversity, whether from our own lives or from a support, caring or professional role. We aim to increase access and participation at St Martin’s – both getting in and joining in. Open meetings once a term each have a particular focus; ideas are collated and communicated across St Martin’s by a small team and via the Disability Cross Site Working Group

**In 2018/19**

- We worked with the Disability Cross-Site Working Group to prepare for and participate in an external access audit. We had ideas for Building Futures, hosted workshops on access and writing liturgy and shared experience of barriers and belonging. We encouraged the wider community to join in via the marketplace and supporting the conference weekend, and told our story to the wider world.

- We held *Something Worth Sharing*, our seventh annual conference on disability and church in partnership with Inclusive Church. 75 people came from across the country to explore ways to create change - including the model of our own DAG. The St Luke's Day service used liturgy written by the DAG & Healing team. A special screening of the documentary *Defiant Lives* told the story of the disability rights movement, followed by a lively panel challenged the church to action.

- We produced *Something Worth Sharing* as a booklet to share the learning and ideas with the wider Church. An online version was launched at Greenbelt ahead of the official launch at our October conference. Copies can be downloaded at [https://www.inclusive-church/disability](https://www.inclusive-church/disability)

- We celebrated our fifth birthday with a party. We outlined the access audit report, marked the sharing of our story in the new booklet, and thanked the many friends and colleagues who have supported, encouraged and enabled this work.
We are thankful for

- the generous support of the wider St Martin’s community – particularly our clergy and congregations; Education, Hospitality and Stewards; Shop, Café, Events and Marketing teams
- the conference planning team, Inclusive Church trustees and Westhill Trust
- the Disability Cross Site Working Group, Building Futures and Trust teams
- DAG members – Carol Ashby, Elizabeth Matthews, Genevieve Hamilton, Hannah Reed, Huw Mathias, Ingrid Philion, Jamie Poncia, Jeff Claxton, Jon Sandford, Jonathan Evens, Justin Hedley, Kristine Wellington, Lee Gibbs, Lois Bentley, Michael Moran, Renate Rothwell, Roger Shaljean, Rosida Simrick, Ruth Hutchinson, Shirley Lee, Sue Lawson and Susan Wolfe
- Ali Lyon RIP, who was a beloved blessing at the heart of our work; questioning, encouraging and weaving our stories together

Meetings are always open. There are lots of ways to join in. Questions, ideas and offers are equally welcome. Our email address is disability@smitf.org

Fiona MacMillan

Education

The 2018 Autumn Lectures used the theme ‘Encounter’ – how we have been changed by the people, places and events that we have encountered. The line-up included Rowan Williams and Justin Welby, a concert by Woven Gold, a visit to a mosque for one of the lectures, an exhibition in the foyer by Nicola Green, and the publication of a book, ‘Encounters: The Art of Interfaith Dialogue’. For the first time we organised professional filming, funded by the Trust, which has enabled us to share the material to a much wider audience, particularly we hoped the HeartEdge network.

For the Lent 2019 series, our inspiration was St Augustine’s Confessions, edited by Fr Benignus O’Rourke OSA. We had over 120 registered and attending this year – our largest number ever. The feedback was overall very positive indeed, and provides us with valuable comments and suggestions that we always appreciate. According to the feedback, around a third of the people attending are new to St Martin’s education events.

Worth Abbey was fully booked, so this year we had our second annual away day in succession, breaking our tradition of alternating with an away weekend. (We plan to revert to the away weekend for 2020.) 85 members of the congregation attended our away day at
the Focolare Centre in Welwyn Garden City, in July. The theme was ‘What is Church?’

drawing on the book, Seven Marks of a Healthy Church.

In the last year, the Education Committee has also provided support for the Disability
Conference (October), the Theology Away Day (February) and the Silent Retreat (also
February).

My thanks to all the committee members for all their contributions through the year: Richard Carter, Duncan McCall, Hannah Reed, Francesco Aresco, Amanda Tan and Wendy Quill. We said goodbye to Georgie Illingworth, and have recently welcomed Jess White and Brandon Fletcher-James.

