

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 over 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 and those on the Church Care Team seek to offer help and support to people at times of difficulty, or with special needs.

All are welcome to any of the Services and Events at the church: some are quiet and meditative while others appeal to those who enjoy traditional services, ably assisted by the Choir.

Since 1998 St. Martin's has formed part of the Parish of Womersley with Blackheath which is looked after by a gifted Ministry Team, headed by our Vicar, The Revd David Peters.

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** 10.00am (with Choir)
- Second Sunday *Service in Wonersh*
Occasional Morning Praise 10am at St Martin's
- Third Sunday **BCP Choral Evensong** at 6.00 pm (with Choir)
- Fourth Sunday **Julian Meeting*** 6.30-7.00 pm
- Fifth Sunday *Service in Wonersh*

If there is no service in Blackheath everyone is warmly invited to join the congregation of **St John's, Wonersh** for a joint service either in church, or on-line. ***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 'special' services to celebrate the different festivals and seasons. For example, **Advent, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Good Friday** and **Easter Day.**

Harvest is marked by a 'Giving Day' organized by the church for Blackheath village followed by an evening service. This is a popular event and the tinned food, fruit and vegetables brought to church are later donated to Vaughan House, a shelter for the homeless in Guildford, and toiletries are donated to the Surrey Hills Hygiene Bank. This charity is one St Martin's support throughout the year.

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

Advent is celebrated at the start of December with a traditional **Candlelit Carol Service** of readings, carols and Christmas Choir. The popularity of this Service has increased over the years and some years there has been standing room only! Between this and Christmas the **Church Carol Singers** visit the older members of the village, or those on their own. There is a candle lit Parish service on **Christmas Eve** celebrating the **First Communion of Christmas** and on **Christmas Morning** an all-age service with **Carols and Holy Communion.**

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 at the wall paintings and this interesting Arts and Crafts building, including both arts and church groups who have guided tours. 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**.

The Parish has its own **Youth and Children's Ministry** leader based at Wonersh and offers a wide range of events and activities across the age ranges. The Parish sometimes runs parenting classes to support families.

Couples wishing to **Marry** at St Martin's, or have a **Wedding Blessing** are very welcome to do so and are well supported before their special day.

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

Our thriving **Blackheath Home Group** meets in people's houses twice a month and every December holds its own informal Advent Meditation service. We also offer a 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.

SOME VILLAGE EVENTS

Most years, 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

The Revd David Peters

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Church Office

Heather Hope

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Churchwarden/Choir/Music

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Hon. Treasurer/Church Building

David Allen

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Church Care Team

Amelia Taylor

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Alex Jones

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

Also: On-line Services, Children & Youth Activities, News & Events, Resources and much, much more,

A blessing from St Martin's Blackheath

God of our pilgrimage,
Open our eyes to your presence,
Open our minds to your grace,
Open our lips to your praises,
Open our lives to your healing,
And be found among us as we journey.

May God the Father who created you,
Guide your footsteps.
May God the Son, who redeemed you,
Share your journey.
May God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies you,
Lead you in life's pilgrimage,

And the blessing of God,
Father Son and Holy Spirit
Be with you wherever you go.