

Annual Review 2024-2025

St. Martin in the Bull Ring
Birmingham Parish Church

'Jesus seems to do nothing of Himself which he can possibly delegate to his creatures.
He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what he could do perfectly
in the twinkling of an eye.'
C. S. Lewis

St. Martin in the Bull Ring is not perfect. It is far from perfect. But then no church is perfect. You may have heard the old preacher's truism: if you find a perfect church, leave quickly before you spoil it. But don't worry - anyone can join St. Martin's because we are all far from perfect.

We may not be perfect but we are special because Jesus lives in His Church, and He is alive and active in St. Martin's.

St. Paul teaches us:

Christ lives within you.... The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.
Romans 8 v10-11

The following report seeks to give testimony to the way the Spirit of Jesus is alive and active in St. Martin's, living in and through His people, the children of God.

Jesus said:

I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done,
and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.
John 14 v12

When the resurrected Jesus ascended back to the Father, His plan was simple. His disciples, all those who believe in and follow Jesus, would carry on His work, and with His help and power, would remarkably be able to do even more than Jesus did.

So each year we take a moment to stop and look and assess how Jesus is at work in St. Martin's. We, as one of the churches in the city centre of Birmingham, have the amazing privilege of carrying on the Lord's work in order to bless the people of this wonderful city.

We seek to do this in partnership and friendship with our sister charities, other churches, organisations and community groups. Increasingly over the next few years we will see how we might do this as part of an Oversight Area – a small group of Anglican churches around the city centre who will journey together to see how we can support each other in ministry and grow together – St. Alban, Highgate; St. Paul, Jewellery Quarter; and St. John and St. Peter, Ladywood.

We will not do this perfectly but we can do it faithfully and fruitfully. Full of the Spirit of Jesus, encouraging and honouring one another, recognising Jesus in each other, and living as a community of love, we can flourish and be fruitful in mission and ministry.



For God is working in you, giving you the desire
and the power to do what pleases him.
Philippians 2 v13

Revd Jeremy Allcock
Rector, St. Martin in the Bull Ring

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 12.5.2024, there were 218 names on the Electoral Roll.

The total number of names on the Electoral Roll for 2025 is 168.

Numbers may look lower than usual.
This it is because it is a new Roll
and numbers tend to build up
over the years.



Bridget Cameron
Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Report

Thank you to all of you who volunteer at St. Martins and have completed your Basic Awareness course. Many of you have done this by yourself at home or in the Lounge with Tina and myself. Some of you have also completed the Foundation level.

The new updated version of the Domestic Abuse Awareness course is now available to do if applicable to your volunteer role.

A huge thank you to Tina Brogan for running the courses in church this year.

Full copies of our Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement - Promoting a Safer Church and our Parish Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse are included at the end of this report.



Full information about safeguarding is on display around the church building and information is also available on our website.

Helen Atsou
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Fabric and Maintenance Report

Introduction

This report outlines the fabric and maintenance activities undertaken at St Martin in the Bull Ring. The activities are a combination of the regular and the unforeseen.

Regular Maintenance

Boiler Maintenance

Regular boiler services have been conducted to ensure efficient heating throughout the church. We continue to 'nurse' the two gas boilers until a different long term solution is available.

We had to replace the header tank for the heating system – which had burst, flooding the wardens vestry.

Cleaning Efforts

The regular cleaning team, all volunteers, diligently clean the church every second week. Their dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Gutters

The gutters are regularly checked and cleared of rubbish and plants.

Church Clock Maintenance

The church clock has been regularly serviced to ensure accurate timekeeping.

Some of our amazing, faithful church cleaning team

One-Off Items

Roof Repairs

The roofs over the blowing chamber and workshop have been replaced. Repairs were necessary as a consequence of the theft of lead and water ingress.

Carpet Replacements

The carpets in two entrance areas have been changed.

Relationship with Bullring

The ongoing relationship with Bullring has been particularly beneficial. Bullring personnel have assisted in emptying bins and cleaning up the exterior of the church. The Bullring also renewed all the external lighting around the building.

Water Management

A sump pump has been added to the blowing chamber to manage excess water. A camera was installed in the blowing chamber so we can keep an eye on the status. The external drains were also cleaned by the Bull Ring – since then, there has been no flooding in the blowing chamber.

Structural Survey

A structural engineer undertook a high level inspection to determine the condition and strength of a number of roofes, and giving consideration to their suitability for potentially fitting solar panels in the near future.

Security Enhancements

New security cameras and floodlighting have been installed outside the church following a lead theft incident. These additions have significantly enhanced security, and we were able to catch a person stripping our lightning conductor connectors.

Internal Door Upgrades

New exit buttons have been installed on all internal doors.

Electrical Fixes

An electrical supply issue in the South Transept lighting has been fixed.

Repair of Stair Lift

The stair lift has been repaired in-house thus saving on costs.

Signage

New signage has been installed for our glass entry doors, internal offices, meeting rooms, toilets, Lounge etc. This is particularly helpful for our many visitors to our premises including those coming to St. Martin's Centre for Health and Healing.

Stephen Blair-Chappell

passionate in worship

I just want to commend everyone involved in leading our worship, Philippa, John, Stephen and Martin and all of our singers and musicians for their ministry to us over the last couple of years...

There are moments that stand out to me such as during our Good Friday Meditations at the Cross where there was a strong sense that the Lord was moving mightily amongst his people... The Lord was so present with us during the singing of "Above all" (Michael Smith, 2003).

Our Easter and Christmas Worship has been outstanding in both skill and musicianship but more importantly in sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, there have been a number of times during regular our worship, particularly when the song after the sermon has just encapsulated what has just been said or moved our worship onto another level by enabling people to respond to the preaching... This is happening more and more and I'm beginning to wonder if the Lord is doing it on purpose...

This has also happened at the 9:30am service too...

I think of the service where I remember just being gobsmacked after one of the hymns at the 'Holy silence...' that descended upon us. There was a real sense of a thin place between heaven and earth... t's

because it was so vivid that it stands out in my mind...

Thank you

Revd Ivor Lewis, Assistant Rector

Please convey my grateful thanks to the two clergy and numerous lay folk who together led a wonderful service today. I wandered in, not knowing it was on, at one o'clock, and would never have stayed (embarrassed to walk in so late to a service meant to honour Almighty God: I wouldn't do that to an earthly monarch, by arriving late at, say, a Buckingham Palace Garden Party!)

But Stella, on welcoming duties, threw her arms around me and indicated that I should stay, and I needed a time of worship so I did. (I know Stella from working alongside her on Healing on the Streets). It was nearly the end of the sermon, which I couldn't hear (my hearing is poor) but the excellent little monitors showed that it was the sermon. There followed a wonderfully rich second half, with no sense of hurry, with reflective music, live and the words clearly accessible. Different kinds of people were able to be themselves, including those lacking in the ability to sit for long periods, in the traditional way. They could come and go then return. They could look at artwork at the side.

I flourish in a rich sacramental expression of Christian belief, so receiving communion and holy unction spoke to me deeply, and continue to do so now, in the hours and no doubt days following it. The senses are involved, not just the mind. One knows oneself bodily touched by God, not just in an intellectual way. I am deeply grateful that the clergy put themselves into the service fully. It was not just a short, weekday service 'laid on' to 'provide for' people, but would have been suitable for a Sunday, too. Each part was unhurried, it seemed. The best that one could muster.

Then, afterwards, the doughnuts that may have been the generous offering of Greggs (I spotted one box with their name and used to work for Sparkhill Food Bank, to which they often donated). The tea was made and served kindly. So, a big thank you to the team worshiping as they led today's service. I was much revived by it.

Yours in the love of Jesus,

A visitor to Tuesday Healing Service

It was a truly remarkable Eastertide at St. Martin's. Starting from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday, all that occurred was worthy of our Saviour. It was obvious that a lot of thought, creativity and planning went into all the events and lots of people had their inputs.

The preaching, the music, the decorations and so many other factors, all contributed to the success of the event. From those

Bishop Michael joined us for worship in
Advent and preached a great sermon
about 'going the wrong way'

to whom I have spoken, there was a resounding chorus of enjoyment and contentment. It was really gratifying and encouraging to see so many young people leading on Sunday. Their smiles and

excitement during the appearance of the Easter bunny was a joy to behold.

I pray that their experience will make them wish to come again.

Thanks again for making Easter 2025, a memorable one for us who were able to participate in the celebration.

Member of St. Martin's and their family

joyful in celebration

overflowing in thankfulness

I thank God for.....

'leading me into this very church and stay here as my spiritual home'
'His love and infinite mercy' 'regular fellowship' 'my family'
'leading me to settle down in Birmingham smoothly and happily'
'granting me internship and new opportunity'
'St Martin's faithful teachings and constant care'
'prayers & my life' 'blessings' 'being here to praise with the parishioners'
'listening to the sermon and bible teaching passage'
'friendship, love & fellowship' 'His presence in my life' 'my prayers are heard'
'St Martin's for many centuries and the large ring of bells'
'giving me the strength to come here'
'bringing me here, understanding more about God'
'finding peace and comfort in all those difficult moments in my daily life'
'improvement in fellowship of the church' 'the open doors provided by the church'
'the space to worship' 'the bells' 'my healing' 'the clergy'
'helping me through the bad times and helping me to be strong'
'the worship team at the 11am service' 'diversity' 'my life as it is'
'never giving up on me even when I lose my way'
'helping, blessing and guiding me during my trying times'
'all the members of my Christian family'
'the worship team' 'leading me to join this church'
'prayers' 'St Martin's being open to the community'
'the church being a beacon in the City Centre' 'the warm presence in this church'
'the sense of family & belonging we are enjoying'
'the love they always show to people'
'for worship & followership'
'preparing this church for me – I enjoy the relationship with God and the congregation here'

A huge thank you to Ali who continues to bless our church with beautiful flower displays throughout each year.

