



**St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields**

# **Friends Magazine**

**Spring 2025**

**In this issue:**

**Music at St. Martin in the  
Fields (pictured)**

**Zeinab Badawi, 'An  
African History of  
Africa'**

**60 years of the Chinese  
Congregation**

**And much more!**

# Welcome to Spring at St Martin-in-the-Fields!

Welcome to Spring and our bumper Magazine from your Friends Team!

Here's our Friends Team, our roles in and outside Friends and some of our articles in this issue:

**Bob Demming**, Chair, keeps our team on track and in this issue reflects on the 'Being With' course

**Paul Taylor**, Finance steward, outlines our 2025 tours with the first in April to St Mary's Paddington

**Steve Adams**, Steward for Wednesday's Special Time and for church, Eco Church Steward

**Anne Langley**, Membership Secretary and Flower Arranger Extraordinaire, writes about St M's Music

**Lawrence Warner & Jack Chellman**, on-line & webinar stewards, interview an on-line Friend

**Kristine Wellington**, Friends Team member & St M's Safeguarding Officer on 'Safeguarding 365'

**Phyllis SantaMaria**, Editor & St M's reporter-at-large: I'm in bright colours in the front left hand pew or further afield capturing the photos, events and stories that make belonging to St Martin's so special.

**We invite you to join St M's Friends! Your subscription helps with costs for**

- Communication: Magazine production, tours, webinars
- Sunday International Group food costs (weekly lunch, laundry and showers for 75 guests)
- Church flowers and other small projects.

Friends also welcome legacies. We are passionate about your belonging to St Martin's!

**Please find the form for joining at the back of the magazine.**

## Contents

- 4** Music at St. Martin's
- 8** Zeinab Badawi, 'An African History of Africa'
- 10** Welcome home Sam!
- 12** Welcome, Rev'd Andrew Woodward
- 13** St. Martin's hospitality
- 14** Michael Boyle's 50 years
- 16** Being With course
- 18** Chinese Congregation's 60th Anniversary
- 18** Friends in the news: Jacob
- 21** Revd Dr Bernárd Lynch honoured
- 23** Friends in print: Philippa Smethurst
- 24** Online parishioner spotlight: Katja Hecht
- 26** Friend in memoriam: Professor Mary Henkel
- 27** Safeguarding support 365 days a year
- 29** St. Martin's online
- 31** Spring 2025 events
- 35** How to become a member



# Cover story: Music at St. Martin in the Fields

**Dr Andrew Earis, Director of Music** shares information all about the rich musical culture at St Martin's.

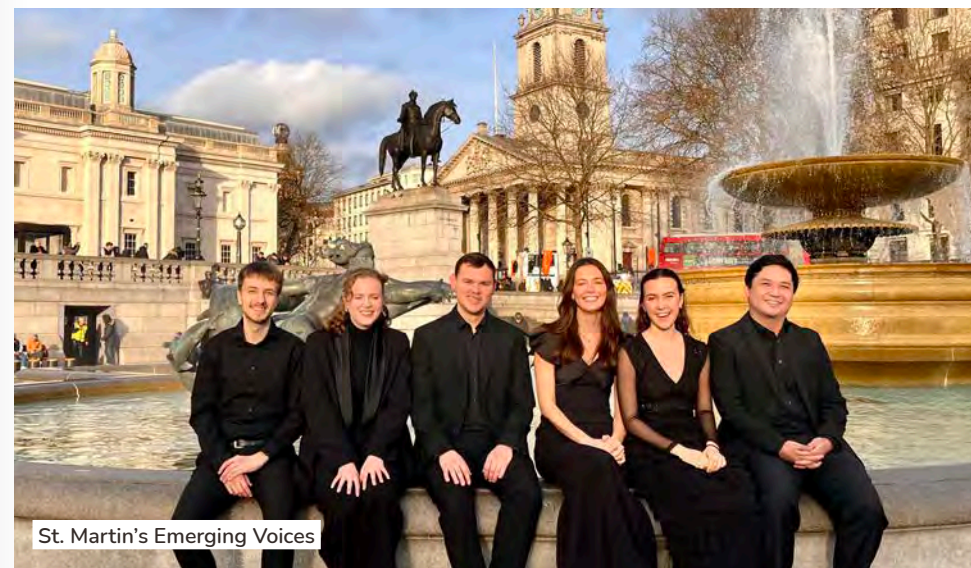
Music at St Martin-in-the-Fields falls into broadly three categories – music in worship, music education and culture. We have a number of voluntary choirs, an artist development programme which includes choral and organ scholarships, and our professional vocal ensemble, **St Martin's Voices**. Alongside all of this activity, there is a rich programme of concerts in the church, three or four times a week.

