

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Friends Magazine

Winter 2024

In this issue:

**100 Years of Religious
Broadcasting (pictured)**

**80th anniversary of the
ordination of the first
woman Anglican priest**

**Richard Carter's
65th Birthday**

And much more!



Welcome to The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields!

Robert Demming, Friends Chair

We'd like to welcome you to Friends 2024 by answering a few questions...

Who are the Friends of St Martin's?

70 years ago, The Friends started by welcoming newcomers to St Martin's and keeping others no longer able to attend in touch. We carry on that tradition by welcoming and connecting people near and far with St Martin's as we increase our world-wide and on-line congregation.

What do Friends do?

- We communicate with Friends, deepening spiritual and emotional connections with St Martin's
- We highlight St Martin's events so Friends can take part
- We do special Friends events at St Martin's & on-line

- We contribute to special projects at St Martin's such as the Sunday International Group, South African Youth Pilgrimage, flowers for church festivals & the Children's Ministry

How can you join Friends?

Visit this link to join the Friends or fill in form at end of Magazine

stmartin-in-the-fields.org/life-st-martins/friends/

Any questions & Friends Magazine comments & ideas:

friends@smitf.org

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80th anniversary of ordination of first woman Anglican priest, Florence Li Tim-Oi

25th Jan 2024, St Martin's 80th anniversary of Priesting of Florence Li Tim-Oi & 30th anniversary of Li Tim-Oi Foundation (supporting education of women priests)



Pictured left to right: Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Revd Christina Rees CBE Director of the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE Bishop of London, Revd Frances Shoemith, granddaughter of Bishop Hall (Ho Ming Wah)

Who were Rev. Florence Li Tim-Oi and Bishop Hall (Ho Ming Wah)?

Hundreds congregated at St Martin's on 25th Jan 2024 to celebrate the 80th priesting of Florence Li Tim-Oi as the first Anglican woman priest. 30 years ago the Li Tim-Oi Foundation was started to support the studies and ordination of majority world women as Anglican priests.

Florence Li Tim-Oi was the first woman priest in the Anglican Church, and she was ordained by the Bishop of Hong Kong, Bishop R. O. Hall (Ho Ming Wah) on 25th January 1944. He felt that this was as momentous a step as when the Apostle Peter baptised the Gentile Cornelius. As St Peter recognised that God had already given Cornelius the Baptismal gift of the Spirit, so Bishop Hall was merely confirming that God had already given Tim-Oi the gift of priestly ministry.

However, there was controversy, and to defuse it, in 1946 Tim-Oi surrendered her priest's licence so Bishop Hall could remain. She kept her Holy Orders, the knowledge of which carried her through Maoist persecution. She resumed the practice of her priesthood in the

Church in China, and in Toronto when she retired in 1981. She was awarded Doctorates of Divinity by General Theological Seminary, New York, and Trinity College, Toronto.

She died on 26 February 1992 in Toronto and is buried there.

At St Martin's we have two items dedicated to Rev. Florence Li Tim-Oi: a prayer board in the main church and an icon in the Dick Sheppard Chapel. The Ho Ming Wah centre is near the chapel and is named in honour of Bishop R. O. Hall (Ho Ming Wah) of Hong Kong who ordained Li Tim-Oi.



Celebrating 100 years of religious broadcasting on the BBC at St Martin's

On Sunday 6 January, 1924, at 6.15pm, the BBC broadcast the first live church service anywhere in the world.

On Sunday 6 January, 1924, at 6.15pm, the BBC broadcast the first live church service anywhere in the world. It was led by the Rev. Dick Sheppard. Listeners described it as “spell-binding”, “thrilling” and “an intellectual treat”.

The history of religious broadcasting on the BBC was marked at Radio 4's Ascension Day service, 9th May 2024, from St Martin-in-the-Fields – the home of that first broadcast.

Why was St Martin's chosen 100 years ago?

