



St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Being Part
of our
Congregational
Life

*How to
support
financially
and why*



Letter *from* Sam

We give to our church as a sign of our gratitude to God. God has given us life and everything in our lives is a gift. Church is the organised form in which we express our thanks, and the act of solidarity by which together we try to respond to the world's challenges in faithful and inspiring ways.

But church has a practical side as well as a poetic one. Things of value need financing: we need to pay for maintenance for our glorious building, staff to clean it and run activities in and around it, clergy to offer worship, pastoral care and leadership, as well as ways to cover overheads such as insurance and printing and computers. If we want the poetry of beauty, truth and goodness, we must also pay for the prose of gutters, orders of service, heating and salaries.

We have a lot of initiatives associated with our church – major ones such as The Connection and St Martin's Charity, emerging ones such as Being With and HeartEdge. None of the money we give to the church goes to fund these organisations – they're all independently funded. Many people like to give to these very clear priorities. But someone has to pay for the nuts and bolts – the building and the core activity that underwrites the rest.

And this is a challenging moment. Our business, established in 1987, has been very successful in covering most of the site costs and contributing significantly to running the church as well. Since the pandemic things have been very difficult. The business has got back on its feet, but we are not yet seeing the financial returns that we would like. Our church currently needs extra help from those who value its life and ministry.

We all understand the reason we may want to give, even the reasons we should give; but I hope this booklet helps explain all the practical ways you can give.

With all thanks and God Bless

Revd Dr Sam Wells
Vicar, St Martin-in-the-Fields





Together *we* achieve *so much*

Look at what's happened here in the past few years. Everyone has their own unique experience of our church life.

This is a special time to be at St Martin's.

How many Christian institutions can say they are growing as we are?

- We have an active and valued online community, drawing hundreds of new people engaging with our life.
- Our congregation has grown onsite as well as online, and we're developing new initiatives like the Junior Choir and the Noon Service.
- We've reached new people with our distinctive understanding of Christianity through our Being With course.
- Our Nazareth Community has grown, and our Companions of Nazareth has mushroomed: together the two communities now number around 290 people.
- Our International Group continues to support ever more people ensnared in the asylum process, as well as seen several join our congregation.
- Our work with disability and theology is exemplar within the Church of England.
- We provide music to Church of England parishes, and our broadcasting continues to bring national recognition and appreciation.

This is just a snapshot. We're not investing in a declining ideal: we're striving to live even closer to the way of Christ than before. What a wonderful community of which to be a part.

How is *St Martin's* paid for?

For over 100 years, St Martin's mission has gone way beyond that of a conventional parish church. By the 1980s, as costs exceeded gifts, the business was started to provide additional support. Now in such complex and unstable financial times, we need to increase our congregational giving to stand alongside our income from commerce, grants and philanthropy.

St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust is currently picking up many deficits for us and will continue to do so, alongside raising money to support specific projects. Its fundraising campaign will support major renovation of the church, crypt, courtyard and Church Path, our plan to become carbon net zero and, we hope, provide us with an endowment for long-term financial security.

What do we need to pay for?

Together, we welcome hundreds to our weekly services of prayer, reflection and communion at our wonderful home in central London, and thousands more on line. Planned giving helps us plan.

Our Ministry and Mission includes:

- Clergy and our ministry team providing daily, varied and profound worship and spiritual support
- A warm building and online community for shared activities to deepen our faith, offer care of each other and forge friendships
- The Noon Service is looking towards helping the next generation explore their faith in their own context
- A place of sanctuary and peace for a million visitors a year



Projects that are self-funded and not supported by Congregational Giving:

- The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields – working with people affected by homelessness in central London
- The St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity – a national grant-giving charity supporting homelessness nationally, linked to the BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal
- The St Martin-in-the-Fields social enterprise – runs the café, shop, concerts and event hire. This is the commercial embodiment of our values. It contributes directly to the running of the church.
- The St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust – supports capital investment, mission projects such as Being With, Sunday International Group and building projects with The Connection. The Trust supports the PCC but not vice versa.
- The St Martin's Music Scholar teams, the Voices, concerts, recordings and touring and the gift of music to over a thousand churches in the UK is self-funded or supported by the Trust.

What *can* I support?

What could your monthly contribution fund?

It costs £1m a year to keep St Martin's open for worship.

We spend £600 a year on communion wafers for a year: £1 provides them for a service.

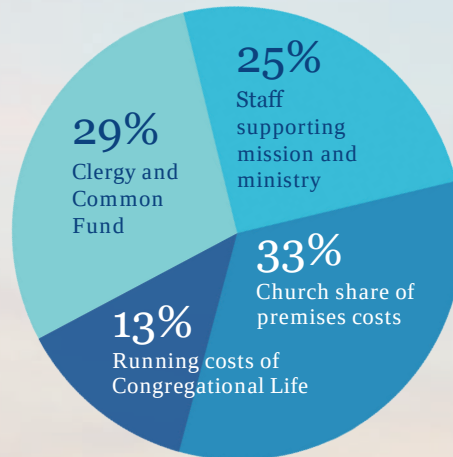
We spend £6,000 a year ensuring we have a working sound system: so a £25 donation keeps it going for day.

