ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL | ALUMNI

THE MARTINIAN

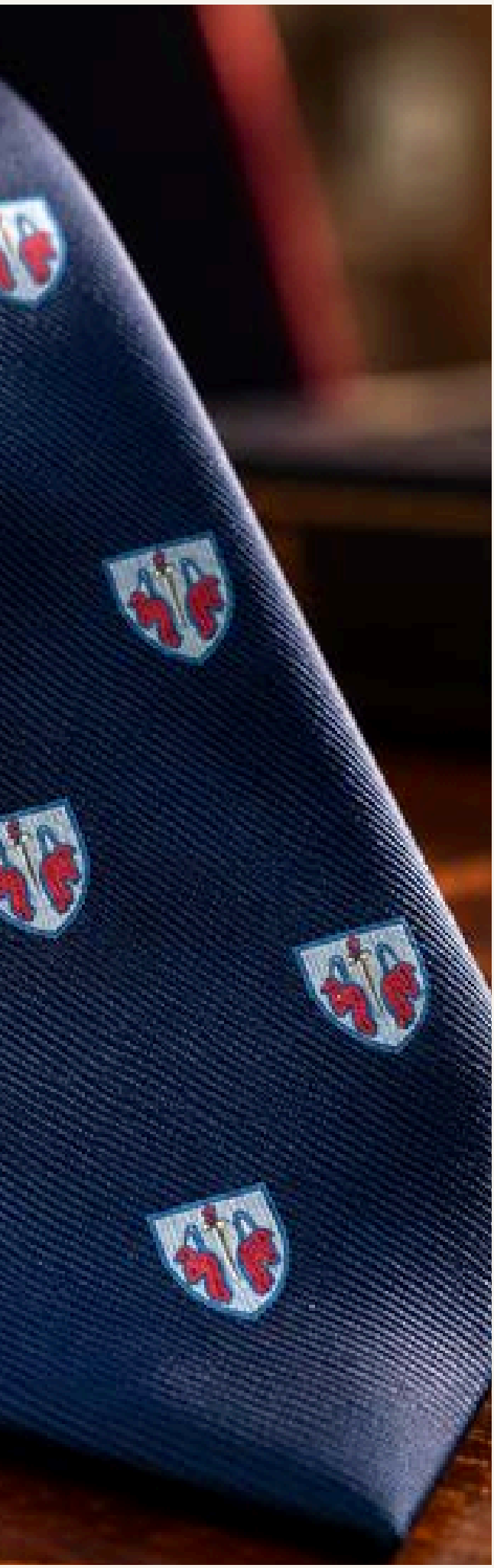
OUR PAST. OUR PEOPLE. OUR FUTURE



ISSUE 1 | OCTOBER 2026

A HOME THAT ENDURES

William de Pinho: 50 Years On
A Legacy Passed from One Generation to the Next



WELCOME TO THE MARTINIAN

Dear St Martin's Alumni,

Two weeks ago, we gathered in our School Hall for the Matric Class of 2026's Final Eucharist and Alumni Tie Handover. The invitation had gone out just two days before the service, and we were delighted to welcome around fifteen Martinians back to the school. Others reached out to express their regrets at being unable to attend, while wishing our Matrics well as they prepare to leave St Martin's and begin the next chapter of their lives.

What struck us most was the warmth of the occasion. There was a real sense of reconnection: former students returning to a place that remains part of their story, and a new generation of Martinians preparing to take their place among those who have gone before them. It was a reminder that, while our students eventually leave our classrooms and pass through our gates, their connection to St Martin's need not end there.

That gathering planted the seed for the The Martinian.

Over the years, we have had the privilege of welcoming alumni back to our East Road campus. Regardless of when they attended St Martin's, or whether they ever set foot on this campus as students, we have often heard the same sentiment: it still feels like St Martin's.

Of course, much has changed. Our location, our offerings and aspects of school life have evolved over the years. Yet, at our core, we remain the same institution that has been shaping young people since 1958. Our traditions, our values, our sense of community and the relationships formed here continue to connect generations of Martinians.

As Heads of School, we are increasingly conscious that none of us truly owns this institution. We are its custodians and stewards, entrusted with preserving its legacy while preparing it for the generations still to come. That responsibility belongs not only to those who currently walk our corridors, but also to those who walked them before us.