Martin Haigh, Chairman

Flower Arrangers

We have had a wonderful year arranging flowers in Church celebrating all the major festivals
as well as weddings and funerals with grateful thanks to the congregation and the Friends of
St Martin’s whose generosity is so much appreciated. Thank you also to our loyal band of
flower arrangers. We welcome new recruits (no experience needed); it is a wonderful form of
ministry.

Rosanne Townsend

Friends of St Martin’s

The Friends started in 1953 as a fellowship group for church members. No other such groups
existed in St Martin’s at the time. It acts as a ‘Bridge to Belonging’ to a worldwide community
which shares the vision and supports the mission of SMITF by linking people around the
world with the church community in Trafalgar Square and with each other.

Our principal purpose is to make friends and support friendship by developing a Friends
programme which provides opportunities to build social fellowship.

This year our theme is ‘bringing people together’ and highlighting how the donations we
receive help contribute to the lives of those in less fortunate circumstances.

Projects we support include the Sunday International Group and the
renewal of the partnership between St
Martin’s and St Mary’s Cathedral,
Johannesburg where our Vicar, Sam
Wells, members of the congregation
and 20 members of our choir visited
this year. The choir had a very busy
programme of workshops, furthering
our international relationships in
Soweto and Sophia Town and
extending the mission of their church and ours. We have also contributed towards the church flowers throughout the year.

Committee members for 2018/19 are Bob Demming, Chairman; Andrew Goodhart, Treasurer and Membership Secretary; Ruth Wooldridge, Kristine Wellington, Tony Cox, Paul Taylor, Anne Langley and David Sapsford.

We are actively seeking new committee members to fill the roles of Secretary to the organisation, Newsletter editor and Social Secretary.

Bob Demming, Chairman

Friends of The Connection at St Martin’s

The Friends of the Connection exists to raise awareness of homelessness, and raise funds to support The Connection. In our last financial year, we were able to donate £284,000 to the Connection, which was a £7000 increase on the previous year. We were able to do this particularly because our income from sources other than legacies was £62,000 up on the previous year, reaching a total of £210,000.

Some of our key activities over the last year included the following:

- Our 2019 Spring Appeal raised over £22,000 towards the cost of travel expenses for clients, meeting the bulk of The Connection’s annual budget for enabling clients to travel to job interviews, work placements, medical appointments and training opportunities.
- We organised the second Connection Coffee Morning to mark World Homeless Day on or around 10 October 2018, with 11 Coffee Mornings, Tea Parties or Bake Sales organised by Friends in their home neighbourhoods across southern England raising a total of £1,448.
- We collaborated with the Brandenburg Choral Festival to hold a further evening involving a talk in The Connection, a meal in the Café in the Crypt, and a concert in St Martin-in-the-Fields. Thanks to the generous support of the Brandenburg Choral Festival, this one evening raised over £2,500, as well as opening up The Connection and issues of homelessness to new people;
- Our Speakers Panel undertook 10 engagements, including talks to school pupils, church groups, retired nurses, and a U3A group;
- The 11th Queen Eleanor Cycle Ride took place as usual over the August Bank Holiday weekend. 20 cyclists sweltered through one of the hottest weekends of the year, with 16 completing the 4-day 200-mile ride from near Lincoln to London. We expect the total raised to exceed £12,000.
- Our Annual Friends’ Day took place on 29 June, another of the hottest days of the year, when we had an excellent presentation on the work of the Enterprise and Employment Team, and learnt how important employment is as a key to independence for many of the Connection’s clients.

During the year, our long-standing Honorary Secretary, Nigel Thorpe, stepped down from the role, but we were delighted to be able to elect a professional company secretary, Graham Lawrence, to take his place. Graham worked for St Martin’s Social Care Unit before its merger into The Connection.
This year we also said goodbye to our first part-time Charity Administrator, Bert-Jan Zuiderduin, and welcomed Rupert Dean in his stead. Rupert provides essential support to the Treasurer, and the rest of the Committee, who also rely heavily on a team of volunteers who help with mailings, in the office, and with fundraising events.