'the brilliant services at St Martin's' 'forgiveness, hope, love, kindness & friendship'
 'for our fellowship and clergy team'
 'giving me the privilege to serve Him in some ways – that is our honour'
 'the team of volunteer cleaners and those who faithfully count our cash collections'
 'giving me a chance to be part of a Christian community'
 'giving me a chance to be a mom'
 'forgiving my sins' 'Jesus being the centre of our church'
 'I can come and pray, worship and be part of a service'
 'for leading me back to church and
 making me part of St Martin's family'
 'family finding jobs in a church'
 'good health, family & love' 'giving me this life'
 'the clergy team' 'grace, mercy & love'
 'the clergy, community & volunteers'
 'providing a place of safety & love'
 'the open welcome' 'leading us to join St Martin's'
 'supporting me through the storms of life'
 'directing my steps here when I was on vacation
 in Birmingham'

overflowing in thankfulness

I am thankful for.....

'having St. Martin as my church in Birmingham'
 'support from church members' 'the reredos'
 'all the faithful singing and worship of which I am blessed to be a part'
 'regular communion' 'finding peace when I come here'
 'a warm welcome, beautiful singing and music'
 'another year filled with great overcomings and love'
 'the love which strengthens our faith and brings comfort and unity'
 'for all things' 'the Samaritan spirit within the church'
 'life and health' 'sharing God's love with others'
 'being able to be part of a team serving the church'
 'many friends at St Martin's and meeting my wife here!'
 'being part of our church family – I feel welcomes, supported and truly involved'
 'the welcomers and friendly people' 'keeping me healthy'
 'the very nice welcome people' 'Thursday bible study group'
 'the love & support of the fellowship here' 'the community'
 'being listened to' 'the Choir with No Name'
 'making me feel welcome here' 'the sermons & the 9.30am service'
 'friends I have made here and made to feel part of the family'
 'freedom to worship how I want'
 'St Martin's for helping me through times of loneliness'
 'the sermons – they make me think' 'the warm welcome every time'
 'meeting with the other brothers and sisters who are so nice'
 'the opportunity to meet others in an "inclusive" church'
 'the Christian fellowship and caring, friendly welcome'

'if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad.'

1 Corinthians 12 v26

'the loving & caring clergy/leadership team at St Martin's'
 'all the services St Martin's offer to the people'
 'the church welcoming and supporting us'
 'St Martin's bible study group' 'support'
 'meeting Christians from different cultures'
 'faithful pray-ers within the church' 'meeting Elsie & Paul'
 'a new life with God' 'warm, welcoming atmosphere'
 'the Gospel which is preached here' 'my son'
 'the many blessings generously given by the grace of God'
 'for the activities for the young people' 'the love of our church family'
 'friends and family' 'God, Son & Holy Spirit'
 'keeping me safe & healthy' 'friendship & prayers'
 'the church members always remembered in prayers'
 'peace, reassurance, blessing & love'
 'all the prayers and love for me & my family'
 'having a clergy team, all of which who really care'
 'the prayer heritage' 'the grace of belonging at St Martin's'
 'all that I have' 'contentment and a sense of purpose'
 'good health and meeting people in Birmingham'
 'the actively supportive congregation and for Ladies Fellowship'
 'peace, grace and the whole team at St Martin's'

unceasing in prayer

Every day, week, month there are countless ways we engage in prayer and encourage others to do so too:

- our monthly prayer diary
- Share-a-prayer
- Prayer chapel and candle stands
- our Prayer tree
- children's prayer tent
- Open Church team – praying with visitors
- Teach Us To Pray leaflets
- Growing Roots groups
- Tuesday healing prayers
- Wednesday clergy and staff prayers
- Wednesday evening Compline
- Friday lunchtime prayers
- Intercessions in worship
- Healing Rooms
- Healing-on-the streets

Each week, there are two opportunities for members of the congregation to join together in [prayer and worship on-line](#) with Zoom Meetings. On Wednesday, they meet at 9pm for a short service (about 30 minutes) of evening prayer called Compline. On Friday, they meet at 12:30 p.m. for another short service of prayers during the day.

A small but faithful group of around 6 or 7 members join each of these services each week. On Wednesday our Rector, Jeremy Alcock, usually leads the service, with others stepping-in during holidays. It is a lovely way to end the day.

On Friday, we usually host the service, which is lead by individual members on an informal rota system. It punctuates an otherwise busy day, with a period of calm reflection on all that is good about God.

If you would like to join either of these sessions, please ask any member of the Clergy Team for further information. All you need is a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone and an internet connection.

Tom & Yvonne Thompson

On a Friday afternoon, two teams of people gather for 'Healing Rooms' in the church.

It's been three years since we've begun. From among 20 of us, we are always able to have two teams every week.

Friday May 2nd we prayed for people from Paraguay, Venezuela, India, and Hong Kong. Prayers for healing of back pain, knee pain and comfort for deep grief. Also, peace for those with mental health problems and for hope and healing.

J. asked for prayers for her knee.. she sensed the Holy Spirit on her. She said her body was warm as her hands started shaking and eyelids flickering. One of the teams had a word of knowledge about unforgiveness.

J said she had 'righteous anger' and was struggling with this for a while and she now was thinking that it could be unforgiveness. She then shared that she was going to start 'Freedom in Christ' Course.

If you want to know more about Healing Rooms speak to Sandra, Elsie, Bert, Flora and Sue.

Revd Elsie Blair-Chappell

wholehearted in welcome

Open Church Report

We have the great privilege and joy of being part of the St Martin's open church team for one afternoon per week. It's our job to welcome people who come into the church. As you can imagine no two duty days are ever the same but they do say that variety is the spice of life.

Why do people come into the church?

The people who come into St Martin's do so for any number of reasons. Many come in simply to admire the beautiful building and its stunning architecture. Some are interested in the history of the church and its relationship with the city. Others just long for a quiet space for personal prayer and reflection, perhaps to light a candle to remember a loved one who is ill or quietly grieve someone who has died.

We are humbled when people ask us to pray for them or with them. Some people even want to know about the Christian faith! Very often, these people may follow another faith. We tread carefully but what a great way to tell people of Jesus and his claim on their life.

Occasionally, there are people who can be challenging and these are times when we need help and support from others. However, the duties are always rewarding.

Where do people come from?

There are local people, of course, including those who say that they have passed the church many times but have come in for the first time. Regulars who come in to pray every week. People who have lost their footing in life and just need to talk over a drink. But also visitors from all parts of the country and indeed, all over the world. We've lost count of the number of countries represented by our visitors. On Thursdays it's great to welcome members of the choir with no name as they meet ahead of their evening rehearsal.

Support

We are always so grateful to clergy, staff and other volunteers on duty around the church. It reminds us that we are all very much part of a team. And since we all have our limitations it's good to be able to pass some people on to others who have knowledge, experience and skills which we lack.

In conclusion

We must remember that St Martin's is the house of God and we welcome people in the name of the Lord. It's his work. For our part we try to give an invitation to our worship services and pray that people might return. This is not a recruitment request but there might be someone thinking "this might be for me."

Colin and Pam Walker

Our Festival of Prayer in September

generous in hospitality

The [Older Minds and Spirits Group](#), the meeting for retired clergy and widows/widowers and spouses meet at St Martin's on a roughly monthly basis.

As well as discussing the concerns of retired clergy and updates of personal news the group enjoys a variety of speakers. Speakers have covered a variety of topics including the role of diocesan missionaries, Christians against Poverty, Music and Spirituality, Faith Hope & Football, the Birmingham Asian Church, Christian writers, Army Chaplaincy.

As well as the talks being informative and edifying, the group provides a great space for fellowship and prayerful support. The group are hugely grateful for the generous hospitality of St Martin's providing an accessible and comfortable venue. The welcome and provision of refreshments are greatly appreciated.

[Revd Roger Chamberlain](#)

We have been renting a meeting room in St. Martin in the Bullring for years and for a good reason. The staff are polite and approachable, always ready to assist with any needs that arise. Queries are responded to promptly, which makes planning and coordination much easier. The facilities are clean, well-maintained, and create a professional atmosphere that's ideal for meetings. Booking the venue is a smooth and hassle-free process, thanks to the staff's efficiency and helpfulness. I also receive positive feedback from our attendees, who often comment on the comfortable setting and overall experience. This venue has become a reliable choice for our meetings, and I'm happy to recommend it.'

[Patrycja Waryas](#)
[Hampton Trust](#)

Thank you so much for once again hosting us at St Martins for the Organ Donor Awards last month.

We really do appreciate your support and the staff at NHSBT do say that the Birmingham one is the best, due to the venue and the atmosphere it creates, so thank you so much.

[Mark Worton](#)
[St. John Ambulance](#)

On behalf of Restore's Management Committee and staff team I am writing to thank you very much for your hospitality and welcome and for hosting Restore 's 25th Anniversary Celebration last week.

Everything ran so smoothly and it was a memorable and affirming event. It was fantastic to be joined by over 130 people.

It was lovely how Ivor was able to include his own memories of and tribute to Jill Hall, who was one of the key founders of Restore, in his welcome at the start which set the scene for the rest of the Celebration.

Some of the founders had not seen each other for years, and it was great to facilitate those reunions.

During the Celebration it was mentioned that it was sad that Restore is still needed. But global refugee figures have increased significantly over the last 25 years and refugees and asylum seekers continue to arrive in Birmingham.

Anniversaries are a great way to spur us on to continue to offer welcome and help with integration.