The voluntary **Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields** provides

the regular pattern of choral Sunday worship at Parish Eucharist and Choral Evensong, and music for major festival services. The **Choir of St Martin's Chinese congregation** provide choral Sunday worship at 13.00 and joint services, led by Joseph Lam. Our flourishing **Junior Choir** currently sings for occasional services on Mondays and recently for Sunday 2 March. From September 2025 they will be leading a new children and young people-focussed act of worship on Sundays at noon. As



St. Martin's Voices at BBC Radio 4



St. Martin's Emerging Voices

well as developing children and young people's choral music, we will also be helping to develop a new worshipping community each week. The newly re-formed **Community Choir**, open to all members of the St Martin's community, sing at a number of Sunday services each year.

There are three strands to our **Artist Development Programmes**. The **Choral Scholarship programme** is for recently graduated singers embarking on a professional career. This offers an intensive, focused period of training with others of a similar standard and supports the regular pattern of midweek

worship at Bread for the World on Wednesdays, Morning Song and Choral Evensong.

Our advanced training programme, **St Martin's Voices Emerging Artists**, is for choral singers in the first few years of their professional career.

Each year, we appoint an **Organ Scholar**, and in 2024 we were excited to launch our **Associate Choral Leaders Programme**, an opportunity for emerging choral conductors and vocal leaders to help establish new musical initiatives in churches across the UK. Through all of these initiatives, we are able both to enhance music making at St Martin's, as well as





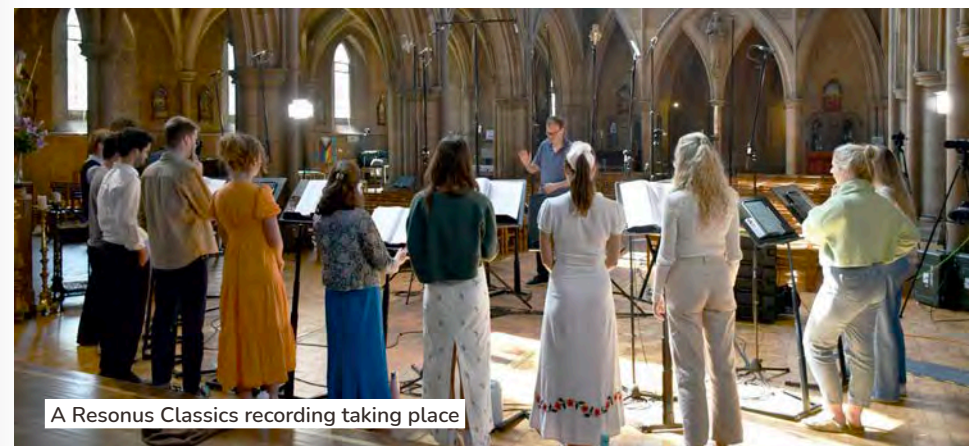
Lucy Walker, our current Composer-in-Residence

supporting the next generation of choral musicians, and in turn, helping to develop the music programmes of the wider church.

Our professional choral ensemble **St Martin's Voices** has a wide ranging programme:

- Singing at weekly **Great Sacred Music** on Thursdays and **Choral Classics** on Sundays.
- A series of performances, **Choral Discovery Concerts**, alongside collaborations with the **Academy of St Martin in the Fields**, **Piatti Quartet** and other artists.

- **A Composer-in-Residence programme**, currently Lucy Walker. This has led to a number of publications with major music publishers, and a recording of Lucy's music in 2025. In 2025 this programme will expand to include a number of other music commissions.
- **Broadcasts** on Classic FM and BBC Radio 3 and 4. In 2025 this programme will expand into a regular concert series on Classic FM with St Martin's Voices.
- Recordings with our record label **Resonus Classics**. The second recording, the choral music of American composer Ned Rorem, is about to be released.



A Resonus Classics recording taking place

Since the start of the pandemic, when St Martin's music supplied recorded choral resources to churches throughout the UK, a key focus of activity is now on how St Martin's music can support the development of church and choral music across the Church of England. St Martin's Voices are a key element in the **Church of England online worship provision**, through regular

recordings at Lambeth Palace for the **Daily Prayer app**, **A Church Near You music resource**, and weekly online services. These faith-based resources reach many millions of people each year.

To find out more about the rich and exciting music programme at St Martin's, visit the music pages on the St Martin's website:

[www.smitf.org/music](http://www.smitf.org/music)



St. Martin's Voices with Zeb Soanes



# Lecture Series: Zeinab Badawi, 'An African History of Africa'

On a cold November night, **Zeinab Badawi**, Sudanese-British award-winning BBC broadcaster, journalist and author, inspired us with her mission of telling the African story by African voices.

Her desire was to give voice to the brilliant African historians, academics and citizens to convey their own, often overlooked history. For seven years she crisscrossed Africa, from Egypt to West African kingdoms, to Great Zimbabwe, a civilisation Europeans refused to believe was built by Africans.

