

Distant but United

St Martin's Parish Church



Third Sunday after Trinity, 28th June

What a pleasure it is to have the doors of church open again! To let the air flow in and the prayers flow out. From the Rectory windows I have seen a few folk (some familiar, some unknown to me) peep in through the open door and disappear into the sacred space within.

Of course the Church is more than the building - more than the granite and mortar - and we have learnt in recent months the power and generosity of the Church-in-the-world. But, however much we might be separate from the building, there remains something special about the building itself.

For close to a thousand years, the site of the Parish Church has been a place set aside for prayer. It holds an ancient heritage of the faithful.

Last Autumn I happened to be in the churchyard with an expert in micro-flora (tiny plant life) and he drew my attention to a particular kind of fungus. He said a very old piece of land that hasn't been tampered with for, say, 300 years, might have one or possibly two different species of this fungus. St Martin's churchyard, he said, had at least 14 separate species! It is without doubt one of the most ancient pieces of land on the Island.

And over those centuries, the paths have been trod and the pews have been sat upon by countless faithful souls as they offer their time and attention and love to the Lord.

The church has waited patiently, and it really is good to be back.
Rev Jonny

Sunday Worship



On the 5th of July, at 9.30am, there will be a short and simple service of Holy Communion in church. If you would like to attend, then it is essential that you book a place online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-martins-930-communion-tickets-110777703092>

Places will be limited to 30 and we have already extended the invitation to some of our more isolated congregation by telephone. 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'.

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

Guidelines for Private Prayer

Please note the following guidelines will be in place
from Tuesday 23rd June:

- The Church will 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.



Christian Aid Week

We have received a letter thanking us for the generous donations made during Christian Aid Week this year. As most donations were made online I cannot tell what amount was raised, but the local organisers seem suitably impressed, so thank you to all who showed their support for the incredible work they do.

My thanks especially to Joan Richard who - despite not being able to host a single Lent Lunch - was able to turn a miraculous profit nonetheless and made a sizable donation to Christian Aid on our behalf. Thank you Joan!

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.