We are indebted to St Martin's for providing a welcoming and central location. Thank you again for your generosity, service and support to Restore and to the refugees we support.

Please pass on our thanks to other staff at St Martins who were also involved in preparing for the event.

Jeremy Thompson
Restore Manager

genuine in friendship

St Martin's Youth Centre 2024-2025

During last summer we had a very successful summer programme which entailed completing a number of days out largely engaged in sporting activities. When some alternative suggestions were made such as visits to places of interest, our members told us that they did not want anything like school or college but really enjoyed physical activities. Consequently, we have endeavoured to offer them this apart from visit to the Hippodrome, with whom we now partner. We have attended a number of events organised by them which included in particular the ballet. All these were greatly enjoyed.

During the autumn and winter, we had very few attendees. On enquiry, we were told by our members and their parents that they were a) nervous of the younger members to come to the centre due to dangers on the street and b) following Covid, schools had increased the amount of homework they had to do and therefore it was not easy for them to come to the centre mid-week in the evenings.

Added to the above, due to Tolaya leaving to have a baby we have been left with two part time male workers. This has affected our female members who keep asking for a woman on the staff. We are presently advertising for this part time post.

For the future we need several new staff members offering a variety of talents. This will take some time to achieve. We need above all workers with people skills. We are

hopeful of obtaining a reasonable sum of money to employ a full-time sports worker. The young people keep asking for a wide variety of sports and this person will need to be very flexible. Part of our role is to deter them from becoming involved in crime, guns, gangs & drugs. There are many temptations in Highgate!

Fundraising is ongoing and many of our regular supporters donate year in year. Our greatest need apart from staff is for more volunteers and we have recently advertised and received a number of enquiries, some very positive.

We have been fortunate in obtaining Stephen Blair-Chappell onto the Management Committee who has taken in the responsibility of upgrading the Centre. We are very grateful for his time and energy,

Bridget Cameron
Vice Chair

The [Birmingham City Mission](#) started the relationship and sharing our church building seven years ago. Anna Maria, one of the members of the City Mission, came to our Tuesday healing service and she came to some other services and she left some of the booklets in our building and others started to do the same.

Now they officially have place to store their belongings and they pray in our building every Tuesday and Saturday before heading out into the city centre to evangelise. St. Martin's is like their home and we are working together in the city for the Kingdom of God.

We also share our Harvest gifts with them each autumn to help provide supplies for their fantastic Resource Centre.

[Revd Abba Bogale Tiruneh Tafese](#)

N.B. Jeremy did a volunteer year with Birmingham City Mission back in 1987, and recently was honoured to be invited back to speak at the Friday worship for all the BCM staff.

[eager in sharing God's love](#)

Dear Sister in Christ (*Elsie*)

RoadPeace
Memorial
Service

Organ Donors Awards

Lord Mayor of Birmingham's
Civic Service

I'm writing to let you know that I'm an active member of the Methodist community again. We only met for a few minutes last year and you told me that I had a ministry to fulfil. I told you at the time that I wasn't in charge of any ministry, and you replied that I would soon have it.

Then I wrote to you that that moment, that prophecy had touched me very much and that, in that moment, I had felt the Holy Spirit speaking in you.

I only shared this with a few people, including a Methodist pastor who told me not to rush things and to let the 'prophecy' take its course.

A year later, I was really into following this Ghanaian guy who unfortunately got really sick (he was admitted into a psychiatric ward twice in the last few months). This boy, or young man I should say, took me and my pastor as people he could lean on.

I've been very close to him over these months and have also spoken to his doctors. My pastor thinks I've done a great job when visiting him at the hospital.

From October, I'm going to be doing a course for lay people, organised by our Methodist and Waldensian churches, to become pastoral visitors for sick people.

I'm really excited about this new project and I know I'm being guided by the Holy Spirit who is pushing me to do the training course. Secondly, I wanted to tell you about the project to welcome some Chinese brothers and sisters who have recently been attending our church.

I have a linguistic education as a translator (and a degree in modern languages), so I'm organising parts of the Sunday service in Chinese. I don't speak Chinese, but I'm pretty clued up on the latest tech and I know how to use it.

Machine translation, synthetic voices and artificial intelligence are my allies and yesterday we did an experiment.

The Chinese brothers and sisters were happy because, even though we didn't know the language, they felt welcome and like they belonged.

In the next few weeks, we're going to set up a team that I'll be leading, so I can share my skills and teach other Italian brothers and sisters how to use the tech that helps us with the Chinese community.

So thanks again, dear sister, for rousing me from my slumber that Sunday morning about a year ago. I hope everything goes well in your community and, even though we don't really know each other, I'm thinking of you and praying for you.

May God bless you every day of your life.

Your brother in Christ,

Costantino Sbacchi

Places of Warm Welcome art display made by participants

I am very grateful to be a part of this church. I just want to say 'thank you'.

I have been away from home (India)
but you all made me feel like home.
This church is truly my second home.

I will miss you all. Until we meet again –
goodbye and thank you so much.

Sneha (now back in Mumbai
with her family)

focused on growing disciples

Growing Roots has been a God send to me as I couldn't get to the church 🙏
but everyone in the group helped me at some point it has the perfect name.
It's helped me grow & my Roots went deeper 🌱

GROWING ROOTS 🙏 📖 100 😊

Anthony

The "Growing Roots" Bible study group at St Martins provides a wonderful opportunity for people to draw close to God...to taste and see that He is Good.

His Goodness extends a hand of friendship and unpressured invitation. Sometimes one may choose to sit outside the circle, yet be encouraged to feel included.

As we settle down to begin our time together I sense in the group an expectation that we will meet with God, and that this is exciting for us.

There is a beautiful understanding in the group that we can see God in one another as He prompts us in our thinking, and guides us in relating to one other.

Patience, Openness, Support, Gentleness, Respect...I see these aspects of His love in action as we focus together on His Word.

The study of the chosen passage of scripture always brings us reward, and we are often surprised at such uncovered treasure.

Because the activity is conducted with a clear sense of order and structure, there is a robustness that at times allows one to share personal struggles. Such honest sharing is received with appropriate respect and concern.

In short, "Growing Roots" demonstrates the love and power of God: that a disparate group of people...ferent cultures, languages and privi-

Blessing of the Plough Service

BARRA Annual
Remembrance Service

dif-

leges ...gathered together through His Word, can support and encourage each other in loving and serving the Lord.

John Ebbutt

Ladies' Fellowship takes place on every second Saturday of each month. We meet at 10.30am in the Church Lounge. The meeting starts with Welcome. Then Bible reading – Reflections – Prayers- Hymns. Warship flows into Fellowship as we share tea and toast, coffee and biscuits. We had our third anniversary this year.

Here are some of the ladies' own thoughts about the fellowship.

'I feel that every time I get out of line, the fellowship brings me back in line with Christian beliefs'. It is inspiring '

' Each Christmas we re-enact the activity by reading a small scripture and bringing up a figurine to the stable.

At Valentine's, Elizabeth brought in a box and gave it to each one of us to look inside. Before we opened the box, we had to ask the question 'who is God's greatest love?' When we opened the box, there was a mirror inside and we saw ourselves! We are God's greatest love.

'Clare Allcock's talk on her work with 'International Health Partners' was exceptionally informative and inspiring'

' There is a sense of real belonging'

' There is always hope when one searches. There are always people willing to help'

'Meeting new people'

'The love of Jesus flows through the room'

From Lorretta about her 'hen-do:

' I felt so loved and celebrated. I still look at the beautiful photos and read their wonderful messages I received from the ladies Fellowship.'

Revd Elsie Blair-Chappell

confident in proclaiming Jesus

creative in welcoming families

determined in helping the vulnerable

What is 'Cuppa & Chat'? 'Cuppa & Chat' is part of the 'Places of Welcome' initiative begun by Birmingham Diocese. Its goal is for "every neighbourhood to have places where people feel safe to connect, belong and contribute..."

'Cuppa & Chat' is in part an attempt to meet some of the practical needs of the

Sneha (on the far left) with church friends
in the Rectory garden

most vulnerable people across our city but we emphasise that it is a ministry for people who may be homeless but are just as likely to be isolated and/or lonely so that whilst food is important, in many cases we are dealing with relational poverty as much as material poverty. Just being able to sit and eat together goes a long way towards breaking down the barriers between people and helping them to feel like they belong.

We asked people these questions:

Why do you come?

What's good about being here?

Why do you keep coming back?

These were their responses:

"I appreciate the food that's on the table for us... and the homeless and the vulnerable..."

"Socialising with other people, getting to know other people... Mingling with other people... Getting to know other people..."

"I like the service, and I like the atmosphere..."

"It enlightens me and makes me feel relief. And to listen to the word of the Lord. It strengthens my Christian walk..."

"I like the hospitality, and the people are really good going people... I like to be close to people who have religious beliefs..."

"It's open to everybody or it's not open at all... There's no one barred or there's no one too bad. It's open to everybody!!"

"I come here for the social connection. Talking to //// and talking to you. The whole two hours, the social connection, so I can have a chat and talk to people... because living on my own, sometimes I don't speak with many people. I wasn't going to come today but the whole two hours, I'm enjoying it!! I've got friends. I made friends with you and //// and I know other people as well. Coming to meet friends as well as a meal on a Monday morning."

"It's only my second time... it's nice to see familiar faces and it's that sense of community during difficult times, it can be quite reassuring and comforting, being around people who you know..."

"...for the food and meeting people..."