From the beginning of humanity (we can all be traced back to Africa) to the modern, pre-colonial era, she selected personalities who helped shape Africa, predominantly rulers, and brought them to life by drawing on oral tradition. She echoes the words of the Kenyan palaeoanthropologist, Dr Richard Leakey, of the imperative to challenge the prejudices some people hold 'in their thinking about

Africa, breaking it down not with fairy tales but with facts'. Her aim was to dispel the myths of African history and to inspire young people of African background seeking to learn more about their history. Her book ends with a reflection on the future of Africa and how it's being shaped by Africa's youth.

On a personal note, Zeinab's lecture and book reminded me of my debate with my Kenyan students at Siakago Boys' boarding school where I taught as a US Peace Corps Volunteer, 1967-69. In my first term, my students wanted to study East African history from the 'time when the white man came', not the year 1000, as the new syllabus stated. I made a deal with them to talk to their elders during the

month's break, and then we'd agree when to start. Upon their return, they shared their elders' oral

histories, happy to start from 1000, proud that they too have a history.



Zeinab Badawi with Rev'd Angela Sheard



# Welcome home Sam!

Our Vicar, **Sam Wells**, had a couple of months off work, and returned Sunday 16 March to a jubilant Welcome Home celebration.

At the start of the Eucharist, Venerable Katherine Hedderly, Archdeacon of the Diocese, read Bishop Sarah's letter and the clergy and wardens laid hands on Sam while the choir sang, 'You Do Not Walk Alone'.

Sam's sermon centred on what Jesus is about, the grain has to die to bear fruit. The story of a father jubilant over his 11 year old daughter's remission from a disease had the message: It's not triumph or victory but the 'rediscovery of the commonplace', the goodness of a hug, the taste of a bacon butty, a walk along the canal.

Resurrection is the moment when the grain dying comes true, multiplying into millions. The fruit is the gift of the commonplace, the cherishing of life itself, the communion. Sam's sermon ended with 'When times are hard, may you never turn your heart to stone.' and 'When you have your life taken away, you cherish it like never before.'

Sam unfolded his joy in his sermon and words of appreciation for 'this beloved community, the remarkable people that make it what it is, and the amazing things the Holy Spirit continues to do every day here'.

At coffee we celebrated with cake, a 'Welcome Home' banner, flowers, tears of joy and hugs in our 'rediscovery of the commonplace' together.

*"This is a remarkable community for its imagination, compassion, wisdom, kindness and resilience. It has consistently found ways to make a blessing out of adversity, to turn dung into compost, to find truth in difficult times. I'm more honoured than ever to be at the heart of it."*



# Welcome, Rev'd Andrew Woodward

Our new Associate Vicar for Ministry, **Andrew Woodward**, looks younger than his years, as he worked for Lloyds Bank for 35 years, was ordained in 1999.

His accomplishments include reviving St Mary's Kemp Town in Chichester Diocese, a large Victorian church scheduled for closure; Rural Dean of Brighton in 2015, Bishop's Liaison Officer



for the LGBTQI Communities in 2017 and Canon and Prebendary of Chichester Cathedral, 2024.

Andrew is in a civil partnership with Neel and has two grown up children. He enjoys food, wine, travelling, time with family, friends, and his Scottish terrier, Magnus.

*"I am looking forward to being part of the community at St Martin's with its rich history of welcome and inclusion, courageous action and generous outreach, and to working alongside a superb team of people."*

# St. Martin's Hospitality Group

For Sunday morning coffee, feast days (dawn Easter breakfast, anyone?) and special events, the Hospitality Group, led by Bronwyn Sanders, is here to make the event special and for you to feel welcome at St Martin's. You'll see them ferrying coffee urns up and down the stairs, laying out and picking up cups and decorating the Parish Hall for special events. There's love in their lashing of tea, cakes, biscuits and a nod towards dropping a donation towards costs. Richard is a dab hand at cooking with a mighty team that starts at ridiculous o'clock for special events such as Easter breakfast after the dawn service.

(For me the best service of the year as long as Richard keeps the Easter fire in check!)

St Martin's is known as the 'Church of the Open Door' and the Hospitality Group makes sure there's a treat and smile on the other side of that door.

If you'd like to join the Hospitality Group, taking your turn once a month or for special events, talk to one of the group or drop an email to Sian Conway, our ever wonderful administrator at St Martin's, [sian.conway@smidf.org](mailto:sian.conway@smidf.org) who will pass on the good news!



Some of the Hospitality Group: Michelle Yap, Mel & Steve Adams, Bronwyn, Kristine Wellington, Mary Henkel, (whom we will greatly miss!), Richard Carter and Annette Atkins (It wasn't easy to get them to stop to get this photo! You can see Mel's ready to head off with the black bin liner.)