William de Pinho's (1976) return to St Martin's this year has been a wonderful example of this. Through his engagement with our students, particularly our Form Fours during their leadership development programme, he has demonstrated what it means to live out the values of this school long after leaving it. His example, and the story of Daniel Hlahatsi (1992) passing an alumni tie on to his daughter, Thari, remind us that the legacy of St Martin's is carried forward through its people.

It is in this spirit that we are bringing The Martinian to life. More than a school newsletter, it is an invitation to reconnect: with old friends and classmates, with the people who helped shape your school years, and with the St Martin's of today. Through these pages, we hope to share our news, celebrate our people, preserve our memories and create opportunities for alumni to remain involved in whatever way feels meaningful to them.

Whether you left St Martin's last year or many decades ago, whether you live around the corner or across the world, you remain part of our story. We hope this publication will encourage you to share your memories, visit us again, tell us what you have been doing, and help us ensure that the history and spirit of St Martin's continue to flourish.

The school you remember has a place in the school we are building today. We look forward to welcoming you home.

Warm regards,

Tanya Easton and Warren Venter
Heads of School

"The school you remember has a place in the school we are building today."







A LEGACY CARRIED FORWARD

THE PAST FINDS ITS PLACE IN OUR FUTURE

In May this year, the doors of our newly refurbished hall reopened, bringing a fresh, modern look to one of the most important gathering places at St Martin's.

The hall has undergone its first significant upgrade in many years, with renewed flooring, freshly painted walls and roof, and improvements to the windows. Yet, among these changes, one of the most meaningful additions was the return of our Honours Boards.

Many of these boards accompanied the school through its years at the old Rosettenville campus, but had not been displayed since our consolidation onto East Road in 2023. Now, the names of former Heads of School, Academic Honours recipients, Sports Captains and Triple Crown Award winners once again take their place on our walls.

For our current students, these boards are more than a record of past achievements. They are a reminder that what they do today becomes part of the story of St Martin's tomorrow. Each generation inherits a legacy of excellence and has the opportunity to add to it.

It has also been wonderful to see alumni, including parents of current students, enter the renewed hall and reconnect with memories of their own school days.

As we look ahead, we do so with our history firmly in view: a legacy carried forward by every generation of Martinians.

A LEGACY PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT



For the Matric Class of 2026, the Final Eucharist marked a significant moment: the end of their school journey and the beginning of their place among the generations of Martinians who have gone before them.

A special part of this year's service was the presence of alumni who returned to the Chapel on a Friday morning to share in the occasion. As part of the service, each Matric received their official alumni tie, handed to them by a former student of the school — a symbolic welcome into a community that extends far beyond the school gates.

For Daniel Hlahatsi, Class of 1992, the moment was particularly meaningful. Wearing his own alumni tie, Daniel handed a new tie to his daughter, Thari, who matriculates this year. A student at St Martin's since Grade 1, Thari has made her own mark on the school, serving as Deputy Head Girl and earning the Triple Crown Award for achievement in academics, sport and culture.

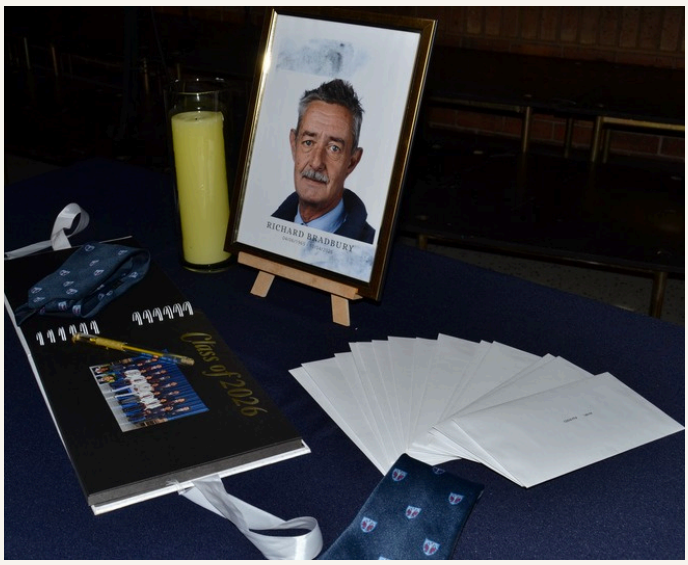
No words were needed. In that simple exchange, two generations of Martinians were connected by a shared school, a shared tradition and a legacy that continues to unfold.