It costs £5,000 a year to stream our services: a £50 donation enables the housebound or distant congregational friends to join one of our services online.

Our electricity and heating bill is £100,000 a year, so a donation of £250 keeps us all warm for the day.

Whatever you can give will contribute to sustaining our congregational life.

This is how the Church's budget is spent



How *can* I give?

The cost-of-living crisis affects us all in different ways. For some, it makes just getting through the week next to impossible. For others, it means reassessing things we'd like to have, like holidays or new items in the home. For others again, it's a reminder of how fortunate it is to be at one remove from the challenges many are currently facing.

The point of this opportunity is not that all of us respond in the same way: it's that all of us respond in some way. Please focus not on what you can't do, but what you can do. None of us can do everything but all of us can do something.

And for the many of you who are already giving regularly, thank you. Perhaps we could ask you to push one more step if you are able.

- If you are giving cash, might you consider a standing order?
- If you are donating regularly, have you added Gift Aid? If you pay tax, we get an added 25% from the government. Please ask for a form to be sent to sign.
- If you are giving £10 per week, could you perhaps stretch to £12? Or £15? Or £20?
- Have you considered thinking ahead to a legacy?

Please give as you are able – no gift is too small. St Paul talks about giving cheerfully: it's a wonderful thing to know you're playing a part in what the Holy Spirit is doing in our community.

The following methods of regular giving are easily available

1. The Parish Giving Scheme
(the administration is paid for by the Diocese)
2. Payroll Giving
(especially if your employer provides matched funding)
3. A regular standing order, with a Gift Aid form, if applicable
(the administration of the Gift Aid is done at St Martin's)



Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme is run by the Church of England and covers the whole process, including Gift Aid, where appropriate.

Key points:

- It's easy to set up and it's easy to change when you wish to do so.
- You can opt in to having your gift increase each year by inflation.
- You can give anonymously through the scheme too.
- You can opt to give weekly/monthly/quarterly or yearly. Weekly or monthly is best for St Martin's as it enables us to plan.
- Payments are taken by direct debit on the 1st of each month
- St Martin's receives the money on the 10th of each month
- It's at no charge to St Martin's – this service is paid for by the dioceses, so the whole of your donation and Gift Aid comes to St Martin's.

Further details are found at

- <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>
- <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/frequently-asked-questions/>
- Call the telephone service on 0333 002 1271. The reference for St Martin's is 230623065.

Payroll Giving

If your employer has a payroll giving scheme (usually through Charities Aid Foundation [CAF] or the Charities Trust), you can set up a regular donation. Most larger employers offer this.

Key points:

- These are taken directly from your pay by your employer when you are paid.
- These amounts are tax-free from your gross pay, and so the PCC will receive that figure rather than your take-home amount. You do still pay the National Insurance contribution.
- Some employers also offer matched funding for payroll giving too. If your employer does, this is an excellent option.
- The supplier does take a fee for processing your donation (4% of your donation for CAF or 25p for the Charities Trust)
- More details should be available from your employer's HR department or intranet.

On rare occasions, an organisation does not allow payroll giving to religious organisations – but it should be possible to give to the St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust, which would be able to ensure your regular gift was sent to the PCC. Please contact us if that is the case.

Standing Order

You can give to St Martin's by a regular donation from your bank account.

Key points:

- You can set this up, using the details below.
- Donations are at the frequency you desire – weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Weekly or monthly is ideal for St Martin's to enable us to plan.
- If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete a Gift Aid declaration to enable St Martin's to claim back the tax that you have paid on this amount. It's at no cost to you.
- Higher-rate taxpayers get further relief when they make donations via Gift Aid – declare the Gift Aid donations in your self-assessment return.
- St Martin's handles the Gift Aid claim.

The account details are

Account Name: St Martin-in-the-Fields Parochial Church Council

Sort code: 604005

Account number: 31120504

Reference your Christian name and surname. Using your Christian name and surname as the reference enables us to identify the amounts in order to process a Gift Aid claim.

Legacies

Please contact Andrew Woodward, Associate Vicar for Ministry, Jane Templeman, PCC Treasurer, or Jeff Claxton, Church Warden to discuss how you might leave a legacy to St Martin's in your will. If you would like your legacy to include music, homelessness or the building infrastructure please talk to Sam Wells about a gift to the Trust.

Confidentiality

The details of gifts from individuals will need to be seen by a small number of people, in order that Gift Aid can be processed and other administrative tasks performed. Other than Allison Polius, Finance Manager, and Jeff Claxton, Gift Aid Administrator, not everyone will see details of every gift. For more information, please send an email via Sian Conway (clergy.office@smif.org) or speak to Andrew, Jane or Jeff after a service.



*Thou that hast giv'n so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart*

GEORGE HERBERT

(WHO WORSHIPED AT ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS IN THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY)

[smitf.org](https://www.smitf.org)

St Martin-in-the-Fields PCC – Registered Charity No. 1133936