

The image shows the interior of St Martin-in-the-Fields church. The scene is dominated by a large, arched window with a grid pattern, through which bright light is streaming. The ceiling is high and features a large, ornate chandelier. The walls are decorated with intricate carvings and a large, circular, sunburst-like decorative element on the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is warm and grand.

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

*The impact
you made in*
2020

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust



Welcome

In March 2020, for the first time in our history, coronavirus forced us to close our doors. But thanks to you, we kept our music playing and our vital support available to more people than ever.

Your donations meant that we could take our uplifting music and services online, bringing joy and comfort to audiences at home and across the globe. And through the darkness of the pandemic, we could continue supporting our talented musicians and singers whose livelihoods suddenly hung in the balance.

Thanks to your exceptional generosity, we could still be there for those on the very edges of our society – people without homes and those experiencing unimaginable hardships

in London and around the UK. With your help, we could offer support, friendship and community where it was needed most.

What follows is a snapshot of what we have achieved over the past year. Thank you to our generous donors, our staff, fundraisers, the HeartEdge community, and everyone who has made this remarkable impact possible. In an exceptionally challenging year, you've helped our communities lead more secure and enriching lives.

Keeping our *music playing*

At St Martin-in-the-Fields, we believe in the power of music to uplift us, inspire us, and bring us together. In 2020, coronavirus stopped all live performances for six months, but with your help, we kept our music playing.

St Martin's Voices

St Martin's Voices is our flagship ensemble of talented singers who perform in world-class concerts and special services at St Martin in-the-Fields and beyond. When lockdown was announced and live performances were cancelled, many musicians were worried and uncertain about their future.

Thanks to funding from our music supporters, the St Martin's Voices were able to continue performing the hugely popular Great Sacred Music series, a classical celebration of our religious heritage. The series was home-recorded during lockdown, and the singers met to record in person when it was possible again.

Our advanced training programme for freelance singers, St Martin's Voices Fellowship, still went ahead in 2020. The Voices Fellows recorded Bach's choral motets and Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass for online audiences in August and November and, just prior to the second lockdown, performed in a sold-out Christmas Fantasia concert before a socially-distanced audience.

“”

“When the first lockdown came into place, my primary income as a singer vanished completely overnight. Everything that had been in the calendar was cancelled with no telling when we would be able to perform again.

St Martin's quickly pledged ongoing support for their musicians through the home-recorded Great Sacred Music online videos and other recordings. These recordings became a life-raft in a sea of cancellations and blank diaries for those with rent, bills and student university fees to pay.”

Ben Tomlin, St Martin's Voices

“One of the many ways St Martin’s supported me was allowing me to use the crypt before the cafe reopened to record myself singing and to use some of the livestreaming equipment for it. It was just one of many examples of their ‘above and beyond’ approach and unwavering support and opportunity that St Martin’s has shown to all the young musicians associated with it.”

Robert Folkes, Choral Scholar

Choral Scholars

Each year, we support and nurture a group of aspiring choral singers to sing at church services, concerts and other events. Thanks to funders including the John Pilling Trust and the Tony Trapp Choral Scholarship, the Choral Scholars training programme has been running for 25 years.

For much of 2020, the Choral Scholars could not meet in person. So, within weeks of the first lockdown, Dr Andrew Earis, Director of Music, and his team, devised a new teaching term that the Scholars could take part in at home, rehearsing and recording solos.

These recordings were then edited together and used in online virtual services in Church of England churches across the country.



Five

of our Choral Evensongs were performed as part of the first BBC live broadcasts of choral music in the pandemic.



“I remain hugely grateful to St Martin’s and the Choral Scholars for the wonderful and enormously helpful music resources which have enriched our worship over the last year.”

Revd Christopher Johnson, Leicester

St Martin’s Digital

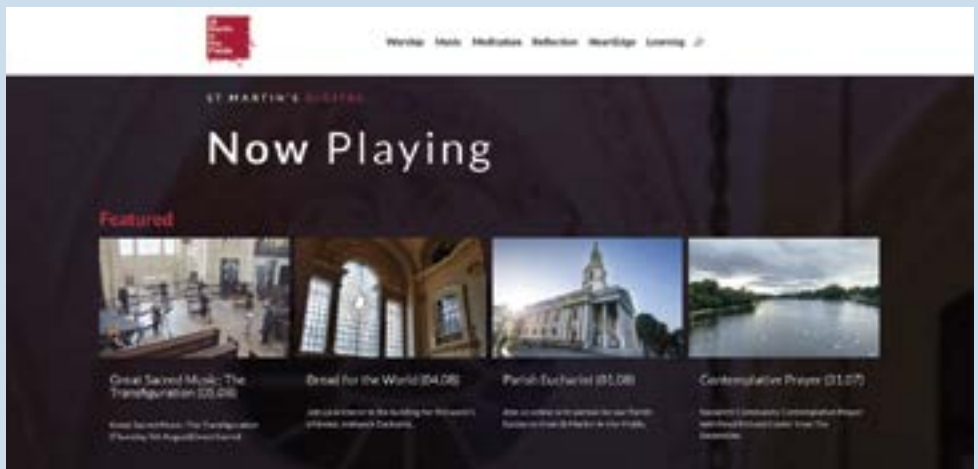
This year, we had to radically rethink how we could continue to bring music to our supporters and protect the livelihoods of our singers.