# Celebrating Michael Boyle's 50 years at St M's with canapes

Michael Boyle celebrated a +5 birthday and 50 years at St Martin's with drinks and canapes, especially catered by Jeff Claxton, after Eucharist on 15th Dec 2024.

He spoke movingly about the 'terrific trio' of priests, Austen Williams, Ron Swan, and Andy Couch, when he first came to St Martin's. He jokingly said, "We must never give up the right to say 'these troublesome priests' And there's really never really been no let up since. Geoffrey Brown, who founded St Martin's Enterprise in the 1980s said, 'it's ok to talk about St Martins as long as we keep pointing to God and not to ourselves'."

Michael continued to praise St Martin's: "There's been big changes in 50 years, including being on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the early difficult years of the Enterprise. It's something I understand St M's is having to go through again to some degree to make up for the shortfall in revenue

due to COVID. In the past wages were low, and now the workers are getting the London Living Wage so it's harder to make a profit.'

What were his best moments? 'It's impossible to say as there are too many to choose from. The clergy's own prayers, the personal ones that are not straight from the liturgy. In the last ten years, it's been my taking part as a volunteer with the Sunday International Group!'

Michael wrapped up with this moving reflection: 'I really appreciate that there's no step forward or progress made in my life in which I haven't been able to discern a thread of Saint Martin's in my life. I'm so grateful for these 50 years at St Martin's, and thanks to the Hospitality Team and Jeff for his canapes for making this event so wonderful.'



*"I really appreciate that there's no step forward or progress made in my life in which I haven't been able to discern a thread of Saint Martin's in my life."*

Michael Boyle, pictured above centre with Jeff Claxton (left), and Sam Wells (right)



# Being with course: At St. Martin's and Online

Would you like to explore your faith with us?  
St Martin's has developed a ten-week course that explores the Christian faith within St Martin's inclusive and positive understanding of the Christian faith. It's particularly constructed for those who are exploring for the first time or after a significant break.

## Reflection by Bob Demming, a 'Being With' course participant:

'Learning to live as one body'

The search for a truly meaningful sense of belonging with those we meet can be inspiring, thought provoking yet sometimes difficult to comprehend.

It is with this in mind that I enrolled on the 'Being With' course and attended my first meeting on January 28th. I had expected my faith and beliefs to be tested and my scant awareness of Christian philosophy to be exposed.

Refreshingly I was joining a group also searching for a sense of community willing to share feelings, emotions and experiences in an effort to explore the human qualities required to bring the best out of ourselves and others. A community reflecting on how to cope with diversity and difference and how to harness failure as a step towards success. Using moments to sit back and reflect.

This was my first experience of 'Being With' and my efforts to strengthen my relationship with a life where God has a more central role.

We sat back and contemplated the 'heart of our week'. A simple task designed to ensure that we appreciate important moments in our daily lives

I was asked to reflect on a world where being one body was often a painful, often a depressing experience. A world where the pain often inflicted on the various parts of our body was not only intolerable but unnecessary. Yet simultaneously being of one body could mean being part of a life enhancing wonderful world worth fighting for.

In a curious way and while not looking I started to see God around me. I found it to be a curious emotion having lived a life full of doubt. It made me especially curious to find out where this journey might take me.

The Being With course is an opportunity to find a faith to live by through listening to the life-experiences of other members of a group in an accepting and non-judgemental way.

For further information contact:  
[beingwith@smittf.org](mailto:beingwith@smittf.org)



Pictured: Flora xxx, Jane Phillips, Sherry-Ann Taylor, xxx

# Reflecting on St M's Chinese Congregation's 60th Anniversary

2024 marked a significant milestone for our Chinese-speaking Congregation: our 60th anniversary. In the traditional Chinese calendar, 60 years, or (一甲子), represents the completion of one full cycle — a journey through time filled with many seasons of growth, changes, and renewal.

As we reach this pivotal moment, we find ourselves not only looking back with gratitude but also forward with hope and anticipation for what lies ahead.

September 2024 marks the completion of our first year under lay-led leadership, a transition that came as our congregation faced vast restructuring. In this process, we are reimagining who we are and how we walk together in faith. Like a child learning to walk, we take cautious steps, yet with determination and trust in the One who guides us.

This journey hasn't been without its challenges. As we embrace the changing demographics of our

congregation—honouring the old, welcoming the new, and supporting those seeking spiritual growth—we navigate between people's hopes and fears. Miscommunication, disappointment, and disagreements arise, but God's love sustains us. Our members are a rich tapestry, from the last generation of migrants who laid the foundation of our church to newer arrivals who bring fresh energy and perspectives. While diversity is our strength, it also challenges us to be creative and adaptable in how we serve and engage.