John Reith, the first General Manager of the BBC, chose Rev Dick Sheppard, who made St Martin's known for 'its compassionate outreach and war work... Dick was an innovator, fearless in the face of reactionary judgements, energetic to embrace the possibilities of new technology.'

The Rev. Dick Sheppard started the broadcast...

"In the second Sunday of each month, to be allowed to say prayers and sing hymns and to talk religion in the presence of any of you who are willing to listen, ...It comes to us here not because we are more capable than other churches but because St Martin-in-the-Fields...is known at least by name, by many people. Tonight we begin the happy, difficult task of attempting to make contact with the great unseen people, which no man can number."

Not everyone was happy...

The Vicar of St Stephen's Norbury protested, "It is you – a clergyman – who has set on foot a practice of having a kind of entertainment (for it can be called nothing else) during the time of Evening Service." It had also been a struggle to find an obliging venue.



The Rev. Dick Sheppard introduces religious broadcasting from St Martin-in-the-Fields, 6 Jan 1924.

Cathedrals were resistant – St Paul's didn't want “sensational methods” brought into worship, and the Dean of Westminster thought it was scandalous “that the gospel should be exposed to the hearing of fellows drinking their pots of beer with their hats on in public houses”.

St Martin's carries on the tradition: 98th BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal

Despite objections, St Martin's and the BBC carried on with religious broadcasting, and this year is the 98th BBC Christmas Appeal. It raises millions to enable St Martin's Charity to support individuals, charities and frontline workers. Its wide-reaching work

You can listen to the Ascension day service and read the full story at bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001yx1k

starts at Trafalgar Square through supporting The Connection, and across the UK, directly helping nearly 8,000 people. This help can be emergency grants and supporting thousands of frontline workers from Brighton to Belfast. It helps young people experiencing homelessness in Bristol, people leaving the criminal justice system in Scotland, women in Yorkshire and many others.

You can hear Sam's broadcast and our supporter Hugh Dennis as he meets Carla, John and others we have helped by visiting the link above.



Outside broadcast van outside St Martin-in-the-Fields, home of many live broadcast services since 1924.



Admiring Richard's Nazareth Stole birthday card: Phyllis SantaMaria (Project Manager for stole & card), Paul Akec (Head of St Martin's Security), Belinda Scarlett (Textile Artist & Designer of Nazareth Stole), Richard and Andrew Carter, & well-wisher



The Carter Brothers: Daniel, Andrew, Matthew, Richard with Nazareth Stole and Tim

Richard Carter's 65th birthday celebration with a surprise!

Richard and Cath Duce founded the Nazareth Community six years ago, and both Nazareth Community (people who come to St Martin's in person) and Companions (people outside St Martin's physical reach and online) are growing, both with more than 100 members each.

To celebrate Richard's 65th birthday, St Martin's people in person and online donated for the creation of a Nazareth stole.

Belinda Scarlett, an internationally renowned ecclesiastical textile artist (see Belinda Scarlett Textile Artist) was commissioned to produce the stole, a magnificent work of art. It has the Nazareth's Seven S's throughout the design: Silence, Service, Scripture, Sacrament, Sharing, Sabbath and Staying With.

Although the stole was a surprise

for Richard's birthday, it is for the Nazareth Community in perpetuity, for use at Nazareth events such as the Bread for the World service on Wednesdays at 18.30, the induction of new Nazareth members, wedding services and other events. Richard used it for Rev Angela Sheard and Rev James Patterson's wedding at St Martin's on 11th May.

Believe it or not, we surprised Richard on 3rd March, the Sunday before his birthday, 6th March. He knew something was up when he saw his four brothers at the 10.00

Eucharist. (He had asked for cake and Prosecco for his birthday!) It's hard to keep things secret from Richard because he's so engaged in the life of St Martin's, as almost all of us know, and we pulled it off. (It was hard ducking Richard when he came up to one of us telling others about the stole.)

By the way, Matthew Carter, Richard's brother, CEO of Depaul International, and for over 35 years in the international humanitarian sector, received his OBE on

Richard's actual birthday, 6th March. It was a celebrating week!