Thanks to a generous £5,000 grant, we were able to launch **St Martin’s Digital**, a free online platform that brings together our music and services into one place. Recordings of Great Sacred Music, psalms for the BBC and hymns for A Church Near You, as well as meditations and live-streamed services, became freely available for everyone, everywhere to watch, listen to and download.



1.1m

Recordings for A Church Near You, providing liturgical music for virtual Church of England services across the country, were downloaded 1.1 million times.



Keeping our *doors open*

As the nation entered lockdown, we knew we had to act quickly to help the thousands of people experiencing homelessness or insecure accommodation across the UK.

Sunday International Group

Lockdown was a difficult time for all of us, but for those living on the edges of society already facing terrible hardships, it was an especially distressing and isolating time.

For eight years, the Sunday International Group in Trafalgar Square has been offering vital help to people who may have no home or recourse to public funds. It provides hot meals, laundry facilities and essential items like shoes, coats and sleeping bags, treating everyone who comes to them for help with dignity and respect.

Thanks to 120 generous donors, including a gift in memory of June Godden, who had a deep concern for people who experience homelessness, we raised £61,824 for the group in 2020.

Thanks also to The Golden Bottle Trust, London Community Response Fund, the Arthur Smith Trust, Forsters LLP, Derwent London, The Friends of St Martin's, Morrisons Foundation, the Grosvenor Chapel, and everyone who supported the

Sunday International Group through an incredibly challenging year.



With your support, during the pandemic:

26

people were found safe accommodation

Over 170

people received a hot meal every week

Over 100

people were provided mobile phones, ensuring they could contact loved ones and look for work

“I was in great danger. I had no future. I had no place to live. St Martin’s embraced me as their prodigal son. They looked after me, just as they look after everyone that comes to them. Because of them, I have been able to get back my ‘self’. Wonderful. God bless St Martin’s.”

Guest at the Sunday International Group

‘We never stopped, we never closed down’: The Sunday International Group in lockdown

When the pandemic hit, Revd Richard Carter realised many people were sleeping rough in Trafalgar Square, looking for food and in desperate need of support. “The shops had closed,” says Richard, “the whole of London was shut down, and there was actually no place for them to go”.

One of these people was a 73-year-old man who had been coming to the church for several years. “How do you leave a 73-year-old out in the middle of a pandemic with absolutely nowhere to go and no shops open and nowhere to eat?”

So, with the help of the Trust and some local restaurants, Richard and the team started to give out hot meals. “What started as feeding 40 people quickly became 60 and within a month had become 170 people every Sunday coming for food.”

As well as handing out food, the group also managed to find accommodation for 26 people whose needs were especially urgent. This included the 73-year-old and a young MA student who had become homeless during the pandemic and was sleeping on

buses. The team found a self-contained room for him, and he was able to complete his dissertation and pass his MA. “He would have still been completely destitute and in danger of the virus if we hadn’t helped him,” says Richard.

By September, the group were able to return to The Connection, where around 40 people a week could use the laundry and shower facilities, and receive hot food, warm clothing and fellowship. “We never stopped,” says Richard. “We never closed down.”

“““

“We don’t want to be a group of benefactors helping a group of homeless people – an ‘us and them’ syndrome. Rather, we want to create a sense of community and wellbeing – and for the people who come to us not to be called clients or homeless people, but to be called guests. And to be really welcomed as guests – until you wouldn’t know who’s the host and who’s the guest.”

Revd Richard Carter

Keep Our Doors Open

At St Martin's, we aim never to turn a person in need away. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we launched an emergency appeal, Keep Our Doors Open.

Thanks to 9,271 donations, the appeal raised a massive £811,996, ensuring church life continued as close to normal as possible – including keeping our doors open to thousands of people facing exceptional difficulties.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity Emergency Fund

Our colleagues at St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity support homeless and vulnerably-housed people across the UK. Within three weeks of the start of the national lockdown, they had surveyed 1,000 frontline workers to find out what help was most needed on the ground.

They found that basic essentials such as food and suitable accommodation were urgently required, while the frontline workers were concerned about losing contact with the people they support. So they set up an



£811,996 raised from
7,484 people like you

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Keep Our Doors Open appeal. Without you, we simply couldn't have been there for so many people who needed us.



Emergency Fund, temporarily replacing the Vicar's Relief Fund, to ensure food, accommodation and mobile phones were given to those who needed them most.

£233,750 from the Keep Our Doors Open appeal was transferred to this vital fund, ensuring we could be there for those hardest hit by lockdown.

The Connection at St Martin's

Every year, our friends at The Connection at St Martin's help thousands of people sleeping rough in London through their homeless centre in Westminster.

When Covid-19 and lockdown struck, they were forced to close their doors.

