

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF THE CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1134668

Details

Other names	CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS PCC, LEICESTER
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MOSTLY IN THE PARISH OF THE MARTYRS

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Leicester City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£294,276	£283,974	-	-
2023-12-31	£288,323	£270,144	-	-
2022-12-31	£214,196	£215,281	-	-
2021-12-31	£204,383	£185,979	-	-
2020-12-31	£206,104	£176,285	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Ole Bertin Hermo	Chair	2019-06-19
Ashok Kumar Panjagala		2024-04-21
Benjamin Timothy Lawton		2014-04-06
Christopher Adrian Roe		2022-05-15
Daniel Pallatt		2023-05-14
EDWARD STANLEY DE SALIS YOUNG		2013-08-15
Florence Laraba Adediran		2023-05-14
Geoffrey Robert Pollard		2023-05-14
Guinevere David		2023-05-14
Hannah Joy Burden		2024-04-21
Jo Pearce		2023-05-14
Josh Crick de Boom		2025-07-01
Julie Angela Shaw		2017-04-02
Lorraine Pointon		2020-10-04
MRS LIZ BAMFORD		
Peter Eluojo Mokwenye		2025-04-06
Richard Jaramba		2023-05-14
Rosamunde Jill Burch		2024-04-21
Shobha Rani Gosa		2022-05-15
Steven Ardron		2019-04-07
Yvonne Shayne Ardron		2018-04-15

Accounts

Introduction to the Annual Report 2024

At the beginning of 2024 I spoke about how I sensed God was speaking to us about the need for 'growing in our relationship with Jesus'. As I now reflect on the year just gone, I so appreciate how we as a church community responded to that word. People have made commitments to Christ and been baptised, people have joined in with the reading of the Bible from cover to cover, have been engaging in prayer, doing the Alpha course or Bible Course, serving practically and giving generously.... The life and work of Jesus in our midst is very visible at the Martyrs!

As you will read in this annual report, so much has been going on at the Martyrs throughout 2024. We are passionate about encouraging each other in our faith and are especially thankful to everyone leading and speaking at our church services and those helping to lead our homegroups. I am also very grateful for people's willingness to pray for others, whether via the prayer-chain or with people on Sunday mornings and at other times. It has been so encouraging hearing about the many answered prayers for people throughout 2024 and how God continues to meet with people in all sorts of ways.

Also, throughout 2024 we have explored new ways of sharing the good news of Jesus to our local community. For a number of Saturday mornings, we tried 'Sofa-chat evangelism' – putting a couple of sofas out on the street and inviting people to stop for a while and chat! A number of very good conversations and opportunities to pray for people resulted.

Our connection and partnership with Shaftesbury Junior School has continued to grow throughout 2024. Irene and Phillippa regularly took assemblies at the school, and, with the help from others, also ran weekly craft groups. At other times, such as at Easter and Christmas, the whole school visits the church for special Christian productions (see report from Irene for more details).

Our student outreach has also continued to make an impact, and it is such an encouragement to see a number of students from different parts of the world having found a home at the Martyrs over the last year. A big thank you to Shobha and her team for their leadership in this, as well as our interns Sangeetha and Tom.

As most of you will know, social action and justice issues have been a key focus for us as a church for a long time. We are grateful for the ministries of Baby Basics and Mothers Union which in different ways are involved in helping with social issues and challenges both locally and further afield.

Whilst a good number of people have moved away from the Martyrs throughout 2024, mainly due to moving elsewhere in the UK, it has been wonderful to welcome a number of new faces into our church family. A big welcome to all of you have made Martyrs your spiritual home in 2024.

Alongside other churches in Leicester Diocese we have begun exploring the best way forward with the Diocesan Minster Community vision. Please continue to pray for wisdom for the PCC as we try to discern the best way forward for the Martyrs.

A few days ago, we also heard the good news that we have been granted a faculty for our long-awaited Nave Reordering Project! We will of course need to raise a large amount of money to do all the work we want to do. Please pray!

2024 was also a very challenging year for many of us. I was personally diagnosed with severe heart failure last summer and had to take 2 ½ months completely away from work. I have since been able to carry on with vicar duties but still have to be careful of not overdoing it. Other people in our congregation have equally had challenges regarding their physical or mental health whilst others have battled housing, employment or

financial challenges. I sincerely believe that the church can be at her best when responding to and coming alongside those with needs. This is certainly my testimony. Sue and I were so thankful about the way Martyrs responded to and supported us through the traumatic summer months last year... Thank you!

Finally, a special thank you to those in various leadership roles, whether serving on the PCC or the Leadership Group, lay readers, children and youth workers, homegroup leaders, ministry leaders and of course the staff team. A special thanks to our curate Phillippa Taylor for her hard work and skilled leadership. Also, a huge thank you to others of you who serve faithfully in all sorts of ways to help us 'be church'. Thank you for your hard work, commitment and friendship. It continues to be a great joy serving the Lord with you!!

I commend this annual report to you.

Lord let your Kingdom come and let your will be done!

Bertin



STATUTORY REPORTS

OVERVIEW OF THE PCC

Background

The Church of the Martyrs is situated on Westcotes Drive, Leicester. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd. Ole Bertin Hermo, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1134668. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The number of elected members of the PCC is governed by the number of people on the electoral roll. In the case of The Martyrs, with over 100 members on the roll, it enables 12 elected places, with a 3rd of posts being due for re-election each year. Members stand for a term of 3 years. In the case of any member elected to a Deanery synod or General synod, they are part of the PCC in addition to the other elected places.

Existing PCC membership since the last APCM held on the 21st of April 2024 is shown below, with the year showing the end of their term in office in brackets:

Vicar:	Rev Ole Bertin Hermo
Curate:	Rev Phillippa Taylor
Pioneer Minister:	Mrs Shobha Gosa
Churchwardens:	Mr Richard Jaramba Mrs Lorraine Pointon
Deanery Synod:	Mrs Shayne Ardron (Ex officio as a member of General Synod) Mrs Liz Bamford (2026) (Vice Chair) Mrs Julie Shaw (2026) Mr Steven Ardron (2026) (PCC Secretary -resigned) (2026 Deanery)
Reader Representative:	Mrs Shayne Ardron (Also Gen Synod member)
Elected Members:	Mrs Guinevere David (2026) Mrs Florence Adediran (2026) Mr Ben Lawton (2025) (Electoral Officer) Mr Chris Roe (2025) Mr Daniel Pallet (2026) Mr Geoff Pollard (2026) (PCC secretary from 10/7/2024) Mrs Jo Pearce (2025) Miss Hannah Burden (2027) Ms Roz Burch (2027) Mr Ashok Panjagala (2027)
Co-Opted Member:	Mr Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer)

Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC is a legal body of the church established to consult on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, to promote the mission of the church (pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical) and has the responsibility for the maintenance of the church buildings, assets and managing church finances. It has met approximately once every 2 months.

