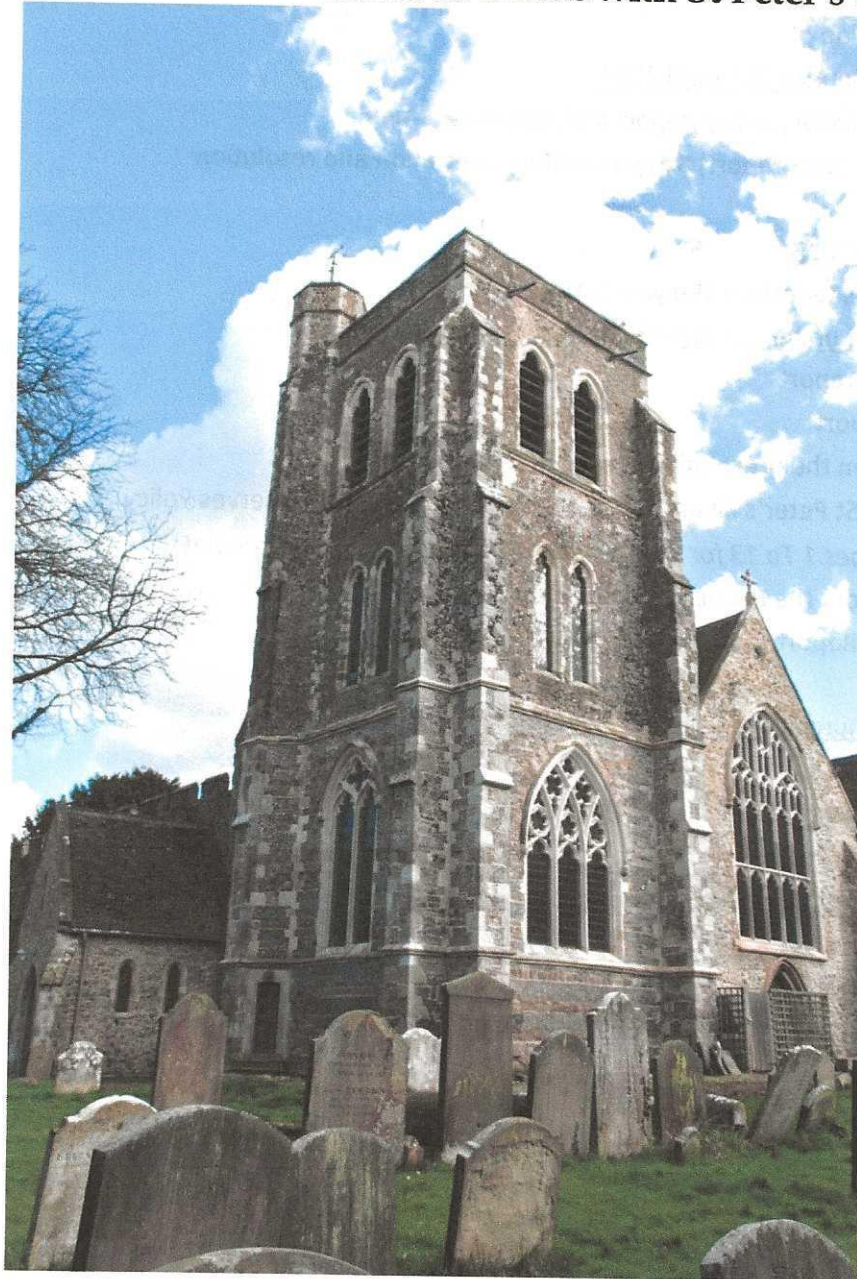


The Parish Church of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 27th April 2025, at 11.00am, St Peter's Church Greenhill**

Contents

Page

AGENDA

Church information

3

5

APCM Meeting Sunday 21st April 2024

Minutes of the APCM (Vestry Report and Annual Meeting)

12

and Lay reader's 2023 report) Scheme of Representation and resolution

23

APCM MEETING 2025

24

Priest in Charge's report for the year 2024

24

Reports required under the Church Representation Rules 2024

27

Churchwardens report

27

Electoral roll report

28

Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC during 2024

28

St Martin's and St Peter's Financial Report for 2024 (including Reserves Policy)

29

(See Annexe pages 1 To 13 for the Church Accounts /Financial Statements)

Fabric Report from the Fabric Committee and the Churchwardens

31

Deanery Synod Report

32

Reports from Church Organisations and Committees

33

Introduction

33

August Activity Days

33

Bell ringing report

33

Children and Sunday School Report

34

Choir Report

34

Churchyard maintenance team

35

Community Café

36

Flower arrangers

36

Gift Aid

36

Herne Community Fun Day

37

House group bible study

38

Little Fishes

38

Messy Church

39

Pastoral report

39

Safeguarding

40

Schools

40

The St Martin's Church (Institute) Hall: otherwise, Herne Church Hall

41

St Martins Readers and Intercessors

41

St Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers

42

St Martins Tuesday Toddler Group

42

Worship Band

43

Financial Statements and Examined Church Accounts

Annex page 44 1-13

THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE 2025 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Peter's Church Greenhill on Sunday 27th April 2025 at 11.00 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA for 2025

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence. Declarations of proxies if any

Part 1

The Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Election of churchwardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies and procedures
2. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 21st April 2024
4. Matters arising from minutes

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2024

5. Churchwarden's and incumbents report
6. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 27th April 2025
7. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2024
8. Churchwarden's report
9. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2024 accounts
10. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's (proposal is PG Lemon LLP)
11. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
12. Fabric Committee Report

Mandatory elections

13. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
14. Election of PCC members. To include
 - a. Appointment of deputy/assistant churchwardens

- b. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2025 to 2028 (being three retiring) *

**This is calculated on the assumption that the new Electoral roll will have more than 50 names but fewer than 100*

- c. Election of one PCC member to take a casual vacancy not filled in 2024

NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

15. Reports from church organisations

- a. August Activity days
- b. The Bellringers
- c. Children's and Sunday School report
- d. The Choir
- e. The Churchyard maintenance team
- f. Community Café
- g. The Flower arrangers
- h. Gift Aid
- i. Little Fishes
- j. Messy Church
- k. Pastoral report
- l. Safeguarding
- m. Schools
- n. St Martin's Church Institute
- o. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
- p. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
- q. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
- r. Worship at St Peters Greenhill
- s. The Worship Band

16. Date of first meeting of the new PCC: Monday 28th April 2025 7pm at St Martin's Church

17. Any other business

18. The Blessing

CHURCH INFORMATION 2024

ST MARTIN-IN-HERNE with ST PETER, GREENHILL, Registered Charity No 1134604

1st January-31st December 2024

St Martin-in-Herne Church

Herne Street
Herne
Herne Bay
Kent

St Peter's Church

Herne Drive
Greenhill
Herne Bay
Kent.

INCUMBENT

Vacancy until 30th July 2024 and then the appointment of Priest in Charge Revd. Christopher Carnaby Denyer

CURATE

None

BANKERS

St Martin-in-Herne Church

Lloyds, Herne Bay

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
Senator House, 85 Queen's Street, London, EC4V 4ET

St Peter's Church

Santander Account
(for receipt of rental monies only)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

P.G. Lemon LLP 22 – 26 Bank Street Herne Bay CT6 5EAL

BACKGROUND

The parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter, Greenhill extends to the railway in Eddington to the North, includes Broomfield, Talmead Estate, Greenhill, Still Water Park, Herne Common and Blean Woods in the South. The population is approximately 16,000 and, in addition, there is new housing in the east of the parish.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956 as amended.

The appointment of the PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2024.

THE TASK OF THE PCC

The Synodical Government Measure 1969 states clearly:

It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance in the parish.

It then sets out a number of functions of the PCC, of which perhaps the most important – and certainly the widest – is that the primary objective of the PCC is:

Co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical

The incumbent and the PCC each have their own particular rights and responsibilities in the life of the church, but the important theme here is partnership and co-operation. More specifically the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and churchyard, and, with the incumbent, for deciding how the church's money is to be spent and overseeing safeguarding. The PCC is formally the employer of the church's paid workers, for example our organist, St Peter's caretaker and administrator. The PCC will have on it one or more members of the Deanery Synod, who have an important role in linking the parish into the wider structures of the church, and also Churches Together in Herne Bay.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either (a) ex officio (on the PCC because of their role in the parish church) or (b) co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or (c) elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

From 1st January 2024 and specifically from the APCM on the 21st April 2024 in addition to Revd Chris 14 persons served as members of the PCC and all are also trustees:

(a) Ex-Officio:

Revd. Christopher Carnaby- Denyer	Priest in charge (from 30 th July 2024)
Priscilla Cox	Church warden from 21 st April 2024 and Deanery Synod Rep
Chris Exley	Church warden from 21 st April 2024
John Bennett	Deputy Churchwarden from 21 st April 2024
Sarah Bingham	Deputy Churchwarden from 21 st April 2024
Deborah Waller	Licensed Lay Reader from Autumn 2021 and Deanery Synod Rep

(b) Co-opted members/invitees

- Susan Record (choir and organist)

(c) Elected being 8 PCC members

Elected 2024: so, they will retire in 2027

- Wendy Ann Dinley
- Richard Chant
- One casual vacancy remains

Elected 2023: so, they will retire in 2026

- Sheila Gough
- Peter Frost
- Ann Ackland (safeguarding officer)

Elected 2022 term of office expires 2025 (So, there are now three vacancies to be filled)

- Doug Bubb
- Andrew Gough
- Hilary Burnage

That means in 2025 there will be vacancies for the following positions to be elected:

- 2 Churchwardens (an annual appointment)
- 2 Deputy/assistant church wardens (an annual appointment)
- Election and appointment of Deborah Waller to the PCC in her capacity as lay reader (and not as an elected lay member)
- Elected PCC Members representing the laity—
3 vacancies for office 2025-2028. However, this is predicated on the assumption that the new Electoral roll will have more than 50 names but fewer than 100

1 casual vacancy for office until 2027

Current Officers

Revd Chris	Chair
<u>Specific roles on PCC</u>	
Sheila Gough	Treasurer
Andrew Gough	Gift Aid Secretary
Andrew Gough	PCC Secretary
Ann Ackland	Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Rep each for a three-year appointment on 16th April 2023 so they will retire at the APCM in 2026

- Priscilla Cox
- Deborah Waller

COMMITTEES

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to direction by the Council. It consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and at least another PCC member, in our case preferably a representative of St Peter's. It acts as another committee and reports back to the PCC. It can also discuss and set the next PCC agenda although this can be set by the incumbent alone.

By a resolution of the PCC passed on the 19th October 2020 it has authority to spend up to £250 for equipment or in relation to any other issue brought before it and may commit to an aggregate expenditure of £500 only, subject to the details of the individual and aggregated expenditure being brought to the next PCC meeting following the standing committee. This resolution has not been revoked.

Members: Priscilla Cox and Chris Exley (as churchwardens) and Sheila Gough (Treasurer), Deborah Waller (lay reader) both appointed by the PCC. Andrew Gough (secretary) attends to take minutes. The two PCC members should be appointed by the PCC at the first PCC meeting after the APCM

All members of the PCC are expected to sit on a committee.

