

St
Martin
In
the
Fields

BBC
RADIO



CHRISTMAS
APPEAL

Together

Helping homeless and vulnerably housed people



Coronavirus
hasn't stopped Iker...

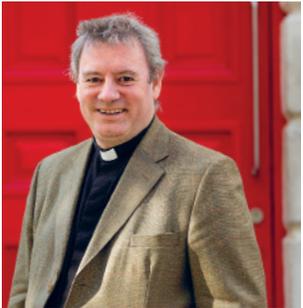
Photograph by Marc Gascoigne

When Iker lost everything, you helped him make a new start ✕



Photograph by Marc Gascoigne

In February this year, Iker was working in a busy kitchen and enjoying bustling London. Then the coronavirus pandemic hit the UK hard. Iker found himself out of a job and, soon, without a home.



“When global events turn a life upside down, kindness can set it right again.”

Revd Dr Sam Wells ✕

Frightened and with nowhere to go, Iker rang the bell of our bright red door at The Connection and we welcomed him in. But there was another blow to come for Iker when on 20 March, Covid-19 forced The Connection’s doors to close.

A new safety net

The Connection helped Iker and all our clients find emergency hotel accommodation. But having a roof over their heads wasn’t enough. The worry of coronavirus combined with the vulnerability of having no home and no safety net proved to be devastating – especially for Iker, who suffers with anxiety.

You were there for us

Thanks to donations like yours, The Connection’s frontline workers could still support clients through lockdown. You helped them deliver meals and medication, provide psychological support and enable Iker and many more to make new starts.

Iker has now found a permanent place to live

“Every day, the nurses were asking if we were OK. I felt like we were protected by everybody.”

Iker

and is looking forward to the future. In the middle of a pandemic, you helped Iker, and many more people, feel safe.

Thank you.

4,324
people supported by the
VRF Emergency Fund

1,193
grants given to help
people with housing
support

1,212
grants given to help
people with essentials
including food

Relief from crisis...

When coronavirus started to impact on life in the UK, our work adapted fast to help those affected by the pandemic.

Before lockdown began, we were already planning how best to support people through the fast-changing challenges of a country tackling a pandemic. We received over 1,000 responses from frontline workers across the UK to establish our VRF Emergency Fund.

VRF Emergency Fund

The VRF Emergency Fund is for three broad areas of urgent need: essentials like food and bills, overcoming barriers such as internet access, and help with securing accommodation. When we asked you, our supporters, for emergency support, your response was incredible!

£1,026,750 raised in 6 weeks!

Thanks to your response, we reached people who needed it most – and fast. In the coming weeks, your support could continue meeting the changing needs of people at risk in a pandemic. Turn over to find out more.



“Thank you for the speedy action – so needed and so life-changing.”

Frontline worker

To find out more about the work you’re supporting, visit frontlinenetwork.org.uk

“ A view and a charity I admire...”



John and Sarah Webb have been supporters for over ten years – so much so, John painted this beautiful picture. Here, they explain why they’ve remained dedicated to our cause...

“Like many others, we are unable to do what you do – and are so grateful to be able to support you. I’m a retired architect who enjoys painting and sketching. You may recognise this piece. We’ve been supporting the charitable work of St Martin-in-the-Fields for over 10 years, and enjoying your events for just as long.

The work you do never fails to impress us, particularly the instant nationwide network of the Vicar’s Relief Fund. When you asked for emergency support, we didn’t hesitate. We are grateful to be able to support you at this time.”

John Webb, Appeal supporter



Photograph by Marc Gascoigne

Unstoppable with you

Supporters like you helped us overcome the challenges of the pandemic and enabled us to be there for people in this crisis. We invite you to continue that incredible support today.

Start a regular gift and you could help us plan our support for the months ahead, ensuring that whatever happens, people have us to turn to. You can use the form enclosed or visit smitfc.org/donate

The Connection at St Martin’s **28%**

Infrastructure **7%**

How we spend your money

Vicar’s Relief Fund **49%**

Frontline Network **9%**

Communications and Appeal Costs **7%**