There continues to be much to discuss on a range of issues, and the minutes of the previous meetings are available at the back of the church or on request during the year.

There are many topics covered at each meeting. However, as a matter of course the agenda will always include time to discuss matters arising from past meetings, health and safety obligations and responses, the PCC's safeguarding and safer recruitment obligations and any required training, as well as regular financial and budgetary matters. With a very active church, there are also regular reports from our own Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC) steering group, and discussion items that come forward in relation to projects such as Money Matters and Baby Basics.

At a Leicester Diocese and National Church level there are also some key topics that continue to be discussed. The first is the way in which the Diocese is addressing its ministry and a shortfall in funding, by the introduction of Minster Communities, how this may affect the Martyrs and its working links with other churches. Secondly will be the discussions required to the national debate on "Living in Love and Faith" (LLF) and our responses to identity, sexuality and marriage in that context.

Of major discussion this year has continued to be the Nave re-ordering project, where a small team of the PCC have continued to work on the presentation material to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). A detailed application explaining the works was submitted in Nov 2023, and positive responses have since continued to be received. A formal Chancel faculty has been submitted alongside any DAC recommendations. This has led to more in depth costing options for PCC to debate and to contemplate the next steps as we move into 2025.

The Nave re-ordering project is still very much a journey, and it should be noted that this piece of work has not centred on any single issue, such as pew removal, but seeks to address the overall comfort of the building and its flexibility of usage in future years. This encompasses considering heating options (and heat loss issues) against the backdrop of sustainability advice and targets set by National Church, lighting improvements, flooring repair and maintenance, audio requirements, storage etc.

Inevitably there will be costs for the current and future PCC to consider, and how any such funds should be raised. Even if no changes were being considered, it is apparent that some of our heating and lighting is failing and raising such additional lump sums will be a necessity soon. The larger projects discussed at PCC potentially offer some economies of scale and could also be a prudent way of dealing with outstanding maintenance.

2024 was a year in which we had our 5 yearly inspection of the Church, which involved an independent architect reviewing the fabric of the building and bringing matters of any concern to the notice of the PCC for them to address during the next 5-year cycle. The report has been finally received and is being acted on.

As in previous years, the PCC and other leaders have continued to participate in an away day, to give more time to think about the Church in a setting other than a typical business meeting. This was facilitated by Matt Long, the Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler for the Diocese, and was a valuable time to help to explore and reflect on the mission and ministry of our church and community.

Geoffrey Pollard
PCC Secretary

LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT

During the year January to December 2024 the following people served on the Leadership group: Bertin Hermo, Phillippa Taylor, Shobha Gosa, Richard Jaramba, Lorraine Pointon, Ed de Salis Young, Liz Bamford and Liz Lawton.

The leadership group function is to act as a support for the clergy and staff team, to seek God's direction and vision for the Martyrs and it is the standing committee of the PCC; so, we set the agenda for PCC meetings and deal with any urgent business between PCC meetings.

As a consequence, our meetings are varied and wide ranging, with discussions covering a multitude of topics! We always start with a Bible reading and a time of reflection and prayer.

In 2024 recurring subjects for discussion were Minster Communities, Living in Love and Faith and nave re-ordering. The setting up of Minster Communities is an important initiative as the Diocese considers how best to resource parishes into the future. It is an ongoing project and will be the subject of meetings into the future. The PCC are also involved in this work and the congregation will also need to consider the proposals being put forward, probably later in 2025.

The nave re-ordering discussions at PCC and Leadership group have resulted in an application being made to the Chancellor for a faculty. We are awaiting the result of this application.

Discussions around the Living in Love and Faith proposals and prayers are currently 'on hold' as we wait for further guidance from the national Church of England.

Other business has included planning for and reviewing services and other events for Lent, Easter and Christmas, amongst other special and one-off sermon series and services. This also included ensuring support for Phillippa, Shobha and the staff team during Bertin's absence due to ill-health through the summer and into the autumn. Everyone did an amazing job to work together and support each other although we were delighted to welcome him back in October!

Also on the agenda at every meeting are updates and discussion about our Intercultural work, the work with children, youth and families as well as safeguarding, pastoral updates and finance.

This is just a brief overview of the year! If you would like to know more, please do speak to one of us. And please do continue to pray for our clergy and staff team.

Thank you.

Lorraine Pointon, Church Warden

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

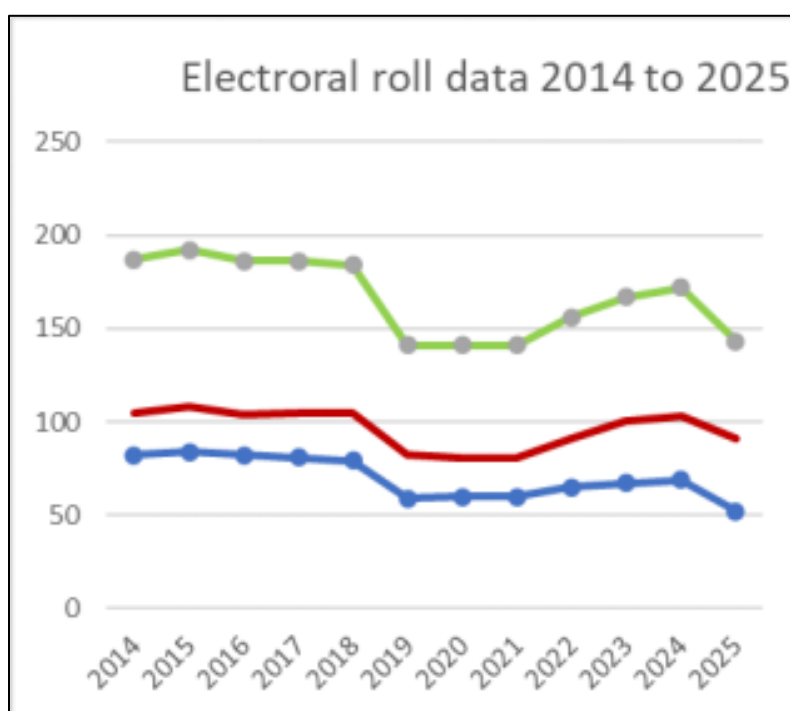
The electoral roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. The number of electors reported at the 2024 annual parochial church meeting was 172. The electoral roll rules require the roll to be fully updated every 6 years. As 2025 is the 6th year since the last revision, this year the roll has been revised. All names on the 2024 roll have been removed and the new roll issued for this report are those persons who have reapplied or applied for the first time.

