

October 2023



Chinese Congregation Members completing the St Martin's Banner with their 12 Activities

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Welcome to The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields!

Robert Demming, Friends Chair

We'd like to welcome you to Friends 2023 by answering a few questions you might have about us...

Who are the Friends of St Martin's?

70 years ago The Friends started as a way to welcome newcomers to St Martin's and keep others no longer able to attend in touch. We carry on that tradition by welcoming and connecting people near and far with St Martin's as we increase our world-wide congregation.

What do Friends do?

- We communicate with Friends, deepening spiritual and emotional connections with St Martin's
- We highlight St Martin's events so Friends can take part
- We do special Friends events at St Martin's & on-line
- We contribute to special projects at St Martin's such as the Sunday International Group, South African Youth Pilgrimage, flowers for church festivals & the Children's Ministry

How can you join Friends?

Click this link to join the Friends

<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/friends/>

Application form on page 11

Please submit comments & ideas for Friends Mag articles

Contact us: friends@smitf.org

Any questions & Friends Magazine comments & ideas



Sunday 1.30 Congregation Activities

Joseph Lam, a 'newcomer' from Hong Kong manages operations in Chinese congregation

- Sunday Cantonese Service @1.30. tea reception in Ho Ming Wah Centre followed by groups
- Chinese choir: 15 members led by Regina Law, pianist, organist and choir director
- Four regular faith groups:
 - Andrew Group: new HK immigrants based on Andrew, Jesus's first follower
 - Family Group: couples with young children
 - Paul Group: running the Being With course (Paul as writer of first gospel)
 - Thursday on-line: sharing and prayers in Cantonese (8pm)
- Outreach & Formation
- Leadership
- Pastoral Care & Beyond

Chinese congregation members Eugene Ling, Yen Leung & Anne Chow showcase our Chinese Congregation's many activities at St Martin's Market Place, 8th Oct 2023

Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association & Community Centre

何明華會督協會暨社區中心

This dynamic centre is one of St M's best kept secrets, and Friends want to make it better known. It is open to everyone who wants to join with a modest annual membership fee.

It provides 'Front Line' social services with cultural activities and friendships to get people involved in the community

- Social activities: tai chi, luncheon club, Line and Latin dancing and they are looking to develop youth activities
- Want to invite and include all St M congregations and people from outside are joining too
- 80% are non-congregational members
- Independent charity: Chinese congregation set it up in 1987 Eugene Ling, Sam Wells, & Bob Demming are trustees. Alistair Anson resigned in Oct 2023 after 30 years' service
- It is self funding from activities & supporters. It has an operations model like the Connection in relation to the Church and pays a licence fee to the Church



History of the Chinese Congregation at St Martin's and the Association

In the 1960s, Britain had about thirty to forty thousand Chinese residents, a third of them living and working in the London area. Many from Hong Kong, often working in the catering business, who did not understand English, thus leaving them socially disadvantaged and vulnerable to exploitation.

1964: Bishop R O Hall sent Revd S Y Lee to London to lead the Chinese Congregation at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

1977: fundraising started by Revd S Y Lee & the Chinese Congregation to set up a Chinese social centre.

1984: charity founded as 'Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association' in honour of Bishop R O Hall

1987: the Chinese Centre opened in St Martin's crypt to address the social needs of the Chinese community in London.

2008: a new Centre opened as part of the Renewal of St Martin's.

2011: the Association was renamed 'Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association and Community Centre' to reflect that its services are open to all communities.

The infographic is divided into three vertical columns, each representing a different program category. The first column, 'Healthy Living Programme', is orange and lists activities like Tai Chi, Lunch Club, and Yoga Class. The second column, 'Education & Culture Programme', is purple and lists activities like Chat-after-Lunch, Chinese Calligraphy, and Chinese Mandarin. The third column, 'Social Connection Programme', is green and lists activities like Befriending and Living in the UK.