Other Committees in 2024 were:

Finance and Stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Gough (Chair) • Priscilla Cox • Andrew Gough 	Fabric – St Martin's, Institute Hall, St Peter's and reordering at St Martin's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priscilla Cox • Clifford Goble* • Doug Bubb • John Bennett • Steve Jackson* • Roger Jackson* 	Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Bingham (chair) 	Communications & Publicity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Lehane* • Sarah Bingham
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*Denotes non- members of the PCC

In addition:

- Mission & Evangelism Team
This had met for the first time on March 19th 2019 as a result of Herne Parish becoming one of the first to be invited to join the Diocesan "Changed Lives Changing Lives Conversations".
- Safeguarding coordinator: Anne Ackland
- Gift Aid Secretary: Andrew Gough
- Electoral Roll Officer: Andrew Gough
- Health & Safety Rep: Doug Bubb

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FOR 2024

[NB: Figures in brackets denote previous year's figures]

Church attendance averaged 55 (55) adults and 6 (6) children across the year on normal Sundays during 2024, with larger numbers at festivals and when schools were involved in services. Being without a vicar for part of the time has affected the numbers of baptisms and weddings

Attendance for additional events	
Baptisms	20 (28): 8 (10) infant, 12 (15) children; 0 (3) adults
Weddings	4 (4)
Funerals	5 (15): 4 (10) in church, 1 (5) at crematorium or cemetery

Attendance for services	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 10.00 am Sunday Services Average Attendance	55 (45) (estimated 39 aged 18-69 years and 16 aged 70 years plus)	6 (10)	61 (55)
Easter Services Total Attendance	no breakdown	no breakdown	122 (93)
Christmas Total Attendance	no breakdown	no breakdown	917 (740 includes Midnight Eucharist presided over by the Archbishop)
Special Services during Advent 2021, e.g. nativities and carol services	no breakdown	no breakdown	Congregation and local community: 455 (1405). civic and school- specific: 725 (558).

Joiners and leavers:

12 (8) adults and 2 (2) children and young people joined our worshipping community during 2024.
3 adults and 0 children and young people left our worshipping community during 2024.

Other mission and ministry to Children & Young Families:

(A) We have **two thriving toddler groups**: one on Tuesdays in Herne Church Hall (88 (88 in 2023 too) registered families - 36 (36) regulars; average 18 adults + 21 children; and one on Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill (both weekly in school term time).

(B) **Monthly Messy Church** at St Peter's Greenhill averaged 30-40 people attending.

(C) **August Activity Days** on 4 Fridays at St Peter's Greenhill averaged 50 children + adults each week.

A full copy of the Statistics for Mission return is available on request.

Electoral Roll

At the APCM on the 21st April 2024 the number of people on the St Martin's Electoral Roll was 92. There were three losses after the APCM so as at the 31st December 2024 the roll is confirmed at 89. The numbers on the roll following the rewriting of the roll in March 2025 will be announced at the APCM

Andrew Gough
Electoral Roll Officer

PUBLIC BENEFIT

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour

The vision of our parish is stated within our mission statement:

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

We are registered with the Charity Commission by virtue of the fact that we "Advance Religion for the Public Benefit", and are required to state our aims in their terms as below

Encouraging and facilitating the practice of Christianity by existing followers and seekers.

Place of worship, including:

- For the practice of Christian faith, the provision and maintenance of two buildings, and adjoining hall and meeting rooms used for related activities, e.g. religious instruction for children.
- The conducting of religious ceremonies, e.g. Eucharist, Baptism, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.
- The maintenance of two public churchyards with one garden of remembrance and war memorial.
- Provision of Public Worship throughout the year as well as at times of national importance (Remembrance).
- Bereavement care, prayers, visits and worship.
- The provision and maintenance of Christian devotional artefacts and items used in religious services.
- Maintaining a grade one ancient building for the nation.

Raising awareness and understanding of religious beliefs and practices, including:

- Advancing the Christian faith.
- Providing a Christian resource for the community (information, teaching and library).
- Promoting and providing the study of Christian teaching, practice and scripture.
- Supporting schools and other educational establishments, including three theological training colleges (student placements), which provide education in accordance with the principles and practices of the religion.
- Support the Diocese in the provision of ministry and Diocesan services through payment of the Diocesan share.
- Working with (worship, education, pastoral care) and governance of our two church schools in Herne.
- Encouragement and worship in one Community Primary School and also our Secondary School.

Religious devotional acts, including:

- Visiting the sick and administering the sacraments to the sick and dying.

Missionary and outreach work, including:

- The provision of chaplaincy services; for example, to Strode Park, Canterbury and District Scouting and Canterbury Cathedral).
- Hospital visiting.
- The provision of pastoral care to residential and domiciliary homes.
- Cultural and community activities provided in the place of worship and in the buildings attached, e.g., community facilities, community care, toddlers, and community Cafe.

Work for reconciliation, building community and peace across the parish.

Religious communication, including:

- Sermons, talks, meetings and conferences and the provision of religious material via the internet website.

Retreat and pilgrimage, including: A place for short and day retreats.

Advancing religion generally including:

- Charitable giving to many different peoples in need, both near and far, (e.g., Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, Crisis, Children's Society, Catching Lives, Seafarer's Mission etc.)
- Seeking to safeguard creation through moral use of resources and the ways we manage our graveyards.

These aims are fulfilled as evidenced in the reports that follow.

Signed:

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is a cursive 'C' followed by a wavy line. The second signature is a cursive 'D' followed by a wavy line.

Rev. Chris Carnaby- Denyer and a Church Warden

Date; 7th April 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.15am at St Peter's Church, Greenhill.

THE PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S HERNE WITH ST PETER'S GREENHILL

Together we seek God

Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

To be held in St Peter's Church Greenhill on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.00 am or as soon thereafter

AGENDA as finally agreed at the Annual meeting (blue amendments)

Welcome, opening prayers and apologies for absence

PCC Secretary's Introduction to the adoption of proxy voting and the Deputy Church Wardens Scheme and why these were considered necessary and why the agenda needed to be amended to take into account these matter

The Vestry Meeting

Part 1

- 1.** Apologies for absence
- 2.** Adoption of proposal for Proxy voting
- 3.** proxy votes received
- 4.** Adoption of the Deputy Church Wardens Scheme¹
- 5.** Minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023
- 6.** Matters arising from the minutes
- 7.** Election of churchwardens (two)

Part 2

The Annual Meeting

19. Apologies and procedures
20. Church Information and activities of the Parish generally (for information)
21. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023
22. Matters arising from minutes

¹ Topics in blue were agreed at the APCM as amendments to the original published agenda

Mandatory reports required under the Church Representation rules 2020

23. Lay reader's report in the vacancy
24. Churchwarden's report
25. Electoral Roll Report with oral update on the numbers on the roll as at the 21st April 2024
26. Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC during 2023
27. Financial Report for St Martin's and St Peter's including approval of the 2023 accounts
28. Appointment of auditors or independent examiner for St Martin's and St Peter's. Proposing PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA
29. Fabric Committee Report
30. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Mandatory elections

31. Election of Deborah Waller in her capacity as Lay reader to be an ex officio member of the PCC
32. Election of PCC members. To include
 - a. Election of 2 Deputy Churchwardens
 - b. Election of three PCC members (if nominations received) for 2024 to 2027 (being two retiring and one vacancy remaining to be filled)

NB Appointment of Sides people to be dealt with by the PCC at the next following PCC meeting so no election required

General reports

33. Reports from church organisations
 - a. August Activity days
 - b. The Bellringers
 - c. Children's and Sunday School report
 - d. The Choir
 - e. The Churchyard maintenance team
 - f. The Flower arrangers
 - g. Gift Aid
 - h. Little Fishes
 - i. Messy Church
 - j. Pastoral Matters
 - k. Safeguarding
 - l. Schools
 - m. St Martin's Church Institute
 - n. St Martins Readers and Intercessors
 - o. St Martin's servers and chalice bearers
 - p. St Martin's Tuesday Toddler Group
 - q. Weddings report
 - r. The Worship Band
34. Date of first meeting of the new PCC: Monday 28th April 2025
35. Any other business
36. The Blessing

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11.00am at St Peter's Church Greenhill.

Agenda

The meeting actually commenced at 11.05

Opening Prayer

Deborah Waller welcomed those present and led those attending in an opening prayer

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Anne Ackland, Keith and Susan Record, Sarah Bingham, Sarah White, Tony Millard, Fiona Aneley, Linda Carter, Joan Ball, Philip Dixon and possibly Shirley Frost who might have to leave the meeting.

Proxy voting forms had been received from Anne Ackland, Keith and Susan Record, Sarah Bingham, Fiona Aneley and Shirley Frost (who possibly might have to leave the meeting early).

Preliminary Issues presented by the PCC Secretary

Andrew Gough as PCC secretary explained that two preliminary matters had to be agreed upon at the commencement of the meeting. This would affect the terms of the agenda which had been published in the APCM booklet.

(a) The Proposed Adoption of Proxy voting and why

Andrew Gough confirmed that in the past proxy votes had been offered at annual meetings particularly during the Covid crisis. The PCC had unanimously agreed that proxy votes should be permitted at this meeting but ultimately the final decision would be that of the members at this annual meeting as they had to agree the procedure and conduct of the meeting pursuant to the Church Representation Rules. Previously no proxy votes had been received but this time there were six proxy forms that had been given to the PCC secretary (as above). If proxy voting was not permitted then these voters would be disenfranchised.

(b) the second issue that had to be considered was the status of the Deputy Churchwardens. An explanation of the problem that had arisen was given to the members present. *A synopsis of the issues is given as a briefing note to these minutes.*

A formal Deputy Church Wardens scheme had been agreed by the PCC and this was presented to the members present. It was explained that if the scheme was not adopted then the position of the Deputy Churchwardens would be in doubt and effectively, they would only be sides people. This was not what had come to be expected by those holding the role.

The form of the Scheme is attached

The PCC secretary briefly went through the principal points of the scheme.

It was agreed that the agenda would have to be revised to take into account the possible approval of the proxy votes and the deputy churchwarden scheme.

Full minutes and reports (including accounts) were available in hardcopy form if required by those present. The electoral roll was available for inspection at the back of the church.

The minutes would be signed off if approved.

Part 1 Chaired by Deborah Waller

The Vestry Meeting

Deborah Waller explained that historically the vestry meeting would often be held privately but nowadays churches hold it in public as part of the full APCM.

1. Apologies as above
2. Adoption of Proxy Voting

It was agreed unanimously that proxy votes should be permitted if required. This would apply to the vestry meeting and the annual meeting

3. Proxies had been received as above
4. The Adoption of Deputy Church Wardens Scheme (see scheme attached)

The scheme was unanimously adopted by those present. It was signed and dated by the chair of the meeting and Priscilla Cox as churchwarden. It would be filed with the Diocesan Secretary and the Archbishops Council.

5. The minutes of the vestry meeting held on 16th April 2023 were agreed as a correct record. Proposer Andrew Gough. Seconder Sheila Gough. They were unanimously approved
6. There were no matters arising
7. Election of Churchwardens (two positions vacant)

Andrew Gough confirmed that three candidates had originally put their names forward for the two positions of church warden; Priscilla Cox, Christopher Exley and Wendy Dinley. The minutes had, prior to the meeting, discussed the position with Wendy who had put her

Accordingly, two candidates had put their names forward as Churchwarden.

Priscilla Cox for re election

Proposed by Anne Ackland

Seconded by Hilary Burnage

Robert Christopher Exley (Chris Exley) for re election

Proposed by Susan Record

Seconded by Richard Chant

There being no other candidates and everyone being in favour, both candidates were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Deborah Waller thanked Priscilla and Chris Exley for their considerable work as Churchwardens during the year and also to John Bennett and Sarah Bingham for being such a willing and able support as Deputies.

There being no other business the vestry meeting was concluded.

Chris Exley thanked Andrew Gough for his research and identifying the problem of the appointment of Deputy Churchwardens and offering a solution.

Part 2 Chaired by Deborah Waller

The Annual Meeting

1. Apologies were given as above.
2. Church information as given in the APCM booklet was taken as read. Also, the general reports were taken as read
3. Minutes of the annual meeting held on Sunday, 16th April 2023. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda.
5. The Lay Reader's verbal report was given.