Total number of electors upon the church electoral roll as of 23rd March 2025 is 143

The electoral roll consists of 52 people who are residents of the parish and 91 are non-residents of the parish.

During the revision of the roll 63 people have not reapplied to join the new roll, 109 people have reapplied, and 34 new people have joined the electoral roll.

Church of the Martyrs electoral roll summary												
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Resident	82	84	82	81	79	59	60	60	65	67	69	52
Non-Resident	105	108	104	105	105	82	81	81	91	100	103	91
Total	187	192	186	186	184	141	141	141	156	167	172	143
Added	9	11	1	1	0	29	0	2	17	12	7	34
Rem oved	0	6	7	1	2	72	0	2	1	1	2	63



Any person who wants to join the electoral roll and is eligible can apply at any time during the year.

Ben Lawton
Electoral roll officer

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Introduction

This report indicates the church attendance at The Church of the Martyrs over the 2024 calendar year. Please note the information does not reflect the increased diversity of our church family. The report issued is based on numbers and broad age groups as requested for the yearly diocese report "Statistics for mission". These are below 16 years of age and above 16 years of age. This report does not give a detailed breakdown of age ranges or ethnic background. However, there are some details for the under 16 years included in the Sunday club details

Sunday Clubs

We have had a full year of Sunday clubs except for the summer holiday period and school holidays throughout the year. The following information relates to each group.

Ark Club met on Sunday mornings on 31 occasions with an average attendance of 3 children and 3 adults over the 31 occasions. The maximum number of children is 10.

Rainbows met on Sunday mornings on 29 occasions with an average attendance of 6 children and 4 adults over the 29 occasions. The maximum number of children is 11.

Ketchup Club met on Sunday mornings on 29 occasions with an average attendance of 9 children and 3 adults over the 29 occasions. The maximum number of children is 17.

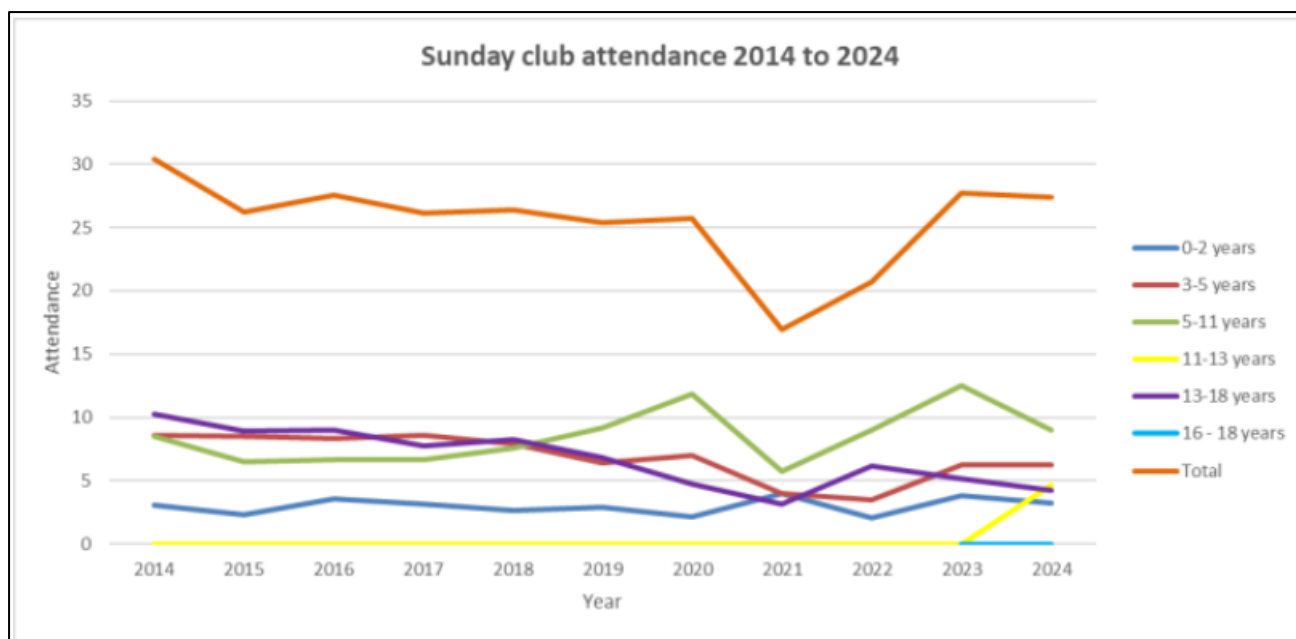
Wonder was a new group meeting from September 2024. Wonder met on Sunday mornings on 12 occasions with an average attendance of 5 children & 2 adults over the 12 occasions. Maximum number of children 6.

Fuel Cells met on Sunday mornings on 28 occasions with an average attendance of 4 children and 2 adults over the 28 occasions. The maximum number of children is 7.

Torch group finished in summer 2024. No data of numbers attending is available.

Average Junior church/Sunday clubs

Year	Crèche Ark	Rockets Rainbows	Explorers Ketchup	Wonder	Fuel Cells	Torch	Total
	0-2 years	3-5 years	5-11 years	11-13 years	13-18 years	16 - 18 years	Total
2014	3	9	9	0	10		30
2015	2	9	7	0	9		26
2016	4	8	7	0	9		28
2017	3	9	7	0	8		26
2018	3	8	8	0	8		26
2019	3	6	9	0	7		25
2020	2	7	12	0	5		26
2021	4	4	6	0	3		17
2022	2	3	9	0	6		21
2023	4	6	13	0	5	0	28
2024	3	6	9	5	4	0	27



Sunday 10:30hrs service

We had a full year of Sunday morning services, and we met on 52 occasions during 2024.

The average attendance over the 52 services was 86 adults and 13 under 16 years giving a combined average of 99. The highest attended service was 31st March 2024 with 172 people attending. Note that these numbers do not include those attending Sunday clubs.

Year		10.30am		Comments
		Adults	Under 16s	
2014	Average	117	16	
2015	Average	106	14	
2016	Average	104	13	
2017	Average	102	12	
2018	Average	96	13	
2019	Average	91	13	Pre covid 19 period
2020	Average	72	6	Covid 19 period
2021	Average	68	11	Covid 19 period
2022	Average	86	13	Post Covid 19 period
2023	Average	96	13	
2024	Average	86	13	

Sunday 18:15hrs service

We had a full year of 18:15hrs services, and we met on 45 occasions during 2024.