"I come here because I need to interact with people. I'm not very good at the moment. I'm in a flat on my own and I get lonely. I come down here to interact with people... and obviously have a bit of grub as well... But also, I'm getting quite spiritual as well and I'm hoping that I can find myself a little bit more, because I've been a bit lost. I go to church on Sundays, most times, even if just for a minute or two... to get a bit of scripture, so I can get into my head a little bit. I enjoy the company, I enjoy the atmosphere"

"I feel it's a welcoming atmosphere and the church is always humble, I feel like it's a nice environment the minute I walk through the door, you feel like there's a presence there where you can talk to people, a community... have a chat with people and have a conversation about anything you want to talk about..."

John and some of the Thursday afternoon regulars.

The group meets in the church and is often joined by visitors.

"I come for the people, for the conversation... and er... actually for the warmth that I feel here... I know it looks strange coming from someone who looks like me but I do enjoy the company, I do enjoy the stories and I enjoy lots of things but I mostly come for the people... not only the people that run this but the people who come here as well because they've all become friends and I just wanted to let you know that because you deserve to know it!"

"People enjoy the welcome..."

"The atmosphere..."

"They enjoy the JOKES!!!"

"They find the prayerfulness helpful, just to give them something to think about..."

"And obviously the food is welcome, although there are opinions about that..."

"On the whole people find it a warm welcoming place... where they feel secure..."

Revd Ivor Lewis, Assistant Rector and
the whole Cuppa and Chat Team

In November, [Cuppa and Chat](#) began a new partnership [with The Active Wellbeing Society](#). They have a grant to collect surplus food and make hot meals for local charities like us! They rent a kitchen in Digbeth from Friends of the Earth Birmingham.

Every Friday afternoon, we pull our wagon to the Friends of the Earth Brig Café kitchen and pick up great tubs of prepared curries, soups, pasta sauces, rice dishes... We then store them in our freezer ready to be reheated on Monday morning.

We are so grateful for these meals. The staff and volunteers have noticed such a big change in the atmosphere in the room as everyone settles in to eat their hot food together. It brings a calm and comfort to the whole session and creates a good atmosphere for our volunteers to engage in conversation with those who come in.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, we could use another helper to collect on Friday afternoons. In addition, The Active Wellbeing Society is looking for volunteers to cook in their Digbeth kitchen.

[Tina Brogan](#)

[committed to caring for creation](#)

Our [caring for creation working group](#) aims to help the St Martin's community fulfil this part of the vision, both locally and globally. Chaired by Jo the following members contributed in 2024/5: Ed, Linda and Jeremy. Others such as Stephen and Rich attend as requested. The group has met 3 times since the last APCM.

What does the group do? To start with we educate ourselves about climate change and the threat to creation and the planet. This is either done personally or via group

members who signpost useful information or campaigns that are being run by other organisations. We consider how at St. Martin's we can be grateful for God's creation, how we can increase awareness of climate change issues and minimise our carbon footprint.

Specifically in 2024/5:

- continued to refer to and update the results of the 2022 congregational survey
- supported the work taking place to prepare St Martin's to become near carbon zero for energy consumption
- recognised the commitment from the staff team to
- increase recycling opportunities
- facilitated a parish outing to the Botanical Gardens. Fifty

members of the congregation enjoyed fellowship and God's creation in dry weather!

- produced Creationtide worship zones to encourage thankfulness for God's creation throughout the year
- contributed to the Creationtide celebration that culminated in the Harvest Festival and shared lunch
- reviewed the updated A Rocha UK silver eco award requirements

What's next in 2025

- facilitate a social event that enables fellowship and enjoyment of God's creation
- * assess and progress the next steps for the silver eco award
- * support those working on the net carbon zero project

Jo Murgatroyd

Have you looked at our new website yet?
Take a visit to www.bullring.org

creative in welcoming families

What a privilege it is to lead the children and youth work at St Martin! There are two dedicated teams of volunteers who make this possible, and they give of their time selflessly and faithfully. We have such a lot of fun together that it is hard to pick out the highlights of the past year, there are so many! But I think that most people would mention the wonderful summer party at Jeremy's house where volunteer leaders, children, young people, and their families all joined together in Jeremy's garden to bounce on a bouncy castle, to play games follow a treasure hunt and eat delicious barbecue food prepared by Jeremy, Clare and Molly. It was a really joyous occasion.

During the summer holidays, we put up a dedicated children's prayer tent in church for the first time, so that children visiting the church with their families during the daytime could be welcomed with an area and activities specifically for them. We have continued to put this prayer tent up during the school holidays and many children have enjoyed discovering and using it.

Highlights of the autumn term included a drama about creation, performed as part of our Sunday worship. The young people all worked so imaginatively together, assisted by our Children and Young People's team, Rich on the lights and Philippa on music. It was a proper team achievement! Natalie also led the group in creating some artwork to enhance the performance, and the children decorated stones to tell the story of creation from Genesis Chapter 1.

Our Light Party, an alternative to Halloween, took place in the church itself, and was open not only to our own children and young people, but to visitors to the church as well. Many members of the congregation helped to hollow out pumpkins in preparation for this, and the young people carved crosses and hearts in the pumpkins before lighting them up with candles. It was a great alternative to the scary faces, usually carved in pumpkins! More importantly, it celebrated Jesus as the light of the world.

The run up to Christmas found us practising a Nativity Play! This is the first Nativity Play in the church for many years, so it was a big job pulling the costumes, script, music and acting together!

Most of the clergy took on roles, (we'll get you involved next time, Ivor!) and it was a lot of fun for everyone, including the congregation.

creative in welcoming families

In February, we started the biggest project of the year – a brand new, weekday Stay and Play group for toddlers. This takes place on a Thursday morning during term time and is a place where parents or carers can spend time playing with their toddler, and socialising with other parents. We provide a space, lots of different toys, a hot drink for adults and a snack for toddlers, a story and songs. Many thanks to all the staff and clergy who have helped with this, particularly thanks to Tina for administrative support and to Paul for joining the team on a weekly basis. Thanks also to Margaret and Linda, without whom we would have no volunteer staff to help and the group would not be able to run. Thursday sessions are happy, lively and great fun – we have welcomed 14 different families so far, and hope to welcome many more in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, during Lent, the children and young people who come to St Martin on Sundays were busy raising money for UNICEF. They iced mini cakes and created mini crafts to give out to the congregation in return for donations, and the congregation responded in style, raising £431.52 for charity. This is a fantastic achievement, but it also allowed the children to interact with the congregation during coffee time, and gave the congregation a chance to talk to the young people about their activities.

Easter celebrations with the young people included making Easter gardens, creating a wonderful piece of artwork for the church, and a joyous, all-age service celebrating our risen Lord – (with a thrilling guest appearance from the Easter, bunny herself too!)

There are over 25 young people who call St Martin their church and consider themselves regular (or fairly regular) attendees. We are so blessed to have them as a part of our congregation. Furthermore, there are hundreds of children who visit our church in the holidays, and others who attend our new Thursday Stay and Play session. If you would like to be part of this ministry, we would love to hear from you! Please speak to any of the clergy or to Rebekah if you would like to join us.

Rebekah O'Dowd
Children's and Youth Co-ordinator

ST. MARTIN'S BAND OF SUNDAY SERVICE RINGERS

We have rung for Sunday service every week during the period and for other important occasions, most notably the 80th Anniversary of VE day and the Covid National Day of Reflection. The standard of our ringing has remained high, backed up by what has been achieved through Tuesday practices. These continue to be very well-supported and valuable in providing development opportunities, encouraging prospective Band members, as well as extending Band members' own skills and method knowledge. We continue to encourage aspiring ringers to join us and to welcome visiting ringers when they make contact to visit.

In June 2024, the Birmingham team were very close runners-up in the National 12 Bell Contest, held at Chilcompton, Somerset. It was unusually close between the first three teams but we were not overly disappointed with the result, as we all felt we had not produced anything close to our capabilities on the day. We hope to regain the trophy at the forthcoming final at St Mary, Redcliffe, Bristol – but this will be a challenge because the Bristol (home) team is very skilled and took a close third place last year. 28 June 2025 will be the 50th anniversary of the first National 12 Bell Striking Contest. Our own Fran Dodds is one of only two ringers who will be taking part in June who also rang in the original Contest. We started our 2025 campaign with an emphatic win at the Shrewsbury qualifying heat in March.

We were pleased to be able to support Heritage Day once again in September with tours to the ringing chamber and dates have been booked with The Rector for September 2025.

At the Band Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November, chaired by the Rector, we discussed our further-advanced plans to replace the wooden walkway between certain of the bells with a steel structure. We are grateful to Rich Taylor for his input and to all who have been involved in moving this project forward, especially Ian Baker. Having received the necessary St Martin's input, plans were submitted to the DAC and we hope for prompt Chancellor approval in due course.

At the end of January, we helped the Birmingham University Society celebrate their 70th anniversary, with many returning to ring in Birmingham after quite some time. As well as general ringing for all, there was a special peal at St Martin's.

In April, we again welcomed visitors from all over the UK to celebrate their success in obtaining the Association of Ringing Teachers' Level 5 Award. This event, hosted at St Martin's, was conceived and is organised and run by Band members. It is now established as a highlight of the national bellringing calendar. Our Band plays a key role in hosting, tutoring and inspiring these achievers' next steps in their bell ringing journey. On 5 July 2025, we will be hosting The Ringing World National Youth Contest in Birmingham, with St Martin's as 'the headquarters' and venue for the results. Simon Linford and I are continuing to liaise with the Rector about the details of this enormous event, which will see 33 teams of ringers (all under the age of 19) take part.

I would like to put on record how much the Band values the continued support and wisdom of our Rector, Jeremy and to thank all the staff team at St Martin's for their prompt efficiency, kindness and helpfulness at all times.

