

# Christmas in July

## 1.5 Million Thanks!!!

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WOW! The result of the 2010 Christmas Appeal shattered all our previous records: £1.5 million! That was 68% more than the then record result of 2009 and more than double the total from the 2008 Appeal. So, to all of you who helped make the Appeal such a success: many, many thanks – 1.5 million, in fact.

Was it the weather that helped produce such an amazing result? The cold weather and snow in late November and December may have helped. As one of our supporters wrote: *“There’s over a foot of snow outside & the roads are frozen. I cannot imagine how anyone can be sleeping on the street tonight.”*

As always, the tremendous support of our partners at BBC Radio 4 helped to tell people about the Appeal (as it has since 1927!). Up until just a few years ago, it was all just about radio; now we’re also spreading the message on the internet, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, as well as BBC Big Screens in town centres throughout the UK.

Whatever the reasons, we’re very grateful for this result, as it means we are able to help even more people in need this year through the work of The Connection at St Martin’s and the Vicar’s Relief Fund. You can read more about their work inside.

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**The 2011 BBC Radio 4 St Martin-in-the-Fields  
Christmas Appeal – our 85th! – will be  
broadcast on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December and repeated  
on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.**

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### VICAR APPOINTED BISHOP OF SALISBURY

Revd Nicholas Holtam, vicar of St Martin’s for 16 years, has been appointed Bishop of Salisbury. He leaves St Martin’s this month and will be enthroned in the autumn. His vision, wisdom, skills and commitment, and his broadcasts for the Christmas Appeal culminating in 2010’s record result, have helped make St Martin’s what it is today: a thriving parish church at the heart of London with connections around the world, engaged and engaging, renewed, caring for the vulnerable, open to all with an inclusive hospitality.

Revd Richard Carter, one of the clergy team at St Martin’s, will make the 2011 Appeal on BBC Radio 4 in December. You may recall in last year’s Appeal Richard told the story of the homeless man who gave away his shoes to someone who he felt needed them more.

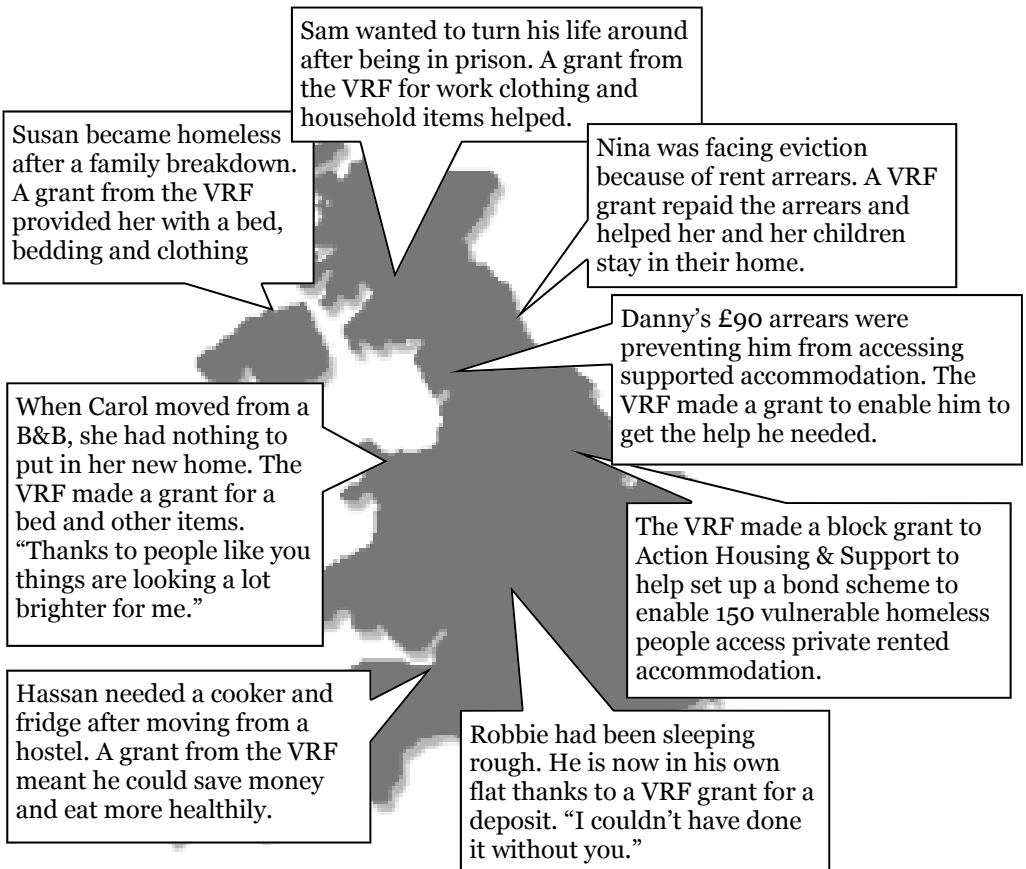
July 2011

The **Vicar's Relief Fund** makes small grants to individuals and families in need across the UK. Grants are usually made to alleviate a crisis and often include:

- preventing someone being made homeless by helping towards arrears
- deposits or rent in advance to enable someone to move away from the streets
- furniture and other household items to help former rough sleepers set up a home for themselves
- ordinary living expenses for people who are destitute.

