

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

The impact
YOU MADE
in 2021

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust



You've helped the spirit of
ST MARTIN'S
to bloom

In an uncertain world, St Martin's has always sought to bring natural respite to everyone who needs us. This was certainly true in 2021 when the pandemic continued to impact our community with so many uncertainties.

Thanks to your generosity, the spirit of St Martin's shone through like the sun on a cloudy day. Despite our doors opening, shutting, and then opening again, your donations meant that our programme of live music from our talented singing ensembles was able to continue flourishing and bringing joy to so many.

Your support for our Spirit of St Martin's campaign also meant that we've been able to continue providing comfort, sanctuary and friendship to those on the very edges of our

society – people without homes and those experiencing unimaginable hardships in London and beyond.

Thanks to you, £2.1m was donated to the Trust in 2021 and the following pages provide a snapshot of what we have achieved together over the past year. Thank you for helping to keep the spirit of St Martin's alive and growing.

Revd Dr Sam Wells
Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields



It's a place of
SPIRITUAL
GROWTH
for everyone, everywhere

In 2021, our services and our music reached more people than ever due to the growing popularity of St Martin's Digital. This free online platform, launched during the pandemic, has become a mainstay for viewers near and far and forged an extraordinary sense of community.

St Martin's Digital brought together many of our offerings in one place, including live-streamed church services, Great Sacred Music, and lectures. Perhaps one of the platform's most-loved productions has been the weekly contemplative prayer walks led by Revd Richard Carter and Revd Catherine Duce.

Richard began broadcasting these outdoor Saturday morning meditations at the beginning of lockdown in an effort to bring a calm and contemplative slice of the outdoors

to those confined indoors. By 2021, the popularity of the walks had grown to the extent that hundreds of people from all over the world were tuning in online, captivated by their scenery, serenity and spirituality.

The locations of the walks ranged from London's glorious parks and landmarks to places of interest further afield such as Devon, Oxford and Lincoln. A lot of ground was covered last year, but there's no sign of the walking boots being hung up anytime soon.

It's a place to feel...

NATURALLY *connected*

Whenever there are people in need of friendship and solidarity, St Martin's is here to stand alongside them. Last year, your support kept our community thriving and meant we were able to help new friends and guests to plant roots in our community, from wherever they came.

The spirit of St Martin's

Last year, we launched the Spirit of St Martin's campaign to celebrate the enduring spirit of our church and to raise funds to support our services in uncertain times.

Thanks to 1,220 people, the appeal raised an incredible £247,164, ensuring church life continued as close to normal as possible, and that the vulnerable and isolated members of our community could be supported.

On top of the generous monetary support, we were also lucky enough to receive the donation of the production of a short film in support of the campaign. Presented by Revd Sally Hitchiner, our Associate Vicar for Ministry, it really encapsulated the importance of the need to keep our spirit alive.

Watch the film: stmartin-in-the-fields.org/support-us



£247,164 raised from
1,220 people like you

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Spirit of St Martin's appeal. Without you, we simply couldn't have been there for so many of the people who needed us.

The 18 Keys Project

Every year, our friends at The Connection at St Martin's support hundreds of people to move off the streets of London by tackling the underlying causes of rough sleeping and offering practical help. 2021 saw exciting developments in the early stages of a new project called 18 Keys – a joint endeavour between the Trust and The Connection that will provide a safe space for 18 women experiencing homelessness and give them the opportunity to regain their independence.

As part of the project, an existing building in Clapham that's owned by The Connection will be redeveloped into specialist accommodation for 18 women. Each resident will have their own studio apartment as well as access to professional counselling in a therapy suite, a beautiful, shared garden, and a communal area. In 2021, we appointed award-winning architect Biba Dow to the 18 Keys project and an enthusiastic expert committee was assembled chaired by Dame Diana Brittan. The designs are due to be submitted for planning permission in autumn 2022. You can find out more about this exciting project at 18keys.org

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A third of all women who experience homelessness cite domestic abuse as a key factor in their situation. As cases of domestic abuse have risen during the pandemic, this project could not be timelier. It is also well known that women experience poorer physical and mental health than men in the same situation and they are more likely to die earlier. I'm pleased to play my part in this excellent project to create a blueprint for supported accommodation for women who have experienced street homelessness.

Dame Diana Brittan,
Chair of the 18 Keys project

The Sunday International Group

For nine years, our Sunday International Group has been offering hospitality and sanctuary to foreign nationals who are destitute in London and have no home or recourse to public funds. Despite the challenging nature of the past year, your donations have meant that the group has been able to continue providing hot meals, and support, for 40 to 60 guests every Sunday.

In December 2021, an additional grant from the Trust meant the Sunday International Group was able to provide a socially distanced Christmas Dinner for 59 guests and 21 volunteers – many of whom originally came to us as guests but now help to run the group. On top of the usual meal, laundry, showers and support, each guest received a wrapped gift of some warm clothes. Additionally, everyone was given a special gift of something they needed most, such as a winter coat, a warm sleeping bag or a pair of trainers.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Sunday International Group through another difficult year.