Find out about Nazareth Community from the new website, and we welcome you to join our events.

You can buy Richard's two books about Nazareth from St Martin's shop or online, both from Canterbury Press: *'The City is My Monastery: A Contemporary Rule of Life'* and *'Letters from Nazareth: a Contemplative Journey Home'*.

The Nazareth Community and Companions of Nazareth have launched a website for all who are interested in finding out more or following our simple contemporary rule of life.

It is open to everyone. The website provides an introduction to this way of life which links contemplation with generous service following 7 'S's':

- Silence
- Scripture
- Sharing
- Staying With
- Service
- Sacrament
- Sabbath

The website aims to be open, spacious, prayerful and easy to explore. It also provides resources for prayer and contemplation. We are so grateful to Charlotte Marino from our Music and Filming and Livestreaming Team who has designed this for us. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Visit the website at www.nazareth.community

All are very welcome to join us in this exploration. Do have a look and a wander and a wonder.

Blessings, *Richard Carter and Catherine Duce*

Saturday 12 October Nazareth Sharing: London Diocesan Day of Prayer

Archbishop Justin Welby and the Bishop of London Sarah Mullally joined the Nazareth Community for the London Diocesan Day of Prayer and the event was open to all in the London diocese.

You can find out about the Nazareth Community at www.nazareth.community

Listen online:

BBC Daily Service: A Week Long Series Exploring Religious Communities in the UK

Presented by Richard Carter,
Produced by Andrew Earis

Monday, with Sisters of the Holy Paraclete: bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0022srx

Tuesday, with Sister Maria Daughters of Charity: bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0022shn

Wednesday, with Fr Timothy Radcliffe, Blackfriars: bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0022t8z

Thursday: bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0022t1q



On location for broadcasting Nazareth Prayer Walk, Saturday 12th October:
Bishop of London Sarah Mullally, Jolley Gosnold, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Richard Carter

Emerging Artists US Tour



Sam Wells and St Martin's Emerging Artists North America Tour May 2024

Since I left the US in 2012, I have continued to accept invitations about twice a year to speak at conferences, preach at major churches, or contribute to academic events in the US. These opportunities maintain my connections and develop my and St Martin's profile (e.g. Being With and HeartEdge), and the proceeds benefit St Martin's Trust. This May was the fourth occasion I've been able to combine a trip with bringing with me one of our choral ensembles – in this case St

Martin's Voices Emerging Artists. The concept this time was to run my speaking events – to clergy, laity and university communities – alongside choral workshops led by Andrew Earis, Olivia Tait and our musicians, and then to combine for narrated concerts, Great Sacred Music events, and worship services. In each case it was around a 48-hour stop, with most or all these elements included. Thus in Kansas City I spoke to clergy of six neighbouring Episcopal dioceses, while the musicians led

workshops for directors of music from a similar penumbra. In Austin, Texas I led a HeartEdge-style study day for clergy and laypeople from the Diocese of Texas and the Emerging Artists sang Evensong and a concert. At Seattle Pacific University I gave an endowed lecture and the artists partnered with the university choral ensemble for a joyous concert and service. I also stopped to give a lecture and seminar in Toronto on the way back. It was especially good to have our composer in residence, Lucy Walker, with us to participate in the workshops and join me in introducing the concerts,

in which we sang several of her compositions.

What comes across at these events is the holistic character of St Martin's: we take theology and musical formation seriously; we're never far from engagement with social disadvantage; we're alert to the financial sustainability of our organisation; and we're always rooted in building up not ourselves but the wider church. In North America in May we did all those things: and met generous hosts and lively and inspiring conversation partners, and made a profit for the Trust. It was a very St Martin's experience.

Jolley Gosnold: Sheppard Scholar and now Trainee Ordinand, 2024-27

What brought you to Saint Martin's?