Deborah thanked everyone for the support that she had received during the year. We had all worked well together during the vacancy and dealt with all challenges admirably. We should all congratulate ourselves in our achievement and we were now looking forward to welcoming our new Vicar Revd Chris Carnaby Denyer on the 30th July at his licensing.

Whilst Deborah wanted to thank everyone who helped and did so much for the church she

Priscila and Chris for their roles as church wardens. It was not easy to find presidents for our services but Priscilla seemed to be able to do this and we had the great excitement of welcoming the Archbishop to our church at the Christmas midnight eucharist. Thanks to them both for leading ordinary services on Sundays.

Thanks to Sarah and John for the considerable help in running the church and the worship band

Thanks to Andrew for his role as PCC secretary and Sheila as treasurer

Thanks to all the members of the PCC for their contributions throughout the year

Thanks to all who give so much help and time to the church and its activities as evidenced by the reports in the APCM booklet.

6. Andrew Gough in his capacity as electoral roll secretary confirmed that at the APCM in April 2023 there had been 90 members on the electoral roll. Subsequently following (and including the latest revision in March 2024) five people had been added to the role but three had been removed. Accordingly, there were now ninety-two (92) members on the electoral roll which meant that there were still nine lay places available on the PCC.

Three places were now available for nominations. He confirmed that the full electoral roll was available for inspection at the church during the APCM.

There were no questions. He confirmed that after the APCM congregants could join the electoral roll at any time and not merely at the time of any revision before an APCM. However, next year the electoral roll would be completely rewritten (this was done every six years) and everybody would have to reapply. However, full notice of this would be given to the parishioners in good time so that preparations could be made.

7. The annual report of the proceedings of the PCC during 2023 was taken as read. There were no questions. Thanks were given to all the PCC members for their dedicated service over the year
8. The Churchwarden's Report was taken as read. Priscilla Cox and Chris Exley had nothing to add.
9. Sheila Gough, as treasurer, introduced the 2023 financial reports for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill.
 - a. A full set of audited accounts is at the back of the APCM Report.
 - b. Again, a challenging year for us. Our voluntary receipts which include our planned giving, collections at services and gift aid donations were all down on the previous year by over £9,500.
 - c. Gift Aid is still a very useful source of income for the church but there was a slight decrease in 2023 for various reasons.

- d. Sadly, two of our congregation died who were both generous givers; two members left and we have not been able to make up the shortfall in their giving and being able to claim gift aid on those donations.
- e. Gift aid recovered last year was down by £1,200.00.
- f. There was an increase in fundraising thanks to the Funday Sunday organised by Sarah with the Parish Council.
- g. There was a reduction in the number of weddings, funerals and baptisms which meant that our fees for those services were also reduced.
- h. Our total income for the year was £129,011.
- i. Moving onto expenditure, as usual our biggest expense was the Parish Share to the Diocese. The church has paid this in full but again we had to use reserves of £18,578 plus funds from the Church Hall account.
- j. Our direct ministry expenses were down mainly due to the fact that we did not have an incumbent for 8 months of the year.
- k. Church running expenses including utilities, insurance and general maintenance increased by over £5,000 but we had to spend money on the church doors and also having one of the trees cut down in late Autumn.
- l. In respect of the two Halls, we had to use funds from St Martin's account to pay towards the Parish Share which meant that there was a deficit last year of just over £4,000.
- m. St Peter's had a small surplus last year.
- n. Total expenses last year were £137,217 which meant that we had a deficit of £8,206 in the general fund.
- o. All of our outreach projects, Mothers & Toddlers, Little Fishes and Messy Church continue to bring in funds although these are not included with the general fund but have their own count.
- p. Statement of Assets and Liabilities – at the end of the year we had £14,428 in unrestricted funds across our three accounts.
- q. Unrestricted funds in our CCLA investment account were £73,496 and restricted funds were £58,848 making a total of £132,344.
- r. Thanks, should be given to Wendy Dinley and Jean Dilnot for continuing to administer the rentals for the two halls and thanks also to Andrew Gough for administering the Gift Aid applications

As a point of record John Bennett made those present aware of the fact that the rental agreement for the telecommunication mast would come to an end in 2031. This currently provided an income of £9000 per year (this could be indexed). So, we had to prepare ourselves for the loss of that possible income in seven years' time.

The accounts were proposed by Sheila Gough to be approved and seconded by Wendy Dinley They were unanimously approved by those present.

Sheila Gough was specifically thanked for her hard work and diligence

10. Appointment of Auditors for St Martin's and St Peter's Greenhill

- a. Sheila Gough proposed that PG Lemon LLP of 22 to 26 Bank Street Herne Bay Kent CT6 5EA should be re- appointed as independent examiner for the present financial year.
 - b. This was seconded by Deborah Waller Those present voted unanimously for the reappointment.

11. The Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was taken as read and there was nothing to add. Thanks were given to Priscilla Cox and Deborah Waller for their considerable service.

12. The Fabric Committee report was taken as read. There was nothing further to add. Thanks were given to the Committee members for their stewardship of the church buildings throughout the year.

13. Deborah Waller as licensed lay reader to the parish can be elected to the PCC in her own right as an ex officio member of the PCC
There were no objections to that appointment being made and this was agreed.

14. Appointment of members of the PCC
 - a. Election of Deputy Church wardens
 Following the adoption of the Deputy Church Warden scheme it was now possible to legitimately appoint two deputy churchwardens.

 Those nominated were
John Bennett
 proposer Wendy Dinley
 seconded Sheila Bennett

Sarah Bingham
 proposer John Bennett
 seconded by Sheila Bennett

 There being no other candidates for the positions John Bennett and Sarah Bingham were approved unanimously.

 Deborah Waller gave thanks to John Bennett and Sarah Bingham for being such willing and able supporters as Deputies during 2023.
 - b. Two candidates had been nominated to take positions on the PCC.
Richard Chant
 proposed by Philip Dixon
 seconded by Alan King
Wendy Dinley
 proposed by Andrew Gough
 seconded by Sheila Gough

There being no other candidates who now wished to put their names forward Richard Chant and Wendy Dinley were duly appointed as members of the PCC

- c. Deborah Waller confirmed that the sides people would be appointed at the PCC not at the APCM.

Thanks were given to those who had been PCC members and to those continuing on the council

15. Deborah Waller then introduced the reports from the Church Organisations and Committees. They demonstrated the diversity of interests and responsibilities that people took on within the life of the church. She hoped that reading the reports would encourage people to join some of the organisations or offer support. All reports were taken as read and there were no questions. Thanks were given to all persons who contributed to the life and administration of the church. We all worked hard as a team.

16. Deborah confirmed that the Parochial Church Council would be commissioned on a date to be agreed. The date of the first PCC meeting after the APCM will, however, be Monday 13th May at 7pm in the Ridley Room.

17. Any Other Business. Deborah Waller invited questions from the floor.

John Bennett particularly welcomed Jean Dilnot to the annual meeting. She was still unable to get around readily after her accident. However, her ability to get in and out of her house had been hugely improved because Peter Frost had built a wooden ramp for her to get to and from front door. Many thanks were given to Peter for his work.

Andrew Gough as PCC secretary asked the annual meeting to confirm now if proxy voting would be permitted at the next annual meeting in 2025 if the PCC thought it appropriate. This would mean that proxy votes could be given and each donor of the proxy would know that his or her vote would be counted (if required) and they would not have to rely upon the members at that annual meeting agreeing to the proposal.

This proposal was unanimously approved by those present

Chris Exley thanked Deborah Waller for all the hard work that she had put into her role as lay reader and particular presenting the church services. It was a considerable task and we should all be grateful for Deborah's skill and dedication.

18. There being no further business the meeting was concluded and Deborah Waller led those present in the grace.

The meeting concluded at 11 50am

PCC Secretary's explanation to the annual meeting as to why the deputy Churchwarden scheme was required. Briefing note (not transcript)

A question has been put to me by a member on the electoral roll for consideration at the annual meeting. This can be done under the Church Representation Rules 2022. The Question is

"At what point in the APCM are deputy churchwardens elected?"

You may appreciate that the APCM falls into two parts. The vestry meeting (effectively a parishioners meeting) where churchwardens are elected and then the annual meeting where members of the PCC and representatives of the deanery Synod etc are elected.

I've looked back at earlier AP CM's and it is clear that the deputy churchwardens were only ever appointed in the annual meeting and not at the vestry meeting. Revd Carol changed that pattern in 2018 and said that the deputy churchwardens should be elected at the vestry meeting. That seems odd given the difference between the two electoral rolls and that deputies are not holders of the bishop's office. The issue was questioned at the time but she said that this was the correct procedure. I assumed that this was because there was some scheme registered at the Diocesan Registry setting out how and when deputy churchwardens were appointed and any other powers that they might have. That would have covered the point.

Now that this question has been put again, I decided to refer the matter to the Diocesan Secretary. He has informed me that there is no scheme registered which formally permits the appointment of deputy churchwardens nor explains what they do. Nor is there a District Church Council Scheme appointing deputy church wardens. This surprised me because, as the Diocesan Secretary says, it means that the appointment of a deputy churchwarden is an informal arrangement only. Moreover, unless the deputy is also an elected member of the parochial church council (whether as a member of the PCC or elected in some other capacity) the deputy churchwarden does not have any voting rights. Nor is the deputy a member of the PCC by virtue of the position of deputy churchwarden. A deputy is only a member of the PCC if there is a formal scheme or District Church Council scheme in place. Otherwise, a deputy may be a member of the PCC only if he or she holds other elected positions.

I have looked back at the minutes of earlier APCM meetings before and after 2017 and there have been several instances over the years where deputy wardens have been elected but were never voted as members of the PCC nor were they ever co-opted to the PCC. Holders of the position may, at the invitation of the PCC address the PCC or else may have tasks to do but they would not have a right to vote. I do not know whether they actual did vote, However, we have apparently been working on a false premise for many years.²

Clearly this anomaly is unacceptable. It also has to be corrected before Revd Chris takes up his position. I pointed out to the Diocesan Secretary that it is possible for the annual meeting to agree a scheme under rule M34 which formally provides for

"The election or choice of one or two deputy churchwardensand that the deputy or each the deputies is an ex officio member of the PCC."

² At this point Jean Dilnot said that when she was appointed a deputy churchwarden, she was told that she had no right to vote at the PCC. However, it is unclear how other holders of the post may have acted. Since 2018 deputies have voted at PCC meetings.

Such a scheme would bring legitimacy to a practice that has existed for many years.

He agreed with me but took legal advice from the Diocesan Registrar; she is a partner in a major firm of solicitors in Westminster that provides legal advice to the Diocese. She agrees that this is the best way forward and indeed drafted a simple scheme to cover the position. A draft of that scheme has been distributed to the meeting today (*see attached*). I have amended to cover our particular requirements.

The terms of the scheme also state when the churchwardens are elected (putting the voting as part of the annual meeting which I think is correct under rule M34) and grants each deputy PCC membership.

So, in order to rectify the position as PCC secretary I propose that this scheme be adopted immediately and to apply at this meeting. This proposal is designed to get us out of a legal and administrative confusion in the simplest way possible and to preserve the status quo.