The average attendance over the 45 services was 18 adults and 1 under 16 years giving a combined average of 19. The highest attended service was on 28th April 2024 with an attendance of 50 people.

Year		Evening services		Comments
		Adults	Under 16s	
2014	Average	8	0	
2015	Average	8	0	
2016	Average	8	0	
2017	Average	18	2	
2018	Average	16	2	
2019	Average	15	1	Pre covid 19 period
2020	Average	12	1	Covid 19 period
2021	Average	25	0	Covid 19 period
2022	Average	20	0	Post Covid 19 period
2023	Average	23	0	
2024	Average	18	1	

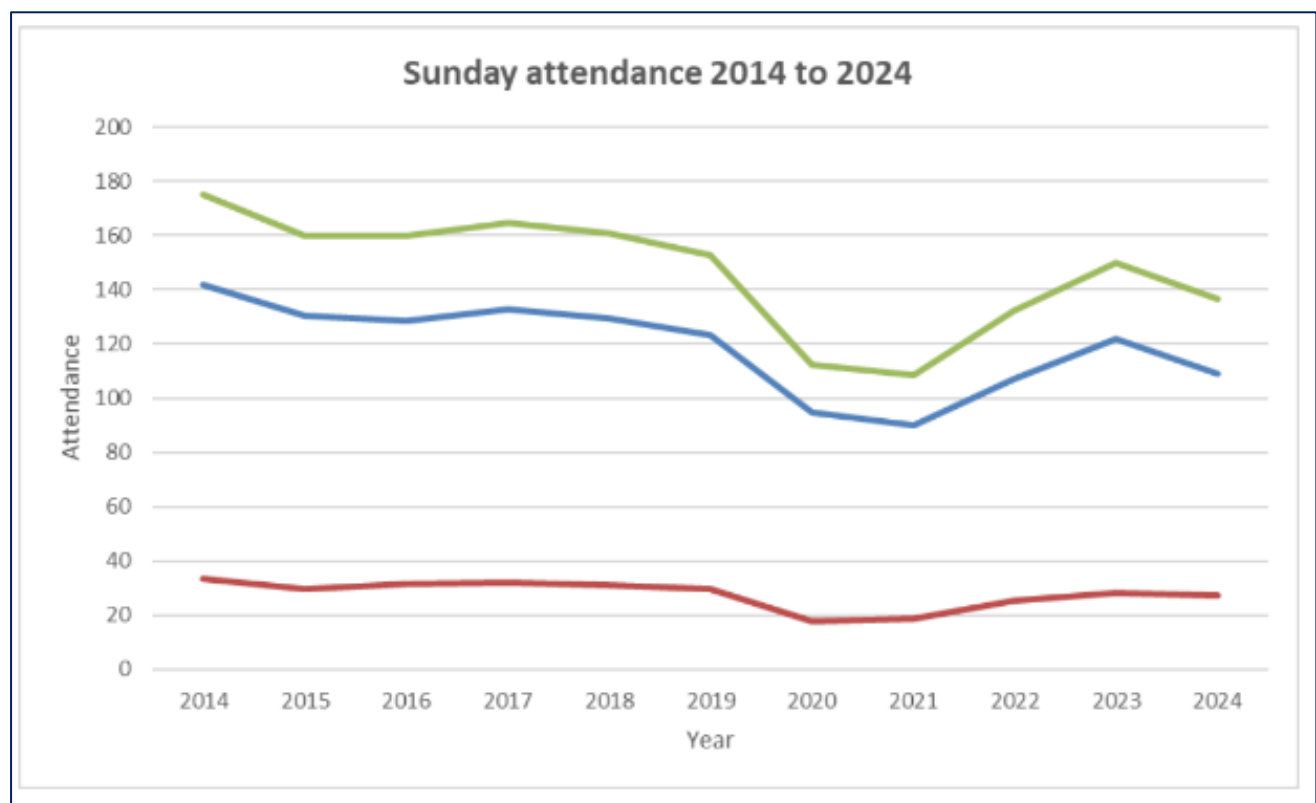
Average Sunday attendance at all services and Sunday clubs

The total average attendance at all Sunday services was 137 people per Sunday during 2024.

Year	10.30am and 06:15pm			Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	Total	
2014	142	34	175	
2015	131	29	160	
2016	129	32	160	
2017	133	32	165	
2018	130	31	161	
2019	123	30	153	
2020	95	18	112	Only 19 week attendance
2021	90	19	109	Only 36 week attendance
2022	107	25	132	
2023	122	28	150	
2024	109	27	137	

Average Sunday attendance at all services and Sunday clubs. Continued:

Red line under 16 years, blue line over 16 years, and green line total attendance.



Wednesday 11:00hrs service

We had a full year of Wednesday morning services, and we met on 50 occasions during 2024. The average attendance over the 50 services was 24 adults. The highest attended service was on 14th February 2024 with an attendance of 47 people.

Year		Sunday 9am		Wednesday AM service		Comments
		Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	
2014	Average	12	0			
2015	Average	12	0			
2016	Average	12	0			
2017	Average	11	0			
2018	Average	10	0			
2019	Average	9	0			Pre covid 19 period
2020	Average	8	0			Covid 19 period
2021	Average			18	0	Covid 19 period
2022	Average			20	0	Post Covid 19 period
2023	Average			24	0	
2024	Average			24	0	

Special Services

Christian festivals celebrated at The Church of The Martyrs in 2024. All were well attended.

Year	Easter Sunday		Cristingle		Carols by candle		Crib Service		Christmas eve communion		Christmas day		Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	
2014	174	37	161	58	128	15	91	45	107	13	144	25	
2015	198	41	152	55	160	10	50	60	89	2	117	22	
2016	181	5	156	70	105	27	84	55	72	4	111	31	
2017	208	34	117	57	112	13	78	41	86	1	89	15	
2018	162	30	136	61	131	22	60	25	65	0	127	18	
2019	138	24	128	5	136	9	65	40	58	0	95	19	Pre covid 19 period
2020													Covid 19 period
2021													Covid 19 period
2022	125	36	116	49	116	21	42	22	53	1	119	24	Post Covid 19 period
2023	183	34	144	42	146	16	60	35	55	2	88	14	
2024	139	33	126	33	131	19	59	32	61	0	82	18	

Ben Lawton

FABRIC REPORT

As noted last year, the 5 yearly quinquennial inspection was completed by a qualified architect, Richard Brooks, in June 2023. However, due to unforeseen circumstances the full report was not received by us until the spring of 2024. The report provides a description of the condition of the building, described as generally good with the building being well maintained. The report recommends work that should be carried out as soon as possible, work to be carried out within the next year, next two years and next five years. The report was considered in full at the PCC meeting in September 2024 and a schedule of works is being worked on and kept under review by the PCC. A number of items can be grouped together which will hopefully help with costs. The logbook and inventory are being updated as works occur.

The inventory has been checked. There are some minor amends approved by the PCC but all items are accounted for.

GAS and ELECTRICS

The annual gas maintenance check took place in August 2024.

The 5 yearly inspection of fixed electrical installations is next due in November 2028.

ONGOING

During 2024 a faculty application was made by the PCC for a nave re-ordering project. We are still awaiting the outcome of this. A number of ongoing concerns such as the chancel lighting and the carpet at the back of church will be addressed once we know the outcome of the faculty application.

Lorraine Pointon, Churchwarden

FINANCE REPORT 2024

The Martyrs finances are split into a number of different funds which represent different areas or projects relating to church work. These are accounted for separately and each is described here.

General Fund

First, I should note that the accounts are skewed by a large one-off donation in 2023 which was intended to cover 3 years. When looking at the General Fund income and surplus I have adjusted the figures shown here to include 1/3 of that donation in 2024, for more realistic comparisons.

With these adjustments, in 2024, the **General fund** had a deficit of £4,200 which compares to a budgeted deficit of £9,200. The General fund reserves are now £81,427 which represents 7 months of 2024 expenditure.

Our overall donation income was 2% below the budget for 2024. Parish Giving Scheme and Cash Collections were below budget but credit card giving, and other regular giving were over budget. Interest income increased again, with better rates and more of our reserves in a high interest account, and overall, our income was exactly as budget. Additional to the budget, we had significant grants relating to the both the IWC project and our interns Sangeetha and Tom on the Ministry Experience Scheme.

Against this, our general expenditure, including transfers to other funds, was around 1% under budget. While some areas were over budget or had unexpected purchases, others were under budget. Limited Quinquennial inspection spend was done in 2024 and it is expected that more will be needed in 2025. The General fund also needed to subsidise the Children and Family Worker fund by £4,200, as discussed below. As with the income, additional to the budget we had spending relating to IWC and our interns, although in 2024 this was less than the grants received, as some spend will be in 2025.

In September 2024, PCC approved a draft 2025 budget for the General fund which has a deficit of almost £27,000. This is based on a similar level of donations to 2024, some expenditure increases including salary, maintenance and Quinquennial work, and particularly a transfer of almost £15,000 to the Children and Families worker fund to allow this work to continue. A deficit of this size would significantly reduce our reserves, and we are looking to find ways to reduce the deficit, including new grants and increased donations.

The **Children and Families Worker fund** pays for the work of our Children and Families worker, Irene Hart. We started the year with reserves of £1,253. Income was from individual donations, plus £8,500 which was the final year of a 3-year grant. Overall, this gave a deficit of £5,360, leaving reserves negative and so a transfer of £4,200 was made from the General fund to subsidise this fund. Currently we have no new grant for 2025, meaning the 2025 budget is a deficit of £14,750, which will require a very large subsidy from the General fund. Finding new grant income for this fund must be a priority for 2025 and 2026.

The **Hall fund** has had a very good year in 2024, with significantly increased income once again from both regular and one off lets, leading to a surplus of £7,750 for the year which compares to the deficit of £3,100 in 2023. Once again this is primarily due to the sterling work of Martin Clarke.

The **Church Development fund** has received some donations in 2024 and spent money on surveys relating to the faculty for the reordering project. It is expected that this project will move forward in 2025 with much larger fundraising and spending.

The **Mission Partnership fund** was set up to fund Mission Partnership events and expenses. This was closed in 2024 and the balance returned to the various churches who had donated money to it.

The **Money Matters fund** covers the Money Matters Leicester debt counselling service. Money Matters closed in 2024 and the remaining funds, less an amount to cover limited ongoing insurance, has been donated to their previous satellite centre Hope67 based at New Life Church in Coalville.

The **Baby Basics fund** has continued to grow and support an increase in referrals and donations, with income increasing again to £94,362 (including the Martyrs tithe donation), primarily due to significant new grants. With the first full year of the new premises and employment of a new administrator, spend was slightly higher than 2023. Overall, there was a large surplus, and reserves increased to £58,335, or 10 months of 2024 spending. Additional grant funding is continually sought to ensure that Baby Basics can survive through and beyond the current office lease term.

The **Organ fund** holds and depreciates the cost of the Organ, current value £2,340.

The **Hardship fund** had its first full year of operation in 2024. 21 separate hardship donations were made from the fund in the year, which was £7,056 in all. Around £2,500 of donations were received into the fund, plus the tithe, leaving reserves of £7,021 at the end of the year.

The **Tithe fund** is no longer used, and tithe donations were paid out, or transferred to other funds, directly from the General fund. The tithe donations made in 2024 were as follows:

- £1633 to the Diocese of Kiteto
- £833 to The Children's Society as a general donation
- £833 to A Rocha as a general donation
- £833 to support the work of Bruce and Louise Nadin as they return from South Africa
- £833 to the Woodgate Food Bank
- £833 to Reach all Nations for Church Planting projects in India
- £833 to Baby Basics
- £833 to the Hardship Fund

Finally, I'd like to thank again the Finance team for their continued support: Martin Clarke in the Church Office; Mike Dampier doing the banking with Martin; Nina de Salis Young who administers Gift Aid; Malcolm Greenwood who administers envelopes; and the wardens and collection counters.

Edward de Salis Young, Treasurer

WEST LEICESTER MISSION PARTNERSHIP

Our main contact throughout 2024 has been the weekly Zoom Morning Prayer every Thursday mornings.

These times have provided genuine support and encouragement for clergy and other church leaders, especially during times of prayers for personal challenges and church life in general. Whenever there is a 5th Thursday in the month we have met in person for breakfast.

We have also been able to provide Clergy and Reader support by conducting services at each other's churches and chapels.

The 7 churches and ministries in the Mission Partnership are Holy Apostles, Martyrs, St. Anne's with St. Paul's, St. Margaret's, St. Peter's and Wyggestons.

Bertin Hermo

CITY OF LEICESTER DEANERY SYNOD

The March Deanery Synod explored 'Making Church Accessible for All' focusing on the experience of SEND Children (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and a Curate with physical disabilities leading a church community.

After opening worship led by Tony Leighton the Master of Wyggestons, Nadine Weedall, SEND Chaplain at Learn Academies Trust gave us some background into the crisis in SEND support in schools, and explained how her part time role as SEND Chaplain was to support the 19 schools in the multi academies trust with their SEND provision. Nadine works strategically across the trust offering pastoral support to teachers, identifying opportunities for funding and support for SEND students and particularly working with SEND-Co Teachers (teachers who have leadership responsibility). Nadine shared her vision (from Hosea) of the desert blooming, and asked for our prayers for the work of SEND support in schools.

Rachel Hunter and Yvonne O'Donoghue are both SEND teachers and shared practical examples of how churches can create welcoming environments for SEND children. This included providing hands on activities, visual representations of parts of worship, creating quite opportunities for SEND children to explore churches and making sure explanations are literal, e.g. not showing grapes and bread for holy communion, when you use wine and wafers.

After an opportunity for questions, Cecilia Adjadje, Curate at St Mary's Knighton shared some of her experiences of becoming a curate and the adaptations put in place to ensure that she could undertake her training and help to lead her church community.

The July Deanery Synod invited five faith practitioners to share something of their academic research that they are currently or have recently undertaken. Riaz Ravat, Deputy Director of the St Philip's Centre, spoke about 'Faith Mapping' a forthcoming piece of research that he will be undertaking mapping the faith practices of the city. This will build upon research that he undertook ten years ago and is designed to explore how faith practice has changed across the city and the impact that faith communities have on the city beyond being a place of worship, e.g. in the areas of social justice, community care and partnership working.

Phillippa Taylor shared her recent MA dissertation on 'A Theological Reflection on the Christian Experience of Miscarriage'. Phillippa explained that there is very little academic research in this area, so she took an auto ethnographic approach to her research, based upon her own experience of miscarriage and undergoing fertility treatment. As she shared some personal reflections, she also encouraged churches to speak more openly about the experience of pregnancy loss affecting the whole family and practical steps that could be taken. The value of her talk was very much reflected in the personal testimony shared in the Q&A. Next

Denis Walsh offered reflections on his MA dissertation on 'The Pastoral care of gay Christians in Anglican Churches', research that was undertaken with 6 church leaders, 3 who considered themselves to be 'inclusive' and 3 who would identify themselves as 'orthodox' in terms of their LGBTQ theology. He shared with Synod the results of his research and some recommendations.

Mary Ann Lund shared her academic research on 'John Donne', as a staff member of University of Leicester. Mary shared some aspects of Donne's poetry and verse and his impact on Theology and worship.

Anthony Lees-Smith reflected on 'A Practical Theology of Religious Difference: the lived experience of Anglican Christians in a religiously plural UK context' the subject of his D Prof thesis. He shared his experience of the process of research, what he had learned and how it had transformed his practice as a Christian minister, particularly understanding his power and privilege as a white male priest in the established church. The variety of the presentations was much appreciated by Synod and there was general agreement that a similar opportunity for colleagues to share their academic research in the future was desired.

The November Deanery Synod was an Open meeting on the subject of 'Parish Contributions and Diocesan Finances.' Simon Wilson and David Palmer from the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) presented. With the aid of slides, we were able to see a decade long picture of how diocesan operating finances have mainly increased, and Parish Contributions have decreased.

The reasons for the drop in Parish Contributions centre around parish incomes being cut, and they are not inflation proofed. Money is needed for projects. Parishes that can contribute more are being asked to do so. The Leicester diocese wishes to maintain contributions via its Gift system, with mutual respect and support.

The National Insurance changes in the budget for 2025 will have a significant impact to the tune of £120,000 plus. At the current rate, the diocese will run out of money in five years' time.

David explained that in his experience, the two hundred parishes that make up the Leicester diocese are collectively, in a far worse situation than any other diocese he had knowledge of. There are no easy solutions, and it is difficult to balance the books. Clergy costs make up 60% of the budget and St. Martin's House costs have reduced by £1/1.5 million. Targets are a £1.5 million cut in the deficit 2024, £1 million in 2025 and £500,000 the year after. Holy Trinity currently makes the largest contribution, but their attendance is high, making the giving average per person, lower.

The floor was then opened to attendee's questions. A great deal of concern was expressed on issues raised, which included:

Linc Funding – intended for poor parishes but little of it seen by those parishes yet, despite being promised it for a long time! Why? It is a question of justice for people in such parishes. What is the timescale for how

quickly churches might get Linc Funding? It influences thinking around who we want to go into Minster Communities with.

Is it necessary to keep St. Martins House? What purpose does it serve? Simon explained that it does generate income but costs more than the DBF are comfortable with. But it is a headquarters for DBF and Cathedral staff too! The DBF are looking at the finances related to it.

Union for Clergy and Lay people – have not been consulted on the budget which they have a right to be. They are a voice in the finance conversation and want that enabled.

Ephesians Scheme is a restricted gift fund given for a certain type of Ministry a parish receiving it, wants. It is better than nothing, but its use isn't encouraged. Two parishes currently use it, but it is the source of some division amongst individuals.

We are growing in faith and praying that the Kingdom comes. The meeting closed with some Notices and Prayer.

Qyan Arnachellum, Leicester City Deanery Administrator

HALL REPORT

This report covers the calendar year 2024.

Our regulars for the year were

Sunday Clubs

Torch

Armonia (Annexe)

Hopscotch

Leicester Mothers Union

Guides

Brownies

Rangers

Rainbows

Black Annis Women's Morris

GKR Karate

Red Fox Ceilidhs

Leicester West Seventh Day Adventist Church (£4,858 income in 6 months, £11,133 budgeted for 2025)

All Nations Assemblies of God

Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar Young People's Bible Study

New Life Assembly (£1,025 income in 9 months, £2,024 budgeted for 2025)

One-off Hires

2022 12

2023 41

2024 129

The largest qualitative improvement was the replacement of all neon lights with LEDs in the upper hall.

From the Treasurer's Finance Report above, the 2023 deficit of **£3,100**, has been turned to a surplus of **£7,750** in 2024. That positive trajectory will continue in 2025, due in large part to the Leicester West Seventh Day Adventist Church and New Life Assembly, above.

All **Health and Safety** items for the Hall are up to date, including the annual gas safety inspection, firefighting equipment annual servicing, bi-annual fire alarm and annual emergency lighting inspections. The smoke detectors are to be replaced this year.

I could not do this work without the guidance of Bertin, with whom I have weekly meetings and constantly liaise, and the rest of the hall management group; Ed de Salis Young (with whom I also frequently liaise), Julie Shaw, Ruth Inman and our superb, now retired, secretary, Liz Coopey. I am led by Ed and Mike Dampier in banking and benefit from the tireless work of the administrators of Gift Aid, and collection envelopes; Nina de Salis Young and Malcolm Greenwood respectively, and the wardens and collection counters.

Martin Peter Clarke, Church & Community Hall Administrator and Premises Officer

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

It is important to remember that all church users are individually responsible for their own safety and the safety of others.

Our policies, so far as is reasonably practicable, is that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors, contractors and others who may use the church, church grounds and the Community Hall. The policies are based on comprehensive risk assessments and a separate Fire Risk.

The Parochial Church Council accepts that it has overall responsibility for all policies and will ensure that adequate resources and training are made available for their implementation. In order to ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item on health and safety is on the agenda for all meetings of the PCC.

The PCC are confident that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who use the church, church grounds and Community Hall.

Unfortunately, this year we have had an accident which involved reporting it to an outside body. The person hurt had to be off work for several days. The offending item which caused the accident has been removed and an alternative has been installed with approval by the outside body.

All scheduled checks for gas, electrics, fire alarms, fire extinguishers and the lightning conductor have taken place. The metal cage around the cellar steps continues to be very effective in completely reducing discarded drug taking equipment and the gathering of people who use drugs.

Policies and risk assessments are under review at the present time and will be sent for approval by the PCC and published in due course.

Geoff Pollard on behalf of the Health and Safety Working Group

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

SAFEGUARDING IS A WHOLE CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY.

Safeguarding continues to be a major issue for the Church of England both nationally and locally. All PCCs are required to regularly monitor their work with safeguarding by updating the Parish Dashboard which generates either an Action Plan or a summary of Action Points. Keeping the dashboard up to date is the responsibility of the Safeguarding Coordinator (Pete Coopey) who needs to consult others to have all the information needed. The PCC at The Martyrs has opted to have the Dashboard and Action Points updated before each PCC meeting. The PCC has also established a Safeguarding sub-committee to support the Safeguarding Coordinator – Hannah Burden, Lorraine Pointon and Shayne Ardron.

All members of the PCC and Pastoral Team are up to date with DBS checks and the required training. The records for volunteers with children and young people are 95% up to date.

Pete Coopey is a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group (DSOG) which takes and overview of national and local developments and practice.

It is appropriate to recognise the contribution made by Phillippa Taylor to the safeguarding work of the church.

Pete Coopey

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

The Pastoral Team continued to meet regularly either face to face or by zoom. The 2024 team was: Bertin, Phillippa, Lorraine, Shobha, Jane Berridge and Pete and Liz Coopey. All matters discussed by the Pastoral Team are confidential and team members are mutually accountable to each other. Angela Gordon is a Pastoral Visitor, and the team are most grateful for her support.

Members of the team respond to known needs in a variety of ways – visiting, phone calls, lifts to hospital or the GP surgery, shopping and general support.

The Pastoral Team is only one way that people are given support – much is done through friendship and is private and probably unnoticed. Support is also given through Home Groups and the Mother's Union.

Pete Coopey, on behalf of the Pastoral Team

BABY BASICS REPORT



As you can see from the figures on the left, we had had an extremely busy year in 2024. At times we wondered how we were going to fulfil the referrals and get them out in time. But we managed it with great teamwork, wonderful donations and funding from grants and trust funds to help us along the way.

New volunteers In 2024 we welcomed new regular volunteers to our team and now have 20 regular weekly volunteers. This has meant we have changed the structure a little and it needs a bit more guidance to steer the ship, but we work well together, and we are very grateful for a lovely variety of volunteers. We have also begun good relationships with local companies and organisations such as NEXT, Centrica and Enderby Police headquarters who come and have volunteer days, donate items off our wish list or raise money.

Donations We now have quarterly deliveries of brand-new donations from Baby Basics UK. This includes items such as cots, toys and books, toiletries, buggies and much more. These are donated by big British brands such as silver cross, Mamas and Papas, Marks and Spencer and John Lewis. During the year we often ran out of Moses baskets! Items like these are always needed so our essential funds help us top up when we need to. Otherwise, we always have a steady flow on second hand items coming through the door to sort and check.

Safer sleep This year we have seen in the news more and more stories of bed poverty across the county and the need for safer places for babies and young children to sleep. We have always had a waiting list for cots; no matter how much funding we have received from grants or rehomed donated cots we regularly had 65 people on our waiting list for a cot. The fantastic news is (and this should appear on next year's report as it happened in early 2025!) is that the City Council have offered us early 25k to spend on cots and mattresses until April 2026! Wow, God does answer prayers in amazing ways.

Finances As always, running a big baby bank comes with lots of financial aspects to cover for rent, wages, bills, items and so on. We have been successful with a few grants and trust funds as well as Leicester City Council who have also started supporting more by paying towards Laura and Jo's wages. We continue to do fundraising events to each year which you are all welcome to join in with. Thanks for everyone's continued support!

Laura Hutchinson

YOUNG CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES' WORK REPORT

Our Children's and families work 2024 has been exciting, encouraging and sometimes challenging. Our Martyrs Children's Team has continued to focus on family discipleship, encouraging children to grow in their faith, reaching out to our local community and fostering a sense of belonging.

Ketchup Club Our Y1-Y5 kids have been continuing to grow in their faith, friendships and belonging. Our team have been using the Energize material from Urbans Saints which leaders have found a helpful resource. Phillippa and I took 5 of our older children on a weekend away with HTL. They made new friends, went to Twinlakes, praised God together and spent time exploring passages from the Bible. There was yummy food, campfire, adventure playground and games.

At the beginning of the summer term Y6 and any older kids in Ketchup Club moved up to Wonder, our new younger youth group. They are an amazing bunch who are enthusiastic to join in, have fun, ask questions and explore and encourage each other in their faith. We miss them in Ketchup Club!

Ketchup Club enjoyed their Christmas Activity Day with Wonder at the beginning of advent, where we made crafts, played games, sang songs, prayed and had lots of fun based on the Nativity. We explored what it means for Jesus to be our Emmanuel and prepared for the children and youth takeover service. We also had a chip shop lunch and movie time. It was a fun time of friendship and exploring what the Christmas story means for us.

Our Ketchup Club Team are amazing and help the kids engage well with topics, activities and each other. We always have lots of fun. Thank you to Robin, Dave and Sophie.

Rainbow Club (F1&F2) Rainbow Club has been very well run by the experienced leaders in this group. It is a lively group, growing in numbers. The children who attend regularly know that Jesus is their friend and God loves them. They have fun and have a session tailored to the needs of the group as much as possible.