Despite these hurdles, we continue to thrive. This is evident in the initiatives that have emerged—the Food for Our Home project,

which unites people from diverse backgrounds around the table, the warm fellowship of our Home Kindred Café, the harmonies of our joint choirs, and the simple yet profound way we serve one another through the sharing of food, a beloved tradition in our culture.

As we celebrate, we reflect on the highs and lows of our 60-year journey. Like any cycle, there have been seasons of joy and times of

uncertainty. Yet, through it all, we have persevered by the grace of God, drawing strength from his faithfulness and the love we share as a community.

We held a special thanksgiving service followed by a tea party and dinner as a time to give thanks, reflect, and look ahead with hope as we begin the next chapter of our journey, trusting in God's continued guidance and blessings.



Eugene Ling, Wilson xxx and xxx



## Friends in the news: Jacob on patrol with London Pigeon Rescue Team

Jacob, a Friend of St Martin's and a volunteer with our Sunday International Group, regularly patrols with Jenny and others to cure pigeons with bulbous feet or no toes.

Their volunteer group is trying to help the birds — who some see as vermin — overcome this problem.

“Stringfoot” is a condition in which pigeons’ feet become entangled with foreign matter, such as string or hair, causing their toes to become infected.

Jennie and Jacob are part of the London Pigeon Rescue Team and have saved hundreds of pigeons with the condition.

The pair hope to change negative attitudes towards the birds.

*Source: Simran Sohal, BBC London*



After the ceremony in the Guildhall

## Revd Dr Bernárd Lynch honoured by the City of London

Revd. Dr. Bernárd Lynch is an Irish priest and human rights activist who did groundbreaking AIDS ministry in New York and London and risked everything by speaking out for LGBTQ rights as an openly gay married Catholic priest.

Lynch became a Freeman of the City of London at a ceremony at London's Guildhall on Jan. 17, receiving an honour dating back to 1237, shortly after the Magna Carta. The “Freedom of the City

of London” has been bestowed in more recent years on leaders from Franklin Roosevelt to Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela to artists such as Ian McKellen and Judi Dench.

Father Lynch recalled his work in the early 80s in New York at the dawn of the AIDS pandemic.

*"When HIV/AIDS hit us with the force of a nuclear tsunami," he told the assembled, "we learnt from the depths of our oppression that life is most radically about justice. While one can have justice without love, one cannot have love without justice."*

When faced with persecution by the Catholic Archdiocese of New York for working tirelessly with dying gay men, he kept going. He credits his ability to keep going to the unconditional love of his late mother and the support from his father, who just turned 100, when Lynch was put on trial in the Bronx in 1990 on false charges, for which he was exonerated.

*"This is where hope began," he said as he went from the courtroom to "the hospital beds of my dying brothers."*

*"Where there is no love you put in love and there you will find love," he said. "They taught me love" amidst "unspeakable grief."*

He continued that work in London, where he put down roots in 1991.

As for being honored in a country where he has lived now for 34 years and has not always felt welcome as an Irishman, he quoted President Higgins, who said during a state visit to the UK, *"We British and Irish live in each other's shadow."*

*"That shadow is made much brighter today," Lynch said, "not just for me, for all minorities and for all the diaspora of every race, color, and creed."*

*"Freedom is ultimate," he told RTE (Irish TV), "whether we're talking about life or love or doing works of justice. We pursue [freedom] all our lives and I don't think we ever catch up with it. But there are moments when we have more space to be who we are and to be accepted for what we've done... Anything that brings people together and allows people to celebrate their own humanity however that expresses itself is a great gift."*

Amen to that, Bernárd Lynch.

Credits: photo by Bernard Lynch  
[gaycitynews.com/gay-priest-bernard-lynch-freedom-of-city-of-london/](http://gaycitynews.com/gay-priest-bernard-lynch-freedom-of-city-of-london/)

[www.irishcentral.com/news/bernard-lynch](http://www.irishcentral.com/news/bernard-lynch)

## Friends in print: Philippa Smethurst

Philippa is well known at St Martin's along with her husband David Jackson and is an Associate of the Nazareth Community. She has worked as a psychotherapist for 30 years.



Emerging after the first lockdown, her book about trauma has recently been published by Jessica Kingsley. This is a book to help ground us and help us find our equilibrium when buffeted by the world.

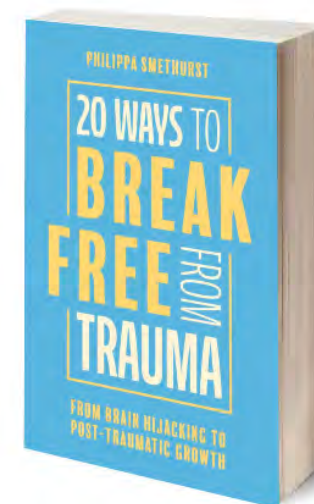
*20 Ways to Break Free from Trauma* distils the author's extensive knowledge of trauma into focused areas of self-help, unveiling practical insights for developing self compassion and healing deep and often hidden wounds.