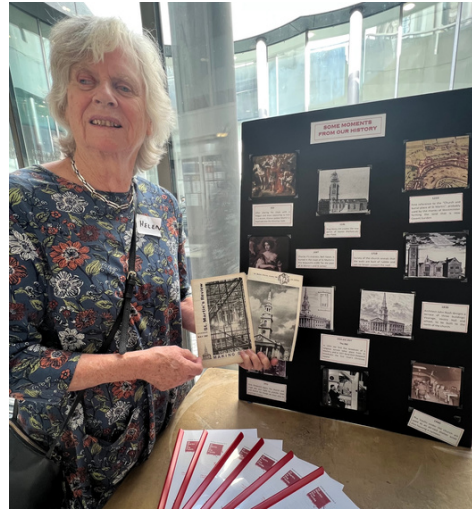
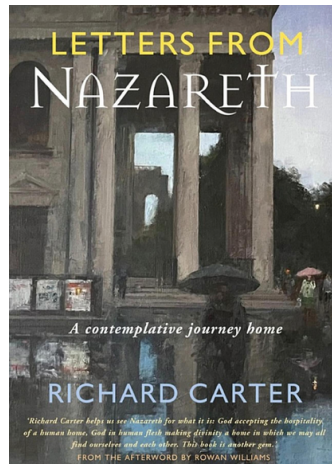
Healthy Living Programme	Education & Culture Programme	Social Connection Programme
Tai Chi >	Chat-after-Lunch >	Befriending >
Lunch Club >	Chinese Calligraphy >	Living in the UK >
TMC Health Talks >	Chinese Mandarin >	
Health Talks >	Chinese Painting >	
Nature Walk >	Chinese Painting Begin... >	
Health Qigong >	Digital Skills >	
Latin Fun >	Sketching & Watercolour >	
Line Dance >		
Yoga Class >		

Come join us for dancing, Tai Chi and many other activities at <https://www.bhmwa.com>

- We are doing more cultural and community activities.
- Last year and now have an ongoing food project
- Funding from Greater London to welcome new Hong Kong people through food culture: sharing a meal to welcome and feel easy through food experience in UK. Helping with how to feel at home in UK
- Looking to involve Chinese and English congregations in these events

Two call-to-action boxes are shown. The first box, 'Project Volunteer', describes being part of the community helping with ongoing activities or one-off projects. The second box, 'Befriender', describes being a befriender supporting lonely older people.

Be part of our community helping with ongoing activities or one-off projects.	Be a befriender supporting lonely older people.
Project Volunteer	Befriender



St Martin's Archives

Nazareth Community: celebrating 8 years! Lenus & Adolfo with Richard's books & Lampedusa Cross, Nazareth Community's symbol

Helen Riley of the Archive Group



Susannah Woodd of the Global Neighbours Committee had airplane making

Steve Adams, Chair of Eco Church and committee members proudly displaying Bronze Eco Church award



Open Circle of the 20s, 30s & beyond, always ready for a social and for doing projects



Bronwyn, tireless Leader of Hospitality Group with Jacob, Noriko & Wendy ready with the coffee, tea and cakes



Disability Advisory Group

Celia, Jeff Claxton and Fiona MacMillan of the Disability Advisory Group



Val of Congregational Giving



Stewards



Kristine & Bob of the Stewarding Team. Contact Sian.Conway@smidf.org for volunteering for stewarding on Sundays or special services



Choir Members giving spot auditions (not really). Arch rivals of the Congregation Cricket Team

All the activities on this page are partially funded by your subscriptions to The Friends of St M's



St Martin in the Fields The Friends' Magazine



Phyllis SantaMaria, editor of the Friends Magazine & Bob Demming, Chair of the Friends of St M's



Wilson, Joy and Rachel of the Children & Youth Group. Asking for volunteers to do one Sunday a month with our growing group

Sunday International Group



Lenus of the Sunday International Group. We celebrate our 10th Year this October!



Anne Langley of the Flower Arrangers

Sunday International Group Volunteers with Revd Richard Carter, Founder, celebrating our 10th anniversary, 1st October, 2023



Sunday International Group

St Martin's in London's Open Day, 16 Sept



Singing workshops



**Flower arranging workshops
by Anne Langley & Noriko Inagaki**



**Eco-garden on South side of St M led
by Jane & Phil Ware**



Bell-ringing demonstrations & chance to ring St M's bells led by Liz Hibbert, Secretary. They are looking for volunteers. It's a skilful job, requires months to learn. Practice at other churches near Waterloo as St M's has so many services.

Contact
hibbert.elizabeth@btinternet.com



Tours led by Steve Adams & Dan Kazeta

'You owe me five farthings' say the Bells of St Martin's

Famed in the children's nursery rhyme, St Martin's Bells have pealed for over 300 years

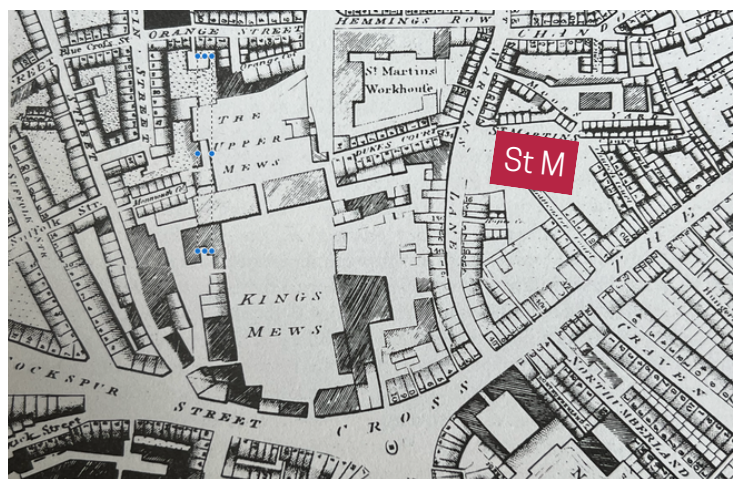
Peter Willinson's *The Bells of St Martins: A Past and Two Futures* (1988) sheds light on St M's Bells

St M's Bells have rung out over central London for over 300 years & were a ring of eight in the reign of Elizabeth I.

