**St. Martin in the Bull Ring Church also known as Birmingham Parish Church**

Situated between the Bull Ring Shopping Centre and the fruit and vegetable markets, in the City Centre of Birmingham this is the site where Birmingham began. There has been a Church here for over 750 years although the present structure was built in 1873-75. In 2000 the Church interior was refurbished while 2003 the outside was restored (paid for by the Bull Ring Development) and a reception, café, offices and function rooms added.

Currently there are two salaried clergy posts and support provided from a SSM along with three readers. In addition there are three part-time lay people employed in contributing directly to worship and mission. St Martin’s is currently in an interregnum and it is anticipated that an advertisement for the post of Rector will be placed in January 2018. There are three services on a Sunday and services on Tuesday and Thursday morning which are supplemented by an array of special services that take place throughout the year. Being the Parish Church of Birmingham has been interpreted in recent years to mean that the location is for the whole of Birmingham and in addition to other Anglican groups meeting her the Church regularly provides space to Churches focusing on the needs of people from Sweden, Iran, Germany, China as well as the Coptic Church, Burn 24/7 and various evangelic initiatives targeted towards the young. This year we were blessed to be involved with the Taize visit to Birmingham and the Ordination of Methodist Ministers.

In terms of the commercial activity within the building we have 5 full time staff, 3 part time staff and regularly use 4 others employed on a casual basis. In addition to caring for the Church space (which we also hire out on a commercial basis) we operate a tea lounge on 5 days a week, have 3 meeting rooms and are landlord to St. Martin’s Centre for Health and Healing which is a counselling service seeing over 300 people a week.

St Martin’s is in an area which attracts people requiring physical, emotional and spiritual support and all clergy, staff and volunteers are expected to play a role in this. On a Monday morning there is a drop in where food and conversation is provided and throughout the week general advice, support and food is distributed as much as is possible. Historically the Church has been involved in the Birmingham Churches Night Shelter and before that operated a Help Desk for the Street Homeless. While the support is less structured now helping the street homeless and those living on the margins of society remains an important part of the activity.

The approximate budget for the Church is 500k per year made up of donations form the congregation, commercial income, a grant from the St. Martin’s Trustees and other smaller local charities

The main Church space is open every day between 10 AM and 4PM and longer on Sundays.

The building is staffed from 8 AM every day and closes at 6 PM on Monday, Thursday and Saturday, 9.30 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday and 7.30 PM on Friday and Sunday.

For special events these times will vary

 Worship:

Regular Activity:

  Services are held at 12.30 on Tuesday and Thursday and at 9.30, 11.00 and 6pm on Sundays.

  Healing on the Streets take place on the first Saturday of the month

  Major Christian festivals are celebrated and throughout the year there are courses held (during the week), special events, Junior Church and other acts of worship.

Other:

There is a drop in every Monday morning known as Cuppa and Chat which supports over 60 people who are in varying states of emotional and financial challenge.

 Groups use the Church or services are held on their behalf throughout the year. There are annual services for BARRA and at least 10 Carol Services in December. On a weekly basis Christian groups focused on supporting students meet. In 2017 there were five conferences held in the Church alongside services for school leavers, speaker events and services for those from the Iranian, Swedish and German communities.

Generally there is openness to support the residents of Birmingham to use the Church for special celebrations which can lead to a wide variety of services taking place.

The clergy are responsible for the Regular Activity and many of the other events and the operations are co-ordinated by the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager is responsible for receiving bookings, identifying the requirements of users and leading and managing the OTL and others in delivering those requirements.

Commercial

 Regular Activity

St. Martin’s operates a tea lounge Tuesday- Saturday and rents out rooms to groups for meetings on every day bar Sunday. The OM is responsible for taking bookings and managing this activity.

 Other:

The main Church space is used for commercial events including Vintage Clothes Fayres and Arts events. Occasionally awards dinners are also held in this space. The aim is to ensure that the Church building is booked for at least 10 commercial events each calendar year.

It is the responsibility of the Operations Manager to market the space and obtain the bookings and to manage delivery in relation to both the Regular Commercial Activity and the Other Commercial Activity and the interaction of those activities with the Worship and with the Other Activities described below and the various demands on the building.

Other

St. Martin’s Centre for Health and Healing operate from the building and they offer a comprehensive counselling service and also play host to services provided by NHS staff also

The Church provides regular ad hoc support to people facing challenges in their life which includes spiritual and practical support, general signposting and the provision of food parcels.

There is a continual stream of visitors to the Church who call in for a variety of reasons

There is an active group of Bell Ringers who regularly use the Bell Tower

The Church is involved in the annual Heritage Week activity in September