

St Martin's Church, Liskeard

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Dear St Martin's family,

It is always hard to get communication right within a church. I know people want to know what is going on, what to give thanks for and what the prayer needs are, but at the same time no one needs to be bombarded with constant emails and updates. We currently have quite a few platforms for sharing information which are detailed below. Please keep an eye on whichever one of these suits you best. If you haven't already could I encourage you to Like our Facebook page. This will give the most up to date information and will become an increasingly important means of communication.

This is a short letter giving you a snapshot of what is going on at St Martin's. It won't contain everything as it is not a substitute for the Star, but a way of letting you know about some of the things we do as a church that you may not know much about. We are going to highlight a few things each time rather than try and cover everything. Just because something is not mentioned doesn't mean it isn't important!

The obvious thing that has happened in the last month or so is **Thy Kingdom Come**. So many people took part in this in so many ways. What an amazing and spiritually uplifting event it was too. One of the highlights for me was how positive people were about the day: the music, the speakers, the choir and quartet, the building itself and of course the food. By far the most common comment people made was about hospitality "*what a friendly church, what amazing food and coffee and all for free – just like God's love*" is one example. I really hope that the diocese asks us to do it again next year. Have a look at the picture below.

The day before, many of us joined other churches in and around Liskeard for a **Bless the Community Day**. We went to both St Martin's and Hillfort schools and helped them with maintenance work and with some of their projects. It was a very practical way of showing God's unconditional and abundant love.

Alpha is running again. Please pray for Nikki, Abi and the team as well as those doing the course. May they come to know Jesus as their saviour.

The **organ** was given a real showing at an extremely well attended recital a few weeks ago. Both the cathedral organists came to the recital and were so impressed that they have suggested bringing the cathedral choir to St Martin's. Wouldn't that be great!

The **Civic Service** was a real highlight too. The new mayor wanted to change things around a bit which gave us a real opportunity to use our new building to the full. I thought it was a very Jesus centred civic celebration. This year we had both modern and traditional worship, the town band and a report from the national youth parliament. Next year we hope to have the scouting movement more involved.

Things to celebrate at St Martin's.

This is going to be a regular column where we highlight a few of the activities within St Martin's Church. This time it is CAP, Knit and Natter, The Liskeard Show stand and the joys of the Parish Office!

Liskeard and Looe CAP Debt Centre. We have been up and running for 10 weeks and have already been able to help 5 people start on their journey out of debt, as well as helping several others with crisis needs. It takes courage for people to ask for help, please pray for people in debt to have that courage and trust in CAP. Pray for Darren, our Centre Manager, who fronts up this work, and for the growing team of volunteers. We are also starting to run the 'CAP Money Course' – a short 3 session course to help anyone with managing their money better. (David Hazlewood)

Liskeard Show. Last year St Martin's had a pitch at the Show and provided free children's activities. This was a great opportunity to meet people and provide a relaxed atmosphere amongst the busyness of the Show. Parents really appreciated that we weren't selling anything. We had free craft activities, including badge making which was very popular, and simple games for the children to play. We also offered a seat and a cup of tea to mums and dads. This was a great way to show God's love to the people of Liskeard. This year we are there again and also joining in with the churches together stand. (Rachel Pryor)

The Church Office – Nikki's perspective. Steve asked me 'Why is working in the Church Office fantastic?' so here was my answer - our Church Office can be a really busy place to be. But for me, one of the many reasons I love working in the Church Office is all the lovely people I get to meet. Whether from our Church family or from our across our community. (Nikki Carter)

Knit and Natter. Our new Knit and Natter group is steadily growing in numbers. It's wonderful to see the ladies sharing tips and advice...a couple of ladies have recently learnt to knit and crochet thanks to one of our more experienced members! We have become a group of close friends in such a short amount of time and new members are warmly welcomed with a cuppa and lots of smiling faces! I thank God for giving us these hobbies, skills and interests that bring us together. (Tiff Biddle)

What's coming up?

In the next few months various things are happening: We have a stand at the **Liskeard Show** where we will be telling people about our church and our faith in Jesus. Look out for details of **concerts** in church.

I want to extend a really warm welcome to our new **Curate** Phil, his wife Chrissy and their family. Phil will be with us for 3-4 years. Phil starts with us on 29th June but will be moving in this week.

Towards the end of June we will hear from the Church Commissioners about our **Transforming Mission** bid. If successful we will have funding for a number of new posts to help our church grow to be a resource church for SE Cornwall.

Over the past year or so the evangelical churches of the area (ourselves, Green Bank, Light and Life and Grace Community Church) have been **working much more closely together**. It started with a joint BBQ last year and has grown from there. We thought it would be a good idea to do a pulpit swap. At the 1100 service we will be having the leaders of these other churches preaching starting from the 30th June. I will be preaching in their churches. *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"* Ephesians 4:3

God has been leading me in so many ways towards a realisation that **the Bible is central to our mission and identity as a church**. Pretty obvious you may think! It is easy to lose sight of just how magnificent a

gift the Bible is an perhaps to take it for granted. After the leader's round robin above has finished – we will be putting the bible centre stage in our themes and talks, starting with the book of Joel. Joel was an Old Testament prophet who among other things foresaw and prophesied about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There is so much this book can teach us both as a church and as individuals. Can I encourage you to bring your Bibles to church? If you don't have one then please talk to me or make use of the church bibles which you can find behind the wooden seats. More of these will be arriving soon.

Communication and welcome. This is something that is very much on my mind at the moment. We have a very good grapevine, but as our church grows this will not be enough to ensure that everyone is kept informed. We currently communicate in lots of ways: via spoken notices in church, Star magazine, the Link (which we have shortened and decluttered to make it a bit easier to read), the Website, Facebook (Tiff Biddle has just taken on updating this) and printed material. I hope that this letter will go out via all these media and via homegroups as well. If anyone has any ideas as to how we can communicate better then please let me know.

An encouraging verse from scripture:

"in God I trust and am not afraid. What can people do to me?" Psalm 56:11

Well, as Bugs Bunny says: "That's All Folks"

Steve.

Thy Kingdom Come 2019 – Evening Celebration

