



ST MARTIN'S
BILBOROUGH

DISCOVER HIDDEN TREASURES AT ST MARTIN'S CHURCH



WELCOME TO ST MARTIN'S

Welcome to the Church of St Martin of Tours. We hope you enjoy the beauty, peace and wonder of this special place. St Martin's is a Christian church serving the whole community. It has been a place of worship for almost 700 years.

The Hidden Treasures Project at St Martin's Church began in 2014. Since then the medieval church and the Annunciation mural have been restored, and an exciting programme of events and activities has begun.

All of us have skills and talents that we could make more of – hidden treasures that are waiting to be discovered. Come and find yours at St Martin's.



St Martin's is a Grade 2 listed building, because it's important to the nation.*



The east window lights up the chancel and the beautiful Annunciation mural.

THE STORY OF ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's was built between around 1350 and 1400. Bilborough remained a small village until well into the 20th century, and the church was large enough to accommodate its congregation without difficulty.

St Martin's was renovated in 1833 and 1887 – '89. The later work saw beautiful floral motifs used throughout the church. This suggests that the architect, J. E. Newbury, may have been influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement.

In the 20th century Bilborough grew rapidly. The medieval church became too small for its congregation, so a modern extension was built in 1972.

Between 2010 and 2014 the medieval church was lovingly restored. Many of the treasures hidden by the 1970s extension have now been revealed, including the Annunciation mural.



Harvest Festival at St Martin's, 1952.



Four heritage trainees carried out much of the recent stonemasonry work.

WHO WAS ST MARTIN?

St Martin lived between around AD 316 and 397. He began his career as a Roman soldier, but one day he cut his cloak in two and gave half to a freezing beggar. Afterwards he dreamed that the beggar was actually Jesus, and his life changed.

Martin left the army, and later became Bishop of Tours. He is the patron saint of soldiers, beggars and France. His feast day is November 11th – Armistice Day.



A banner in the church depicts St Martin as Bishop of Tours.

THE ANNUNCIATION MURAL

The Annunciation mural is one of the most beautiful and unusual works of art in the region. It shows the Angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will give birth to Jesus, the Son of God.

Remarkably, the scene is set in Bilborough. In the background you can see local landmarks, including St Martin's Church. It was painted in 1946 by Evelyn Gibbs, one of the most talented and influential British artists of her generation.

For many years the mural was thought to have been destroyed in 1972. In fact the top two thirds had been covered up, and the bottom third had been painted over.

In 2014 the Annunciation mural was lovingly restored and repainted, returning it to its former glory.



Evelyn Gibbs and her assistant Claude Price painting the Annunciation mural
© Nottingham Post.



Restoring the mural.

GET INVOLVED

As part of the Hidden Treasures project there are going to be lots of events and activities happening at St Martin's. These will include family activities, as well as specialist talks and tours.

VOLUNTEERING

We're looking for lots of keen volunteers to get involved in the Hidden Treasures project. You can decide how much or how little you would like to do.

There are many different ways to get involved. You could become a tour guide, or make refreshments. You could assist with church maintenance, or help to run events.

Check our website, find us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter to find out more about events, activities and volunteering opportunities.



CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

St Martin's has cared for people through all the ups and downs of life for centuries. The church helps people to mark some of the most important events in their lives, including baptisms, marriages and funerals.

A Baby and Toddler Group meets from 10 am – 11.30 am every Monday during term time.

There are two worship services at St Martin's on a Sunday:

10.30 am (a relaxed mix of traditional and modern worship).

5.30 pm (relaxed, modern and upbeat worship).

Quiet morning prayer is also held every Wednesday at 8 am.

Church open:

Wednesday 10 am – 4 pm

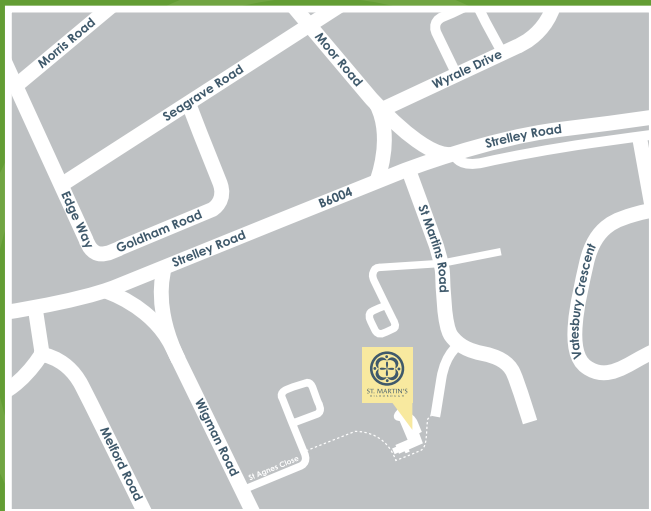
Friday 10 am – 12 noon

Saturday 10 am – 12 noon


By appointment at other times



TO THE PARISH CHURCH



P Car parking is available at St Martin's

 The church is a short walk from a bus stop.
Catch bus number 77 or 35, and get off
at The Rose pub

 Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stmartinsbilborough

 Follow us on Twitter @StMartinsBilb



www.stmartinsbilborough.org.uk LOTTERY FUNDED



PLUMBERS' AND LOVERS' MARKS

are unique pieces of graffiti carved into the roof lead. They were left by 19th-century plumbers, and later by visiting couples who climbed the tower for the view.



