Cambridge, 23rd December, 2021

Dear friends and members of St Martin’s Church, Cambridge,

I write to inform you that after a careful consideration the St Martin’s Church PCC had to take the difficult decision last week to close St Martin’s Day Centre permanently, with effect from the 31stDecember 2021.

St. Martin’s Church has been running the Day Centre at a deficit for some time depleting its reserves and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic had seen a drop in the number of clients. During this time costs have also been increasing and currently the only short-term the option was to apply for one-off sustainability funding from the Council, which is not a guaranteed funding source. The Day Centre operating situation reached a crisis point during November 2021 when two employees announced they were leaving. The uncertainty around our long-term funding meant the PCC felt unable to recruit new staff and in combination with the reduced number of volunteers the PCC agreed that it would not be able to offer a safe service to clients from January 2022.

The PCC has written to the clients and their carers and informed the council of the situation, but want to ensure the fellowship who have supported the Day Centre over many years were made aware as soon as possible.

After many years of serving the needs of the frail and elderly the whole PCC are very saddened by the turn of events, but the safety of our clients was the key factor in this decision. The remaining Day Centre staff will be working with carers and family to support transitions to other services and we ask you to pray for the clients, staff and PCC as we manage this difficult transition.

The closure of the day centre means we are no longer able to provide a dependable care service to the most vulnerable elderly members of our community. However, it is our hope and intention to explore in the year to come how we as a church can create new provisions for the elderly in our community and for St Martins to develop as hub bringing together people of all ages.

Your sincerely,

**Johannes Roth**

Vicar and Chair of St Martin’s Church PCC

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