In my search for a more contemplative faith that was still rooted in action and community I found Richard's book, *The City is My Monastery*. Which was inspiring for my faith. In my discerning for ordained ministry in the Church of England, I got the job as a Sheppard Scholar, otherwise known as Pastoral Assistant at St Martin's, thinking this could be a great place to test if I wanted to be a priest by working with Richard and being part of this community.

What was your career before joining St Martin's as a Pastoral Assistant?

I worked as a writer and theatre director in London, the UK and Europe, and managed the Theatre programme at Alexandra Palace in North London. I had always

imagined that as my career until I started answering the call to discern about becoming a priest.

How has the year as Pastoral Assistant been?

It cemented so much about what gives me life, energises me, and what challenges me. It's such a wonderful staff team to work with, community and congregation and all I've got to know through the International Group. It's just a thriving community and that was a real blessing for the past year.

What's challenging about St Martin's?

I love that there's something always going on. I find that despite planning my day, something always happens; people interrupt what I think I must do with my day. In that time, I am here just being present with someone and to their needs, into their feelings and

their thoughts and their crisis or whatever it might be.

That's when I really come alive in the role, but it is challenging because you never know when or what's coming. Someone in distress starts pouring out their heart about all their difficult things. Nobody gives you a kind of trigger warning to talk about things. I need to just be present, engage but also protect myself. I'm lucky having Richard to share the burdens with. Being Pastoral Assistant for one year was great, and now we're blessed to have Maddie, the new Pastoral Assistant. She is very great addition, very thoughtful, very organised, similar in enthusiasm. We have a good team supporting us, and I can

balance my studies and my training formation with the responsibilities.

And your training for priesthood at St Martin's over the next three years?

It's 'priesthood in context' which means training-on-the-job three days a week at St Martin's and two days at college and studying. Instead of three years' full-time theological college, I'm applying what I'm learning as I'm learning, finding that relationship between the theory and the practice in the actual ministry. It really suits the practical, hands-on me. Otherwise, I might go crazy in a library or lectures with people who only speak about the church 24/7.



St Martin's Staff Weddings

Our many congratulations go to **Rev'd Angela Sheard, St Martin's Curate**, who married Rev'd James Patterson, Methodist Minister, on 11th May 2024 (left), and **Sarah Shabaz, St Martin's Verger**, who married Romeo Loxley, St Martin's Security for Sunday International Group, on 13th May 2024 (right)



Farewell to good friends

Shirley Lee

Shirley Lee, a loyal member of our congregation, Nazareth Community and Friend of St Martin's, passed away 5th August.

Born in Singapore in 1943 during the Japanese occupation, she had two sisters and two brothers. She came to the UK as a student nurse in 1967 at Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield and specialised in operating theatre nursing, on the staff of National Heart Hospital and London Clinic. A quiet and private person, Shirley was much loved by her family and friends at St Martin's. Noriko, one of Shirley's best friends, remembers her for inviting her to join the flower-arranging team, one of Shirley's passions, and for her prayers. "She had a quiet determination to be with God silently."

Thelma Rose & Silver Green

Thelma Rose passed away peacefully on Wednesday 6 December in a care home where she has been living near her former home in Utterby, Lincolnshire.

Thelma Rose (known by many as Rosie) was a member of St Martin's for many years and a Friend of St Martin's. She was a devoted friend and companion to Silver Green, who passed away in 2022. They were a brilliant double act and such complimentary friends to each other and all of us over so many years: Silver campaigning, Thelma at her side in patient solidarity.

They will be fondly remembered at St Martin's - true characters and women of unique strength, fortitude, compassion and care.

Silver Green and Thelma Rose left a generous legacy to The Friends of St Martin's in their wills.

Leaving a legacy helps The Friends to support projects at St Martin's such as the International Group, flowers for special festivals, our music programme and Friends communication.

To make a legacy, contact: friends@SMITF.org

A service for those who died homeless, and workers in the homeless sector

November 7th 2024 'Coming Home' is the theme of the 2024 Annual Service of Commemoration. For many of the 132 (named) and a further 62 (unnamed) who have known homelessness on the streets of London, and who have died in the last year, this may be their only memorial service.