Our success ultimately depends on the support of our Friends. If you are not a Friend, why not join? You are anyway welcome at any of our activities - for further details go to our website www.friendsoftheconnection.org.uk or contact Rupert at friends@cstm.org.uk or on 020 7766 5522.

Charles Woodd, Chair

Global Neighbours Committee

The Global Neighbours committee aims to keep global concerns at the heart of St Martin’s and to facilitate links and partnerships with organisations and communities overseas. We allocate our budget from the PCC (currently £10,500) to grassroots organisations and groups, usually with a connection to a member of the St Martin’s community. Stories and news from these global neighbours have been shared through occasional updates in the Parish Pipeline, Sunday morning presentations such as Martin Haigh’s talk about his visit to Melanesia, in the Harvest festival service and the annual prayer booklet.

In 2019 grants have been made (or are planned) to the following organisations with which we have an ongoing relationship:

- £1000 – SENEthiopia working with children with special education needs in Tigray region of Ethiopia
- £1000 – Patashala school, based in the slums of Hyderabad, India
- £1000 – Tariro, supporting orphans and vulnerable children through education in Zimbabwe
- £500 – Community Support Nepal, supporting street children at a home in Kathmandu
- £1000 – Fikelela, HIV/AIDS charity in Cape Town for HIV prevention work with children and youth.
- £1000 – Tree of Life, drug rehabilitation work in a slum near Cape Town (one-off donation)
- £1000 – St Luke’s Hospital, Malawi to upgrade a nurse to diploma level
- At least £700 – Sisters of Melanesia to extend solar power to more of their buildings
- £1000 – USPG Anglican mission society improving opportunities for families of impoverished tea planters in Sri Lanka.
- £1000 – Helen Bamber Foundation, supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the UK who have experienced extreme cruelty such as torture

In addition, a one-off donation of £1000 was given to the Disaster Emergency Committee’s Cyclone Idai appeal.
The partnership with St Mary’s Cathedral, Johannesburg, has continued to grow. Our choir returned from their South African tour, full of enthusiasm with stories and songs to share. Jonathan Evens visited this September and joined in their 90th anniversary celebrations. During the service the cathedral presented its concept document for the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Precinct to the Mayor of Johannesburg, and has subsequently garnered media coverage for its proposals. This has provided an excellent basis for more detailed discussions with the City Council. Jonathan also met with young people at the Cathedral to explore their understandings of leadership and to discuss practical arrangements with the group coming to visit us next year. We are preparing a programme to deliver input on leadership, formation, outreach and theology.

With thanks to all the committee, Edward Bacon (secretary), Angela Dawnson, Phyllis Santa-Maria, Ruth Wooldridge, Ramesh Puvaneswaran, Jane Portal, Bella Ikpasaga, Ike Anya and Jonathan Evens.

_Susannah Woodd, Chair_

**God of Surprises**

The God of Surprises group started meeting after the 2014 Lent Course and has been meeting monthly ever since. During the past year the group completed reading Sam Wells’ book *Incarnational Ministry: Being with the Church*. In September the group began to read Rowan Williams’ book *A Silent Action: Engagements with Thomas Merton*. The group usually meets monthly on a Monday or Tuesday evening, in one of the church’s small meeting rooms. New members are always welcome. The group conveners are Duncan McCall and Michael Moran.