DRAFT SCHEME (as approved and signed off at the meeting)

The Parish of Herne in the Diocese of Canterbury

**Scheme for Deputy Churchwardens Made pursuant to Section B of the Model Rules
Church Representation Rules 2020**

Whereas:

- a) There are two or more churches or buildings licensed for public worship in the parish of Herne (the Parish) in the benefice of Herne in the Diocese of Canterbury
- b) The Parochial Church Council of the Parish wishes to make a scheme for the election of representatives of the laity to the PCC in a way that is intended to make due provision for the representation of the congregation of each church or building
- c) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("the Annual Meeting") of the Parish, therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by Section B (paragraph M34 (1), (2)(a), (b) and (c)) of the Model Rules contained in the Church Representation Rules 2020 ("CRR"), hereby makes the following scheme: which shall come into effect immediately:
 1. The Annual Meeting each year shall elect two deputy churchwardens ("the Deputy Churchwardens") as representatives of the churches of St Martin's Herne and St Peter Greenhill.
 2. A Deputy Churchwarden will, subject to paragraph 6 below, hold office for the annual period that begins with the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which the person was elected and which ends at the conclusion of the Annual meeting following their election, unless they are re-elected for a subsequent term of office.

3. The Deputy Churchwardens shall exercise such functions relating to the churches of St Martin's Herne and St Peter Greenhill as the Vicar or Priest in charge of the parish (the Incumbent) and the churchwardens of the Parish may from time to time direct.
4. The Deputy Churchwardens shall be ex officio members of the PCC with voting rights.
5. Only persons who are not disqualified from being chosen for the office of churchwarden under the Churchwardens Measure 2001 may be elected as Deputy Churchwardens.
6. A Deputy Churchwarden who during their term of office becomes disqualified from holding office as a churchwarden under the Churchwardens Measure 2001 ceases to be a Deputy Churchwarden on the date on which such disqualification takes place.
7. In accordance with CRR M34(5), a copy of this scheme will be filed in the diocesan registry and sent to the secretary of the Archbishop's Council and standing committee.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Herne:

(LS) Deborah Waller..... Chair

Name

(LS) Priscilla CoxChurchwarden

Name

Passed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish

For Unanimous

Against

Dated: The 21st day of April 2024

THE APCM REPORTS FOR 2024

Priest in Charge's Annual 2024 report for St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill

It is such a joy to write my first APCM report as your new Priest-in-Charge. It feels like the first seven months have whizzed by! Thank you for welcoming me, as well as Sophie and all the family, into the heart of the church community.

Needless to say, as we look back on 2024, there is a great chunk of the year that is time "BC" ... "Before Chris"! I hope that all those who ensured the ministry and mission at St Martin's and St Peter's continued during the interregnum, and those involved in appointing a new priest for the parish, feel that their hard work and dedication is very much appreciated. So, I must begin with a huge thanks especially to the Wardens, Priscilla and Chris, and the Deputy Wardens, John and Sarah, as well as our Reader, Deborah. My thanks go particularly to Chris Exley as he steps down as Church Warden for new adventures ahead. One thing I have learned as I settled into the parish, is that there are so many dedicated volunteers who contribute in a myriad of ways to the life, ministry and mission of our two churches and the communities we serve: to each one of you, thank you.

I sneaked across before we moved to enjoy the Herne Community Fun Day – what a fantastic event enjoyed by so many from the community and which spoke (with the church very visible in orange "Church Team" T-shirts) of our care and involvement in the place we are called to be and to serve. Well done, and thank you (with a special thanks to Sarah and her team). Not long after I was licensed here as Priest-in-Charge, it was soon a joyful summer of spending Fridays at St Peter's for the Activity Days: free fun activities for families, whereby I found myself frequently supervising (and trying out!) the bouncy castle. What a great gift we were able to offer local families again, with thanks to all the team involved.

The summer gave way to a new school year, and we were able to welcome over 110 people to join our Back-to-School service, with children (and a headteacher!) receiving a blessing for the year ahead. This set a pattern for our first Sunday service, with a focus on inviting families back to the all-age service each month with a special focus for our worship, the next being a joyful Harvest celebration. In December, this first Sunday service featured a Christingle led by Worship Leaders from Herne Junior School with the assistance of Denise Parrett at the school, working alongside Deborah Waller, and attended by 165 people.

I was told that Herne marked Remembrance in a big way: what a gathering it was to behold as around 500 people came together in remembering those in the community who gave their life in service, as well as to pray for peace in our world today. Many thanks to Cllr Alan Marsh for organising the road closure and his support in this final year of his involvement.

After arriving in the summer, it seemed that Christmas was suddenly upon me. Advent began with a wonderful Christmas Tree Festival that saw St Martin's become a winter wonderland of beautifully decorated trees as the community came together to take on the challenge to dress a tree or to come and support the event. It was a great launch of the festive season, with singing, refreshments and even Father Christmas. Many thanks to all involved, particularly Sarah Bingham and Deborah Waller, and to Vincent Nurseries for the generous donation of the trees. The start of Advent also saw the annual Memorial Carols, with over 200 people coming together to remember those we miss

especially at this time of year, again supported and facilitated by the generous team at Welch's. The huge tree looked marvellous (thanks to the team who wrestled it into place) and many stars were added to it with the names of loved ones right up to the end of epiphany.

Christmas was a wonderful time for me to really feel welcomed into the heart of the community and the church here. Singing carols under the yew tree was a fantastic way to begin to celebrate the season and the message of Christmas, with a warm cup of mulled wine in hand, with thanks to all who made this possible. We had a total Christmas Eve/Day attendance in church of 917 (compared to 740 in 2023). The introduction of a 5:30pm Christmas Eve Carol service received positive feedback and a huge attendance, along with the popular Nativity (thanks again to all the team involved and our brilliant young actors). It made me smile to see that in Herne, Baby Jesus gets his own parking space!! The increased attendance at events and services may have been a result of all the effort in delivering 5000 Christmas Cards to the communities we serve, with an invitation to join all on offer. Well done and thank you to all the delivers, and to John Bennett masterminding all the rounds.

As I mention services, it is of note that our average attendance was up on the year previous year even in a time of interregnum (average attendance of adults was 55 in 2024, compared to 45 in 2023). It is particularly pleasing that attendance had increased over a year that included the vacancy, and again much appreciation is given to all who made this happen by leading services, especially our Reader, Deborah. Thanks also to Chris Exley for also sharing the leading of 8am services with Deborah.

The service pattern established before the interregnum was reviewed and continued with a weekly 8am BCP Communion, an all-age first Sunday service, a 2nd and 4th Sunday Communion and the service at St Peter's became "Sausage Sarnie Sunday". There were also special evening services on the first Sunday linked to festivals and occasions in the church year, such as "Sing Harvest". A weekly midweek Communion on Wednesdays at 9:15am was also introduced. Having mentioned some of the attendance data, I must also point out that earlier in the year (BC!), Easter Services had a total attendance of 122 people, compared to 93 in 2023.

Beyond Sundays, Messy Church continued to welcome and offer a different format of church for families each month on a Saturday (thanks to the hard-working team), and our toddlers groups met each week in term-time: on Tuesdays at Herne and Fridays in St Peter's. Now both toddler groups are called "Little Fishes"; we look forward to celebrating 50 years of the toddler group in Herne in 2025. At St Peter's, the weekly Tuesday morning café welcomed the community in for refreshments and a chat – as well as the excitement of the raffle.

The PCC had an away day in November, which was an opportunity to reflect and pray on what good things were going on in the parish and what we might like to build on. The theme was "looking at the garden with God", and we thought about our ministry and mission through this metaphor: what things were growing well, what might need some nurturing, what may perhaps need pruning, how do we look after the gardeners? This has informed our mission action planning process, where we are continuing into 2025 to build a clear vision for the future, and we invite you to support that with your prayers and participation, as well as financial support to enable plans to come to fruition and to grow the church numerically and spiritually. We plan to have a vision for growth that you are invited to buy into ready for later in 2025.

Our school's ministry is a real strength, with close relationships between St Martin's and the infant and junior schools in Herne. It was good to welcome both schools into the church for special services throughout the year, and to offer the space for the Red Zebra drop-in to give support and advice to parents. Collective Worship has been led by members from the church as well as visiting clergy in the interregnum, and since September I have been able to share this with Deborah. After taking up post here, I have been able to establish links with the newly renamed Thornden Wood School in Greenhill and led assemblies there, as well as having been invited at the end of 2024 to explore a Governor role at Herne Bay High School (which I have taken up in 2025). Alongside a number of dedicated members of our church community, I serve as a Governor of Herne Infant and Herne Junior School. Lots of work has been done in both schools in partnership with the church preparing ready for SIAMS (the inspection framework for Church of England and Methodist schools in England) that took place in 2025.

We have seen many celebrations of special life events at St Martin's over 2024, with 18 baptisms, 4 weddings and 5 funeral services.

Our church family has seen 12 adults and 2 children recorded as joining the worshipping community in 2024 (compared to 8 adults and 2 children in 2023), however we have been pleased to see many familiar and new faces at services in the latter part of the year as people have come back to the church.

What a great year in the life of St Martin's and St Peter's, and the communities we serve, and we look forward to so much more to come in 2025.

With blessings



*Revd Chris Carnaby-Denyer
March 2025*

REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES 2024

The Church wardens APCM report for 2024

Have you heard? We've got a new Vicar! (Not too much exuberant cheering please, because we still have a job to do.) – Technically his correct title is Priest in Charge of course.

Yes, it's true. Our vacancy is over, we have survived pretty well, and now we are beginning to get to know Revd. Chris, to learn his ways and to look forward to his enthusiastic and insightful new ideas.

In referring to the end of the vacancy (back in July, in case anyone hadn't noticed), it is important that we pay tribute to all those people who had any part in keeping things going. There are far too many to name, but we acknowledge everyone who helped in any way to maintain 'church' as close to normal as possible. That said however, we must not rest on our laurels. Since Revd. Chris arrived, we have seen increasing numbers of people attending church, which is encouraging (and on looking at the church registers around Christmas, there was a period of three days when, including our two Schools, well over 1000 people came through the church doors), but having more people means we can spread the load. I therefore commend Revd. Chris' 'Job Vacancies' leaflet to everyone. It doesn't matter how small the task, your help counts, so offer up a little prayer, and as Isaiah said, say 'Here I am Lord, send me!'

Since July, when Revd. Chris arrived, we have begun to get to know him, we have seen a few new initiatives – the return of the 8.00 service to Communion every week, the return of the Mid-Week Communion on Wednesdays, a re-vitalising of the monthly service at St. Peters (where attendance has also increased). There is more to come, and I repeat my remarks from a few weeks ago, when I referred to the words of the late David Watson 'For what has been, thank you, and for what is to come – Yes Please!

Unfortunately, this past year has not been all good news. As can be seen from Sheila Gough's Financial Report, we are not in the best state of health, partly because of the cost of maintaining the ancient building where we come together each week, the cost of heating and lighting, and the ever-increasing amount we have to pay to the diocese. While many of us perhaps do not understand our financial obligations, we must commend Sheila for her work over a good many years.

In mentioning the cost of maintenance, I should say something about the Fabric Committee which operates under the guidance of Priscilla Cox. Formally the Churchwardens have the care of the Church's fabric as part of their authority from the Bishop, but the work of this committee should be recognised, as they face a constant battle with repairs to the structure of the buildings, the churchyard. It never fails to surprise me that we achieve as much as we do through 'I know a man who can.....(*assist with whatever the task is, often at minimal cost to the church*). There are times when we have to go through the proper authorities, such as recently, when we were required to have our 5-yearly (or Quinquennial) inspection by the Architect, the results of which could impact our finances from now until the next report is due in 2029, as we works through the repairs identified. The Fabric Committee report will tell us more.

And so, to conclude the Churchwardens report, I say again, thank you for all you do for St. Martin's and St. Peter's. Please carry on doing it, and try to encourage a few more to join you. As we look forward to Revd. Chris' developing ministry in our busy and growing parish, pray for him, encourage

him, and travel the journey of faith with him, remembering some words from the old hymn, 'Loving Shepherd of thy sheep.' – 'Where thou leadest, I would go.'