The service also saw Matrics sign out of the leavers' book, before the wider school community gathered to bid them farewell through the traditional tunnel, bell-ringing and singing of *Oh When the Saints*.

While the traditions of St Martin's continue to evolve, their purpose remains the same: to honour those who have shaped the school, celebrate those who are here today, and welcome those who will carry its story forward.

The presence of our alumni reminded us that leaving St Martin's need not mean leaving the community. For the Class of 2026, the journey continues, now as part of the wider family of Martins.


ST MARTIN'S
SCHOOL


RICHARD BRADBURY
Class of 2026




Honesty, Respect,
Selflessness, Courage





FIFTY YEARS ON: A MARTINIAN RETURNS

When William de Pinho returned to St Martin's in 2025, more than 30 years had passed since his previous visit. Although the school had moved from its former campus, the welcome he received from its students immediately felt familiar.

In his own reflections, William recalled being greeted by High School students who offered to help him. Their courtesy, eagerness to assist and pride in their school reminded him of the values instilled in him during his own school days. A walk around the campus brought back memories of athletics and rugby on Roberts Field, while conversations with students revealed a school that had changed in many ways, yet retained its essential character.

His return in January 2026 was especially significant. Fifty years earlier, William had served as Head Boy of the Class of 1976. This time, he returned as Guest of Honour at the High School Honours Function, where he shared his experiences with students and parents. His emotion and evident affection for St Martin's made a lasting impression on those present.

William also spent time with our Form Fours during their leadership development programme, sharing lessons from his own journey, the influence of those who had guided him, and the responsibility that comes with leading an institution. His practical advice and genuine engagement were warmly received by the students.













At the Matric Class of 2026's Final Eucharist, William was named the school's first Patron of a Matric class: a recognition of the time, care and emotional investment he had given to the next generation of Martinians. The role will provide a way for alumni to remain connected to, and offer guidance to, the students who follow in their footsteps.

William's return has been a reminder that the legacy of St Martin's is not held in its buildings alone, but in the values its people carry with them. Fifty years after his own Matric year, he continues to demonstrate what it means to belong to this community.

Watch William in conversation with our 2026 Head of School, Tshepang-Tumelo Boroko — the school's 100th Head of School — as they reflect on leadership, the changing face of St Martin's, and the things that remain the same.

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE ST MARTIN'S

Some of the strongest threads connecting generations of Martinians are the people who have dedicated their working lives to this school. Earlier this year, we recognised four members of staff for their exceptional long service.

Across changing generations of students, evolving campuses and new chapters in the school's history, their commitment has helped preserve the traditions, relationships and sense of belonging that make St Martin's what it is.

We are grateful that that they continue to shape the St Martin's experience for the students who walk our corridors today.



Giyani Mathebula — 25 years

Known affectionately to generations of students as "Uncle Eric", Giyani has been a familiar and valued presence in the lives of our school community.



Ruth Engela — 25 years

Through her teaching of English in the High School, Ruth has helped generations of Martinians find their voices and develop their love of language.



Tanya Easton — 25 years

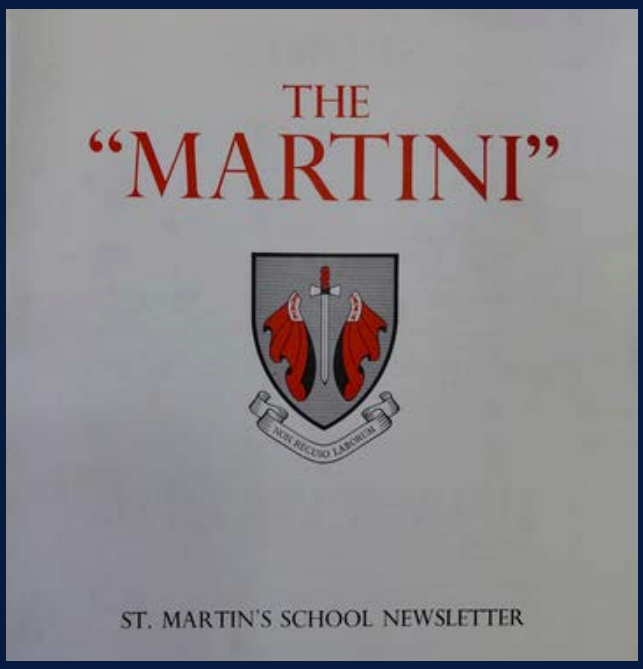
Now Prep School Principal, Tanya's 25-year journey at St Martin's reflects a longstanding commitment to the growth and development of our younger students.