*Michael Moran*
This year HeartEdge membership has grown to 100 churches and other organisations. This includes our first Training Institution in the UK, Ripon College Cuddesdon, and 20 US churches sponsored by our partner TryTank Experimental Labs, an initiative of General and Virginia Theological Seminaries in the US. We have delivered 6 introductory days, 9 consultancy days, 2 events exploring one of the 4Cs, 5 other presentations (including the Greater Churches Network, Greenbelt, SMITF Parish Away Day, and a visit to St Mary’s Cathedral Johannesburg), plus the second HeartEdge conference which was held in Edinburgh. Sam Wells gave the Chalmers Lectures on the theology and approaches of HeartEdge, now published as *A Future that’s Bigger Than The Past*. Adept Design has completed the design of the new HeartEdge website which will be launched shortly following staff training and content finalisation. Adept also designed our Impact Report which reviews the first two years of HeartEdge. Georgina Illingworth was our first Sheppard Scholar and established, with Sam Wells, the Sheppard Scholar programme. Jessica White and Brandon Fletcher James have been appointed as Sheppard Scholars at SMITF and began in their HeartEdge and congregational roles at the beginning of September. They are joined this year by Sheppard Scholars at St Peter & All Saints Nottingham, St Peter Mancroft Norwich and St Cuthbert’s Edinburgh; a total of six Sheppard Scholars. SMITF has been appointed by the Diocese of London as a Resource Church, with HeartEdge as the resource we are offering to the Diocese. This initiative comes with Strategic Development Fund monies for an Assistant Vicar Partnership Development post. Revd Catherine Duce began in that post on 1 October 2019 and was licensed by the Bishop of Islington on 9 October.

*Jonathan Evens*
Reverend Richard Carter, with the help of Pastoral Assistant Georgie, introduced a new team system to Sunday morning refreshments over the last year. With a five-weekly rota and team leaders. The Eeyore in me said ‘it would never work’, but it jolly well has. Grateful thanks to all who have offered a Sunday a month to serve refreshments and to the Team Leaders. For the newcomer, it is a great way of meeting people either in the team or serving.

If you would like to join us please chat to anyone behind the table or me or email Michelle Yap who will happy slot you in to a Sunday most convenient to you. Thanks to Richard for approaching and ‘volunteering’ helpers.

Over the past 12 months we have celebrated Baptisms, Departures, Special Birthdays and Anniversaries, Book Launches, Easter Breakfasts, Patronal Suppers, and lots more.

Along with the Chinese congregation, we shared a fond farewell to Revd Paul Lau as he entered retirement. We also said goodbye to Revd Katherine Hedderly and Loren. Katherine’s joining St Martin’s nine years ago was the impetus to the rebirth of the Hospitality Committee as Richard, Michael Angus and I plus others speedily produced a welcome party for her. Loren enjoyed the party so much that he joined our fledgling team offering his wonderful cooking and organisational skills. For a number of years he, Richard and teams produced wonderful curries, etc. for the Patronal Supper plus Easter Breakfasts including hand painted Easter Eggs. We are so grateful to Loren for his energy and imagination and fun and will miss both Katherine and Loren.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with any of these events and throughout the year. We can’t do it with the good natured support of Ladka and the Café staff, the Vergers, Security Staff, the Chinese Congregation and their kitchen, and all from the English Speaking Congregation who help when encouraged. Enormous thanks to Richard for doing all the pre-planning, ordering, shopping, collecting, cooking and basically everything.

Look forward to YOU joining the Sunday morning refreshment team.

Bron Sanders
Liturgical Ministry and Prayer

There are many opportunities for all ages to take part in our worship and liturgy at St Martin’s as a reader, server, intercessor or chalice assistant, or acolyte at our Sunday morning Eucharist, as we come together in all our diversity and with all our gifts as the body of Christ, week by week. Taking up one of these roles is a way of growing in faith, deepening our life of prayer, and serving one another, and welcoming newcomers, as we grow as a community together. Please let a member of the clergy know if you would like to be involved in one of these ways.

Members of the community also lead Evening Prayer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the Dick Sheppard Chapel, as we mark the ending of the day with prayer, and we welcome regulars and those passing through and offer the day and all its activities to God, praying for St Martin’s and the life of the world, with the liturgy, reading, psalms and prayers of the church. We are always looking for those who would like to learn how to lead this service so please contact sally.hitchener@smitf.org if you would like to find out more.

Sally Hitchener

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month for an hour of contemplative meditation based on meditation papers supplied by a national Christian meditation group, the Fellowship of Meditation.

The aim of the meditation sessions is to enhance our being with God through meditation on a key sentence that contains some divine truth e.g. ‘Be Still and Know that I am God’. Sessions include three 15-minute periods of silent meditation inviting a chance for members
to put aside daily worries and focus on being present with God, and enabling his spirit to empower and uplift us.

