

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



Seventh Sunday After Trinity, 26th July

It has been a joy and a privilege to sit each week and compose some thoughts for this newsletter.

When we were plunged so suddenly into lockdown back in March, it was vital that we stayed in contact as much as possible. I had become heavily reliant on the 'Sunday Morning Notices in Church', and now we needed a new way to communicate.

Each week 'Distant but United' has been emailed out to nearly 100 members of our church family, and over the last two months we have been able to send it out by post to dozens more. I know that for many of you it has brought some comfort, and a sense of being together despite the distance between us.

As we move into August, we are planning on making a few changes. Partly this is because I am taking a couple of weeks leave at the beginning of the month, and partly because we have decided that there won't be any dramatic changes to our current programme of worship and private prayer until September; so there is not a great deal of news to share!

We will produce some form of weekly bulletin, and there will be a special edition of this newsletter each month. This will begin later in August with details of the next phase of the re-launch of our ministry and mission, which we hope to roll-out from September.

Thank you for reading and sharing these updates. It has been good to be in such close contact with each other. We have been distant but united.

Rev Jonny

Sunday Worship



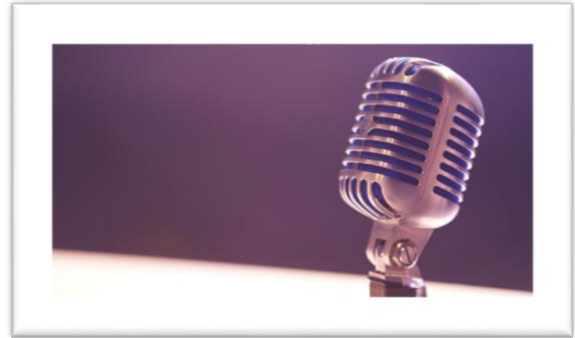
We are now confident that we can accommodate all those who wish to come to Sunday worship, **without the need for a booking system**. Sunday 26th July will therefore be the last Sunday on which the current system operates. If you would like to book a place for that, follow this link or contact the Rector.

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

We will still need to take a register of who attends each week (for the purposes of tracking and tracing) and some people will need to sit in the South Aisle to ensure social distancing is maintained. The last few weeks have been delightful, and I think the restrictions have been out-weighted by the joy at being together.

Worship from Home

The weekly Service Sheets and audio recordings will be taking a short break over August (along with the Rector). Later in the summer we will be looking into options for how we continue some form of remote worship, and I look forward to sharing details of these with you in due course.



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: stmartinsrector@gmail.com