"Trauma is often invisible but profoundly impactful," Philippa explains. "It's an experience that gets under our skin, and its effects can be hard to throw off. It can cut us off from ourselves and break our hearts. I wrote this book to make what is hidden visible, to dismantle stigma and offer hope for transformation."

*20 Ways to Break Free From Trauma* is available from Amazon and major retailers.

Email: [ps@philippasmethurst.com](mailto:ps@philippasmethurst.com)  
Her YouTube channel vignettes have reached over nine thousand:  
[youtube.com/philippasmethurst](https://youtube.com/philippasmethurst)

Website: [philippasmethurst.com](http://philippasmethurst.com)





# Online parishioner spotlight: Katja Hecht



**I got to know St Martins online in January 2022, when I was in quite a crisis with regard to my teacher's job here in Osnabrück at the time, and also with regard to my local church community. A crisis in life and faith, so to speak.**

The beginning at St Martin's was coming across the Facebook live stream for the Eucharist. When I heard Sam preaching about God seeking to be with us humans, I was so captivated by the words that even my lack of language skills made me stay.

This was followed by Bread for the World with Richard's sermon on the Beatitudes and the streams of morning prayers.

My life began to make sense again. And I plucked up my courage and took part in the after-service coffee. As a non-native speaker, I was a little worried whether I would be welcome. But I was welcomed and

encouraged to stay. "Listening groups", "tea @3" with Cath Duce became my favourite moments in the calendar. And I learnt — and not just the English language.

After a short time, the Sermon preparation workshops with Sam and Sally, and the HeartEdge workshop became also part of my regular weekly schedule, I didn't want to miss St Martin's anymore.

In one of the workshops I got to know Nazareth and the Companions and I found the spiritual life I had been looking for so many years.

So on my first in-person visit to St Martin's on Ascension Day 2022, it was a moment of coming home. And it always is. I talk about "my church" and often have to explain

myself when I'm asked what I'm doing on Wednesday evenings or on Sunday mornings ("Oh, then I will be in my London church").

It is such a gift to be part of the St Martin's family through the online community, even living at a distance here in Osnabrück in the northwestern Part of Germany. Celebrating the whole church year, the liturgy, in the live streams, joining the Saturday 8 am Nazareth Contemplative Walks, being in the Nazareth Companions for sharings and online retreats, and Gatherings in the disability group with Fiona MacMillan.

And I am so grateful to be part of the Rota for the regular Compline

services or the Sunday online stewardings and thus part of the St Martin's family.

Incidentally, I had already met Nazareth in the summer of 2021 when Richard streamed a Nazareth Contemplative prayer walk on Holy Island on Facebook. I still remember the silence in the mudflats, people walking barefoot across the seabed (today all the faces have names), Richard's words, the lapping of the water. Wow, I thought. They are just like me.

**Read more about St. Martin in the Fields online community overleaf.**



**Osnabrück, Germany**

## Friend in memoriam: Professor Mary Henkel

Mary, a quiet, shy and prayerful person, graced us at St Martin's with her presence and warmth.

A keen member of the Hospitality Group, the Nazareth Community and the Archers, Mary found her spiritual home at St Martin's and embraced as many community activities she possibly could in her last ten years with us at St M's.

Mary was a leading higher education scholar, author or editor of thirteen books, and for her 70th birthday her colleagues wrote a fine volume of articles as a tribute to her work and a token of gratitude for contributions to higher education research — *From Governance to Identity* (Springer, 2008). Her colleagues, Alberto Amaral and Pedro Teixeira, said: *"Mary Henkel was a gifted scholar and through her excellent work, intellectual openness and kindness she has earned a well-deserved scholarly reputation and the gratitude of numerous friends that will deeply miss her."*

Ugo Nnabuihe said: *"Mary was so happy for me that I got my leave to remain in the UK, I am going to*

*miss Mary so much, Mary will be surely be missed by everyone."*

Prof Rosaline Pritchard said: *"She was a charming person with a sharp intelligence, sweetened by her human understanding and empathy. Her magnum opus, Academic Identities, demonstrates those qualities, which is why it is still valued and quoted."*



Photo of Mary by Prof Rosalind Pritchard

## Safeguarding support 365 days a year

Like many churches St Martin-in-the-Fields is mindful about the need to protect members of the congregation, service users, volunteers and staff from harm and abuse and maintain our records.

### Safeguarding in practice

The protection of children and adults from harm and abuse at St. Martin's is not a single person's role, it is a shared responsibility assigned to numerous staff and volunteers across our church site.

Imagine our network from Sam as incumbent, the clergy team to the cafe staff, the trust to the Sunday international group, the choir to the creche, occasional stewards to members of open circle, Disability Advisory Group to the drawing group.