Chris Exley & Priscilla Cox
Churchwardens March 2025

NB the churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church is given by the Fabric Committee and acknowledged as such.

Report from the Electoral Roll Secretary as at 31 December 2024

At the APCM in April 2024 there were 92 members on the electoral Roll. As at December 31 2024 we had 89 members on the roll as three had left the parish. No complete revision had taken place.

The numbers on the roll following the January 2025 complete re-writing/republication of the roll will be given orally at the APCM and that will determine the number of PCC representatives to be elected.

*Andrew Gough, Electoral Roll Secretary
March 2025*

An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during 2024

Andrew Gough continued to act as PCC secretary for the year.

There have been seven meetings during the year all being face-to-face meetings. We missed a meeting in March 2024 as this was delayed to April to finalise the arrangements for the APCM due to be held that month. Meetings in July and August were postponed to enable Revd Chris to review PCC meetings during the remainder of the year

There is guidance for the conduct of online and if votes are taken, then those voting must be present at the on line the meeting itself. On line Zoom meetings are usually recorded with the consent of the participants. The recording is expunged once the minutes have been approved at a PCC meeting.

Also, emergency business has been conducted online by on line correspondence. This is again permitted pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020 (now 2024).

The PCC has continued to conduct its business efficiently and thanks must go to all PCC Members. They always read the agenda and supporting documents (or so they tell the PCC Secretary) and debate all issues with much consideration, politely and with good humour. We prefer face to face meetings as this enables debate to be undertaken fully and we usually have cake at the refreshment break which is much appreciated!

All minutes (unless confidential) are available for inspection from the PCC secretary.

The following is a summary of the principal business conducted

1. Overseeing the recruitment process for the new incumbent and the interview process and the licensing service
2. Continuing to review and approve the work of the Fabric Committee especially the potholes in the car parking spaces at St Martins and car parking at St Peter's Church (see separate report).
3. Arranging the quinquennial survey inspection of St Martin's Church
4. Formally appointing PC Lemon LLP as the independent examiner for the annual accounts
5. Approving the 2023 accounts (the 2024 accounts are approved at a PCC meeting in March 2025 for presentation to the APCM in 2025)
6. Considering the arrangements for the APCM in April 2024 (arrangements for the 2025 APCM are finalised in February/March 2025)
7. Following the October 2019 APCM resolution to give the PCC authority to arrange postal voting at an APCM the PCC resolved not to adopt postal voting at the APCM in 2024 (a discretion that was permitted by the APCM resolution).
8. Reviewing, at the May PCC meeting, the minutes of the APCM on 21st April 2024 which were considered to be accurate and confirming that these could be submitted to the annual meeting in April 2025 for approval
9. Agreeing the appointment of all church officers and the appointment of chairpersons to the various committees
10. Pledged Harvest collection to the work of Catching Lives (for the homeless in Canterbury) and the local food bank.
11. Arranging a PCC away day to reflect on the role of the PCC and a strategy for the church
12. Agreeing to open St Martin's church to the public at given times if possible
13. Resolving that the collection from the Carol Service around the yew tree would be for Porchlight and that from the Christingle Service to go to the Children's Society. All other collections for the church funds generally
14. Receiving safeguarding reports from Anne Ackland as safeguarding officer. See resolution and further declaration below.
15. Receiving updates on the church schools
16. Approving a revised welcome pack to be given to new residents at the new estates
17. Discussing potential repairs to the Church Organ, costings and alternatives to the pipe organ. Agreeing an immediate repair.
18. Passing the following formal resolutions
 - a. Accepting the appointment of Anne Ackland as the new safeguarding officer and to apply the approved parish safeguarding statement (July 2024)
 - b. Approving the appointment of sides persons to assist at church services
 - c. Appointing Andrew Gough as a Foundation Governor to Herne Church of England Junior School

The PCC confirms that it has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 with regard to its duty to follow the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Statement is available for inspection and is on the Church website. There is a separate report on safeguarding.

Andrew Gough, PCC Secretary
February 2025

Financial Review for 2024

These accounts are prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis.

Please see the annexe with the detailed Financial Statements.

Some points to note: -

1. We received a legacy of £40,000 from the Estate of the late Lydia Quilty.
2. There was an increase in our planned giving of £444.
3. Collections at services saw a slight increase of £19.
4. Gift aid recovered was down on last year, but this figure does not include the Gift Aid received for December 2024.
5. Voluntary receipts increased by £9,948 this increase is due to an anonymous donation of £10,000.
6. Fund raising events last year included, Community Funday which made a profit of £2,728
7. Wine & Wisdom made a profit of £847.
8. Christmas Fair made a profit of £706 and the Christmas Tree Festival raised £267

Both St Martin's and St Peter's halls continue to pay their way and the income from St Martin's Hall helps us to contribute towards the Parish Share.

With regard to expenses, we were able to pay our Parish Share in full but only by using £27,301 from our reserves and a further £16,154 from the hall account. We still have outstanding Parish Share of £43,215 for the years 2017/18 and 21.

Direct Ministry expenses increased by £541.

Church running expenses saw an increase in our insurance premium but a decrease in our utilities.

We paid for the repairs to the church organ and funds of £14,244 came from our reserve account to enable that repair to take place.

The net result for the year saw a small surplus of £102 on unrestricted funds.

The interest earned on our CCLA investments over the year amounted to £7,023.

I would like to thank Andrew Gough for continuing to administer the Gift Aid emoluments (including making the claim for rebate of tax); his help is invaluable to me.

Reserves Policy

We do not currently have a reserves policy. This means keeping a certain amount of funds in the bank account ring fenced to cover emergency situations for particular projects or future work. We do however have a CCLA Reserves account which currently has a balance of £91,524.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

*Sheila Gough, Treasurer
March 2025*

Report from the Fabric Committee for 2024 on the condition of the church buildings

This forms the Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric of the Church Buildings pursuant to section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018

The Fabric Committee has continued to meet regularly and plan and discuss concerns with the fabric at St. Martin's, St Peter's and the Herne church hall. Many items are of regular maintenance such as everyday repairs and clearing of gutters. We are extremely fortunate to have a number of members of the congregation who are able to competently carry out many of these tasks and save us from having to engage local contractors.

A number of projects that we hoped to complete during the year were delayed due to poor weather conditions, and with any large projects we are mindful of the costs, and the shortage of available funds.

Tasks that were completed included the easing of outside doors and repairs to some guttering at St Martin's, and also the relaying of some flagstones that had been lifted by tree roots. A drone inspection of the roof was carried out and any areas of concern noted. Some potholes outside the lychgate were repaired to prevent accidents to cars and pedestrians. An excellent handrail was attached to the door on the screen between the Lady Chapel and the chancel.

On-going projects at St. Martins include the possibility of extending the hearing loop and the speaker system to cover the chancel and the back of the nave, improvements to storage, and the security of a garden shed and storage of mowers etc. The current shed has been painted with anti-vandal paint to deter intruders.

At St Peter's Steve King, the caretaker, continues to carry out minor repairs and maintain the grounds, and members of the fabric committee helped cut back overgrown trees in the land beside the church. The uneven state of the drive has caused concern and it is hoped that raking the gravel will help ease the problem. The children's slide was dismantled and repaired. Cupboards will be built in the meeting room beside the kitchen to improve storage and to help tidy the vestry.

A quinquennial inspection of St. Martin's in the autumn and the architect's report will help determine the projects that need to be addressed in the near future.

Priscilla Cox (and for churchwarden Chris Exley)
13th March 2025

A Report on the 2024 proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Members of the deanery met in February and firstly considered the function of the deanery and the format of future meetings. Meetings provide an opportunity for members to get to know others better and to share issues of particular concern in their parishes. Some meetings will be closed to elected members only while others will offer an open invitation to people to join to listen to speakers or join in discussion and share initiatives. In February discussion was still taking place about the appointment of a new incumbent to our parish. Members of the Deanery Mission and Ministry Committee (DMMC) were concerned that they had not been included in some discussions. Nearly all churches in the deanery struggle to pay their parish share, which is calculated in part according to

the number of paid clergy in the deanery. The DMMC tabled a motion for diocesan synod stating that deaneries need to be consulted before clergy appointments are made in that deanery.

At the meeting in June Revd. Lindsey Yates, Generous Giving Adviser for the diocese, shared ideas and advice about encouraging generous giving stressing that giving blesses the donor as well as the recipient, and should be central to everything.

In September members of the deanery were invited to join evensong in the cathedral, and refreshments in the Chapter House after the service provided an opportunity to meet together. Also, in September a deanery roadshow lead by the archdeacon and Bishop Rose visited Herne Bay and considered ways of reaching out to people and furthering the mission of the church. The diocese's target is 'Three Bold Outcomes' - for every church to show signs of revitalisation, to double the number of children and young people, and for 200 new Christian communities to be established. We were encouraged to do a few things well and to let everyone know our priorities.

The meeting in October began with an explanation of the Week of Accompanied Prayer initiative when church members commit to spending time in prayer during a particular week, with spiritual help from visiting mentors. The meeting also included a discussion on our churches' progress with work on the Three Bold Outcomes. At each meeting eco-church has been an item, sharing ideas, and in October we saw a short film about an eco-church in Norfolk. Safeguarding has also been an important item at meetings with advice on training, and the need for a national audit for which all churches will be checked.

Priscilla Cox and Deborah Waller Deanery representatives
March 2025

GENERAL REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

There is no report specifically on communications and publicity but during the year much has devolved to communications on line and the third edition of the church directory has proved invaluable.

August Activity Days

The activity days this year were a great success. Although quieter than usual this year, we welcomed lots of families for all or part of the days and we provided a wide range of activities suitable for a broad range of guests. These days were initially designed to capture and help families that struggle with the cost of entertaining their young families in an entertaining and safe way for 6 weeks over the summer holidays, and to ease the loneliness and parenting pressure for the carers over this break. It was clear that this was still a valid facility that still met these criteria and was enjoyed by all.

These days take a large commitment from our congregation both in planning as well as in volunteering for the days to make the facility a success, and I cannot thank you all enough for stepping forward to help with crafts, bouncy castle, refreshments and all of the other jobs that you so wonderfully engaged in to offer such a positive environment for our families over the summer break. You are amazing, thank you!

*Sarah Bingham
March 2025*

Bellringers Report for 2024

The bells are rung on Sunday for services, usually starting at 9.30am and for other additional services during the year, including Christmas Midnight Communion. We joined other towers across the country ringing for the D Day anniversary service on the 6th June 2024 at 6.30pm and for the Deanery Confirmation service that evening.

We rang for the licensing of the Revd. Chris Carnaby-Denyer to the parish on the 30th July 2024 to welcome him and his family. The ringers were very pleased that he came to visit us at our practice the following evening and for his subsequent visits (especially his Christmas visit when he brought chocolates, a lovely surprise).

The ringers practice on Wednesday evenings, when we ring a variety of methods in addition to rounds and call changes. Visiting ringers come to join us while on holiday and we regularly have ringers from other towers in East Kent at practices each week, including a number of ringers who live in Herne Bay but ring at other towers on Sundays (their Sunday morning service ringing times are the same as ours). Our newest recruit is now ringing regularly for services and weddings, and is learning method ringing, starting with plain hunt.

The bells were rung for weddings during the year (in March 2024, June 2024, and August 2024) 2024

The ringers continue to attend meetings of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers which are held on the second Saturday of each month, and District practices, also usually held on a Saturday. We hosted a Surprise Major practice on Saturday 19th October 2024,

which was well attended and successful. Most of our ringers are members of the KCACR. Another member of our band was elected as a member this year. Members of our band ring regularly at local towers including Chislet and often join ringers at Sturry and Birchington.

A visiting band of ringers from St Margaret's, Rochester rang at St Martin's on Saturday 26th October 2024 during their ringing outing to towers in the area. Many of the ringers, and non-ringing friends and family who were on the outing with them were interested in the history of the church and bells. All the visiting ringers enjoyed their ring as our bells are a very fine ring of eight bells. Other ringing has included a quarter peal (ringing continuously for 45 minutes for 1260 different orders of the bells) in August 2024.

The ringers welcome anyone who is interested in learning about ringing or who wants to learn to ring to come and visit us in the tower

Susan and Keith Record

March 2025

Children's and Sunday School report for 2024

Children have continued to be welcomed at every Sunday service with shared table activities on the first and third Sundays, at St. Martin's and St. Peter's churches respectively. These have ranged from single poster type of words and pictures (usually displayed on the church display boards afterwards) to individual items such as puppets which may be taken home. All the activities are linked with the lectionary and/or theme for the service by regular communication with those leading the services. Grateful thanks to Shirley Frost and her creativity in organising these activities and providing the resources with support from Anne Post.

On the second and fourth Sundays and occasional fifth Sundays during term-time children are welcomed to the Ridley Room where they follow the ROOTs programme of learning which is again linked with the lectionary and service patterns throughout the church year. Anne Post supported by Shirley Frost continue in the leadership of these sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie Wraight for all of his past support in these sessions and offer prayerful support for him as he takes a break from this role.

Each Sunday service has a regular slot before the final hymn or song where the children are invited to come out to the front of the church and share their learning, this may involve explaining what they have learnt to the congregation or just simply demonstrating their creations after which the youngsters lead the congregation in a short appropriate prayer. On some Sundays, children also join whoever is leading worship during the reflection. The children's presence always brings great pleasure and often some very interesting comments are made which provide worshippers with a chance for an alternative reflection. We are all very inspired by the families who take part and grateful for their encouragement of the children that they bring along and pleased to see a number of new faces.

Deborah Waller

March 2024

The Choir Report for 2024

The choir has continued to sing for Sunday morning services, and for additional services. These included an Evening service for Candlemas on Sunday 4th February 2024, Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The deanery Confirmation service was on Thursday 6th June 2024 and there was an evening service on Sunday 16th June 2024.

The Licensing service for Revd. Chris Carnaby-Denyer and his family was on Tuesday 30th July 2024. There was an evening Harvest service on Sunday 6th October 2024 again with hymns, anthems and readings.

The choir sang at weddings at St Martin's church during the year (in March, June and August September 2024). The choir also sang at funerals (in February and March 2024).

The Remembrance Sunday service in St Martin's church included hymns and an anthem followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard.

The Memorial carol service was at the beginning of December 2024, including well known carols (with descants) and the choir sang Christmas anthems whilst stars were placed on the Christmas tree.

The choir sang carols, with descants, at the Nine Lessons and Carols service, and anthems which included a new setting of "In the bleak mid-winter" composed by Chris Exley. Christmas anthems were sung on Christmas Eve during Communion, together with Christmas carols.

One of our longstanding choir members moved away to be with her family during the year and she is missed. Other choir members have joined (or rejoined) during the year and an additional singer has joined for some services when he can. Any singers, or those who would like to learn are most welcome to come along.

Choir practices are on Thursday evenings in St Martin's church/ The choir has again put in much time and effort learning new pieces and rehearsing anthems in the repertoire to sing during services, including pieces composed by, or arranged by, our "in house" composer and arranger. Teams including choir members, with friends

*Susan Record
March 2025*

The Churchyard Team report for 2024

The Church yard gardening team have been working very hard on maintenance of the Church yard for both nature and all the humans that use it.

Our dead hedge at the back of the churchyard is now home to a family of hedgehogs as well as thousands of insects and mini beasts.

We keep adding to our hedge every time we weed or prune back.

We are creating another longer hedge to divide the public right of way footpath and the churchyard as well and this is blending in with its surroundings.

We now feel that we are nearly on top of everything and not chasing our tails each time.

This coming year we will be looking at clearing the brambles around the grave stones that are near the back of the churchyard and making them more accessible, but this is a huge task and may take a couple of years to complete, so please bare with us.

There is always lots to do and at the beginning of the year we spend all our time preparing and clearing for when everything blooms in the Spring and Summer. We're getting there and our little team are always looking for more helpers.

If you would like to join us please contact Claire at claire.stay@mac.com

We meet the first Saturday and the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except January because it's just too cold) from 10am-noon.

Whatever you can do will be perfect.

The extra incentive for coming on Saturday is that we stop for a short while to have a hot drink and cake.

Don't forget your thermals, wellybobs, waterproofs (especially during the winter months) and any basic tools like a trowel and fork, whatever you have.

No experience necessary.

A huge thank you to everyone who helps it's greatly appreciated.

*Clair Stay, Churchyard team
February 2025*

Community Café

Community Café has met at St Peter's every Tuesday morning throughout the year. A loyal group of people enjoy coming together to chat and share their news and views. The Community Warden is a regular visitor and is available to hear any local issues that concern people, and there have been occasional visits from the local policeman who has special responsibility for Greenhill. Everyone is pleased that Revd. Chris is also able to join us once a fortnight. At Christmas time we all enjoyed having lunch together in The Heron in Station Road.

*Priscilla Cox
March 2025*

The Flower Arrangers report for 2024

This past year we have managed to have floral displays in church and for the main events of Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas keeping costs as low as we can. We were not called upon for any flowers for the weddings that took place.

We are sadly getting fewer and age and illness is catching up with us all. I have a couple of ladies who help out when they can but we could do with some more willing hands.

*Liz Sellen, Flower arranger
February 2025*

Gift Aid Matters for 2024

Gift Aid continues to be a very helpful contribution to the church finances. Pay your income tax and the Church can get a 25% bonus on any donations that you make. As at the 31st December 2024 we still had 41 parties who have each made a Gift Aid declaration and also pledged their payments. Regrettably this has significantly decreased from 2022 when we had 54 gift aid pledges. If you are a UK tax payer then you can usually qualify and this is achieved simply by signing a declaration form which either myself or the treasurer can provide. We can claim Gift Aid on standing orders and planned giving. In addition, there are the individual donations made via the Gift Aid Envelope

Scheme which are given at collections taken at our services throughout the year. If you are lucky enough to be a higher rate tax payer in all cases you can even claim an extra rebate in your tax return.

Our treasurer records receipts for the month in which the payment is made. For the year ending 31 December 2024, St Martins reclaimed £7,429.00 from all sources, which is lower than last year. This sum includes repayments from the Gift Aid returns for December 2023 (credited in January 2024). The sums from December 2024 are credited in January 2025 and will be shown in the 2025 accounts.

These sums include payments derived from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS for short). General money received in our church collection plates or by the bank card reader can qualify. Also, if you originally pledged your giving using the coloured weekly envelopes but are not a tax payer then I can count your weekly donation as part of GASDS and get more money that way. There is a GASDS limit of £8,000 which can be claimed in any tax year by any charity. Since June 2023 we have dispensed with the weekly envelopes except for the one-off gift Aid donations.

Please remember there are tokens that you can put into the church plate as evidence that you are giving. Donations can still be made in the plate. Also, we have a card reader.

Regular church goers will know that a decision was made in August 2022 to register the church with the central Parish Giving Scheme. This requires pledged payments to be paid by members of the congregation direct to the PGS administration (a separate charity) rather than our church bank account. It is easy to set up and you can do so on line, by telephone or a postal application. If you require help, please speak to me or Sheila Gough.

PGS then claims the Gift Aid and pays monthly all payments (that is the donation and the claimed Gift Aid) to our bank account. However, PGS works independently from the Canterbury Diocese. The Diocese withdrew its Gift Aid administration from April 2023 and I continue to make separate Gift Aid claims for those donations paid direct to our church account. Actually, this has proved less onerous than I had expected and HMRC make payment very quickly. So, having two means of paying pledged sums is not a problem.

Individual donations given in the plate, card reader or by separate Gift Aid envelopes (which are still available) are the subject of separate direct claims to HMRC which I make at the same time.

As a tax payer, Gift Aid is a bonus to the Church and provided that you do pay the tax there is no downside from your point of view. Remember; if you cease to be a tax payer or move address or change your name, please let me know immediately. I have to inform HMRC or PGS.

*Andrew Gough, Gift Aid Secretary
February 2025*

Herne Community Fun Day

This event went ahead this year without the parish council as they decided that they did not have the resources to join in this year. Despite it now only being run by the church this was a very successful and engaging event with everything happening as it had always done and the volunteers from the church stepping up on the whole to support the day.

We have committed to doing this event again this year as this is a great outreach opportunity as well as funding opportunity for the church and we need YOU to step forward and help if you can.

I could do with some help gathering raffle prizes, securing sponsorship, preparing the games, moving furniture, etc. but most importantly running stalls on the day! The games on each stall will be provided for you, so we just need smiley fun faces to meet and engage with our local community to make our church seen in the local community as a people of God that they might like to join!

I cannot do this day without you!! So, if you have helped, THANK YOU!! And if you have not so far, PLEASE get involved this year, we NEED you!

This year's date is Sunday 13th July and we run from 11-4pm

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

*Sarah Bingham
March 2025*

House Group Report for 2024

Our house group restarted in 2024 via Zoom after a break of about a year, during which time I was busy with our Ukrainian guests.

We continue with the same group of 7 and meet not very regularly, but when time allows, choosing a date that all or at least a majority can attend.

We use studies from Faith and Worship, most written by John Birch who in addition to his studies for small groups, has published several books of prayers.

We recently studied "Jonah the Reluctant Prophet" and are now working on "The Incredible Journey," a five-part discipleship study. We are a very cohesive group, and finish our meeting with prayers for one another.

*Sheila Bennett
March 2025*

Little Fishes Report for 2024

Friday little Fishes continues to meet regularly every Friday morning during term time, 9.30 – 11.30 at St. Peter's Church, Greenhill. We provide a wide range of toys suitable for babies and up to school age. The toys are rotated from week to week and include a dolls house, an indoor slide/climbing frame, a ball pool and a lovely rocking horse, plus many ride on toys and push or pull along items.

Refreshments are provided for adults and children, and the toast with butter, jam or honey is very popular. We have a low table and small chairs for the children to sit around while they eat, so that they begin to learn how to behave at a table with others for meals. They also begin to learn how to ask politely for what they would like with please and thank you.

When the weather is fine, we make use of the large grassy area behind St. Peters with its slide and sand pit. On these days the children can run in and out as they choose.

Anne Post organises a different craft for each Friday, usually designing something the children can take home. Deborah Waller spends time helping with all aspects of Little Fishes, especially the vital

task of packing the toys back into the cupboards afterwards. We have been very fortunate to have the invaluable help of Lauren Heathcote for many months while she was seeking full time employment. We will be very sorry to lose Lauren when she begins her new venture from 18th March.

John Bennett helps with many aspects of the morning and is very popular among the children who enjoy sitting with him while he reads stories.

The parents/grandparents/childminders and children all enthusiastically assist with the clearing up of toys towards the end of the session, after which we sit and sing nursery rhymes, then join in a circle for our final songs including a sung prayer thanking God for our families, friends and for our time at Little Fishes.

We have many people to thank for their help including Rev. Chris who comes whenever his time allows, Steve who kindly gets the hall ready for us, and the members of our congregation who help us out when a stand-in is needed.

When Lauren can no longer help us, we would very much like to have an additional volunteer to help on Fridays. It is a fun morning, and if you like to spend time with small children, I am sure it would be an enjoyable experience.

*Sheila Bennett
March 2025*

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to thrive although numbers have been down a little over the last few months. We are delighted to welcome families back month after month and have a very regular congregation for this monthly church offering. If you have never been, I urge you to pop along and see the great work that this service offering does for our younger congregants.

We are able to offer a delicious two course, home cooked meal every month thanks to all those who so willingly prepare and donate the food. It is wonderful that we have so many volunteers. So, thank you very much to Sally and Ian who turn up every month. Thank you also to Dot, Vanessa, Sheila B, Joan, Lisa, Anne, Sheila G, Linda, Hilary, Jenny, Priscilla, Leah, Mary, Pete, Helen, Yamit and Wendy. We really couldn't manage without you all.

If anyone else would like to join our team of cooks please let Carolyn know. You would probably only be asked about three times a year. The food is collected from your door and the clean dish returned at the end so you don't need to turn up!

*Sarah Bingham
March 2025*

Pastoral Report 2024

Revd. Chris's arrival led to a revival of pastoral visiting with Home Communion and visits to the Residential Homes in our Parish - Herne Place, Broomfield Lodge and High Pines. There have been regular monthly services of Communion at Broomfield Lodge and twice-monthly services at Herne Place. These services are greatly enjoyed by all residents and allow good opportunities for

conversation and fellowship. Home Communion continues to be delivered, particularly by Sheila Gough who also supports Revd. Chris along with Anne Ackland and myself with pastoral duties.

I would like to record huge thanks to Liza Seed for her years of generous commitment to the Pastoral team now that she has retired to live closer to her family.

*Deborah Waller
March 2025*

Safeguarding Report 2024

At St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill, we are fully committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment to all, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is at the heart of our mission, reflecting our Christian values of love, care, and respect.

We recognize our responsibility to protect those in our care and to create a culture where everyone feels safe, valued, and heard.

Our safeguarding policies and procedures are in place to ensure all volunteers understand their roles in keeping people safe.

We follow safeguarding guidelines from the Diocese, conduct appropriate background checks and access training to ensure best practices are upheld.

Safeguarding is not just the responsibility of a few – it is a shared commitment that requires the vigilance of the entire church community. We encourage everyone to speak up if they have concerns all of which would be taken seriously.

I am pleased to report that there have been no issues of concern during the year.

*Anne Ackland Safeguarding officer for Children and Vulnerable Adults
March 2025*

Schools Report

Our ministry to our Herne Church of England Infant and Junior Schools continued to grow and is highly valued. Six members of the congregation are governors to the Junior School and four sit on the board of governors for the Infants School. So, the relationship between Herne Church and Schools becomes ever stronger.

Since September 2024 Revd Chris has led worship at both the Infants and the Junior School. During 2024 Andrew Gough, as governor at the Junior School, has given a full school worship once a term at Herne Juniors whilst Deborah Waller, as Lay Reader and governor at the Infant's School, has led whole school worship at both the schools as well as contributing to a joint worship between the two schools. The appointment of a new teacher at Herne Infants who leads worship has led to improved liaison between the two schools and the church with a range of further worships

There have been a number of Herne School Services in St Martins, with a total of five services being led and organised by the Juniors and one by the Infants. Both schools attended the Remembrance Sunday service and at that service placed poppies around the War memorial.

On three Sundays in 2024, we were joined by Herne Junior school Worship Leaders who helped lead a Morning Worship with Deborah, along with a choir. It is hoped to continue building on this practice and to encourage the children and their parents to attend Sunday worship more regularly.

Great credit must be paid to the Senior Leadership teams and all the staff and the governors at the schools who work tirelessly and with great skill and vision to provide such an excellent education for the children. Several of the governors are active contributors to the SIAMS curriculum at both schools.³

In the early part of 2024, there was no ministry provided to Herne Bay High School. It is understood that there has been some involvement by Christ Church Herne Bay even though the school is actually in the Herne parish. Revd Chris is now a governor at the High School and there are planned initiatives to improve mission and pastoral outreach in 2025

Also, no ministry was provided to Briary School (now Thornden Wood School) in the first half of 2024. However, following the appointment of Revd Chris he has worked with the head teacher and links have now developed.

Both schools have been confirmed as Ofsted Outstanding (the inspection for the Junior school being completed in late 2023)

*Deborah Waller and Andrew Gough as Foundation Governors
March 2025*

Herne Church Hall also known as the St. Martin's Church (Institute) hall

The hall currently has 16 regular weekly, twice-weekly, and monthly bookings during the week-days. These maintain a regular income for the upkeep of the hall. Weekends are kept for children's parties, Quiz Nights, Wine & Wisdoms and fun raising events for the church and these local groups. The average is 10 parties a month and at least 2 or 3 fund raising events.

The main groups are dance and fitness groups. We also have Rubber Biscuit using the hall occasionally for band practice. The Herne WI Group have relocated to St. Peters Hall in Greenhill and now called Herne Drive WI. They wanted an afternoon session but unfortunately there were no spaces available in the afternoons.

We also have ad hoc bookings for Tuition Classes and Playgroup end of year gatherings before the children go to 'big school'

The hall is cleaned and maintained by Steve King and we do ask users to leave it clean & tidy in the hope the previous Booking has left it as it should be.

*Wendy Dinley Hall Booking Secretary
February 2025*

St. Martin's Church Readers & Intercessors

Since the arrival of Revd. Chris, I now have regular updates of the ministry Schedule for me to compile the readings, I then add names to the readings and people to do Intercessions.

³ As an update, in January 2025 the Infants school had a very successful SIAMS inspection

I produce the Readers Rota every four months and you get to read two or three times in that period. I currently have 12 regular Readers and Intercessors and would appreciate more volunteers, so if you have ever wondered when listening to the readers every Sunday, how do they get to do that, I'd like to try it then please give you name to Revd. Chris or myself.

*Wendy Dinley St. Martin's Readers
February 2025*

St. Martin's Servers and Chalice bearers 2024

I have been privileged to act as the server at Holy Communion. I am often the chalice bearer although Leah Willey and Sheila Gough act in my absence. Since January 2023 wine has been offered separately but Revd. Chris has re-introduced the intinction of the wafer.

My thanks go to, Leah, Sheila and Deborah Waller who assist in offering the chalice and to the churchwardens who lay out the altar table if I am absent. Also, thanks to Roger Jackson who administers the chalice at the Sunday 8am communion service

If anybody else would like to come forward and offer to serve at the altar I would be very grateful to hear from them.

*Andrew Gough, Sacristan
February 2025*

Tuesday Toddler Report 2024

Where else other than a toddler group would you find... a daddy with a fried egg (plastic) on his lap a grandad covered in grass to make him look like a scarecrow, a mummy nursing a sick baby doll, or a cross-eyed Easter chick! Well, we've had it all at Tuesday Little Fishes; our little ones never cease to amaze us with their creativity and sense of adventure.

We had a peaceful first term when we welcomed Margaryta and her baby son Mark from Ukraine. We also had Ellie join us for a few weeks' work experience before she went on to secure a job as a classroom assistant in a local primary school. Our spring clothes swap was a success with families swapping or donating mainly babies' and toddlers' clothes.

Our regular outing in May to The Jungle, Quex Park was once again appreciated by all who attended; in fact, one of the grandads said: "That was*****marvellous!"

29 families made up of mums, dads, grandparents, and child minders attended. The 34 children who came were treated to a buffet lunch laid on by the centre.

Our Teddy Bears' Picnic and Sports Day had to be postponed because of wet weather but we did manage to fit it in on one of the rare sunny days in the summer term. Each child went home with a lovely hand knitted teddy, most of which were knitted by Theresa.

Our Leavers' special on the last day of term saw 8 children moving on to school or to other settings. Each one received a copy of "My Very First Bible" and a Christian coaster for their family. The parents of the children leaving gave us some lovely cards with very encouraging messages which we really appreciated...

The children loved it and looked forward to it each week, it gave us a chance to have a warm cup of tea (and a cheeky biscuit) and speak with like-minded people.

You and all the volunteers were always so welcoming, kind and helpful. I can't thank you all enough for the support you showed us over the past six years, thank you again xxx

The staff team reconvened on 3rd September to clean the toys and throw some out and we resumed for the autumn term on 10th September.

After much thought we decided that on this our 50th anniversary year we would change the name of our group from Tuesday Toddlers (which didn't really link us to the church) to Tuesday Little Fishes. This also links us to Friday Little Fishes.

The events of the final term of the year followed our usual pattern, including our Harvest Festival, Grandparents' Special, a particularly popular Toy Swap in November and our two Christmas parties with visits from Father Christmas.

Our weekly booking emails which include general church news, currently go out to 91 families. Around 30 of these families are regular attendees.

It is always so important to mention the special people who have helped us so much throughout the year. The regular staff Theresa, Val, Fran and Carolyn would like to thank:

Roger Jackson for mowing the lawn so we can make good use of the outside space.

Anne Ackland for being our regular 'supply' cover.

Doug and Peter for sporting big white fluffy beards in December.

Grandparents Donna, Geoff, Clare, Jacquie and Mick for helping week by week with packing away the toys, tables and chairs.

*Carolyn Thomas
February 2025*

Worship Band

This year has been an amazing development year for the band and I feel that the congregation are really starting to enjoy and engage in the offering that the band brings to worship at both of the churches. We were delighted to be joined this year by both Derek who is a fabulous drummer and Michelle who is a great asset to vocals. Both are amazing additions to the sound that we can bring to the services. Paul, Jack and Fiona continue with faultless commitment too, to ensure that as a team we are delivering the best quality sound lead that we can, to ensure that the congregation can learn new material as well as enjoy older favourites and worship in a contemporary way.

Thank you to all in the congregation for your enthusiasm and positivity. Please remember to ask if you have a song that you would like us to try and we will do our best to learn them.

*Sarah Bingham
March 2025*

ANNEXE: THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1ST JANUARY 2024 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Independently examined by P G Lemon LLP

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

GENERAL FUND

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	2023 £
Receipts and Payments Account				
RECEIPTS	1			
Voluntary Receipts				
Planned Giving		33,931	33,931	33,487
Collections at Services		4,800	4,800	4,819
Gift Aid and other voluntary receipts		21,567	21,567	11,616
Gift Aid Recovered		7,429	7,429	9,487
Legacy		40,000	40,000	500
Activities for Generating Funds		7,003	7,003	4,968
Church Activities - St Martins		8,261	8,261	11,894
Income Received for St Martins Hall		2,154	2,154	0
Church Activities - St Peters		13,321	13,321	12,109
Funds Transferred from CCLA accounts		42,938	42,938	27,745
Funds transferred from Hall A/C		14,000	14,000	12,386
Receipts		195,403	195,403	129,011
TOTAL RECEIPTS		195,403	195,403	129,011
PAYMENTS	2			
Church Activities				
Parish Share		80,329	80,329	74,314
Clergy and Staffing Costs		7,060	7,060	7,601
Church Running Expenses		35,902	35,902	29,481
Occasional Office Expenditure		3,663	3,663	7,241
Mission giving and donations		1,542	1,542	1,998
Fundraising		1,322	1,322	1,808
Church Hall - St Martins		3,855	3,855	2,154
Church Hall - St Peters		11,299	11,299	12,098
Transferred to Investment Accounts		50,000	50,000	0
Vicars Discretionary Trust		25	25	250
Bank Charges		304	304	273

Payments	195,301	195,301	137,217
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TOTAL PAYMENTS	195,301	195,301	137,217
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Surplus/Deficit	102	(8,206)
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Cash at Bank and in hand 1st January	4,299	12,505
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Cash at Bank and in hand 31st December (Lloyds Bank and Santander)	4,401	4,299
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Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	2023 £
<u>St Martin's Church Hall</u>				
Income				
Hall Lettings		16,040	16,040	13,285
TOTAL RECEIPTS		16,040	16,040	13,285
Payments				
Utilities		511	511	236
Cleaning Materials		632	632	486
Caretaker Salary		1,584	1,584	1,041
Insurance		1,350	1,350	1,249
Maintenance		307	307	1,476
Music Licence		159	159	338
Rental Refund		0	0	25
Miscellaneous (Stamps/Stationery)		179	179	155
Tftr to St Martin's General A/c for Parish Share		16,154	16,154	12,386
TOTAL PAYMENTS		20,876	20,876	17,392
Surplus/Deficit			(4,836)	(4,107)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January			8,299	12,406
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December			3,464	8,299

Youth Account

3

Receipts				
Activity Days		179	179	111
Messy Church		235	235	178
Little Fishes		418	418	427
Mothers & Toddlers		275	275	527
TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,107	1,107	1,243
Payments				
Activity/Craft materials		7	7	20
Messy Church		81	81	17
Little Fishes		81	81	16
Mothers & Toddlers		525	525	479
Caretaker		180	180	135
TOTAL PAYMENTS		873	873	667
Surplus/Deficit			234	576
Cash at bank 1st January			1,830	1,254
Cash at bank 31st December			2,064	1,830

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Restricted Funds 2024 £	2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<u>St Martin-in-Herne Church Restoration Account</u>			
Receipts	0	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	0	0	0
Payments			
Transfer to Gen A/C part payment B W May Inv	0	0	3,500
TOTAL PAYMENTS	0	0	3,500
Cash at bank 1st January	485	485	3,985
Cash at bank 31st December	485	485	485

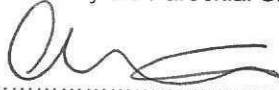
Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

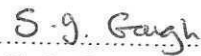
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	2023 £
Cash Funds					
Lloyds Bank Current Account		4,076		4,076	4,099
Santander Bank Current Account		325		325	200
Church Hall Account		3,464		3,464	8,299
Youth Account		2,064		2,064	1,830
Restoration Account			485	485	485
		9,928	485	10,413	14,913
Investment Assets	4	109,696	36,735	146,430	132,344
		109,696	36,735	146,430	132,344
Fixed Assets retained for Church Use				5,000	5,000
Liabilities					
Unpaid 2017 Parish Share				6,742	6,742
Unpaid 2018 Parish Share				11,704	11,704
Unpaid 2021 Parish Share				24,769	24,769
Funds held on behalf of Mothers & Toddlers				257	198
Funds held on behalf of St Peter's Greenhill					
Little Fishes				1,060	753
Messy Church				428	102
Activity Days				318	0
Community Café				1,780	904
				47,058	45,172

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on: 7th April 2025

and signed by:


Rev'd Christopher Carnaby-Denyer


Mrs Sheila Gough (Treasurer)

Bank:
Lloyds
144-146 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent

Independent Examiner:
PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
One Angel Lane
London EC4R 3AB

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations using the Receipts and Payments basis

1. General Fund Analysis of Receipts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Voluntary Receipts		
Planned Giving	16,011	32,728
Weekly Envelopes	0	759
Planned Giving Scheme	17,920	0
	<u>33,931</u>	<u>33,487</u>
Collections and other giving	4,800	4,819
Gift Aid Envelopes	235	130
Donations General	11,610	1,434
Collections for specific purposes	435	522
Telecommunications Mast	8,978	8,978
Flower Box	65	174
Candle Tree	75	86
Wall Box/Acrylic Box	169	117
Vicar Leaving Gift	0	175
	<u>21,567</u>	<u>11,616</u>
Income Tax Recovered	7,429	9,487
Legacy	40,000	500
Receipts from activities for generating funds		
Hospitality/Tea Coffee	148	116
Mothers & Toddlers Group	691	527
Calenders/Notelets	0	0
Fundraising Events and Activities	6,163	4,324
	<u>7,003</u>	<u>4,968</u>
Receipts from Church Activities		
Wedding Deposits/Banns/Certificates	288	320
PCC Fees for Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	2,414	3,354
Diocese Fees for Weddings/Funerals	1,868	3,319
Organist/Bells/Choir Fees	1,810	2,315
Additional Wedding/Funeral Income	1,160	1,955
Vacancy Fees Refunded	532	531
Vicarage Grass Cutting	189	100
	<u>8,261</u>	<u>11,894</u>
Receipts received on behalf of St Martins Hall (Utility Payments/Insurance/Cleaning Materials)	2,154	0
St Peter's Greenhill		
Community Café	876	904
Rental income	12,220	11,205
Donations	100	0
Santander account	125	0
	<u>13,321</u>	<u>12,109</u>
Total of the above	138,465	88,880

Funds Transferred from CCLA Accounts

Reserve Account to pay Parish Share	27,301	0
Reserve Account to pay St Peter's Insurance	1,393	0
Reserve Account to pay for Organ Repairs	14,244	0
Vicars Discretionary Fund	0	250
Funds transferred from Fabric Fund		
to pay 3 months 2022/2023 Parish Share	0	18,578
to part pay B W May invoice	0	3,017
to pay for tree felling	0	2,400
Funds transferred from Restoration Fund		
to part pay B W May invoice	0	3,500
	42,938	27,745
Funds transferred from Hall a/c re Parish Share	14,000	12,386
Total Receipts	195,403	129,011

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. General Fund Analysis of Payments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Direct Ministry Expenditure		
Parish Share	80,329	74,313
Incumbents Working Expenses	457	271
Vicarage Telephone	64	359
Curates Working Expenses	0	0
Curates Telephone	0	0
Other Clergy Expenses	204	553
Organist/Secretary Salaries	4,092	3,892
Admininstration	2,243	2,526
	<hr/> 7,060	<hr/> 7,601
Church Running Expenses		
Utilities	5,570	8,226
Insurance	8,925	8,606
Repairs,Maintenance & Supplies	3,506	7,213
Church Security(Alarm/Lighting)	155	177
Upkeep of Churchyard	0	2,400
Worship	390	240
Music	15,820	1,366
Training Costs/Outreach	320	0
Red Lion Parking	720	720
Flowers	496	533
	<hr/> 35,902	<hr/> 29,481
Occasional Office Expenditure		
Weddings/Funerals	2,160	2,415
Wedding Deposit/Fees refund	0	25
Parochial Fees	1,503	4,243
(Wedding/Funeral fees to Diocese)		
Vacancy Fees	0	558
	<hr/> 3,663	<hr/> 7,241
Charitable Giving/Mission		
Royal British Legion	366	232
Herne Junior School (Leavers Bibles)	0	282
Mission to Sea Farers	0	0
Friends of Kent Churches	200	5
Gifts from Vicar's Discretionary Fund	0	0
Anglican Renewal Mission	0	0
Childrens Society	0	175
Mothers & Toddlers	275	527
Porchlight	0	50
Catching Lives	(30)	283
Subscriptions	166	120

Refreshments	160	45
Salvation Army	0	139
Cruise Breavement	0	139
Bishops Justice Appeal	363	0
Taxi Fares (Herne Infant School)	42	0
Restoration Celebration	0	0
	<hr/> 1,542	<hr/> 1,998

Fundraising

Funday Sunday	568	1,603
Wine & Wisdom	330	148
Christmas Fair	142	57
Christmas Tree Festival	282	0
	<hr/> 1,322	<hr/> 1,808

St Martins Church Hall

Utilities	3,569	2,044
Cleaning Materials	0	109
Fire Extinguishers	286	0
	<hr/> 3,855	<hr/> 2,154

St Peter's Greenhill

Utilities	5,323	6,963
Cleaning Materials	165	202
Insurance	1,393	1,366
Caretaker Salary	3,744	3,470
Maintenance/Repairs	615	92
Activities	0	1,296
Booking Refund	60	0
	<hr/> 11,299	<hr/> 12,098

Total of the above	144,972	136,694
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Transferred to CCLA Fabric	0	0
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Transferred to CCLA Reserves - Donation and Legacy	50,000	0
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Vicars Discretionary Fund	25	250
	<hr/> 50,025	<hr/> 250

Bank Charges	304	273
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Total Payments	<hr/> 195,301	<hr/> 137,217
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Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

3. Analysis of Youth Account

	2024	2023
	£	£
Receipts		
Activity Days	179	111
Messy Church	235	177
Little Fishes	418	427
Mothers & Toddlers	275	527
	<u>1,107</u>	<u>1,243</u>
Payments		
Activity Equipment/Craft Materials	7	20
Messy Church - Resource material/Refreshments	81	17
Little Fishes - Party Food	81	16
Mothers & Toddlers - Outings and Christmas presents	525	479
Caretaker	180	135
	<u>873</u>	<u>667</u>
Cash at bank 1st January	1,830	1,254
Cash at bank 31st December	2,064	1,830

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds

Bell Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	0.94	0.56
	<u>0.94</u>	<u>0.56</u>
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	17.76	17.20
Balance at 31st December	18.70	17.76

Fabric Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	1,182.75	2,708.40
	<u>1,182.75</u>	<u>2,708.40</u>
PAYMENTS		
2022/2023 Parish Share	-	18,578.25
Transferred to Gen a/c tree felling invoice	-	2,400.00
Transferred to Reserve Account	-	73,495.78
	<u>-</u>	<u>94,474.03</u>
Balance at 1st January	10,000.00	101,765.63
Balance at 31st December	11,182.75	10,000.00

Institute Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	644.35	376.98
	<u>644.35</u>	<u>376.98</u>
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	12,139.76	11,762.78
Balance at 31st December	12,784.11	12,139.76

May Legacy Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

Restricted for the use of the Poor and Needy of the Parish

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	1,277.25	751.24
	<u>1,277.25</u>	<u>751.24</u>
PAYMENTS		
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	-	394.00
	<u>-</u>	<u>394.00</u>
Balance at 1st January	24,063.53	23,706.29
Balance at 31st December	25,340.78	24,063.53

Parochial Church Council of St Martin in Herne with St Peter Greenhill
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Analysis of CCLA Investments Funds continued

Organ Fund Account for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	0.07	0.04
	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.04</u>
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	1.34	1.30
Balance at 31st December	1.41	1.34

Diocesan Deposit Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

Reserve Account for St Peter's and St Martin's

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Transferred from Fabric Fund	-	73,495.78
Transferred from Gen A/c - Donation	10,000.00	
Transferred from Gen A/c - Legacy	40,000.00	
Interest	3,637.39	227.60
	<u>53,637.39</u>	<u>73,723.38</u>
PAYMENTS		
Parish Share	27,388.00	-
Organ Repair	14,244.00	-
Other general expenses	1,306.00	-
	<u>42,938.00</u>	-
Balance at 1st January	80,824.96	7,101.58
Balance at 31st December	91,524.35	80,824.96

Restoration Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	10.63	67.60
PAYMENTS		
B W May	-	3,017.20
Balance at 1st January	200.46	3,150.06
Balance at 31st December	211.09	200.46

Roof Fund for Year Ending 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Interest	270.51	158.26
PAYMENTS	-	-
Balance at 1st January	5,096.48	4,938.22
Balance at 31st December	5,366.99	5,096.48

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). It is my responsibility to issue this report on the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not been met.

Signed: M. A. Gamlen M FCCA

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Heme Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 17 March 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter Greenhill

This Report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out in this annual report, is in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s. 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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Basis of independent examiner's report

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Independent Examiner's statement

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 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not been met.

Signed: M.A. Gamlon M FCCA

PG Lemon LLP
22-26 Bank Street
Herne Bay
Kent CT6 5EA

Dated: 14 March 2025