THE TOWER is about 40 feet high and was refaced with Derbyshire gritstone in around 1450. It houses a single bell fitted in 1888 and weighing 224 kilograms.



THE TOWER WINDOW

dates from 1833. The window frame was deliberately built wider on the right, allowing golden light to flood into the church on bright evenings.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

commemorates Bilborough men who served in World War I. Those whose names are in gold died for their country, and are buried abroad near where they fell.



THE FONT is where people are baptised with water, signifying their welcome into Christian life. The base probably dates from around 1400; the bowl perhaps from around 1661.



THE HARDBOARD CRUCIFIX is a mystery. It has the name Frances Caryll Houselander on the back in pencil and bears a quote from the French writer Victor Hugo.



THE 1970s CHURCH

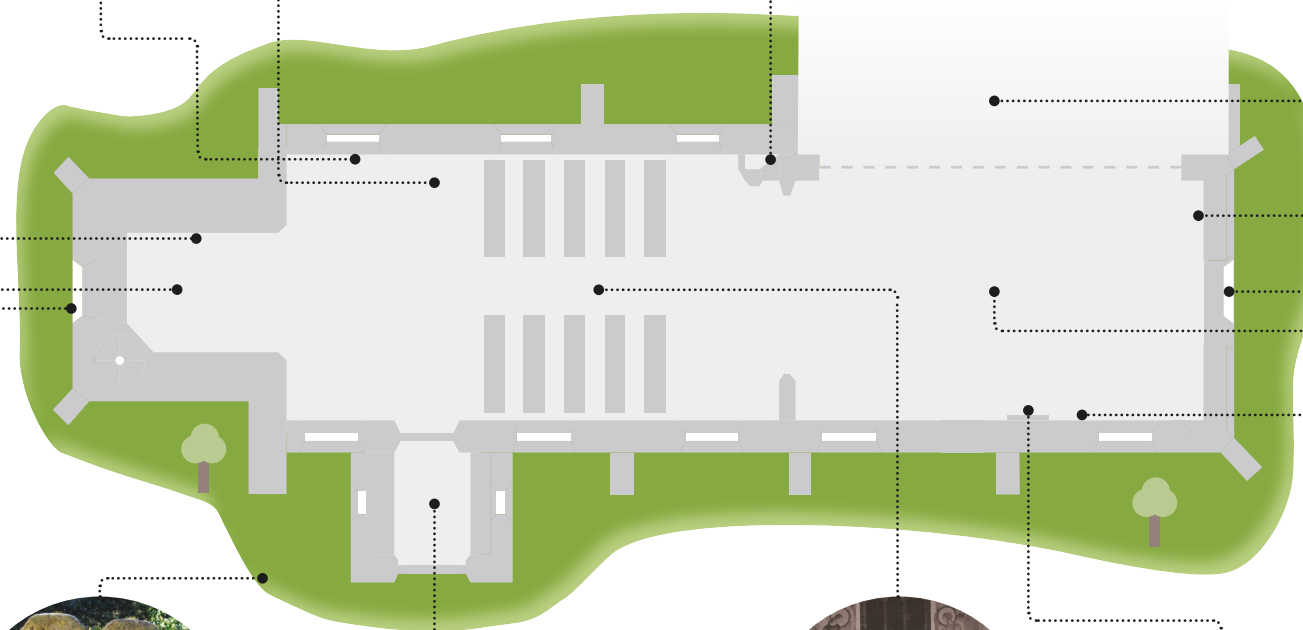
was built in 1972. The congregation had grown rapidly after World War II, and this extension provided much-needed space and warmth.



THE ANNUNCIATION MURAL shows the Angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. In the background you can see local landmarks, including St Martin's Church.

THE EAST WINDOW

was bricked up in 1972, but has recently been restored. It floods the church with light every morning, symbolising new life with God.



THE CHURCHYARD

retains its village atmosphere, despite the nearby housing estates. It's a haven for wildlife, too. Burials here go back to the Middle Ages, but the oldest identifiable gravestone dates from 1736.



THE SOUTH PORCH

is decorated with carved heads of a king and queen, as well as delicate floral motifs. It was built slightly later than the rest of the church.



THE NAVE has Victorian oak pews and an oak pulpit. Analysis of the soil below the nave floor suggests there were many burials here, but the grave slabs were removed in the 19th century.

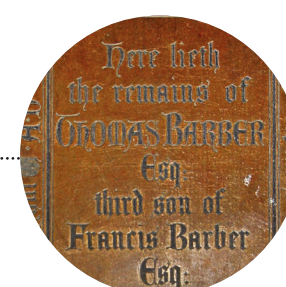


THE HELWYS MEMORIAL

commemorates Sir Edmund Helwys and his daughter. Sir Edmund's son, Thomas Helwys, worshipped at St Martin's, and later founded England's first Baptist Church in London in 1612.



THE CHANCEL CEILING dates from 1887 – '89. It's off-centre, but this is part of the church's character and charm. Every one of the floral oak ceiling bosses was skilfully carved by hand.



THE BRASS PLAQUES

in the church remember different people including a small child, a doctor and the Barber mining family. Research is being carried out to find out more about these people and their connection with the church.