Increasingly across all levels of St. Martin's more staff and volunteer leads know the micro or macro role they play to actively protect children and adults from harm and abuse.

### Our policy and practice

As part of our safer recruitment process, staff, PCC and volunteer leaders take the relevant DBS check for their role. An online safeguarding training programme is available from the Diocese of London.

Our vicar is the incumbent who has ultimate oversight of safeguarding, often via a range of staff and volunteers and through our secured records.

We know the Parish Safeguarding leaflet is in the south door leaflet and available on our website, however we can and must go further. There are many members of the congregation who attend church services, or who join us online only and some who simply stay in touch through this Friend's magazine. It is important to keep



members informed of our policy, progress and priorities to create a safeguarding environment that upholds the safeguarding standards set by the Church of England.

---

## How are we creating a safeguarding culture?

Much of our safeguarding role is guided by the Church of England's core standards. This is informed by the Children's Act and the Care Act 2014. There is a high emphasis on working together as a team around the adult, child or family respectively.

---

## Who else needs to be involved?

Safeguarding is certainly multi-faceted; it relies on the trusted person's ability to protect the service user's dignity, respect their capacity to make decisions. Members of the online congregation and in church worshippers are invited to take part in our **Congregation Safeguarding Conversation** A series March to June 2025.

**Part 1: Discover**; How we create a safeguarding culture and the benefits of a prevention approach in a church setting. The findings from

three years to address the needs identified by members of the DAG, and new digital insights from our Open Circle,

### Part 2: Discuss

- How safeguarding occurs to you at St Martin's
- Boundaries in church and online
- Ways to protect children and adults at risk from harm and abuse
- Ways to protect adults from financial abuse and scams
- Approaches to protect children and young people

---

## Drive change

The training we give in the faith sector helps to protect children and adults both in church and within your non church life.

### Join us on

Sunday 30 March 2025 at noon

Sunday 4 May 2025 at noon

---

## Contact

[Safeguarding@smitf.org](mailto:Safeguarding@smitf.org)  
[Kristinewellington@gmail.com](mailto:Kristinewellington@gmail.com)  
[Sherryann.taylor@smitf.org](mailto:Sherryann.taylor@smitf.org)

07534 028 144

# St Martin-in-the-Fields Online

Services, sermons, concerts, lectures, live streamed or recorded to enjoy at your leisure — all available anywhere in the world. St Martin-in-the-Fields might have roots going back centuries, but it is at the forefront of reaching beyond its parish borders via digital technologies.

For news about everything — concerts, services, lectures, Café in the Crypt, the shop, congregation — visit the main web page:

[stmartin-in-the-fields.org](http://stmartin-in-the-fields.org)

You can sign up to the church's news and podcasts there, and for access to the texts of each Sunday's sermon, click 'Congregational Life' then 'Talking Points'. That is the host for our own Friends page:

[stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/friends/](http://stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/friends/)

from which one can download this very magazine!

The two sites from which to watch livestreams or archived recordings are St Martin's Digital:

[stmartins.digital](http://stmartins.digital)

And SMITF's Facebook page:

[facebook.com/stmartininthefields](https://facebook.com/stmartininthefields)

These include:

### Sung Morning Prayer

8:30 am GMT, held every week day. (This is advertised as available only on the Facebook page, but from 24 January it appears on St Martin's Digital, so perhaps it will now be on both platforms)

### Great Sacred Music

Most Thursdays, 1:00-1:30 pm GMT.

### Bread for the World

The weekly informal eucharist held on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm.

## Sunday Eucharist (10:00 am)

On the St Martin's Digital platform, one can click 'Worship' at the top of the page for archived services, and 'Reflection' for the sermons alone.

## In Every Corner Sing

'A new service of word and music with a focus on global themes on Mondays at 1pm during term-time, featuring beautiful singing from our choral scholars'.

## Contemplative Prayer

Saturday 8:00-9:00 am.

## Special services

Special services such as Nine Lessons and Carols (15 December 2024), the Crib Service 'No Room at the Inn' and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and Epiphany Carols (12 January 2025) are available as well.

For the archives, St Martin's Digital ([stmartins.digital](https://stmartins.digital)) is simpler, as the Facebook page includes all manner of other information and isn't a great place to locate something from weeks ago, not to mention months or years.

For live worship, an advantage of Facebook, however, is its chat function: an online steward is usually on hand to post the order of service and answer any questions, and a nice online community has grown up, from Melbourne to Johannesburg to Amsterdam.

Online coffee is 'served' after the Sunday services, via a Zoom link provided during the service.

Much more than worship and Great Sacred Music is on offer.

Click 'Lectures' on St Martin's Digital for the intellectual and spiritual riches of each Autumn Lecture Series going back to 2018, up to the most recent iteration, 2024's *Inspiration: The Influences That Have Shaped My Life*.

