



Thank you

Radio 4 Christmas Appeal 2014

Broadcast on 7 December 2014 by Revd Dr Sam Wells

What's the most fulfilling thing anyone's ever told you? How about when someone takes your shoulders, looks you straight in the eye, and says, 'You were there for me.'

What's the most harrowing thing a child can say to a parent? 'I thought you'd always be there for me.'

When you see a person who's homeless, you see a man or woman who's found at their moment of crisis that no one was there for them. No one. You want to be helpful but you can't offer them what they most deeply need.

When someone emerges *out of* homelessness, you can be certain it's because someone, eventually, was there for them. An artist in a day centre who saw in them a spark of real talent; a social worker who stuck with them till they could begin to live again.

What brings people out of crisis is relationship. A person who misses them, argues with them, encourages them – and remembers their name. A person to whom they say, 'I didn't want let you down.' A person into whose eyes they'll look intently when they say, 'You were there for me.'

If you can't be that person, but you believe that such people are the best way to address homelessness, please give generously to the Radio 4 St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas Appeal.

We can extend the work of The Connection at St Martin's, our centre that builds life-changing relationships with rough sleepers in Central London. Through the Vicar's Relief Fund social workers around the country who already have those relationships can get grants within 24 hours to save vulnerable people from eviction when their life is falling apart.

We can't all build transformative relationships with individual homeless people. But think about a person emerging from desperate crisis. Imagine when they turn to an outreach worker who's walked with them over weeks or years towards getting their life back in shape, and say, 'You were there for me.' If you donate to the Christmas Appeal you can know that those words are meant for you too.

You can make your gift right now by calling 0800 082 82 84. That's 0800 082 82 84.

Or you can give online on the Radio 4 website.

Or you can write a cheque to: The St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas Appeal. Then all you need do is to address your envelope: Freepost St Martins Christmas Appeal, and it will get to us. That's Freepost St Martins Christmas Appeal'.

Thank you. Thank you for being there for us.



A message from Revd Dr Sam Wells to all our volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of the Christmas Appeal for two reasons. One is simple: it's important to donors that we keep our overheads to a minimum. Donors understandably (if not always realistically) want to see every penny that they contribute go directly to the people in greatest need. A large team of volunteers helps us achieve that. But more subtly and importantly, the Christmas Appeal is about dismantling the powerlessness of a well-meaning person to do anything about a huge social issue like homelessness. The Appeal makes it possible for a person in a quiet village both to know and to feel that they are positively affecting the life of someone they've never met on a street in London or in a bed-sit in Dundee. Volunteers are making the same discovery themselves: there is something you can do – and doing it is not only satisfying but often fun.

Thank you for making the 2014 Appeal happen. You don't just help raise the money: you embody the spirit of what the Appeal is all about.

The Revd Dr Sam Wells
Vicar
February 2015

About the Appeal

- Number of people listening to Radio 4 at 8am on 7 December 2014: 1,330,000
- 227 volunteers completed 2,051 hours of volunteering in December
- Calls taken 2,098
- **Total raised so far £2,166,000**
- 4,459 cheques
- Online transactions 12,480
- Average gift £70.25
- 2014 was the 88th BBC Appeal to support the work at St Martin-in-the-Fields
- Christmas Appeal heard on BBC Radio 4 catch up 30,942 times
- Making a Difference heard on BBC Radio 4 catch up 50,360 times

We are particularly grateful to PwC for generously hosting our call centre. Thank you.



Volunteer Opportunities

St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity has opportunities for volunteers to support our work all year around – although we need most help at Christmas, of course.

Exhibition Team

We are looking for a small group to help us design and stage our 2015 exhibition in the Crypt at St Martin's.

Commitment – 3 to 5 meetings from late summer

We need 4 to 6 people

Story Tellers

To research and write up case studies about people who have been supported by the Vicar's Relief Fund.

Commitment – flexible but with a regular pattern of office hours working

We need 2 or 3 people

Fundraising Volunteers

Work closely with us devise ideas for community fundraising initiatives as part of the Christmas Appeal.

Commitment – flexible but with a regular pattern of office hours working

We need 2 or 3 people

Social Media Volunteers

To help us develop digital social media and build an online community to support our work.

Commitment – flexible but with a regular pattern of office hours working

We need 1 or 2 people

For the latest volunteer opportunities keep an eye on the website and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

<https://charity.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/volunteers/>

Our Volunteer Agreement

This volunteer agreement describes the arrangement between St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity and you. We are most grateful to you for giving us your valuable time and commitment.

As a volunteer with St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity you can expect:

- To be involved in an organisation that is dedicated to caring about the things that matter in the lives of people who are struggling with homelessness or poverty
- A supportive and positive environment that ensures you enjoy your volunteering
- To be treated with respect, courtesy and honesty
- To be treated fairly regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, parental or marital status, disability, religion, colour, race, ethnic or national origins or socio-economic background
- An induction and appropriate training
- A named contact
- Cover with appropriate charity public liability insurance.

In return we ask that you:

- Support our aims and objectives
- Remember that you are a representative of St Martin-in-the-Fields
- Maintain the confidential information of the organisation and of its clients
- Meet the time commitments and standards which have been mutually agreed
- Are open and honest in your dealings with us
- Treat fellow volunteers and staff with courtesy and respect
- Keep us informed if you wish to change the nature of your volunteering
- Let us know if we can improve the service and support that you receive

This agreement is binding in honour only, it is not a legally binding contract and maybe cancelled at any time at the discretion of either party. Neither the St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity nor you intend on any employment relationship to be created either now or at any time in the future.

Keep in Touch

- Tim Bissett – 020 7766 1134
tim.bissett@smitf.org
- Martin Cobb – 020 7766 1125
martin.cobb@smitf.org



@smitf_Christmas

www.facebook.com/stmartininthefields

<https://charity.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/volunteers/>

2015 Appeal

- **Sunday 6 December 2015**

‘pay attention.....’