

## Lord and Lady Carey Carey Visited St. Martin's at the End of May

During the week of May 19-22, we welcomed back to our campus The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Dr. George L. Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1991 he was invited to take up the post of 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury and served 70 million Anglicans around the world until his retirement in 2002. In 2002 George Carey was made a life peer as "Lord Carey of Clifton." Lord Carey is the recipient of 12 Honorary Doctorates and author of 14 books. Currently, he is Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire and President of the London College of Theology.

### *Men of St. Martin's Breakfast, May 19*

Our week began with Lord Carey speaking to the Men of St. Martin's group on Thursday morning, May 19, with 200 parishioners and guests in attendance. During his talk, he spoke about crises — both in the business world and in the Church — which often result when there is lack of "integrity, of manly leadership that is honest, direct, true, noble and great." Touching on the phrase "muscular Christianity," he went on to explore how we can become more powerful Christian men. Citing Paul, who asks that we give our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, the Archbishop said this means that "it is something you do once and for all; it is not something you do over and over again."

Bring your body, "with all its problems, with all the difficulty you have with it, with all the temptations and all — bring it just the way it is," said Lord Carey, adding that Christianity is more than a religion, "it is a way of life, a world view; it is a philosophy."

He summed up his talk by encouraging those in attendance to "renew your mind so that you see life the way God sees it."

"The mind of Christ sees that the goal of living is not to please yourself but to please God," said Lord Carey. "The way you please God is to depend on Him, to expect Him to work through you, where you are; to expect that He has the power and the wisdom and the strength to somehow do things in ways that you can't anticipate or even dream of. God is pleased when people venture out in faith."

In closing, Lord Carey stressed that we can renew our minds "through our commitment to three basic things — to the Church, to the Scriptures and to Christ's mission."

### *The Houston Boychoir, May 20*

One of the highlights of the weekend was our special *Music Fest* event, which began on Friday, May 20 with the Houston Boychoir. The Houston Boychoir provides boys in the Houston metropolitan area with the exciting opportunity for vocal music study and choral performance.

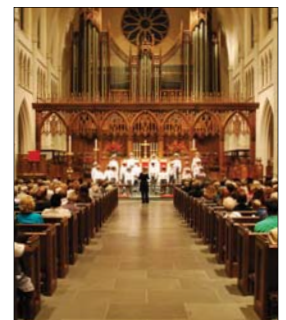
"When Russell, Rector of St. Martin's and I first conceived of *Music Fest* two years ago, we had no idea then what a wonderful event it would turn out to be," said Lord Carey. More than 310 parishioners, guests, musicians and volunteers were in attendance on Friday night, with 275 remaining for the reception afterwards.



*Men of St. Martin's breakfast on Thursday, May 19.*



To see more pictures, visit [www.stmartinsepiscopal.org/archives.php](http://www.stmartinsepiscopal.org/archives.php).



*Houston Boychoir on Friday May 20.*



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### **Confirmation, May 21**

The campus came to life early on Saturday morning, May 21, as Lord Carey presided over a lovely service where 42 adults and 65 youth were confirmed, received or reaffirmed. The total attendance that morning was 730; a wonderful reception in Bagby Parish Hall followed the service.

In his sermon, Lord Carey stressed that “Confirmation is about discipleship; it is about being a soldier for Jesus Christ; it is a public confession that you are prepared to live as a Christian in your daily life.”

Lord Carey chose the Old Testament reading about Abraham, because his story is “one of restless seeking for a home, for security and for personal fulfillment shared by all of us here today.”

Drawing inspiration from Abraham’s story of faithfulness to God, Lord Carey asked that, “Each one of you here should vow that you will remain faithful to the end of your life.”

Of equal importance is the need to stay close to God throughout life. “We need church for fellowship, for teaching, for service, for deepening our prayer life and encouraging us on the way,” said Lord Carey. “Never neglect worship — if you do, your spiritual muscles will weaken and your witness as a Christian will dim.”

“The third thing about Abraham is that he was willing to face opposition,” said Lord Carey. “Our Lord wants us to take risks for Him. He wants our love, our energy, faithfulness and commitment. He wants us to remain close to Him throughout our lives and says, ‘that if we do, we shall be blessed.’”

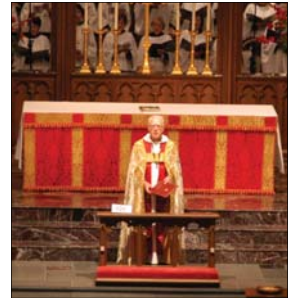
### **Sara Groves in concert, May 21**

On Saturday evening, May 21, we welcomed singer/songwriter Sara Groves in a special *Music Fest* event in the Old Church, with 230 members and guests in attendance. This was a beautiful, intimate event, with Sara telling the story of how each song came about before singing it — and even then, each song “told a story.” Before performing *Going Home*, she talked about having the opportunity to visit her childhood home while showing home movies of her childhood on the projector screens. It was a very moving experience. The 95 guests with VIP tickets to the reception in Bagby Parish Hall were able to “meet and greet” with Sara Groves after the show, smiling for photographs and having their autograph books signed.

Her 2007 release, *Tell Me What You Know*, had an extended debut as the “No. 1 album” on iTunes’ “Christian & Gospel” chart. Groves’ ninth album, *Fireflies & Songs*, was named “Album of the Year” by *Christianity Today* as the “runaway” #1 choice by a panel of ten music critics choosing *Christianity Today*’s “Top 12 Albums of 2009.” In her personal life, Sara has become an international advocate for those less fortunate. After her 2005 visit to Rwanda, where she witnessed tremendous injustice, she began partnering with Food for the Hungry. Upon learning of Cambodia’s sex trade, she and her husband, Troy, began to advocate for victims of human trafficking through the International Justice Mission.



*Confirmation service on Saturday, May 21.*



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*Sara Groves in concert and “Meet and Greet” on Saturday, May 21.*



*Contemporary artist Sara Groves greets the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.*



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**Worship, May 22**

On Sunday morning, May 22, Lord Carey preached during the morning services in The Church; attendance was 107 during the 8:00 AM service, 461 during the 9:00 AM service, and 610 during the 11:15 AM service. During his sermon, he referenced the gospel lesson, "Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.'" [John 14:1-14]

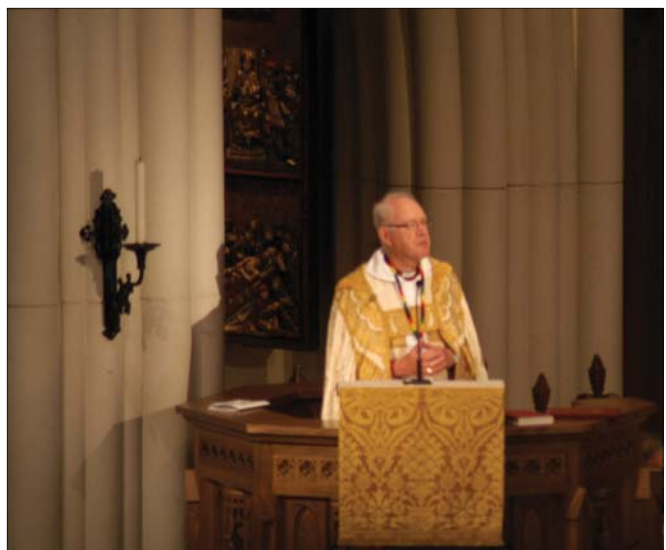
"It is one of the most well-known and troubling passages of scripture," said Lord Carey. "It raises questions about God and His nature and tells us that God can be known in our experience."

"We will understand this chapter much better if we realize two facts. First, the Lord is going to come again in person to end their fear of death. Second, he is going to come again by the Spirit to end their fear of life," explained Lord Carey. "Both of these comings are made possible by that strange relationship which our Lord had with His Father, and which led Him to say to these disciples, 'Believe in God, believe also in me.'"

"The answer to fear is faith," explained the Archbishop. "So, the next time we are afraid, reach out for a promise of God, and lay hold of it by the power of Jesus, and our fears will be on their way to vanishing."

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This wonderful sermon is available for download on our Web site, and for purchase through the Bookstore & Gift Shoppe. Referencing our "Great Commission" stained glass window, he closed the sermon with a reminder "to every member of St. Martin's family that your faith drives you out to share it with others; to be an ambassador for the King of Kings; to be a light in a dark and insecure world. It is never easy but living that faith and hope will always be worthwhile."



On Sunday, May 22, The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Dr. George L. Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, preached during the 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM services in The Church.

Attendance during the Archbishop's visit

Date	Event	Attendance	Reception
5/19	Men of St. Martin's breakfast	200	
5/20	Houston Boychoir	310	275
5/21	Confirmation service	730	150
5/21	Sara Groves concert	230	95
5/22	8:00 AM worship service	107	
5/22	9:00 AM worship service	461	
5/22	10:15 AM adult lecture	375	
5/22	11:15 AM worship service	610	
5/22	Mozart's <i>Coronation Mass</i>	759	70



On May 22, the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. introduced Lord Carey (at right) before his teaching for adults, "Staying Grounded in a World of Shaking Foundations," during the Christian Education hour.

To see more pictures, visit [www.stmartinsepisopal.org/archives.php](http://www.stmartinsepisopal.org/archives.php).

**Lecture for adults, May 22**

Also on Sunday morning, May 22, Lord Carey offered a teaching for adults entitled *Staying Grounded in a World of Shaking Foundations*, during the Christian Education hour. While acknowledging his youth was difficult during a time when Britain was broken and exhausted by war, he surmised that times are even more difficult for young people today, as the "old signposts that give life a sense of purpose are now missing."

Lord Carey went on to explain that the "signposts that lead us to our home," that "make up our whole being," can be summed up in terms of mind, body and spirit.

The first signpost is that "the Lord wants our minds to be renewed," said Lord Carey. "That means spending time reading books that are going to stimulate us and to 'give an answer for the hope that is within us.'"

"The second signpost is to offer our bodies as a spiritual worship. Our bodies means all of us and perhaps points to our behavior, our physical lives, our interests, our attitudes to nature and so on," said the Archbishop.

"The third signpost is Christian nourishment. How are we nourished as Christians?" asked Lord Carey. "The first is the church family. ... The second great form of nourishment is the Scriptures. Our tradition belongs to the Reformation family of churches and central to that tradition is a commitment to the Bible."

Lord Carey's lecture ended on a very positive note. "However, there is third nourishment — I call it Christian hope. We are on the winning side and we should live life with optimism and confidence. There is nothing to fear but so much to look forward to," offered the Archbishop.

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**Mozart's "Coronation Mass," May 22**

Our *Music Fest* weekend ended on Sunday, May 22, with the Choirs of St. Martin's Episcopal Church and St. Thomas Episcopal Church performing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* during the 6:00 PM service in The Church. There was a huge turnout for this event, with some guests seated in the balcony, and a total attendance of 759 when one factors in the Choirs and Orchestra. Although the *Coronation Mass* has been performed in the Houston area rather often this spring, the acoustics of our Church really allowed the voices of these combined choirs to soar, making this performance one of the highlights of the week. The post-concert reception was attended by about 70 guests and Choir members.



Mozart's "Coronation Mass" on Sunday, May 22.



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