Our Chinese congregation

Since the 1960s, St Martin's has had an active Chinese congregation with its own community centre. The support that we received in 2021, including a grant from Benefact Trust, allowed us to reduce isolation in this congregation. It meant that we were able to increase the hours of our Assistant Vicar for International Ministry, Revd Harry Ching, so that we could reach more members of that community, many of whom are very elderly. It also meant we could buy digital tablets for members of the congregation who were housebound due to Covid, age or illness, so they could join the services remotely and feel more connected.

Choral Scholars

Each year, we support and nurture a group of ten aspiring singers through our Choral Scholarship Programme. These singers receive intensive formal training alongside performance opportunities at services, concerts and other events that equip them with the experience to establish themselves in the industry upon completion of the programme.

In September 2021 we welcomed a brand-new cohort of singers, all of whom have an enthusiastic passion for their craft and a dedication to the programme. It's been a delight to hear them fill St Martin's with music again.

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The support of the Trust and its donors was an essential element in making our inaugural Summer Stage such a success. At a financially challenging time, this support helped us to try something new, generate much needed revenue, and give a paid performance platform for emerging artists – many of whom had lost all performance income during the lockdown. With 5,000 people enjoying the Summer Stage, the Trust's investment allowed us to be innovative, to support creativity and, quite simply, to offer the public the chance to come together and enjoy some wonderful music. An annual event has begun!

Chris Denton, Chief Executive
of St Martin-in-the-Fields Ltd

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I feel like a valued member of a thriving and vibrant musical community. The repertoire we sing is both traditional and progressive, varying from 16th century polyphony to the present day. Singing in a small choir encourages great responsibility for the sound each one of us creates. It is exciting to see how our sound will develop as a group over the year. This Scholarship feels like a real springboard into the London choral scene and beyond.

Finn Lacey, Countertenor Choral Scholar

Celebrating a multitude of musical delights

When it came to the return of live performances last summer, we led the charge in bringing London alive again with our Summer Stage and Crypt Lates.

As part of our Summer Stage, we hosted 32 free open-air gigs in our Courtyard between July and September featuring 100 different artists and bands. Indoors, our Crypt Lates saw our iconic vaulted Crypt transformed into an atmospheric music and cabaret venue.

Both series featured a wide range of musical genres including jazz, soul, R&B, folk and country, as part of our mission to broaden our musical output and provide greater opportunities for musicians and audiences alike.

It's a place where...

MUSIC

flourishes

Our colourful programme of live music has always played a crucial role in helping people to feel naturally connected. Despite the stop-start nature of 2021, your support meant we could continue to spread joy as one of London's most active concert venues.

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.

During the pandemic, St Martin's Voices partnered with the Church of England and the Royal School of Church Music to record music that was played by churches across the UK in their online services. The initiative was so successful that the ensemble was keen to perform live for the parishes who had used their music as soon as restrictions were lifted.

As a result, St Martin's Voices hit the road in 2021 for an autumn tour and were made thoroughly welcome by congregations across the country. Members of the ensemble say it was hugely rewarding to be able to contribute their music to the continuation of worship and see the impact of their musical efforts since the beginning of lockdown.



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It was so wonderful to perform and sing with the audiences that had listened to and used our recordings over lockdown. We loved meeting everyone, hearing about their experiences of Covid and of not being able to sing. To join forces and sing together in person at some of the churches was really special. Usually, I workshop with school-age children so it was a lovely experience to lead a few workshops with adults and have a laugh over a few tongue twisters about coffee!

George Cook, St Martin's Voices



National Lottery AWARDS

In spring 2021, we secured a grant of £453,800 from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, part of The National Lottery Heritage Fund. These funds were central in supporting St Martin's to operate sustainably through the upheaval of two reopenings and two lockdowns.

The grant allowed us to continue to explore new ways of working as we moved our music-making and retail experiences online, and then helped us in welcoming audiences back when we started to emerge from the pandemic. It also meant that we were able to support a significant number of freelance musicians and continue to build new audiences.

In May, for example, we launched a new concert series called *ReSound*. Set across six themed weekends, the series offered a hybrid mix of in-person and online concerts featuring our in-house ensembles, visiting artists, as well as word and music events.

Further free online events included a selection of Sunday afternoon musical reflections, two family concerts, and three Voices in the Crypt concerts featuring St Martin's Voices with Simon Russell Beale.



Looking AHEAD

Thanks to your support through another challenging year, the spirit of St Martin's continues to grow. Because of you, our people, programmes and spaces can thrive – both now and for future generations.

We are looking to nature as we seek to replenish the spirit of St Martin's in the post-pandemic world. In summer 2022, our congregation teamed up with clients of The Connection to plant a vegetable garden in our courtyard. The project, which was funded by your generous donations, divinely connects us with the created world and represents hope and renewal, while its blooms remind us that our future looks bright.

If you'd like to find out more about our current fundraising campaign, please visit smitf.org/spirit



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, funders, our Cornerstone
Club supporters, and everyone who has supported us in
2021. Without you, we simply could not have stood in
solidarity with so many extraordinary people, providing
fellowship, sanctuary and crucial support.

Thank you for helping the spirit of St Martin's
to keep growing.

Contact us

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