

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



St Martin's Day, 5th July

This has always been a very special time of year for our Parish Church, and that is just as true in 2020.

I have seen the photos of the walks and picnics and general festivities of years gone by, as you have gathered to celebrate our Parish and its Patron, St Martin. I believe officially St Martin's Day is sometime in deep November, but transferring it to a July date offers far more opportunity for fun!

This year we celebrate without fanfare or funfair, but with a gentle and gradual reacquaintance with the familiar. This Sunday will mark the first celebration of the Eucharist for 16 weeks, and how fitting it is to be doing so for our Patronal Festival.

However, we will not *all* be gathered. Many have made the difficult but wise decision to stay at home for a while longer; some are unable to come even if they wanted to; and not all who want to come will be able to be accommodated. So, we continue to hold ourselves together in spirit as much as in body, and we pray for the day when we can truly gather again.

St Martin was a man of great courage and faith. We can learn from him today what it means to be the people of God in these unprecedented times.

Rev Jonny

Sunday Worship – 12th July



We will continue our pattern of one simple service of Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.30am for the foreseeable future. If you would like to attend the service on the 12th July, then it is essential that you book a place online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-martins-930-communiuon-tickets-111793188436>

Places will be limited to 30. We will operate a first-come-first-served system for the time-being.

If you are unable to secure a place this time around, I am very sorry, but there will be more opportunities as we go forward.

It will be a spoken service, without singing, and the Eucharist will be offered in bread alone. There will be several other restrictions on the way we can worship, but it will be a welcome first step back towards the 'new normal'.

Guidelines for Private Prayer

- The Church is now open daily from 9am to 4pm
- If you are in a vulnerable group, seek medical advice before coming to church
- Fill in an attendance card when entering
- Use hand sanitizer provided on entry
- Follow the signage to available spaces
- Remain physically distanced from others
- Candles may be lit, using disposable tapers
- Respect the stillness and quiet by taking conversations outside.



Gift Day 2020

The Church Council have decided that it would not be appropriate to send our usual letter to the whole Parish asking for donations this year.

The full impact of the pandemic on people's finances remains unclear, and we do not want to add to anyone's burden at this time.

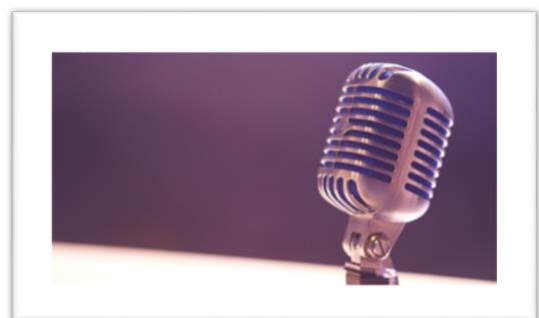
If you would like to make an individual donation, above and beyond your usual giving, then we will gladly receive it and put it to good use for the mission of the Church.

We continue to encourage those who give regularly to the collection plate to consider moving to a form of planned giving, and Thelma can support anyone who would like help to do that.

Worship from Home

It has been wonderful to hear from so many of you that have engaged with the written and recorded worship that has been sent out each week. By email and post we now reach over 100 people each week.

Even as the church slowly re-opens, this ministry will continue, so you will have the option to worship at home for some time to come.



To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: smartinsrector@gmail.com