

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



Sixth Sunday After Trinity, 19th July

From the very beginning - even before the Christian Church emerged - singing was at the heart of the people's relationship with God and with Creation.

The Book of Psalms is more of a song-book than we probably realise. Many of the Psalms had musical scores provided for them, and the verses would be sung during worship, prayer and pilgrimage.

"I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live" (Psalm 104:33).

As we begin to gather again for worship in church, singing remains prohibited, and for many (including me) that is a great sadness. The truth is the scientific evidence does seem to suggest that it remains a high risk activity.

But we must remember that singing (just like worship, prayer and pilgrimage) need never be confined to Sunday morning in church! Until we are able to sing again together, there is nothing to stop you (except perhaps your neighbours) from singing to God wherever you are.

When they were imprisoned by Rome for spreading the Good News, *"Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them"* (Acts 16:25).

So, whether it's by listening to the radio, finding clips on Youtube, or tuning in to Songs of Praise, lift up your voices and sing praises to the Lord, just not in church.... yet!

Rev Jonny

Sunday Worship



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 19th or 26th July, then it is essential that you book a place online, or by ringing the Rector if you do not have access to the internet:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/112421728416> (19th)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/113601567346> (26th)

We now feel able to safely accommodate 40 worshippers. When you book a place, you need to book as many 'tickets' as there are people in your group.

It will be a spoken service, and the Eucharist will be offered in bread alone.

Visitors to Church

St Martin's Church will always welcome visitors, whether for private prayer or to join with our gathered worship on Sundays.

As the Island's borders are now open, you may be receiving visitors yourself. If you would like to bring them to church, we ask that they ensure they have abided by the government's regulations and obtained a negative COVID test result before coming into the church building.

Similarly, if you have spent time off Island, we would ask you to follow the appropriate guidelines before returning to church yourself.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to the Rector.



Church Stewards

I am extremely grateful to all those who have volunteered as Stewards over the last few weeks. Thanks to their dedication and service, the church has remained opened and clean every day for private prayer.

As I look to revise the rota for stewarding, I would welcome any more volunteers who would be prepared to offer some of their time. It only takes about 15 minutes, once a week, to wipe down the open pews and ensure the church is in good order to receive people for private prayer.

Please let the Rector know if you would like to help with this.



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