

Welcome to St Martin-in-the-Fields. We hope you enjoy learning more about this iconic church through this trail, a collaboration between St Martin-in-the-Fields and the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts.

1 ST MARTIN

This church is dedicated to St Martin who was born in 316 A.D into a military family in what is now Hungary. His father was a soldier who enlisted Martin in the army at the age of fifteen. He was obliged by law to take and obey the military oath. When 18 years old and posted in Amiens, he saw an almost naked beggar huddled at the city gate. Martin cut his cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. Christ appeared to Martin in a dream that night and the following day he was baptised. After many adventures he was released from the army, and was led towards pacifism and a religious life. He eventually became Bishop of Tours, though he always adhered to a very simple lifestyle.

More information about his life can be found in the fuller leaflet in this church.

2 PICTURE

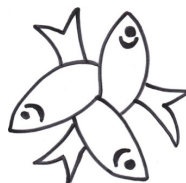
- James Gibbs is holding **paper** or a **plan** in his right hand. He was a very famous architect (he lived from 1682 – 1754). You might just be able to see that the plan he is holding is of a circular building which is the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford, also shown behind him. This church building of St Martin-in-the Fields (1721-25) became an iconic example of Georgian architecture and was copied world-wide, especially in North America and Ireland. The other two pictures above the staircase are "St Martin" by Francisco Solimena, 1730 and "Dick Sheppard, Vicar of St Martin's 1914-1927" by Sir Gerald Kelly, RA. Sheppard opened the church and crypt for soldiers and the homeless, established radio broadcasting of services (1924) and was an influential pacifist.

3 FONT

- The font is made from **alabaster** (or **stone**).
- Water** is put into the bowl when a person is baptised (christened). At Baptism, water from the font is sprinkled on the forehead to signify the washing away of the person's sins. The font is usually put near the entrance, because people being baptised are at the beginning of their spiritual journeys as members of the Christian Church. This font was given in 1689 before the current church was built.
- It is **oval** in shape. It is very unusual as it has a silver insert and instead of the water draining to earth, it is thrown over the sculpture on the portico outside!

4 FISH

- Your picture should look like this!



The three entwined fish can be used to represent the mystery of the HOLY TRINITY, the Christian belief in the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three persons in one divine Being.

The Christian Symbolism of the FISH

Secret sign used by early Christians because the letters of the Greek word Ιχθυς (ichthus = fish) stood for Jesus Christ God's Son (our) Saviour.

Ι	Ιησους	Iesus	(Jesus)
Χ	χριστος	Christos	(Christ)
Θ	θεου	theou	(God's)
Υ	υιος	huios	(Son)
Σ	σωτηρ	soter	(Saviour)

- Later the Christian sign was the **Cross**.

5 PULPIT

- There are **12** steps to climb up to get to the pulpit.
- It is high up so that the priest or preacher can see everyone and **can be heard and seen by everyone**.

THE SACRED MONOGRAM I H S

IHS is an abbreviation of the Greek word IESOUS (**ΙΗΣΟΥΣ**) meaning JESUS.

In Greek capitals it is **ΙΗΣ**. In Greek lower case it is **ιης**. Over many years the letters have been changed to our alphabet. **ΙΗΣ** is rendered as **IHS** and **ιης** is rendered as **ihc**.



It is known as THE SACRED MONOGRAM and the letters are often superimposed. The letters in the Roman alphabet were thought to stand for Iesus Hominum Salvator – Jesus Saviour of mankind.

Over the centuries other meanings have been given to it, such as the Latin: 'In Hoc Signo' short for 'In Hoc Signo vinces' - in this sign (you will conquer) said to have been the motto of Constantine the Great.

6 STATUE OF ST MARTIN

- St Martin is wearing a **Roman uniform**, including a **helmet, greaves (shin pads) and tunic**.
- He is giving the other man (a beggar) **half his cloak**.

The maker, James Butler, was only 19 years old when he made this statue.

James Butler writes "The sculpture was made in 1951, when I was a student at St Martin's Art School in Charing Cross Road. I was chosen to undertake the commission - it was the first time that I had ever been paid for making a sculpture. It was left up to me how the sculpture should look. Due to cost of materials, the sculpture was only cast into plaster, which will last for ever indoors but will quickly disintegrate if left in the open. Later the statue was painted to look like bronze."



7 YAHWEH

- The **Jewish** religion uses Hebrew in its worship. This is a glorious illustration of a representation of God.

It is known as the TETRAGRAMMATON and is the technical term for the four letter

Hebrew word 'JHVH' - known to us as Yahweh or Jehovah. This is translated in the Holy Bible as "Lord" or "God". The Old Testament of the Bible stems from the Jewish Torah.



8 EAST WINDOW AND ALTAR

This special East window is an inspiration for reflection and prayer and was part of the renewal of St Martin's in 2008. The window and altar were designed by artist Shirazeh Houshiary from Iran and architect Pip Horne.

9 ROYAL ARMS

- The strange white animal is a **Unicorn**.
- **It is not a real animal**. It is a mythical creature symbolising the virtues of chastity, purity, and perfect goodness.
- The other very small animal is the white **horse** (of Hanover).

These Royal Arms are over the Chancel Arch and are dated 1725. King George I laid the foundation stone. He was also the first churchwarden of the parish and the only monarch ever to be a churchwarden.

When George I came to the throne of Great Britain, the Royal Arms were changed to include the arms of Hanover. Kings George I, II, III, IV and William IV, as well as being the Kings of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland were also Electors and later kings of Hanover (Germany).

Queen Victoria, being a woman, was not entitled to inherit the Kingdom of Hanover.

10 ORGAN

- The longest pipe makes the **lowest** sound.

Handel played the opening recital here in 1726. The present organ was built by Walker's in 1990.



11 PRAYER BOARD

- Florence Li Tim-Oi was **37** years old when she was ordained.
- The language is **Chinese**. There are large Chinese congregations who share this church and have services each Sunday in both the Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese languages.

If you wish, you may want to write a short prayer and leave it here and/or light a candle as a prayer and put it in the stand near the sculpture (made by Chaim Stephenson in 1994 to remember all victims of injustice and violence in South Africa, during apartheid).

12 OUTSIDE – THE PORTICO

- The words round the Millennium Sculpture are "**IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US.**"

- These words come from the **Holy Bible** at the beginning of **St John**, one of the four gospels in the New Testament. (Gospel = Good News).

This sculpture was made in 2000 by Miles Chapman.

Not only is this building very important as the style has been copied all over the world (particularly in the United States of America and Ireland) but this building is also important because it offers hospitality, refuge, and outreach to hundreds of people from all countries and backgrounds.



We very much hope you enjoy this children's trail and look forward to seeing you again.