£230,574 raised through the Keep Our Doors Open appeal went to The Connection to ensure it could continue to provide much-needed support. The funds helped them remain on the front line, finding suitable accommodation for everyone so they could self-isolate and stay safe and well. They ran two hotels, delivered regular meals for over 350 people, offered access to nurses and psychologists, and helped people access drug and alcohol treatment.



National Lottery *awards*

In 2020, we secured two major grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Heritage Emergency Fund

In July, we received a grant of £224,900 from the Heritage Emergency Fund.

The grant meant we could put on 30 concerts in partnership with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, which attracted almost 40,000 online viewers.

Our online shop went live in October, raising just over £50,000 in retail transactions and attracting almost 20,000 visitors.

With the purchase of 22 laptops, the grant also made it possible for our staff to continue working through the pandemic. And, crucially, we have been able to retain our fundraising team, who have continued to raise vital funds for St Martin's.

The grant has allowed us to carry out essential maintenance work to our listed buildings, including replacing the automatic controller that makes the church bells ring and redecorating the spire windows.

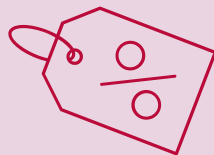
Culture Recovery Fund

In November, we were awarded £658,450 from the Culture Recovery Fund.

This has proved essential to our survival in 2020, allowing us to take on new staff, pay for equipment and learning materials, and carry out much-needed maintenance and repairs.

We were also able to expand our music programme with a new series of concerts, and we reopened our historic crypt, hosting three Voices in the Crypt online concerts with St Martin's Voices and three Jazz in the Crypt events.

50,000
worth of retail sales
from our online shop



30 concerts
that attracted
40,000
online viewers



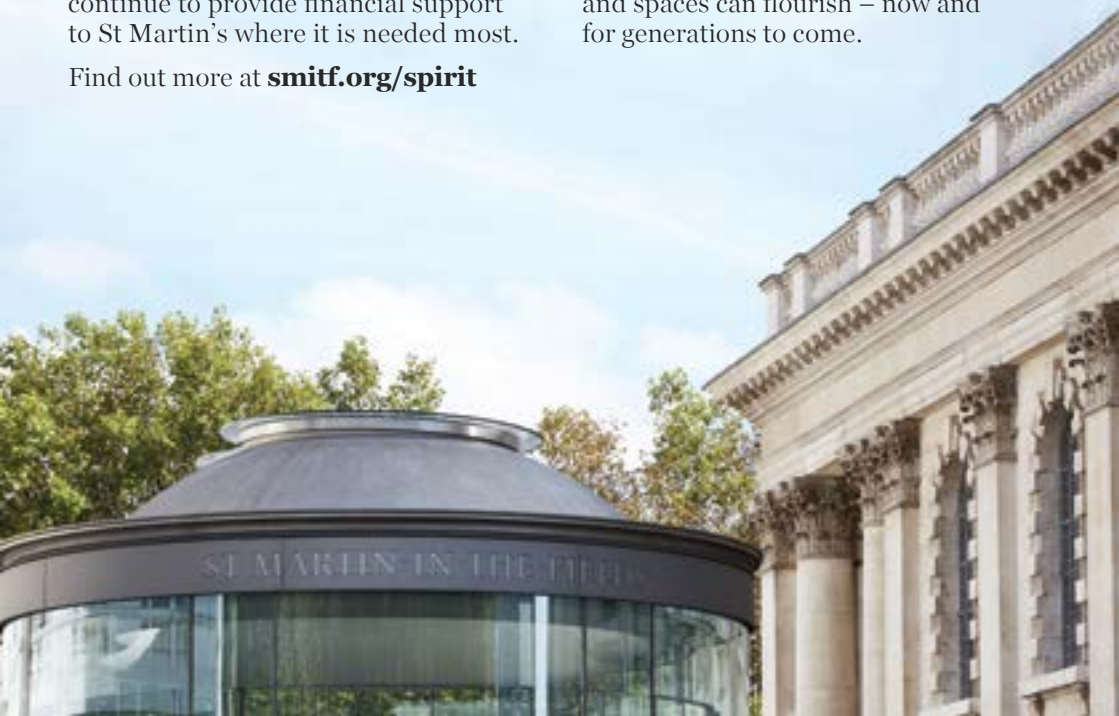
Looking *ahead*

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust exists to support the work of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

We are currently running a recovery fundraising campaign, the Spirit of St Martin's, to provide much-needed funds as St Martin's reopens, and we will continue to provide financial support to St Martin's where it is needed most.

Find out more at [smitf.org/spirit](https://www.smitf.org/spirit)

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. Your help has been vital in keeping St Martin's going and ensuring its people, programmes and spaces can flourish – now and for generations to come.



Every gift we have received has been vital in keeping St Martin's doors open through a very difficult year. Thank you to all of our donors, our Cornerstone Club supporters, and everyone who has supported us in 2020. Without you, we simply couldn't have stood in solidarity with so many extraordinary people, providing fellowship, sanctuary and crucial support.

Contact us

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust
Trafalgar Square
London
WC2N 4JH

development@smitf.org
020 7766 1132

Copyright © St Martin in the Fields 2021.
All Rights Reserved. Charity Number: 1110406