The group at St Martin’s attends a yearly silent afternoon held at a church in Walthamstow which is organised by the Fellowship of Meditation. Group members at St Martin’s can join the fellowship as a member which entitles them to attend other silent afternoons and weekends across the UK. However those attending the group at St Martin’s do not need to become members of The Fellowship of Meditation.

A small and friendly group, members are committed to prayerfulness through silent meditation using the sentence to maintain focus. The group has seen some new members join this year but sessions are open to all at St Martin’s who feel they would benefit from a period of silence with God. Sessions are usually held in the Dick Sheppard Chapel after evening prayer unless activities in St Martin’s Hall force a change of room.

To those interested in meditation it would always be hoped by the author that the sessions at St Martin’s are a starting point for a practising stillness and meditation and that the full benefits of meditative practice will come through regular periods of meditation outside of the bi-weekly sessions.

Any queries can be directed to me by email on roberts_dg@hotmail.com

Duncan Roberts

**Music**

It has been another busy year in the musical life of St Martin-in-the-Fields. Regular patterns of Sunday and midweek choral worship with our Choir and Choral Scholars are thriving. Our flagship Thursday lunchtime Great Sacred Music series has continued to flourish, frequently attracting over 300 attendees. Once again we have once extended this popular series through a number of Monday evening Great Sacred Choral Classics events throughout the year.

In September we were thrilled to reappoint Emily Dickens as our Choral Conducting Fellow for a second year. In addition, Polina Sosnina was appointed Organ Scholar. In August we said farewell to James Gough who held the role of Assistant Organist for two years. We also bade farewell to Sarah Maxted, our wonderful and much-loved Music Programme Manager, who has taken up a new role in Copenhagen.

In September the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields took part in a successful tour to Johannesburg, South Africa, as part of our partnership with St Mary’s Cathedral. In March
St Martin’s Voices toured the USA, visiting Duke University, North Carolina, and Little Rock, Arkansas.

St Martin’s Voices recorded the soundtrack for the Church of England’s ‘Follow the Star’ Christmas campaign, which had a reach of around 8 million. They also recorded the audio for Common Worship Daily Prayer for ‘Thy kingdom come’ from the Chapel of Lambeth Palace and performed on stage at the closing event in Trafalgar Square. In September St Martin’s Voices recorded a CD of Christmas Carols from St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Concerts in our Sound of St Martin’s choral series have included Beethoven Missa Solemnis and Bach St John Passion, as well as the usual pattern of Christmas activity. A number of high-profile broadcasts have taken place over the year, including A Celebration for Ascension Day on BBC Radio 4. St Martin’s Voices took part in two BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship broadcasts from Lambeth Palace with the Archbishop of Canterbury. We continued our weekly Great Sacred Music podcast series, consisting of a short reflection by Sam Wells followed by music sung by St Martin’s Voices.

We have been excited to continue to grow our music partnership with St Stephen Walbrook, through our Monday Choral Classics series, and we continue to provide music for their Thursday lunchtime Eucharists. Other activity outside St Martin’s has included visits to Inverness, Aberdeen and Manchester in partnership with the HeartEdge network, as well as the annual visit to sing Choral Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral. In August we were delighted to present a number of Great Sacred Music events at Greenbelt.

Andrew Earis, Director of Music

 Nazareth Community

‘The house of our souls is small. Lord you enlarge it’ St Augustine

The Nazareth Community was launched in March 2018, with 48 people joining. In early September 2018, 7 further people joined. There was a beautiful service for the renewal of vows in March 2019 with 9 more joining. A further 12 people joined in September 2019. The community has continued to flourish and enlarge in beautiful ways. In addition to monthly gatherings on Saturday mornings, the community in the past year has enjoyed a day retreat at Sydenham Garden hosted by Jim Sikorski in April 2019 and a wonderful day retreat at St Katherine’s Limehouse in October 2019.

