



The Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields Development Trust Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ  
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**For release: Tuesday 14 October**

## Lord Mayor of Westminster, Louise Hyams, opens public path at St Martin-in-the-Fields

**Photocall: Tuesday 14 October 09:00 – 10:00**

On 14 October 2008 the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Louise Hyams, will officially reopen Church Path, the popular public walkway that links Charing Cross Station and Adelaide Street to St Martin's Place and Trafalgar Square.

This event symbolically marks the final phase of the £36 million Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The widened Church Path runs alongside a newly defined church courtyard which will offer a magnificent view of the church from Charing Cross Station. The path is overlooked by James Gibbs' church and by John Nash's Terrace, the restored building that houses The Connection at St Martin's.

The reopening of the new Church Path also gives access to two striking architectural additions:

- a glass pavilion on Church Path, visible from Trafalgar Square, provides a fully accessible entrance to the new spaces below, including the award-winning Café and Shop in the Crypt and many activities vital to the life of St Martin's. These include The Bishop Ho Ming Wah Chinese Community Centre, a new purpose-built music rehearsal room, the Dick Sheppard Chapel, and community meeting rooms and exhibition spaces.
- a light-well brings daylight and ventilation to the new spaces below ground, and from its base gives a magnificent view of the restored church spire. Engraved around the light-well is a specially commissioned poem from the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion

Lord Mayor of Westminster, Louise Hyams, said:

"I am thrilled that the renovation of St Martin's is now complete and that this

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

Chairman: Ian Henderson CBE. Advisors: Lady Bischoff, The Earl of Cork and Orrery, Mrs Gilly Drummond DL,  
The Earl of Home CVO CBE, The Right Revd Peter Kwong, The Bishop of London, Sir Neville Marriner CBE, Lady Marriner, Lady Panufnik,  
John Robinson, The Lord Stevenson of Coddensham, Vice Admiral Charles Style CBE, Sir David Tang KBE, Rabbi Mark Winer

Registered Charity Number 1110406



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beautiful church has been restored to its former glory in its prominent location adjacent to Trafalgar Square. It is also excellent that a delightful open space for all to enjoy has been created next to the Church with a magnificent glass entrance lobby that leads down in to the wonderful new facilities underneath”.

This reopening welcomes the public back to St Martin’s to see one of London’s most complex building projects after nearly a decade of planning and fundraising. The Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields, masterminded by Eric Parry Architects, has restored James Gibbs’s 18<sup>th</sup> century London landmark inside and out, and created iconic new buildings and new public spaces.

The £36 million transformation has benefited from a £15.35 million award from the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as significant contributions from many generous donors in this country, in the US, where Gibbs’s design for St Martin’s was a blueprint for church architecture, and from Hong Kong, reflecting the church’s importance to the Chinese community.

However, whilst work on the church site is nearing completion, funds are still needed to complete the project. Reverend Nicholas Holtam of St Martin-in-the-Fields said:

“The Renewal of St Martin’s is being undertaken to support and enhance the valuable work we do with homeless people, the local Chinese community, the congregation, and the wider community of Londoners and visitors to London. The project is due for completion at the end of the year. It’s vital that we raise the final £1.7 million, so that the work our Renewal Project makes possible isn’t jeopardised by debt. Compared to the full cost of £36 million and the money already raised from so many supporters, it is a relatively modest amount. We’re working hard to find the remainder and it would be wonderful if Londoners could help us to cross the finish line and to reach a secure future”.

Donations can still be made to the fundraising campaign via the St Martin’s website: [www.smitf.org/campaign](http://www.smitf.org/campaign) .

Louise Hyams will officially reopen the path to the public at **09:30 Tuesday 14 October**, in a ceremony which will include a short prayer.

- Ends -

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For further information and images, please contact Sarah Watson or Truda Spruyt at Colman Getty Consultancy on telephone 020 7631 2666 or via email [sarah@colmangetty.co.uk](mailto:sarah@colmangetty.co.uk) or [Truda@colmangetty.co.uk](mailto:Truda@colmangetty.co.uk)

### Notes to Editors:

The cost of the Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields is £36 million with £15.35 million coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Donations can still be made via St Martin's website: [www.smitf.org/campaign](http://www.smitf.org/campaign) or telephone 020 7766 1169, email [campaign@smitf.org](mailto:campaign@smitf.org).

The Revd Liz Griffiths, Associate Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, is available for interview; images of the exterior and interior of the church will also be available.

### Key dates in the Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields:

- January 2006: building work began
- 30 September 2007: the church re-opened
- 1 October 2007: the crypt re-opened and St Martin's music programme recommenced
- Spring 2008: the interior work of Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields is completed – hoardings conceal elements of the site until full completion
- October 2008: the reopening of the Church Path and public areas around the exterior of the church

HRH The Prince of Wales is Patron of the Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

For more information on Eric Parry Architects see [www.ericparryarchitects.co.uk](http://www.ericparryarchitects.co.uk) and for main contractor Costain Group plc [www.costain.com](http://www.costain.com).

The Heritage Lottery Fund enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about Britain's diverse heritage. From supporting its great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots, or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up the nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. It has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating £4 billion across the UK. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)