Although the grants are not large, we try to make them quickly – within a few days or less – because we recognise that someone in need is in need now.

This year, the Vicar's Relief Fund will make around 1800 grants to people in need all over the UK. We've also made over 60 block grants to agencies all over the country working with thousands more vulnerable clients. There isn't space to tell you all of the ways your donation is helping, but here are a few:



**The Connection at St Martin's** is the largest centre working with homeless people in the UK, helping over 5,000 people a year. The grant from the Christmas Appeal is essential at helping The Connection provide its core services to homeless and vulnerable people in central London — especially at a time of funding cuts. These include:

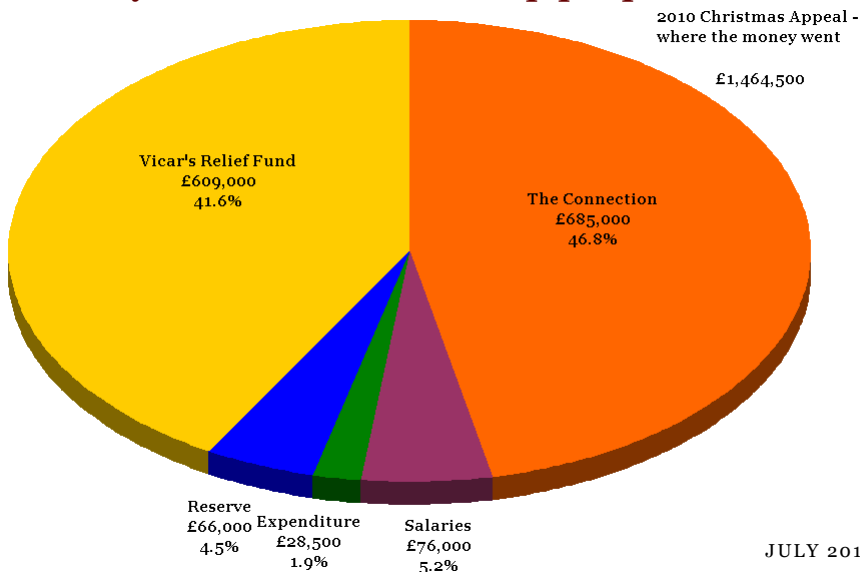
- the café, serving nutritious hot meals
- showers, laundry and lockers
- our night centre, which during the cold weather was accommodating over 100 people, more than double its regular intake
- advice, help and support to enable clients to build lives away from the streets, and establish and maintain tenancies and employment.

Meet Matthew. Matthew, 20, became homeless after his dad died, then he lost his possessions in a house fire. “I couldn’t believe what had happened. I sat in a corner for four days, behind some houses. I couldn’t get up. I just sat there. I spent the next few months sleeping wherever I could – buses, trains, parks. Then I was approached by someone from The Connection - they let me stay in their night centre. I could have food, showers and wash my clothes, too, which was brilliant.



Then they got me into a hostel and I liked it there. I just want to move on with my life. So I went up to The Connection’s Workspace service and they’ve helped me out with everything. I did their IT course and I’m taking my Maths and English GCSEs soon and they found me my course – it’s in music production. My plan is to get a place of my own and I’d love to work for a really big music company.”

## 88p of every £1 raised went to help people in need!



## WHY A NEWSLETTER?

This is our second annual mid-year report. After such an amazing result, we wanted to share the good news, thank you for your support and let you know how your donation has helped. We know many of you support the Christmas Appeal not only because of the work we do, but also because so much of your contribution is used to help those in need. Many copies of this newsletter are distributed by e-mail and, where it has been posted, we have combined it with other items. Please feel free to pass this copy on to anyone you think may be interested, or get in touch if you would like more copies.

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## THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

In the last two years, the Christmas Appeal has received over £285,000 in the form of legacies. Many of these have been quite modest sums, but combined is a tremendous addition to the gifts you and all our supporters make each year, enabling us to help many more people, as you can see from the stories inside.

We are very grateful to all those who thought of the work of the Christmas Appeal when they made their wills. It is very easy to do: if you would like the Christmas Appeal to benefit, please talk to your legal advisor or contact our office for an information pack. If you have already named the Christmas Appeal in your will and feel able to tell us, that will allow us to thank you and will also help us with forward planning.

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**Our work goes on all year — it doesn't have to be Christmas to help us!  
You can support the Appeal by:**

- ✓ giving online at [www.smitf.org/christmas](http://www.smitf.org/christmas) (You can donate using credit or debit cards, CAF Charitycards or PayPal)
- ✓ or by phoning **0800 082 82 84** (using credit or debit cards or CAF Charitycards. Call free from most UK landlines — check with your provider.)
- ✓ or send a cheque or postal order made payable to the **St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas Appeal** and post to us at: **Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ.**
- ✓ If you would like to make a regular commitment through a standing order, you can download a form from our website or get in touch with us.

Thank you.



### **St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas Appeal**

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