Stephanie Warboys
Conductor, St Martin's Band

| Birmingham Parish Church | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|
| Balance Sheet (Summary) | | | |
| | | As at | As at |
| | | 31/12/2024 | 31/12/2023 |
| Fixed assets | | | |
| | Tangible Assets | 2,411 | 3,131 |
| | Investments | 78,969 | 77,215 |
| | | 81,380 | 80,346 |
| Current assets | | | |
| | Debtors | 41,421 | 53,384 |
| | Cash At Bank And In Hand | 253,563 | 245,659 |
| | | 297,984 | 299,043 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| | Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year | -23,650 | -27,627 |
| | | -23,650 | -27,627 |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | | 274,334 | 271,416 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 355,714 | 351,762 |

| Birmingham Parish Church | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Balance Sheet (Summary) continued | | | |
| | | As at | As at |
| | | 31/12/2024 | 31/12/2023 |
| Unrestricted | | | |
| | General fund | 207,603 | 203,044 |
| | | 207,603 | 203,044 |
| Designated | | | |
| | Worship Fund | 0 | 1,478 |
| | Church Plant Fund | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| | Maintenance Fund | 125,000 | 125,000 |
| | Website Development Fund | 0 | 1,779 |
| | Clergy Housing Redecoration Fund | 4,800 | 4,300 |
| | | 139,800 | 142,557 |
| Restricted | | | |
| | Angel Tree | 2,252 | 2,102 |
| | Memorial Board Fund | 4,059 | 4,059 |
| | Vulnerable Adults / Cuppa & Chat | 2,000 | - |
| | | 8,311 | 6,161 |
| Fund Totals | | 355,714 | 351,762 |

| Birmingham Parish Church | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Statement of Financial Activities | | | | | | |
| For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 | | | | | | |
| | | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total | 2023 |
| | | funds | funds | funds | funds | total funds |
| Income from: | | | | | | |
| | Donations | 36,039 | - | 560 | 36,599 | 32,337 |
| | Legacies | 2,000 | - | - | 2,000 | - |
| | Regular giving | 87,132 | - | 600 | 87,732 | 88,572 |
| | Other giving (services, church boxes, contactless) | 27,848 | - | 975 | 28,823 | 36,480 |
| | Gift Aid reclaimed | 24,204 | - | - | 24,204 | 24,642 |
| | Grants | 16,500 | - | 88,283 | 104,783 | 84,193 |
| | Income from charitable activities: | | | | | |
| | Room Hire & fees | 48,708 | - | - | 48,708 | 49,124 |
| | St Martin's Health & Healing | 32,134 | - | - | 32,134 | 31,829 |
| | Investments | 14,062 | - | - | 14,062 | 10,417 |
| | Other income | 13,238 | - | - | 13,238 | 9,300 |
| Total income | | 301,865 | - | 90,418 | 392,283 | 366,594 |

| | | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total | 2023 |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | funds | funds | funds | funds | total funds |
| Expenditure on charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| | Expenditure on trading activities | 2,363 | | | 2,363 | 3,334 |
| | Common fund | 99,470 | | | 99,470 | 97,481 |
| | Utilities & insurance | 62,076 | | | 62,076 | 64,828 |
| | Church ministry expenses | 19,769 | 1,478 | 1,571 | 22,818 | 21,402 |
| | Mission giving | 8,500 | | | 8,500 | 9,065 |
| | Wages & other staff costs | 45,730 | | 86,130 | 131,860 | 120,475 |
| | Repairs, maintenance & fees | 28,228 | 11,160 | | 39,388 | 37,995 |
| | Office & accountancy | 21,264 | 1,779 | 567 | 23,610 | 25,076 |
| Total expenditure | | 287,400 | 14,417 | 88,268 | 390,085 | 379,656 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Net income before gains & losses | 14,465 | -14,417 | 2,150 | 2,198 | -13,062 |
| Gain/-loss on investments | 1,754 | | | 1,754 | -3,338 |
| Transfers between funds | -11,660 | 11,660 | - | - | - |
| Net income | 4,559 | -2,757 | 2,150 | 3,952 | -9,724 |

Promoting a Safer Church Parish Policy Statement

The Parochial Church Council of St. Martin in the Bull Ring

agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishop's safeguarding policy and practice guidance and The Church of England – Birmingham's procedures for their implementation on 20th May 2024

All forms of abuse are wrong and must stop

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

Our commitments:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
6. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

We will implement good safeguarding practice by ensuring:

- the welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount;
- a leadership commitment, at all levels, to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- our safeguarding policy is available to all church officers;
- a clear line of accountability within our church for work on safeguarding;
- clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- we report all concerns and allegations against church officers to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and statutory agencies;
- clear roles for church officers;
- we have clear arrangements for support and/or supervision of church officers;
- all church officers working with or in contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults attend diocesan safeguarding training;

- our practice and services are informed by on-going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults;
- safer recruitment procedures are in place;
- effective working with statutory and voluntary sector partners;
- we have publicly advertised arrangements for children, young people and vulnerable adults to be able to speak to an independent person, as required;
- our complaints and whistleblowing procedures are well publicised;
- effective information sharing;
- good record keeping.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone
please contact**

Helen Atsou or Revd Jeremy Allcock

(insert contact details for your Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator here - add any other people who may be contacted, as appropriate – e.g. your vicar)

If you cannot contact the person above and someone is being harmed or is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care services, or, for a child, the NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000

Other useful contacts:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser | 07342 993 844 |
| Childline | 0800 1111 |
| Family Lives Helpline | 0808 800 2222 |
| Samaritans | 116 123 |
| Elder Abuse | 0808 808 8141 |
| Domestic Violence Helpline | 0808 2000 247 |
| Men's Domestic Violence Helpline | 0808 801 0327 |
| LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline | 0300 999 5428 |
| National Association of People Abused in Childhood | 0800 085 3330 |
| Stop It Now! Helpline | 0808 1000 900 |

Local Authority Children's Social Care Services:

0121 303 1888 (Birmingham)
0121 569 3100 (Sandwell)
0121 788 4333 (Solihull)
0800 1313 126 (Staffordshire)
01926 414144 (Warwickshire)
01905 822666 (Worcestershire)

Local Authority Adult Social Care Services:

0121 303 1234 (Birmingham)
0121 569 2266 (Sandwell)
0121 704 8007 (Solihull)
0345 604 2719 (Staffordshire)
01926 412080 (Warwickshire)
01905 768053 (Worcestershire)

Parish Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

Parish of St. Martin in the Bull Ring

agreed by the Parish Church Council on 20th May 2024

**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong
and must stop.**

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- Ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- Protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- Recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- Enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities – valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity – raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised – ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help and working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care – ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse and identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone
please contact:**

Helen Atsou, Sandra Kiernan or Revd Jeremy Allcock

Other Useful Contacts:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser | 07342 993 844 |
| National Domestic Violence Helpline | 0808 2000 247 |
| Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid | 0808 800 0028 |
| West Mercia Women's Aid | 0800 980 3331 |
| Staffordshire Women's Aid | 0870 2700 123 |
| Black Country Women's Aid | 0121 552 6448 |
| Men's Advice Line | 0808 801 0327 |
| Galop (LGBT) | 0800 999 5428 |
| Action on Elder Abuse | 0808 808 8141 |

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1127338

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

FOR

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

Prime
Chartered Accountants
161 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 1SW

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

The Parochial Church Council's objective is promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church.

Public benefit

The public benefit is served by the provision of pastoral care, Christian teaching, evangelism and public worship to which all are welcome. St. Martin in the Bull Ring remains a very significant place of Christian service located in the heart of Birmingham city centre, and open to the public as a place of prayer, peacefulness, historical and cultural merit. It is also highly valued as a gathering space for communities and organisations from across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

When planning its charitable activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Grantmaking

Decisions on grant making from unrestricted funds are made by the PCC taking account of previous giving and congregation input and the vision and mission of the Church.

Volunteers

The organisation is reliant on substantial voluntary contributions in the form of time. Because of the difficulties in quantifying these gifts their financial effect has not been quantified.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Rector's Report

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger;
the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;
those who help others are helped."
Proverbs 11 v24-25, The Message translation

In managing our financial resources and other material assets at St. Martin in the Bull Ring we seek to put our trust in biblical principles and teaching.

So we hold to the principle that being generous will bring greater blessing in return - for each of us as individuals, and also together as a united community of Christian believers.

These accounts show the financial generosity of God's people in supporting the mission and ministry of the church. This is demonstrated not just in our accounts but across the whole life of St. Martin's where throughout the year we also see people show remarkable generosity with their time, talents, skills, experience and wisdom. Those who give in this way find themselves blessed by God even more wonderfully in return.

Collectively, St. Martin's seeks also to be generous in many different ways - welcoming people into our church; sharing our wonderful premises; showing generous hospitality; demonstrating compassion to those in need; being determined in helping the vulnerable; reaching out into the life of our city; supporting other churches and Christian communities; giving to other Christian organisations; valuing every member of the body of Christ. Giving generously in this way we find ourselves blessed by God even more wonderfully in return.

We seek to manage the resources we have carefully and wisely but never with anxiety and fearfulness. We seek to be thankful and content for everything we have and all we receive, never complaining and ungrateful. We seek to be faithful to the Lord's teaching and understand our responsibilities, never being selfish nor withholding that which belongs to God. In so doing we seek to hold on to the truth that 'the one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.'

May the Spirit of God continue to build our trust, expand our horizons, and raise our expectations, that we may see and experience that 'the world of the generous gets larger and larger'.