The Nazareth Community brings together members of St Martin’s, and other churches to learn to live the Christian life more intentionally, in the midst of London. The community is an experiment in being with – with God, with one another, with ourselves and with creation. We are a dispersed community, with a commitment to seven disciplines which members incorporate into their own lives and contexts. Members renew their vows each year and there is opportunity for others to join.

1. Silence. As we enter into silence, we place ourselves inside the love of God. St Martin’s offers three times of contemplative prayer a week, alongside Morning and Evening Prayer. The Nazareth Community try to keep three times of silence together each week either joining
us at St Martin’s or within their own homes: Mondays 7.00-8.00am; Thursdays 7.00-8.00am and Saturday 8.00-9.00am.

2. Sacrament. The sacrament of communion is central to our life together: how God in Christ is with us, and we are with one another. Each week there is an informal Wednesday 6.30pm Eucharist, Bread for the World, open to all, where members gather.

3. Service. In simple acts of giving, and face to face encounter with those in need, we discover the joy and reciprocity of service. We discover Christ in those we serve. The community serves in different ways, dependant on their own gifts.

4. Scripture. We humbly make our experience and knowledge subject to the wisdom and understanding of theological reflection and scripturally formed imagination. Through a daily Lectio Divina, we reflect on who God is and who God calls us to be.

5. Sharing. We spend most of the week away from the church and community. We meet one Saturday morning a month, to discover new insight through sharing and listening to others. Meeting with a spiritual companion gives us guidance along the way.

6. Sabbath. We commit to creating a place and space in our lives each week for rest and relaxation and time to replenish our lives and spirits through beauty and creativity.

7. Staying with. We aim to create a way of life that is sustainable and life giving, flexible enough for members of the community to integrate with the demands of their lives and yet structured and stable enough to allow for growth, depth and spiritual nourishment.

This year Canterbury Press published: The City is My Monastery: A Contemporary Rule of Life. This book, written by Richard Carter and with a foreword by Sam Wells and Afterward by Rowan Williams, details the pattern of spiritual life which has been developed in the Nazareth Community.

If you would like to find out more about this experience of faith and hope, or consider joining, email richard.carter@smitf.org.

Open Circle

Open Circle meets on a regular informal basis for lunches together after the Sunday service, picnics, and other activities. It aims to offer a friendly, welcoming and inclusive space and provide a sense of friendship and welcome for young people.

Brandon Fletcher-James

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about the protection of any vulnerable child or adult within our church community here at St Martin’s. Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all, but I am the
appointed person you can speak to if you have any concerns about any vulnerable child or adult who attends any of our church groups/activities or other member of the congregation.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me, however big or small the issue, and I will then endeavour to take the matter forward and/or advise you as required. I intend in the coming months to continue getting round to all church groups/activities to give opportunity and discussion of safeguarding issues pertinent to the many different groups that operate in the wider church community here at St Martin’s.

You can always contact me through the Church Office on 020 7766 1100 or any of the Clergy Team, who will be able to get a message through to me if you have any concern and have not been able to speak to me in person.

Our Children’s Champion is our Pastoral Assistant and their role is to ensure the voice, needs and interests of children are recognised and promoted in our parish and we work closely together as required.

_Huw Mathias, Church Safeguarding Officer_

**Stewards**

![Image of stewards](image)

Stewards contribute to the regular, occasional and community activities held at St Martin’s. Helen Riley co-ordinates our stewards. Over the last year we have maintained a steady group of committed stewards, a few members have left and new stewards have joined.

This year Stewards said goodbye and thank you to Loren and Katherine. As our Minister Katherine was our compass. We welcome Sally and Fiona, Fiona has joined us as a steward. Sally has underlined the important role that stewards play.

We said goodbye to a few couples: Stacey and Oliver, may Stacey rest in peace; the Drapers; Joyce who has been a regular steward.
Stewards are guided by three principles:

• Warm Welcome
• Well Run Church Services
• Being Well Connected

**Ministry of Hospitality - working together**

Our ministry provides an opportunity to connect, care and continue St Martin’s great mission.