The Choir with No Name

The 'Coming Home' service is noted by many as the most profound service at St Martin's, epitomising Christ's spirit among and with us.

More than 650 people gathered to be present at this service which was both beautiful and also deeply moving

Revd Richard Carter introduced the service:

Our service is called Coming Home — because many of those who died came to London from all over the country and other parts of the world longing for a place to belong, to feel safe and secure and to have a place to call home. They were not Homeless People — defined by homelessness — they were people who we, who gather in this church today know, had so many gifts, talents and a lot of character to share. Each name unique, with their hopes and fears, struggles, problems and longings. Many died far too young. The average age of those who died whose name we read out today is only 51. Today we come to give those who have died respect and dignity and to give thanks for their lives — lives which touched our own, and to remember the names of those named at birth, but some of whom died without the care, friendship and love and home that every human being needs. I would like to welcome all those who have come today. All those who have known homelessness themselves and long for a place to call home and all those who work to provide help and support. I hope that in a world of so much division and injustice this service will help

us come home to one another, the gift of life itself, the uniqueness of each person and our need to care for one another.

Sets of names are read out, and each set of names is followed with a tribute. The fifth set of names read were for those who had worked in the sector providing support for those who are homeless. After each set, the congregation sings 'Homeward Bound' a song by Simon and Garfunkel played by Alastair Murray on guitar with violinist Chris Bluemel and pianist John Deacon.

Some of the Tributes

Colin Glover

Colin was CEO at The Connection at St Martins for 27 years. He had a lifelong commitment to speaking up for the underdog. He told Pam Orchard, current CEO of The Connection, that the service of commemoration was the absolute best of St Martins and attended in the years after he retired. Described as a 'funding truffle hunter', Colin had with the knack of persuading pretty much anyone to support The Connection, helping homeless people. This skill saw the charity grow, develop and adapt to the different needs of people



experiencing homelessness in central London over the years.

Don Pollard

Don created artwork for 18 years for this Service of Commemoration. A special service for Don was held in the Dick Sheppard Chapel in the afternoon, with a film of creating art for this service. Don was so dedicated to this service, finally finding a place to live on a leaking houseboat on the Thames – preparing the art work for this service was his priority.

Edwin Kalerwa

A long-standing member of the Sunday International Group,

Edwin was born in Kenya in 1968. He came to the UK in the early 2000s and settled in Watford, where he worked. He was a keen chess player and was very active in both club and tournament play. Various circumstances led to his immigration status being unresolved, which led to homelessness and destitution. He came to St Martin's in 2016 and became a member of our International Group and joined many activities. He was a thoughtful and faith-filled man who loved St Martin's. Edwin struggled with lymphoma and passed away on September 10, 2024.

The 'Naming' sermon by Rt Rev Rob Wickham, captured the spirit of the service, why we name and how God calls us home:

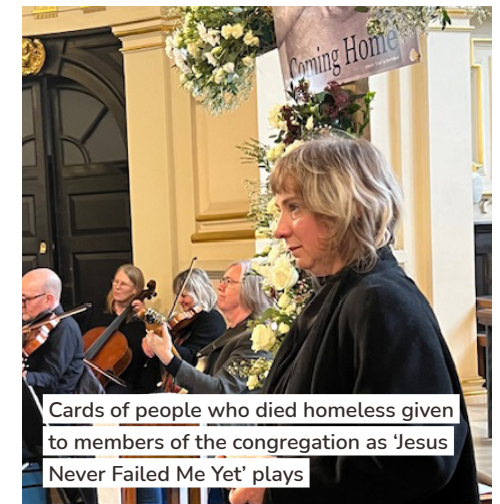
God who has called us by name. Identity in names, many with deep and ancient meaning. In many ways, our names go before us. We often dehumanise by not using names or by using generalised names like "clients" "asylum seekers," "cleaners," "Alcoholics" or a reference number, but people are not easy to categorise. Naming is important because the Word became flesh, when we use names, we create reality and relationship. This morning, we have named those who died and in so doing given their lives meaning and dignity. God has called us all by name. Christ calls us to come to him and be set free from many burdens that we carried. Jesus pitched his tent up your street, by the statues of Trafalgar Square. 'Come to me...there is one thing I know, that he loves me so, Jesus' blood has never failed me yet.' Today we named, unconditional love, together we are coming home.