**Revd Jeremy Allcock
Rector
St. Martin in the Bull Ring**

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review

During the year the Charity secured recognised revenue funding of £392,283 (2023: £366,594), of which £284,141 (2023: £265,924) relates to collection of donations and grant for regular activities and £80,842 (2023: £80,953) relates to revenue from commercial activities. The costs expended in the year in delivering the charitable activities and support costs were £390,085 (2023: £379,656). The Charity's investments achieved an unrealised gain in market value of £1,754 (2023: £3,338 gain) and no disposals (2023: None) during the year, leaving a gain of £3,952 (2023: £9,724 deficit). Total reserve funds are £355,714 (2023: £351,762), which the Trustees consider adequate to support the charity's ongoing objectives.

The Charity remains thankful for the faithfulness of congregational giving and volunteering. It recognises that it continues to face transition in terms of the age profile of the congregation, but welcomes the continued growth of residential properties within the City Centre bringing more people to live within the parish and locality. The Trustees consider that by the grace of God the Charity is well placed to deal with the ongoing challenges of an ever-changing landscape and such a large and complex site.

Principal funding sources

The Charity's funding comes primarily from regular church giving, donations and grants - including a grant for the administration of salaries, £67,168 (2023 £63,793), from St Martin's Trustees. The Charity also generates revenue from room hire.

Investment policy and objectives

Investments are made with a view to achieving real long-term growth in capital values and a rising income from a portfolio managed within a clear risk control framework primarily by using the CCLA CBF funds referred to in the Reserves policy section of this report.

Reserves policy

It is the intention of the PCC to retain sufficient reserves to maintain the activities of the church allowing for the income on which they can reasonably rely. General reserves at the end of 2024 remain around £200,000 and thus around 6 months of income and expenditure. In addition we have been able to redesignate £11,160 to top up the Maintenance & Projects Fund to £125,000. A key step given the major items of expenditure that lie ahead for the Church over the next year or two as we progress our plans to replace our old and failing boilers and move towards net zero carbon.

Some funds are invested, with well over 50% invested in the CBF (Central Board of Finance of the Church of England) fund managed in accordance with Church of England guidelines by CCLA, one of the UK's largest charity fund managers who only manage investments for charities, religious organisations and the public sector. Cash is deposited with the CCLA Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit Fund and CAF Bank. Some of these Funds are restricted or designated as shown in these accounts. The balance is part of the General Fund and is drawn down when necessary, as the cash flow requires.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the basis of being a going concern. The Trustees confirm that they have taken into account all available information about the future for at least 12 months from the date the accounts were approved and conclude that there is no uncertainty relating to going concern.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Finance & Staffing Committee Report

We are deeply thankful to God for continued provision during challenging times. Since 2022 our expenditure has increased from around £350,000 to around £390,000. Costs are still increasing and in 2025 we have to address the impact of increases in our Diocesan Common Fund contribution (after 4 years without increase), employer's national insurance and the Real Living Wage. We are thankful and delighted therefore that in 2024 our income covered our expenditure even when we absorbed over £13,000 of one-off costs in moving forward with our energy project plus other one off maintenance costs like new carpets for entrance areas.

The regular cheerful and faithful giving and volunteering of our Church family in obedience to and love for God is crucial in sustaining the ministry and witness of this part of God's family in this place. St Martin's is a Church open 7 days a week to offer Jesus's welcome to all; with all the added cost that involves in terms of heating, lighting etc. The resulting costs are very large but please do not underestimate your contribution which speaks of your love and offering to God. Jesus looks at our heart and honours our generosity from what we have (Luke 21:1-4). God uses what we may regard as our little offerings abundantly- consider the loaves and fishes that feed the large crowd (Luke 9:10-17).

We are also extremely grateful to the visitors who donate to us, to those whose leave us legacies and to other organisations whose support, in many cases over many years, is essential to ensuring the continuation of our activities. Legacies have been crucial in providing reserves to enable us to care for our building and to begin to address our long term energy needs, as I describe below, without diverting funds from our ongoing ministry and activities. The organisations supporting us include St Martin's Trust, Bell Rope Croft, Deritend Chapel, St Martin's Sunday School Fund, Birmingham City Council and Norton Motorcycles. We were particularly thankful this year to receive financial support of £11,115 from BCC via an agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 made in 2012, for our Monday morning Cuppa and Chat place of warm welcome social cafe providing friendship, support and free food & drink for around 70 people weekly. The City also generously provided three Warm Welcome grants totalling £5,000 to help us continue our work with the community providing support, food & drink every day of the week

We have been grateful to the Church community in being patient with us as we have over recent years in addition to our general reserves, retained a Maintenance & Projects reserve of over £100,000. And for their forbearance with low temperatures during worship and Open Church. Our current boilers serving the worship area and other significant parts of the building, including working spaces and spaces for hire, are beyond normal working life. We are committed to caring for creation and to the Church of England Net Zero Carbon aspirations and are encouraged to have been recognised as a Church of England NZC Demonstrator Project. We are evolving a way forward for the Church energy needs which is consistent with our vision and that of the Church of England. This is a major project for the Church. The bulk, if not all, of the Maintenance & Projects Reserve will be spent over the coming months to enable us to be in a position of having a well-developed plan suitable for obtaining the necessary consents and, by the grace of God, the very significant external fundraising which will be necessary to enable the work to proceed. More will be shared over coming months.

As we delight in all that God has done and look to the opportunities and challenges ahead in seeking to serve God in evangelism and mission in our City centre and address the other priorities of the Church, may we do so in a spirit of trust, without anxiety over money and resources; seeking God's wisdom and help to be good stewards of all God has provided, that it may be used for the praise and glory of God.

The members of the Finance and Staffing Committee are Stephen Blair-Chappell, Jeremy Allcock, Clare Allcock, Tina Brogan and Ian Baker. Particular thanks are due to Clare Allcock and Tina Brogan who undertake a huge amount of work in maintaining our accounts and financial records.

Ian Baker
Chair of Finance & Staffing Committee

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Trustees

Revd Jeremy Allcock - Rector & Chair
Revd Ivor Lewis - Assistant Rector
Revd Elsie Blair-Chappell - Assistant Priest
Revd Paul Lacey - Curate (appointed 13 July 2024)
Joanna Murgatroyd - Churchwarden/Deanery Synod
Colin Walker - Churchwarden
John Gerighty - Reader
Marion Woodward - Reader
Rachel Jepson - General Synod
Jean Jepson - Deanery Synod
Dawn Bennett - Lay Vice Chair (resigned 28 October 2024)
Stephen Blair-Chappell (elected 12 May 2024)
Nellie Gerighty (elected)
Lorretta Jones - Secretary (re-elected 12 May 2024)
Sophie Kemoko (elected 12 May 2024)
Costacia Mukankusi (elected 12 May 2024)
Sneha Patole (elected 12 May 2024) (resigned 31 March 2025)
Afsoon Piroozan (elected 12 May 2024)
Melanie Ravikumar (elected 12 May 2024) (resigned 28 October 2024)
Dick Rodgers - co-opted (re-appointed 20 May 2024)
Berthan Wolf - co-opted (resigned 12 May 2024)

Independent Examiner

Paul Guise ACA
Prime
Chartered Accountants
161 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 1SW

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
New Street
Birmingham
B2 4QZ

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Mailing
Kent
ME19 4 JQ

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
80 Cheapside
London
EC2V 6DZ

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ... Friday 2nd May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Jeremy Allcock - Trustee

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birmingham Parish Church (St Martin in the Bull Ring), otherwise referred to as the PCC in this document, is registered with the Charity Commissioners (Registration No. 1127338). The Charity is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Members of the Parochial Church Council (Trustees) comprise (i) the clergy of the parish, (ii) lay readers licensed to the parish, (iii) the churchwardens, (iv) members of the General Synod, diocesan synod or deanery synod who are on the roll of the parish, and (v) representatives of the laity elected at the annual parochial church meeting.

Members elected at the APCM hold office for a period of up to three years and are eligible for re-election for a further three years.

Organisational structure

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are spent. The PCC are supported in this process by its sub-committees and working groups.

The day to day management of the charity is led by the Rector, with the active support of the clergy team, churchwardens, staff and key volunteers.

Induction and training of new trustees

New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

Pay policy for staff

The trustees consider the members of the PCC, who are the charity's trustees, and the clergy team as the key management personnel of the charity. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration from the charity in the year.

Staff pay is reviewed annually by the Finance & Staffing Committee. There is a commitment that no staff will be paid less than the 'real living wage'.

Related parties

St Martin's Centre for Health & Healing is an associated charity.