It seems likely that The Conversation, a series of weekly events discussing conflict and empathy, inequality and power, climate crisis and wonder, on through May 2025, will be available as well.

# Spring 2025 events

## In Conversation series: in person at St Martin's and on-line: Is there Hope for the Holy Land?

Led by Daniel Munayer

**Monday 31 March 2025, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Based in Jerusalem, Daniel serves as the Executive Director of Musalaha, an organization dedicated to teaching, facilitating, and training reconciliation, primarily between Israelis and Palestinians of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Drawing on his Palestinian heritage, Daniel combines intellectual insight with practical skills to develop a decolonial and indigenous approach to reconciliation. His

work emphasizes freedom for the oppressed and redemption for the oppressors, grounded in the humanization of all.

Daniel is a globally recognized speaker and made history as the first Palestinian to personally address both the UN Security Council in New York and St. Paul's Cathedral in London.





## Lent Silent Retreat: A Quiet Path — Contemplative Practices for Daily Life

Led by Andrew Rudd

St. Columba's house (Woking)

7-9 March 2025 **SOLD OUT**

Andrew Rudd is a teacher, spiritual director, leader of retreats and quiet days, and a writer. He has a PhD in poetry and spirituality. His retreat will be based on his recent book for Canterbury Press, published in 2024, *The Quiet Path: Contemplative Practices for Daily Life*.



Pictured above: Florence, viewed from Giardino Bardini

## Lent Study Course 2025 — 'God of Surprises'

By Gerard Hughes

Every Wednesday evening 5  
Mar – 16 Apr (inclusive)

In person or online

The cost of the course is £25 which includes a copy of the book or £15 if you already own it. To sign up for the Lent Study Course register & pay through the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/4jpX3Wp>

Or, if you don't have internet access contact Ms. Sian Conway at:  
5, St. Martin's Place, WC2N 4JH  
Tel no. 020 7766 1100

Free places are available upon request; to apply for one contact:  
[jolley.gosnold@smitf.org](mailto:jolley.gosnold@smitf.org)



St Mary's Paddington, pictured inset: Paul Taylor

## Friends tour St Mary's Paddington

7th April 2025

Paul Taylor will be leading a tour of St Mary's Paddington, 7th April, 12 to 13,00 with coffee afterwards. This is the first of three Friends Tours in 2025, the next ones are St Anne's Soho and St Paul's Covent Garden with tours of the area and coffee afterwards at a local watering hole.

Contact [friends@smitf.org](mailto:friends@smitf.org) for joining info

## Peace Pilgrimage to Assisi, Sienna & Florence

Led by Sam Wells and Richard Carter

22 – 28 April, 2025

Join a seven day Pilgrimage to Italy with Sam Wells and Richard Carter flying from Heathrow on 22nd April. Only one twin room remains available, prices from £2,095 per person.

To book contact McCabe  
Pilgrimages at [mccabe-travel.co.uk](http://mccabe-travel.co.uk)



Pilgrimage beginning at St. Martin's

## Pilgrimage from St Martin's to Canterbury Cathedral

**May 23rd – 26th, 2025**

The 35th annual Pilgrimage to Canterbury in aid of The Connection takes place this year between 23rd & 26th May. You can join for the whole Pilgrimage, for a day, or for the final stages.

For further details contact:  
[Eugene.Ling@cstm.org.uk](mailto:Eugene.Ling@cstm.org.uk)

# Membership form

For more information about becoming a member, see back cover.

**First names**

**Surname**

**Address**

**Postcode**

**Country**

**Mobile no.**

**Email**

### Gift Aid declaration for UK taxpayers

**Tick the box below to Gift Aid your donation**

☐ I wish to Gift Aid my donation of £  to The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify the Friends 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 £25 and/or a donation of your choice

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**

Reference: **Your name**

If any queries, email: [friends@smidf.org](mailto:friends@smidf.org)

Or telephone: **+44 7927 128 088**

Address: **5 St. Martin's Place, London, WC2N 4JH, UK**

Application form online: [smidf.org/friends](https://smidf.org/friends)  
or scan QR code overleaf



# Join us

**Join online:**

Scan the QR  
code or visit

**[smitf.org/friends](https://smitf.org/friends)**



---

## 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 the mission and ministry of St Martin's through our:

- Regular magazine featuring people, experiences and everyday life of St Martin's
- Online webinars
- 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 are 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.

---

## How to join

For just £25 annual subscription (or donation of your choice) you will be contributing to the life and work of this inspiring church community.

Simply complete the form on the inside back cover, or find our online form at **[smitf.org/friends](https://smitf.org/friends)**

Belonging remains a special part of human relationships and the Friends in a tangible way at St Martin in the Fields, embody their belonging to one another and to God.

It doesn't get better than that.

**Revd Dr Sam Wells**

Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields

