

St Martin's Church Blackheath



Information Sheet

WELCOME TO ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's Church has stood at the heart of the village of Blackheath for 125 years and holds the village in its heart. As we meet for Services, we pray for the community and especially for any we know who are in need. Wherever we can, church members seek to offer care and support to people at times of difficulty.

All are welcome to any of the Services: some are informal and suitable for all ages, while others appeal to those who enjoy more traditional services, ably assisted by the Choir.

Since 1998 St. Martin's has formed part of the Parish of Wonersh with Blackheath and is looked after by a large and gifted Ministry Team.

This beautiful little wayside church was extensively refurbished between 2008 and 2011. It is open to all and we hope you will find it a source of spiritual strength and peace.

We wish you every blessing.

WORSHIP & SERVICES

We aim to offer a variety of services to meet the needs of the whole community but in order to do this the pattern of services can change **so please check the church notice board first**. A typical monthly format looks like this:

- First Sunday **Sung Holy Communion** at 10.00 am (with Choir)
- Second Sunday **Morning Praise** at 10.00 am or *Service in Wonersh*
- Third Sunday **BCP Choral Evensong** at 6.00 pm (with Choir)
- Fourth Sunday *Service in Wonersh* and **Julian Meeting*** 6.30-7.00 pm
- Fifth Sunday *please check the Church Service Rota*

If there is no service in Blackheath everyone is warmly invited to join the congregation of **St John's, Wonersh** for a joint service.

***Julian Meetings** are an opportunity to sit in silence and stillness in the beauty of St Martin's Church. www.thejulianmeetings.net

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF ST MARTIN'S

Along with the regular Sunday Services, St Martin's holds a number of popular '**special**' services to celebrate the different festivals. Children and families particularly enjoy the one on **Mothering Sunday**, when small posies of flowers are given to all ladies present, and **Palm Sunday, Good Friday** and **Easter Day** also have their own special services.

Harvest Praise/Festival is marked by a service followed by refreshments. This is a popular event and gifts of fruit and vegetables brought to church are later donated to Vaughan House, a shelter for the homeless in Guildford.

On **Remembrance Sunday** we meet at the War Memorial on the Heath. This is always a very meaningful occasion and very well attended by those from the village and surrounding area.

SOME VILLAGE EVENTS

Christmas is celebrated at the start of December with a traditional **Candlelit Carol Service** of readings, carols and choir items. The popularity of this Service increases year by year and some years there has been standing room only! Between this and Christmas there might be a **Crib Service**, or **Carol Singing** round the village. On **Christmas Eve** the church holds a candle lit service celebrating the **First Communion of Christmas** and on **Christmas Morning** there is an all-age service with **Carols and Holy Communion**. Some years there is a **Christingle Service/Service of Light**. This can be held at any season, not just Christmas time, and often takes place in January.

The church is open from 8.00 am - 6.00 pm in the summer and 8.00 - 4.00 in the winter, moving when the clocks change. Many people visit St Martin's to look round this interesting historic building, including both arts and church groups who have guided visits. Others come to sit quietly and reflect and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

FAMILIES & INFORMAL SERVICES/EVENTS

Children and young families are a valued and an important part of our church and parents are warmly invited to bring their **children for baptism**. We also welcome **couples wishing to marry** at St Martin's, or have a **blessing**.

Our **Morning Praise Service** appeals to those wishing to come to a more informal service to hear the underlying Christian message. Most of our services offer refreshments afterwards and the chance to chat and get to know each other. We also hold very popular **Church Coffee Mornings** three times a year in Blackheath Village Hall, with home-made cakes, where everyone is very welcome to come along.

Throughout the year, all the main festivals are marked with all-age services that are suitable for both adults and children and in May we hold a **Rogation/Church Walk** round the heath for families and any of their four legged friends.

Our thriving **Blackheath Home Group** meets in people's houses twice a month and every December holds its own informal Advent Meditation service. Once or twice a year, it may also join the Benedictine Monks at St Augustine's Abbey for the short evening service of Compline. A new addition to what we offer is the half-hour **Julian Meeting** on the fourth Sunday of the month. This is proving popular with people seeking some stillness and reflective time in their busy lives.

The main event is the **Village Fair** held on the first May Bank Holiday. It is a real village occasion and from early morning until evening the village is bustling with life. Stalls of every kind are set up on the grassy verges on each side of the lane and it is closed to traffic for the afternoon. The many visitors enjoy taking part in the various activities and buying from cake, plant, bric-a-brac and numerous other stalls. Local charities benefit from the profits. St Martin's is open and many stream in to see this unusual Arts and Crafts Movement Church and to take the opportunity to share a little peace and quiet away from the bustle outside! A Quiz round the church building is organized for the children. During the summer there is generally a **Village BBQ** at the cricket pitch and in the winter a **Bonfire and Fireworks**. In December, a **Christmas Party** is organised in the Village Hall by the **Blackheath Village Society**.

USEFUL NAMES AND NUMBERS

Vicar

There is currently a Vacancy but please contact our Church Office and you will be put in touch with a member of the Ministry Team, or telephone the Churchwarden, Patricia Allen.

Church Office

office@wonershchurch.org.uk

01483 890266

Churchwarden/Choir/Music

Patricia Allen

01483 893094

Hon. Treasurer

David Allen

01483 893094

Church Website: www.wonershchurch.org.uk (See Blackheath Page)