Risk management

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves around current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate any significant risks.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1127338

Principal address

St Martin in the Bull Ring
Edgbaston Street
Birmingham
B5 5BB

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birmingham Parish Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birmingham Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Guise ACA

Prime
Chartered Accountants
161 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 1SW

Date: **4 June 2025**

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

| | Notes | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2024 Total funds £ | 2023 Total funds £ |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 193,723 | - | 90,418 | 284,141 | 265,924 |
| Other trading activities | 3 | 80,842 | - | - | 80,842 | 80,953 |
| Investment income | 4 | 14,062 | - | - | 14,062 | 10,417 |
| Other income | 5 | 13,238 | - | - | 13,238 | 9,300 |
| Total | | 301,865 | - | 90,418 | 392,283 | 366,594 |
| EXPENDITURE ON | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 6 | 2,363 | - | - | 2,363 | 3,334 |
| Charitable activities | | | | | | |
| Charitable grants | 7 | 8,500 | - | - | 8,500 | 9,065 |
| BD Common Fund | | 99,470 | - | - | 99,470 | 97,481 |
| The Ministry Team | | 11,246 | - | 920 | 12,166 | 10,601 |
| Church and services | | 98,505 | - | 651 | 99,156 | 111,703 |
| Other | | 67,316 | 14,417 | 86,697 | 168,430 | 147,472 |
| Total | | 287,400 | 14,417 | 88,268 | 390,085 | 379,656 |
| Net gains on investments | | 1,754 | - | - | 1,754 | 3,338 |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | | | | | | |
| Transfers between funds | 18 | 16,219 (11,660) | (14,417) 11,660 | 2,150 - | 3,952 - | (9,724) - |
| Net movement in funds | | 4,559 | (2,757) | 2,150 | 3,952 | (9,724) |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 203,044 | 142,557 | 6,161 | 351,762 | 361,486 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | 207,603 | 139,800 | 8,311 | 355,714 | 351,762 |

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2024**

| | Notes | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2024 Total funds £ | 2023 Total funds £ |
|--|-------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 14 | 2,411 | - | - | 2,411 | 3,131 |
| Investments | 15 | 78,969 | - | - | 78,969 | 77,215 |
| | | <u>81,380</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>81,380</u> | <u>80,346</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | | |
| Debtors | 16 | 44,421 | - | - | 44,421 | 53,384 |
| Cash at bank | | 104,706 | 139,801 | 9,056 | 253,563 | 245,659 |
| | | <u>149,127</u> | <u>139,801</u> | <u>9,056</u> | <u>297,984</u> | <u>299,043</u> |
| CREDITORS | | | | | | |
| Amounts falling due within one year | 17 | (22,905) | - | (745) | (23,650) | (27,627) |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>126,222</u> | <u>139,801</u> | <u>8,311</u> | <u>274,334</u> | <u>271,416</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>207,602</u> | <u>139,801</u> | <u>8,311</u> | <u>355,714</u> | <u>351,762</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>207,602</u> | <u>139,801</u> | <u>8,311</u> | <u>355,714</u> | <u>351,762</u> |
| FUNDS | 18 | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | 347,403 | 345,601 |
| Restricted funds | | | | | 8,311 | 6,161 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | | | | <u>355,714</u> | <u>351,762</u> |

The financial statements were approved by The Parochial Church Council - the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on Friday 2nd May 2025.... and were signed on its behalf by:



Revd Jeremy Allcock - Trustee



Revd Elsie Blair-Chappell - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Reconciliation with previous generally accepted accounting practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 a restatement of comparatives items was needed. No restatements were required.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the Charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income and capital sources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of programme before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date and the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Grants are recognised under the performance model and recognised when received or receivable where there are no performance-related conditions.

The organisation is reliant on substantial voluntary contributions in the form of time. Because of the difficulties in quantifying these gifts their financial effect has not been quantified.

Income from trading activities

Room and church hire is credited in the period to which the hire relates.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

Income from Investments

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at balance sheet date.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Following deregistration from VAT from 1 December 2020, all expenditure is accounted for inclusive of VAT.

Cost of raising funds

The cost of generating funds includes the direct costs of occasional events.

Charitable activities

The costs of charitable activities includes the direct costs of the ministry of the parish excluding clergy salaries which are not a charge on the PCC.

Contributions to the Birmingham Diocesan Common Fund are accounted for when due. Any part unpaid at the balance sheet date and which is to be paid in a later period is provided for in the accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Grants payable

Grants and donations are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Charity. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award and is accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a constructively binding obligation on the PCC.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 of the Charities Act 2011.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the incumbent and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 1 January 1998 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Items acquired since 1 January 1998 have been capitalised and depreciated in the financial statements over their currently anticipated useful economic life.

Fixtures and Equipment

Fixtures and equipment, other than moveable church furnishings, are depreciated so as to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life.

The rates currently in use are:

25% per annum for information technology equipment

15% on the reducing balance or 15% per annum for other equipment.

Individual items of fixtures and equipment with a purchase price of £500 are capitalised and valued at historical cost.

Fixed Assets Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instruments and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposal throughout the year.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent on the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 18. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The financial statements include all the transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main allegiance to another body, nor those of informal gatherings of church members.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Donated services

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met and the receipt of economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the general volunteer time of Volunteers is not recognised and refer to the trustee's annual report for more information about their contribution.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit and loss account.

Pensions

The charity makes contributions to a money purchase pension scheme for eligible employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Redundancy Payments

The charity recognises redundancy payments when they fall due, either when a redundancy has taken effect or when the redundancy payment has been made, whichever is earlier. Where a redundancy has taken effect but not yet been paid, the charity policy is to recognise this as an accrued expense until such time as it is paid.

General information

These financial statements are presented in UK Sterling (£) because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Donations | 36,599 | 32,337 |
| Legacies | 2,000 | - |
| Grants (see below) | 104,783 | 84,193 |
| Regular giving | 87,732 | 88,572 |
| Third party service collection | - | 865 |
| Giving at services and other voluntary donations | 28,823 | 35,615 |
| Tax recovered | 24,204 | 24,342 |
| | 284,141 | 265,924 |

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Bell Rope Croft | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Deritend Chapel | 2,500 | 2,400 |
| St Martin's Trustees - grant for administration salaries | 67,168 | 63,793 |
| St Martin's Sunday School Fund | 5,000 | 4,000 |
| Birmingham City Council - Section 106 funding | 11,115 | - |
| Birmingham City Council - Warm Welcome funding | 5,000 | - |
| | 104,783 | 84,193 |

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Church fees | 1,572 | 4,897 |
| Room hire and food | 47,136 | 44,227 |
| St Martin's Centre for Health & Healing Lease | 25,275 | 25,275 |
| St Martin's Centre for Health & Healing Management Fees | 6,859 | 6,554 |
| | 80,842 | 80,953 |

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Dividend income | 9,277 | 3,122 |
| Bank interest | 4,785 | 7,295 |
| | <u>14,062</u> | <u>10,417</u> |

5. OTHER INCOME

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Rent contribution for Curate's Housing | 7,803 | 9,300 |
| Insurance claim | 5,435 | - |
| | <u>13,238</u> | <u>9,300</u> |

6. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Room hire costs | 1,643 | 2,110 |
| Fundraising expenses | - | 285 |
| Depreciation | 720 | 939 |
| | <u>2,363</u> | <u>3,334</u> |

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

| | Direct Costs (see note 8) | Grant funding of activities (see note 9) | Support costs (see note 10) | Totals |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Charitable grants | - | 8,500 | - | 8,500 |
| BD Common Fund | 99,470 | - | - | 99,470 |
| The Ministry Team | 12,166 | - | - | 12,166 |
| Church and services | 72,728 | - | 26,428 | 99,156 |
| | <u>184,364</u> | <u>8,500</u> | <u>26,428</u> | <u>219,292</u> |

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH
(ST MARTIN IN THE BULL RING)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Utilities and insurance | 62,076 | 64,828 |
| Common fund contribution | 99,470 | 97,481 |
| Parochial fees | 374 | 2,084 |
| Ministry team expenses | 9,949 | 9,999 |
| Music and Worship | 2,214 | 2,254 |
| Other church service costs | 8,401 | 6,517 |
| Refreshment purchases | 1,430 | 114 |
| Youth work | 450 | 434 |
| | <u>184,364</u> | <u>183,711</u> |

9. GRANTS PAYABLE

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Charitable grants | <u>8,500</u> | <u>9,065</u> |

The total charitable grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Church Missionary Society | 2,050 | 2,050 |
| Open Doors | 2,050 | 2,050 |
| Restore | 2,050 | 2,050 |
| St Martin's Youth & Community Centre | 2,350 | 2,350 |
| Other | - | 565 |
| | <u>8,500</u> | <u>9,065</u> |

Decisions on grant making from unrestricted funds are made by the PCC taking account of previous giving and congregation input and the vision and mission of the Church.

10. SUPPORT COSTS

| | Management | Finance | Totals |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Other resources expended | 168,158 | 272 | 168,430 |
| Church and services | 26,428 | - | 26,428 |
| | <u>194,586</u> | <u>272</u> | <u>194,858</u> |

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
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10. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Governance Costs:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Independent Examination | 5,100 | 4,774 |

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

| | Other resources expended £ | Church and services £ | 2024 Total activities £ | 2023 Total activities £ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wages and other staff costs | 131,860 | - | 131,860 | 120,475 |
| Church telephone | 2,746 | - | 2,746 | 2,793 |
| Postage | 6 | - | 6 | 8 |
| Repairs and renewals | 11,160 | 26,428 | 37,588 | 36,074 |
| Photocopying | 906 | - | 906 | 6,763 |
| Printing and stationery | 1,732 | - | 1,732 | 786 |
| IT support & maintenance | 10,149 | - | 10,149 | 9,276 |
| Subscriptions | 1,670 | - | 1,670 | 610 |
| Independent Examination | 5,100 | - | 5,100 | 4,774 |
| Legal fees | 1,029 | - | 1,029 | 1,921 |
| Professional Fees | 1,800 | - | 1,800 | - |
| | <u>168,158</u> | <u>26,428</u> | <u>194,586</u> | <u>183,480</u> |

Finance

| | 2024 Other resources expended £ | 2023 Total activities £ |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Bank interest & charges | 272 | 66 |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
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11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustee or person related to them received remuneration or other benefits other than Revd E. & Mr. S Blair-Chappell's son, who was employed by the PCC during the year and received remuneration of £646 (2023: £1,226).

Trustees' expenses

No trustee received expenses (2023: Nil) relating to their voluntary work for the church.

12. STAFF COSTS

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages and salaries | 126,053 | 116,555 |
| Social security costs | 3,383 | 2,120 |
| Other pension costs | 2,423 | 1,800 |
| | <u>131,859</u> | <u>120,475</u> |

No employee was paid £60,000 or more.

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|------|------|
| The average monthly number of employees during the year was: | 8 | 7 |

The numbers given are based on the monthly headcount. Full time equivalent numbers would be significantly lower because of the number of part time employees. The headcount at the year end was: 8 (2023: 10).

The day to day management of the charity is led by the Rector, with the active support of the clergy team, churchwardens, staff and key volunteers.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

| | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 199,811 | - | 66,113 | 265,924 |
| Other trading activities | 80,953 | - | - | 80,953 |
| Investment income | 10,417 | - | - | 10,417 |
| Other income | 9,300 | - | - | 9,300 |
| Total | <u>300,481</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>66,113</u> | <u>366,594</u> |
| EXPENDITURE ON | | | | |
| Raising funds | 3,334 | - | - | 3,334 |
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| Charitable grants | 9,065 | - | - | 9,065 |
| BD Common Fund | 97,481 | - | - | 97,481 |
| The Ministry Team | 10,601 | - | - | 10,601 |

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
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13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

| | Unrestricted fund £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Church and services | 96,384 | 13,579 | 1,740 | 111,703 |
| Other | 81,371 | - | 66,101 | 147,472 |
| Total | 298,236 | 13,579 | 67,841 | 379,656 |
| Net gains on investments | 3,338 | - | - | 3,338 |
| NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) | 5,583 | (13,579) | (1,728) | (9,724) |
| Transfers between funds | (7,160) | 11,091 | (3,931) | - |
| Net movement in funds | (1,577) | (2,488) | (5,659) | (9,724) |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 204,621 | 145,045 | 11,820 | 361,486 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | 203,044 | 142,557 | 6,161 | 351,762 |

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

| | Fixtures and fittings £ |
|---|----------------------------------|
| COST | |
| At 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024 | 115,126 |
| DEPRECIATION | |
| At 1 January 2024 | 111,995 |
| Charge for year | 720 |
| At 31 December 2024 | 112,715 |
| NET BOOK VALUE | |
| At 31 December 2024 | 2,411 |
| At 31 December 2023 | 3,131 |

The Birmingham Diocesan Trustees Registered hold as bare trustees for the PCC a property in Deritend currently leased to and occupied by St Basil's Housing Association. No value has been assigned to this asset in the financial statements.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

| | Listed investments £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| MARKET VALUE | |
| At 1 January 2024 | 77,215 |
| Revaluations | 1,754 |
| At 31 December 2024 | 78,969 |
| NET BOOK VALUE | |
| At 31 December 2024 | 78,969 |
| At 31 December 2023 | 77,215 |

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2024 is represented by:

| | Listed investments £ |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Valuation in 2024 | 78,969 |

The investment breakdown is as follows:

| | 2024 Cost £ | 2024 Market value £ | 2023 Cost £ | 2023 Market Value £ |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| M&G Charifund | 10,050 | 29,448 | 10,050 | 28,700 |
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 43,500 | 46,175 | 43,500 | 45,142 |
| UK listed investments | 261 | 3,346 | 261 | 3,373 |
| | 53,811 | 78,969 | 53,811 | 77,215 |

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade debtors | 5,140 | - |
| Gift Aid Tax Recoverable | 15,757 | 17,845 |
| Accrued Income | 23,524 | 34,764 |
| Prepayments | - | 775 |
| | <u>44,421</u> | <u>53,384</u> |

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade creditors | 3,329 | - |
| PAYE & National Insurance | 2,253 | 1,841 |
| Other creditors | 7,442 | 7,152 |
| Accrued expenses & deferred income | 10,626 | 18,634 |
| | <u>23,650</u> | <u>27,627</u> |

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

| | At 1.1.24 £ | Net movement in funds £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31.12.24 £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General Fund | 203,044 | 16,218 | (11,660) | 207,602 |
| Worship Fund | 1,478 | (1,477) | - | 1 |
| Church Plant Fund | 10,000 | - | - | 10,000 |
| Maintenance & Projects Fund | 125,000 | (11,160) | 11,160 | 125,000 |
| Website Development Fund | 1,779 | (1,779) | - | - |
| Clergy Housing Decoration Fund | 4,300 | - | 500 | 4,800 |
| | <u>345,601</u> | <u>1,802</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>347,403</u> |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Angel Tree Charity Fund | 2,102 | 150 | - | 2,252 |
| Memorial Boards Fund | 4,059 | - | - | 4,059 |
| Vulnerable Adults / Cuppa & Chat Fund | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 |
| | <u>6,161</u> | <u>2,150</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>8,311</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>351,762</u> | <u>3,952</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>355,714</u> |

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Gains and losses £ | Movement in funds £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General Fund | 301,865 | (287,401) | 1,754 | 16,218 |
| Worship Fund | - | (1,477) | - | (1,477) |
| Maintenance & Projects Fund | - | (11,160) | - | (11,160) |
| Website Development Fund | - | (1,779) | - | (1,779) |
| | <u>301,865</u> | <u>(301,817)</u> | <u>1,754</u> | <u>1,802</u> |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Angel Tree Charity Fund | 150 | - | - | 150 |
| St Martins Sunday School Fund | 5,000 | (5,000) | - | - |
| St Martin's Trustees re salaries | 67,168 | (67,168) | - | - |
| Vulnerable Adults / Cuppa & Chat Fund | 18,100 | (16,100) | - | 2,000 |
| | <u>90,418</u> | <u>(88,268)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,150</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>392,283</u> | <u>(390,085)</u> | <u>1,754</u> | <u>3,952</u> |

Comparatives for movement in funds

| | At 1.1.23 £ | Net movement in funds £ | Transfers between funds £ | At 31.12.23 £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General Fund | 204,621 | 5,583 | (7,160) | 203,044 |
| Worship Fund | 1,498 | (20) | - | 1,478 |
| Church Plant Fund | 10,000 | - | - | 10,000 |
| Maintenance & Projects Fund | 131,768 | (13,559) | 6,791 | 125,000 |
| Website Development Fund | 1,779 | - | - | 1,779 |
| Clergy Housing Decoration Fund | - | - | 4,300 | 4,300 |
| | <u>349,666</u> | <u>(7,996)</u> | <u>3,931</u> | <u>345,601</u> |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Angel Tree Charity Fund | 2,102 | - | - | 2,102 |
| BDBF Redecoration Fund | 4,300 | - | (4,300) | - |
| Memorial Boards Fund | 4,059 | - | - | 4,059 |
| Organ Repair Fund | 1,359 | (1,728) | 369 | - |
| | <u>11,820</u> | <u>(1,728)</u> | <u>(3,931)</u> | <u>6,161</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>361,486</u> | <u>(9,724)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>351,762</u> |

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

| | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Gains and losses £ | Movement in funds £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unrestricted funds | | | | |
| General Fund | 300,481 | (298,236) | 3,338 | 5,583 |
| Worship Fund | - | (20) | - | (20) |
| Maintenance & Projects Fund | - | (13,559) | - | (13,559) |
| | <u>300,481</u> | <u>(311,815)</u> | <u>3,338</u> | <u>(7,996)</u> |
| Restricted funds | | | | |
| Organ Repair Fund | - | (1,728) | - | (1,728) |
| St Martin's Trustees re salaries | 63,793 | (63,793) | - | - |
| Vulnerable Adults / Cuppa & Chat Fund | 2,320 | (2,320) | - | - |
| | <u>66,113</u> | <u>(67,841)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(1,728)</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>366,594</u> | <u>(379,656)</u> | <u>3,338</u> | <u>(9,724)</u> |

Designated Funds

- The Worship Fund and Website Development Funds were established in 2011 from the proceeds of a gift day. These projects were both concluded during 2024 and the funds are now retired.
- The Church Plant Fund was established in 2022 with monies transferred from the General Fund in order to designate funds from reserves to be used for the purposes of exploring a church plant within the local area. This project continues.
- The Maintenance & Projects Fund has been topped up by a transfer from the General fund in order to designate funds from reserves specifically for the purposes of ensuring that building is maintained and that energy use is optimised and fit for purpose for the future.
- The Clergy Housing Decoration Fund was established in 2023 with monies transferred from the BDBF Redecoration Fund following the closure of the BDBF scheme. The trustees have a responsibility to ensure that clergy housing is sufficiently maintained and the funds will be used for this purpose when required.

Restricted Funds

- The Angel Tree Charity fund holds donations for said charity that have not yet been utilised
- The Memorial Boards fund is money held for the maintaining and repair of the memorial boards
- St Martin's Trustees provide funding towards the cost of staff salaries
- Vulnerable Adults / Cuppa & Chat received restricted income via grants and donations which were set against the costs incurred against our work with vulnerable communities. This included income of £11,115 relating to the Birmingham City Council Section 106 funding scheme.
- The St Martin's Sunday School Fund donate to the church to ensure there are appropriate activities for all children and youth who visit the church

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
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18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

- The BDBF Redecoration Fund is money held by the BDBF on St Martin's behalf to be used for redecorating costs. The scheme closed in 2023 and therefore the fund balance was transferred to a designated fund
- The Organ Repair fund was fully expended in 2023

19. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charity makes contributions to money purchase pension schemes for certain employees. There is no long term commitment. The total charge for the period was £2,423 (2023: £1,800).

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The charity received donations from Trustees of £20,768 (2023: £14,658).

During the year the charity was related to St Martins Centre for Health & Healing a charitable limited company. During the year the following income was received from St Martin's Centre for Health and Healing:

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Rent | 25,275 | 25,275 |
| Shared overheads contribution | 13,854 | 14,192 |
| Management fees | 6,859 | 6,554 |
| | <u>45,988</u> | <u>46,021</u> |

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF BIRMINGHAM PARISH CHURCH**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birmingham Parish Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Birmingham Parish Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Guise ACA

Prime
Chartered Accountants
161 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 1SW

Date: 4 June 2025