All stewards are especially thanked for being present. Both occasional and regular stewards. Stewards minister and in so doing touch many lives.

It has been a thoughtful reflective year. More deep thinking. As stewards we reflect on our approach and considered ways to support members we know. We detect how to welcome the new visitors that needs space for silence and contemplation. I extend a heartfelt thank you for always being helpful, filled with a hamper of great ideas at our annual briefings and always on hand to support each other when swaps are requested.

**How we organise ourselves?**

Team leaders meet regularly to reflect, review and make recommendations on ways to improve the service. For example at the Advent and Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services we have added a deputy team leader role.

**Balance**

We know St Martin’s is popular for visitors. It is even more important to protect particular parts our worship. For example, stewards gently protect the silence during the intercession reading and avoid opening the centre doors during the service as this can interrupt our worship. We have had appeals from the congregation to maintain this.

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility. At St Martin’s we welcome visitors and regular members of the congregation who may be at risk or have care and support needs. As part of his new role Huw Mathias has supported stewards to understand the signs of abuse and know when to make a referral.

**Work updates**

Our ongoing connection with the Disability Advisory Group continues to shape our thoughts about being inclusive.

**Call for Young Stewards**

Young people support our Advent and Holy Week services. During the forthcoming year we want to uncover new ways to engage younger members of the congregation. Throughout the year stewards support our church weddings, Education Series and attend meetings. Stewards are an asset and can support plans to be more inclusive and welcoming.

**Care for Senior Stewards**

St Martin’s has the support of senior members of the congregation who really wish to step down but are so dedicated they await new members of the congregation to step forward at our weekday and Evensong services.
As part of our new ministry with Sally we very much look forward to new ways to celebrate the contribution of stewards and look forward to sharing Edition 2 of our welcome pack. We look forward to a fruitful year of worship and togetherness.

Kristine Wellington, Head Steward

Sunday International Group

The Sunday International Group was set up at St Martin-in-the-Fields in September 2013 aiming to provide a place of welcome, hospitality and sanctuary for foreign nationals who are facing destitution in London, focusing especially on those with no recourse to public funds. It provides a hot meal, access to showers and laundry and it provides social interaction activities and helps with essential needs. Since its inception, the Sunday International Group has grown and developed, working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on the street, who fall outside of the normal state infrastructure and are unable to access benefits and helping other groups in different London churches and beyond to begin a similar ministry. One of the most exciting developments is the way many of those who originally came as guests have now become key volunteers in the running of our International Group and actively involved in the life of St Martin’s and the Nazareth Community. Two of the highlights of the year are our summer coach trip to the sea for fish and chips and a swim and our annual Christmas Dinner.

The group provides a real sense of community with more of those who are or were asylum seekers themselves actively involved in running the group with great energy and dedication. We are also able to provide monthly legal advice from Lambeth Law Centre, and trained counselling. We have also been able to help some of our guests through the difficult asylum process. There are a total of 418 registered guests at present, including current guests and those who come occasionally and have visited our group from more than 40 different
countries of origin. Of these, about 35-50 are regular weekly attenders. Through the generous support of the Friends of St Martin’s and donations from volunteers and members of the congregation, we are able to make this programme possible and also provide some essential needs like shoes, when old ones are leaking, new pants and socks and sleeping bags and simple rucksacks to replace plastic bags. We are very grateful to the Café in the Crypt for helping to provide delicious food each week and The Connection at St Martin’s for the use of their facilities and support.

The Sunday International Group has a spirit of cooperation and interaction. Volunteers have all expressed how much they have gained from this experience and the group has genuinely become one of the highlights of the week. I would like to give a huge thank you to all our guests and volunteers.

Revd Richard Carter

Theology Group

Theology Group has met about once a month and has continued to flourish with around 30 present on each occasion. We have had wonderful chairs who have raised intriguing topics concerning a wide range of concerns about God, human life and the wider creation. Every time we discover new things together and enjoy the diversity and depth of ideas and perspectives in our community. One topic that attracted considerable interest was Same-Sex Marriages, where over 60 people participated.

Revd Sam Wells