1724: Prince of Wales, later George II, offered a ring of ten bells to the new St M's after his brother George I, churchwarden gave the organ. (part of their long-standing musical feud)

1840s: Trafalgar Square completed, giving much greater prominence to St M & its ring of twelve bells, yet serious problems persisted with its bell tower

1914 onwards: Dick Sheppard made St M famous in religious life of London with radio broadcasts & work with homeless. No extra funding to solve bell problems.



Area around St M's before Trafalgar Square, 1793

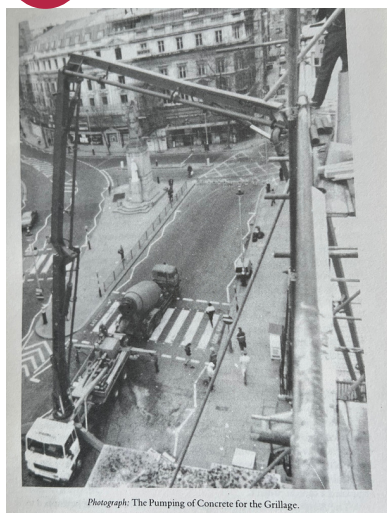
1988: Bells of St M's ready for hanging in the newly redone Bell Tower



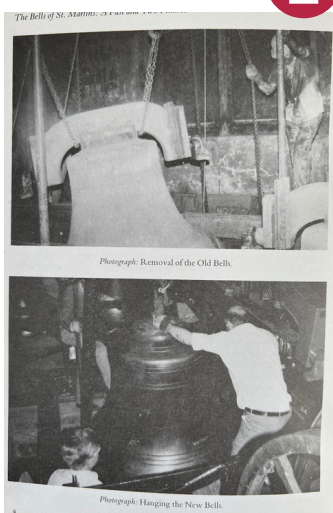
1980s: Vicar Austen Williams & Churchwardens took on bells problems

1 1984-1988: fixing three problems

2



Photograph: The Pumping of Concrete for the Grillage.

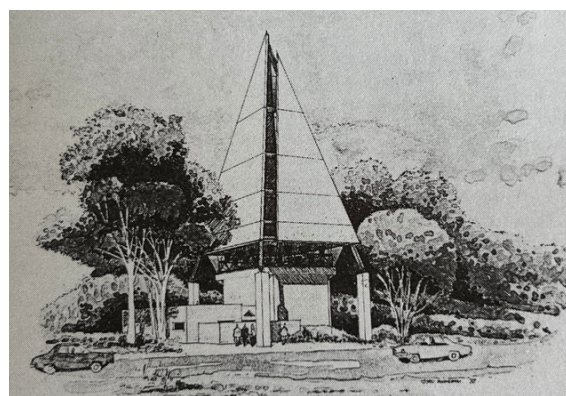


Photograph: Removal of the Old Bells.

Photograph: Hanging the New Bells.

Correcting the tower sway & making bells easier to ring. Dr David Hardwick of Imperial College Civil Engineering & Church Warden worked out how to re-hang the bells. Here concrete poured for redoing the tower.

Recasting the old bells or getting new ones? Solution: new bells were cast. Here the old bells taken out and new ones put in



3

What to do with the old bells? Instead of using old bells to cast new ones, the Univ of W Australia in Perth built a special tower, had bells shipped & added five more bells to St M's 12 to expand the bells' lifespan

Rolling Down Justice Conference and Service

Fiona MacMillan reports on 12 years of Disability & Theology Conferences with Inclusive Church



Since 2012 we've been holding an annual conference on disability and theology, in partnership with Inclusive Church. It's a space for rather than about disabled people, who are the majority of planners, speakers and delegates. Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people are often isolated by experience or geography – in a church or community they may be the only blind person voice-hearer or wheelchair-user. Some are in ministry, others on the edge of church or community: here we gather to resource each other and the church.