At the end of the service, each person took a card home to remember and pray for that person

throughout the year, and for others still homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The 'Coming Home' cross was adorned with flowers by Anne Langley and Justin Hedley of Friends of St Martin's. Two wonderful choirs, 'The Choir with No Name' and 'Streetwise Opera' lifted our spirits with their joyful spirits and inspiring music.

This service is organised by Rev Richard Carter and the St Martin's team, The Connection at St Martin's, Housing Justice and the Museum of Homelessness. There was a reception afterwards in the Parish Hall attended by more than 350 people. Despite the sadness of the service there was a tremendous feeling of generosity and solidarity.



Annual Harvest Festival for the Pearly Kings and Queens

The tradition of The Pearly Kings and Queens originated in Victorian London with the costermongers, a community of market traders who sold fruit, vegetables, and fish.

These traders were known for their Cockney rhyming slang and supportive community. They would elect a leader, the “king” or “queen” to keep the peace, organize the group, and stand up for their rights.

The costermongers sewed pearly buttons onto their clothing to set them aside from the wealthy West End society. The number of buttons represented the trader’s success.

Henry Croft, an orphan street cleaner, collected money for charity and adapted the practice of wearing pearly buttons to create a sequin suit to raise money.

Hereditary titles of king and queen, prince and princess are passed down through families representing a certain area of London, and the place name is sewn on their outfits.

The annual Harvest Festival is the largest gathering of Pearlies taking

place the first Sunday in October at St Martin-in-the-Fields and they bring magnificent food baskets to be distributed to local communities and those in need.

Our vicar, the Rev Dr Sam Wells even wears a pearly made stole for this service.



Membership form

For more information about becoming a member, see back cover.

First names

Surname

Address

Postcode

Country

Mobile no.

Email

Gift Aid declaration for UK taxpayers

Tick the box below to Gift Aid your donation

I wish to Gift Aid my donation of £ to The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

I am a UK Taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify the Friends if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income.

How to pay £25 and/or a donation of your choice

Bank details (note BIC & IBAN for international payments):

The Friends of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Sort Code: **30 00 08**

Account Number: **03024670**

BIC: **LOYDGB21012**

IBAN: **GB02 LOYD 3000 0803 0246 70**

Reference: **Your name**

If any queries, email: friends@smitf.org

Or telephone: **+44 7927 128 088**

Application form online:

www.smitf.org/friends

or scan QR code overleaf

Join us

Join online:

Scan the QR
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smitf.org/friends



Who we are

The Friends have been a 'Bridge to Belonging' to St Martin-in-the-Fields locally and globally for over 70 years. We aim to bring together those wishing to share in the mission and ministry of St Martin's through our:

- Regular magazine featuring people, experiences and everyday life of St Martin's
- Online webinars
- Access to St Martin's online resources

All are welcome

Whether you are visiting St Martin's for the first time or as a frequent visitor or from overseas, all are welcome to join our inclusive community.

You may have heard a radio broadcast or online service or perhaps you are here to attend a concert. Whatever your reason, we hope that something of the holiness, atmosphere, history as well as our work with the homeless will inspire and remain with you when you leave.

How to join

For just £25 annual subscription (or donation of your choice) you will be contributing to the life and work of this inspiring church community.

Simply complete the form on the inside back cover, or find our online form at smitf.org/friends

Belonging remains a special part of human relationships and the Friends in a tangible way at St Martin in the Fields, embody their belonging to one another and to God.

It doesn't get better than that.

Revd Dr Sam Wells

Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields