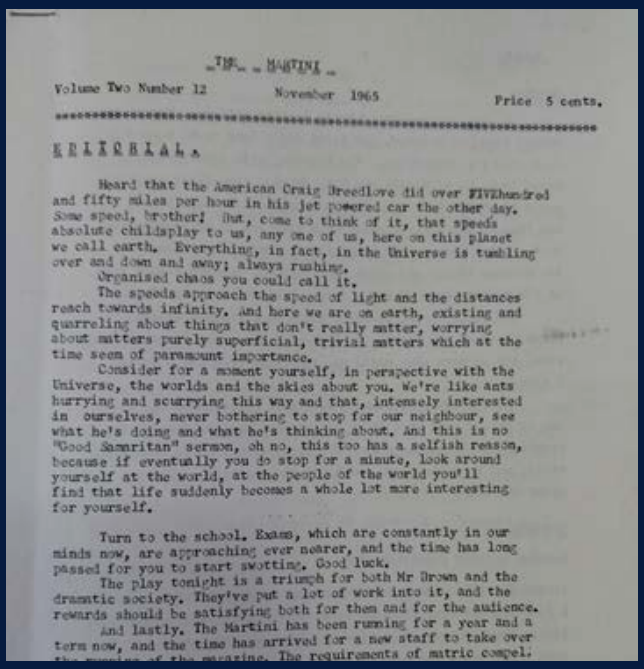


Cairyn Scallan — 30 years

Three decades of service to the Prep School, and officially being the longest-standing member of staff, represent an extraordinary contribution to the life, continuity and community of St Martin's.

FROM THE ARCHIVES





THE "MARTINI"

Volume Two Number 12 November 1965 Price 5 cents.

EDITORIAL.

Heard that the American Craig Breedlove did over FIVEhundred and fifty miles per hour in his jet powered car the other day. Some speed, brother! But, come to think of it, that speeds absolute childsplay to us, any one of us, here on this planet we call earth. Everything, in fact, in the Universe is tumbling over and down and away; always rushing.

Organised chaos you could call it.

The speeds approach the speed of light and the distances reach towards infinity. And here we are on earth, existing and quarreling about things that don't really matter, worrying about matters purely superficial, trivial matters which at the time seem of paramount importance.

Consider for a moment yourself, in perspective with the Universe, the worlds and the skies about you. We're like ants hurrying and scurrying this way and that, intensely interested in ourselves, never bothering to stop for our neighbour, see what he's doing and what he's thinking about. And this is no "Good Samaritan" sermon, oh no, this too has a selfish reason, because if eventually you do stop for a minute, look around yourself at the world, at the people of the world you'll find that life suddenly becomes a whole lot more interesting for yourself.

Turn to the school. Exams, which are constantly in our minds now, are approaching ever nearer, and the time has long passed for you to start swotting. Good luck.

The play tonight is a triumph for both Mr Brown and the dramatic society. They've put a lot of work into it, and the rewards should be satisfying both for them and for the audience.

And lastly. The Martini has been running for a year and a term now, and the time has arrived for a new staff to take over the [illegible] of the magazine. The requirements of matric compel:

Every edition of The Martinian will take a step back in time to celebrate the people, places and moments that have shaped St Martin's. In this edition: a snippet of *"The Martini"*, a newsletter published in November 1965.

But the best school histories aren't written in photographs alone - they're found in the memories of the people who were there.

Do you recognise a familiar face? Remember the occasion? Have a story that this photograph brings back? We'd love to hear from you!

Help us bring our history to life. Share your memories, identify familiar faces, or send us your own photographs from years gone by for future editions of The Martinian.

MARTINIANS IN ACTION



We are delighted to welcome Craig Bowker, Class of 1983, to the St Martin's Governing Council, which he joined in August 2026.

Craig brings with him a wealth of educational leadership experience, having served as Headmaster of Brackenhurst Primary School, Founding Headmaster of Waterstone College, and Founding Headmaster and Owner of BESA Leadership Academy. He later lectured at Varsity College before retiring.

Following a visit to the school last year, Craig generously shared his insights and guidance, and we recognised the tremendous value his experience could bring to the Council as St Martin's continues to shape its future.

Having also joined us for the Matric Final Eucharist, Craig reflected on the school's strong Christian ethos and the evident love staff have for their students.

His appointment is a wonderful example of how alumni can continue to contribute to the school long after their own school days. We are grateful to Craig for sharing his experience and wisdom with the St Martin's community.

OLD FRIENDS, FRIENDLY RIVALRIES AND LASTING MEMORIES

There is something special about returning to the school sports fields, meeting old friends, and discovering that the competitive spirit of St Martin's is alive and well! Our annual Alumni Sports Day brought former students back to East Road for an afternoon of netball, soccer and, for the first time this year, touch rugby — with alumni taking on our current students in some friendly competition.



It was wonderful to welcome a strong turnout, including alumni attending the day for the first time. Beyond the matches themselves, the day offered an opportunity for former classmates to reconnect, for students to meet alumni who once stood where they do today, and for generations of Martinians to share in the spirit of the school.



A particularly meaningful tradition is the Akash Singh Memorial Hockey Match. Akash's (Class of 2000) family returns each year to join us as we remember him, with the trophy — one of his own hockey boots — serving as a poignant reminder of his love for the game.

This year's match carried an added sense of reflection as we remembered Richard Bradbury, whose dedication helped ensure that this annual tribute continued. We remain committed to honouring both Akash's memory and Richard's contribution by carrying the tradition forward.



Thank you to all the alumni and families who joined us. We look forward to welcoming you back for next year's Sports Day!

REMEMBERING OUR OWN

Honouring those who have been a part of our story

The St Martin's community remembers with gratitude those who have shaped our school, influenced generations of students and contributed to the life of our institution. In this edition of The Martinian, we remember three people whose lives were connected to St Martin's.



Richard Bradbury (Class of 1982)

An alumnus who returned to St Martin's as a teacher in 1997, Richard devoted nearly three decades to the school. A teacher, lay minister and custodian of the school's history and traditions, he embodied a deep commitment to the community he loved. His influence extended well beyond the classroom, and his contribution to preserving the spirit and legacy of St Martin's will be remembered for years to come.



Ron Gill

As a former Deputy Head, Ron played an important role in the life of St Martin's and in the formation of generations of students. His contribution remains part of the school's identity, not least through the music he composed for the School Prayer — a lasting reminder of his place in our shared traditions.



Darryl Richter

Darryl served St Martin's for more than twenty years as a History teacher and, for a number of years, Director of Studies. His long association with the school formed part of its academic history, and we acknowledge his contribution to the life of St Martin's during his years of service.

We remember each of them in the context of their own journey and connection to St Martin's, and extend our thoughts to their families, friends and all those who hold their memories dear.

THE SCHOOL YOU HELPED SHAPE

Honouring our heritage. Building our future.

What does it mean to be St Martin's? It is a question we have been reflecting on as we continue to shape the school's future while remaining faithful to the traditions, values and sense of belonging that have defined our 68-year history.

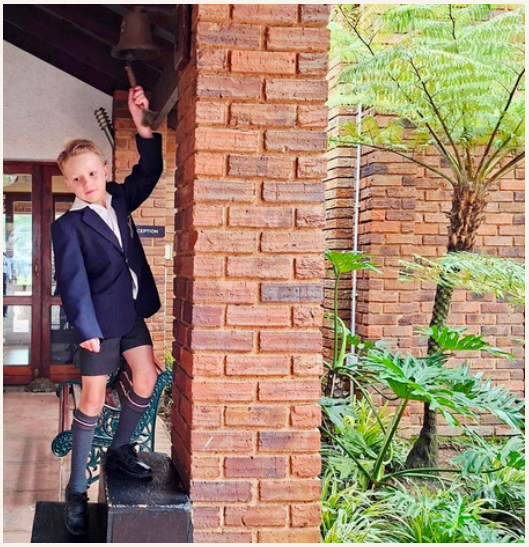


Our campus has changed, our offerings have evolved, and the needs of our students continue to develop. Yet, at the heart of St Martin's, the spirit remains. We are working to articulate what we call “The St Martin's Way”: the qualities, values and shared experiences that have shaped generations of Martinians, and that we want to ensure endure for generations to come.



That commitment to excellence continues to be reflected in the achievements of our students. This year, four students received the Triple Crown Award, recognising achievement across academics, sport and culture — the highest number awarded in a single year in the school's history.

We are also continuing to plan for the long-term future of St Martin's. Following our previous communication regarding the Victoria Street campus, we are pleased to report that discussions with a potential purchaser are in their final stages. While the sale has not yet been concluded, we remain hopeful of a positive outcome that will help us further secure the school's future and invest in the continued development of our East Road campus.



Whether you last walked our corridors decades ago or only recently, we hope you will recognise the St Martin's you remember in the school we are building today. Our responsibility is to preserve what matters, embrace what is needed, and ensure that the spirit of St Martin's continues to thrive.

GET INVOLVED

WHO WILL BE OUR NEXT PATRON?

An invitation to the Classes of 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007 and 2017

Following the appointment of William de Pinho (Class of 1976) as Patron of the Matric Class of 2026, we are excited to continue this new tradition at St Martin's.

The Patron serves as a link between generations of Martinians: an alumnus who can share their experience, offer guidance and help our Matric class navigate the important transition from school into the wider world. The role will include joining us at selected school services and special occasions, serving as Guest of Honour at the High School Honours Function, and maintaining a connection with the Matric class throughout the year.

We invite alumni who matriculated in 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007 or 2017 to express their interest in being considered as Patron of the Class of 2027.

If you would value the opportunity to reconnect with St Martin's, share your experiences and help inspire the next generation of Martinians, we would love to hear from you.

Expressions of interest: oliviern@stmartin.co.za

Our legacy is carried forward by those who came before us, those who are here today, and those who will follow. Perhaps you could play a part in shaping the next chapter.

STAY CONNECTED

STAY CONNECTED, WHEREVER LIFE TAKES YOU

St Martin's remains part of your story, wherever life has taken you since your school days. Our Alumni WhatsApp Community is one way to keep that connection alive.

We invite former students to join the community to receive school news, hear about upcoming events, reconnect with fellow alumni and stay in touch with the life of the school today.

Whether you left St Martin's last year or several decades ago, you are part of a community that spans generations. We would love to help you remain part of it.

Join the St Martin's Alumni WhatsApp Community by scanning the QR Code.

We look forward to welcoming you back into the conversation!

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On Friday, 30 October 2026, we will gather for our annual Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, remembering those members of the St Martin's community who have passed away. All members of our community, including alumni, are warmly welcome to attend this service, as they are to all our Eucharistic services.

We are updating the list of those to be remembered and invite alumni to submit the names of loved ones or fellow members of the St Martin's community they would like us to commemorate. Please send names to Nadine Olivier at oliviern@stmartin.co.za.

We would also like to create a Wall of Remembrance, providing a lasting place to honour those who have been part of our community. Alumni wishing to sponsor a plaque in memory of a loved one or another member of the St Martin's community are invited to contact Nadine at the same email address. She will be in touch with further details and pricing.

We look forward to gathering in remembrance, thanksgiving and prayer as a community united across generations.

AN INVITATION TO OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL



YOUR STORY IS PART OF OUR STORY

Every generation leaves its mark on St Martin's. It lives in the friendships formed, the lessons learned, the traditions carried forward and the memories that stay with us long after we leave the school gates.

The Martinian is an opportunity to bring those stories together. We want to hear from you: whether you have a memory to share, an old photograph tucked away in an album, news of a fellow alumnus, an achievement to celebrate or simply a story about where life has taken you since your days at St Martin's.

Perhaps you would like to reconnect with old classmates, contribute to a future edition, share a memory from the archives or find a way to become more involved in the life of the school. Whatever your connection, there is a place for you here.

Please get in touch by emailing alumni@stmartin.co.za to share your news, memories, photographs or ideas.

As we look to the future, we remain conscious that St Martin's has been shaped by the generations who came before us. We hope The Martinian will help us celebrate that shared history, strengthen the bonds between our alumni and the school, and ensure that the stories of our community continue to be told.

Our past. Our people. Our future.

The story continues — and you are part of it.

ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

Where every child is known.