Revd Dr Hannah Lewis with Signer preaching at Rolling Down Justice Eucharist, 15th Oct

The conference is always participatory because we believe that everyone has something worth sharing. We include input from speakers and responses from delegates, time in small groups and workshops, ending the day with worship. It's not just a day – on Sunday we share the conference ideas with the wider church through a special 10am Eucharist: the liturgy is written by our Disability Advisory Group under Sam Wells' guidance, with a preacher from the conference. On Sunday afternoons we host a film screening and panel discussion, finishing with tea and cake.

For the first nine years we were onsite at St Martin's; since 2020 we have been online. This has opened up the conference to many more – those unable to travel due to health or cost, and those from other places and faith traditions. Next year we hope to be hybrid, with the support of St Martin's Trust. An accessible, participatory conference both on-site and online will be challenging – but we're good at finding our way around barriers!

Resources

[Rolling Down Justice, 15th October sermon](#)

[Calling from the Edge -stories of the first five years, Fiona MacMillan & Sam Wells, 2021](#)

[Films/resources from previous Inclusive Church Disability conferences](#)

[Something Worth Sharing - ideas of how to start where you are](#)

[Disability: the Inclusive Church Resource, John M Hull et al, DLT 2014](#)

[At the Gates: Disability, Justice and the Churches, Naomi Lawson Jacobs, Emily Richardson DLT 2023](#)

St Martin in the Fields

A Funeral Service in Thanksgiving for the Life of

Lavinia Maude Anson

12 October 1926 - 10 August 2023



Wednesday 6 September 2023
2.30pm



She arranged church flowers for 20 years

St Martin's and Lavinia and Alistair's Friends & Family paid tribute to Lavinia Anson, 6th Sept. It was a full church, a full musical programme, an abundance of flowers and a moving service with a tribute by Revd Richard Carter to honour our dear Lavinia.

Lavinia and Alastair came to St Martin's in 1967, attracted by St M's great social consciousness, which always appeared to be ahead of its time. They were especially moved by the spirit of Social Care and Inclusion.

Lavinia's early career was in the US working for Elizabeth Arden, Head of the Cosmetic Business, the only Personal Assistant (PA) to leave of her own accord.

Later when PA to William Rees Mogg, Editor of the Times, Alastair persuaded her to join St M where they married in 1968 and since then, St M has been central to their lives.

Lavinia's services at St M's included 20 years flower arranging, 15 years Friends Committee and 20 years on the St M Christmas Appeal with Alastair on the phones.



Trekking to Everest Base Camp

Like many in St M's community, Lavinia & Alastair found St M's online services of great benefit during lockdown. When away they visited other churches and always felt pleased to be back at St Martin's, feeling the quality of the clergy since Dick Sheppard as the key to St M's success. The Friends of St M pay tribute to our dear Lavinia. I was touched to have a warm hug by Lavinia on my birthday celebration Sunday 30th July and like almost everyone so shocked she died so soon afterwards. She was such a strong spirit and we miss her greatly.

Who we are...

The Friends have been a 'BRIDGE TO BELONGING' to St Martin-in-the-Fields locally and globally for over 70 years.

We aim to bring together those wishing to share in St M's mission and ministry through our

- Regular magazines featuring people, experiences & everyday St M life
- Live & on-line events throughout the year
- Access to St Martin's online resources

All are welcome...

Whether you are visiting St Martin's for the first time or as a frequent visitor or from overseas, all are welcome to join our inclusive community.

You may have heard a radio broadcast or online service, or perhaps you're here to attend a concert. Whatever your reason, we hope that something of the holiness, atmosphere, history as well as our work with the homeless will inspire and remain with you when you leave.

Your subscription supports...

For a donation of your choice you will be contributing to the life and work of this inspiring church community.

Here are some of the projects The Friends of St M's support:

- Sunday International Group for those seeking asylum
- Relief in Need assisting travel costs for church attendees
- Church flowers
- Outreach work with St Mary's Cathedral, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Children's Ministry

Belonging remains a special part of human relationships. The Friends is a tangible way we at St Martin's embody our belonging to one another and to God.

It doesn't get better than that.

Rev Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin's



**Scan this for Friends
Application form online**

Membership Application

Title _____

Forenames _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Country _____

Email _____

Gift Aid Declaration for UK taxpayers

Tick the box to Gift Aid your donation

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £
_____ to St Martin-in-the-Fields Friends

I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Please notify the Charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income.

How to pay donation of your choice

UK Cheque payable to
The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields
Post cheque & application form to
Membership Secretary
The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields
5 St Martin Place, London WC2N 4JH

Bank details: (note BIC & IBAN for international payments)

The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Sort Code: 30 00 08

Account Number: 03024670

BIC: LOYDGB21012

IBAN: GB02 LOYD 3000 0803 0246 70

Ref: your name

Click the link to join The Friends, the **BRIDGE TO BELONGING** to St Martin's

<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/friends/membership-application/>

Queries: friends@smitf.org