Thank you to Liz, Katherine, Liz, Guinevere, Kathy, Cathy, Sangeetha and all our other helpers for all you do for our Rainbow Club children and families.

The Ark The Ark (0-3's) has been hard to find regular leaders for and is currently without a team.

Shake Shake continues to thrive and grow, mainly through word of mouth. There are regularly 15-17 children attending with their grownups. Most children are between 1&3. Many of our children don't have a garden. Some weeks there is not enough space to encourage being active which is essential to the children's development. This is particularly tricky in the winter. Some Shake families are coming to church for events or to try church. A group of families who attend go together to other groups in the area during the week. We continue to be a welcoming group who have a Bible story, praise songs and linked activities. Our Shake Team is committed and works well together. We were sad to see Phillippa go, who has been supporting Irene when able. Thank you to Ruth, Jean, Patricia, Claire and Tom for all you do.

Holiday Club The Good News Café Holiday Club was a brilliant time for the children who attended and our Holiday Club Team. Phillippa and I led a week of foody fun about meals Jesus had with his friends. The children were from our church family, friends and family, and the local community. Most children engaged well with the activities and together times. Different team members shared stories from the bible and helped the children explore what they mean for us today and what they tell us about Jesus. They asked and explored some great questions. We enjoyed our theme song Ask, Seek, Knock, plate decorating, pizza making, ice cream design and water games in the garden. Tom got very wet! Children were encouraged and seem to grow in their faith and belonging.

We had a fun movie night for all the holiday club families during the week with hotdogs and popcorn. Grown up took it in turn to keep the sunlight off the screen with a bin bag banner. Some parents said they felt part of it and it was a lovely community event as they helped hold the banner. We tried another couple of family events during the week.

We celebrated and shared what we had done at The Good News Café in our Holiday Club Family Service. It was great for others to experience the fun and messages the children had enjoyed during the week. Thank you to everyone on the team who made it such a wonderful week. We're looking forward to holiday club in 2025!

Light Party Our annual Light Party at the end of October has been a chance for our children to invite their friends to have fun while finding out about Jesus, The Light of the World. We used it as a reunion for Holiday Club and to give children the opportunity to explore or grow in their friendship with Jesus. We invited Brownies and SJS (Shaftesbury Junior School) children and saw a good number of children attend.

Easter Family Event Our annual Easter Family Event helped our church families and those in our wider community celebrate and explore the meaning of Easter. We had a play dough kitchen, crafts, games and a together time followed by snacks and drinks. This continues to be a popular event.

Links with Shaftesbury Junior School MAKE it Club runs most weeks in term time. We swap the groups around, so all children have an opportunity to come over the time they're at school. We share a Bible Story, play a game and do some craft and art activities. We have run projects including 'I'm Special, You're Special', 'MAKE it a Better World' and some seasonal sessions.

MAKE it Family events are run termly where all 240 children and their families are invited to the church hall for our craft café. This has been very popular with children and their grownups. The adults are keen for us to do this more regularly. The school staff love us putting on things for the families and we are trying to see how we can better support families together.

We helped with the school Christmas fair.

We do an assembly about 6-8 times a year.

We continued to host the annual Christmas and Easter plays put on for schools by a team in our diocese led by HTL (Holy Trinity Leicester). At Easter 2024 the usual team couldn't come so Phillippa and I hosted an Explore Easter interactive presentation with the Easter story, talk, games, music, procession and thinking time. The children and staff enjoyed it very much.

Other Schools & Nurseries We continue to welcome schools and nurseries for visits to church. At Easter, Harvest and Christmas 3 nurseries visited where we shared about what we celebrate and had stories, games, songs and activities. The children and leaders have given great feedback on the sessions we run and look forward to coming. We are building some lovely links with the nurseries.

A primary school visited us for Christmas who had not visited The Martyrs before. We helped their F2's journey through the Christmas story with our story trail. The staff gave great feedback about their visit.

Please continue to pray for all aspects of the work we do with children and families that lives will be impacted by God's amazing and saving love. There are opportunities for our others to join our team on this amazing adventure.

Thank you to many of you for the great support and encouragement you give me and our team.

Irene Hart, Children's and Young Families' Worker

WONDER

Wonder was established in September 2024 to respond to the need to move a large cohort up from Ketchup Club. We have begun well with ten different young people aged 10-14 attending so far. The team, Wendy, Tom and myself, are so enjoying getting to know the fabulous young people that attend on Sunday mornings. A strong group identity and meaningful friendships are beginning to form. We are enjoying meeting in the new Children, Youth and Families Hub.

So far, we have had an overview of the Bible using the 'Six Beats' materials, taken a closer look at the Christmas Story and are currently working through some material from Urban Saints on 'Handling Emotions'. Our young people continue to challenge us with their curiosity and excellent questions as well as delight us with their enthusiasm and kindness to one another.

In September this group will officially become an 11-14's group. This year, with many 10 and 11-year-olds attending, members of the group have had the option to join in with various Children's activities such as Activity Days and United Kids. Wonder will also be invited to Holiday Club this year. From September Wonder will be a youth group and so extra work, and energy will need to be put into offering them more than just Sunday mornings. It would be helpful to expand the team significantly in order to continue to serve, engage and support our 11-14's in their journey of faith.

Hannah Burden

FUEL CELLS

Fuel Cells continue to meet on Sunday mornings for chat, games and activities to help our young people to engage with and grow their faith. With our group of 5-7 we try to create a safe space where we can share questions, opinions and biscuits with each other.

With the creation of Wonder we are now taking our young people in Fuel Cells through to 18 years old.

David Seaman

INTERCULTURAL WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY (IWC)

The year 2024 has brought an exciting array of events to our vibrant church community. We've celebrated graduation ceremonies, housewarming gatherings, and engaged in the Alpha course. We marked International Women's Day, witnessed the first baptisms of our young adults, and enjoyed a delightful barbeque gathering in the vicarage garden. Our congregation is flourishing as we embrace the rich intercultural tapestry of our UKME (United Kingdom Minority Ethnic) and GMH (Global Majority Heritage) members through multilingual worship and faith practices.

Community prayer and outreach In Feb 2024, Alpha Course week one started with a diverse group of 35 participants and continued after an Easter break. Many of the guests were for the first time visiting the

church or participating in a conversation about Bible and Jesus. The Alpha Course offered a welcoming space for non-Christians and new Christians to explore and grow in their understanding of Christianity.

Wednesday morning (coffee & croissant) community prayers continued to grow last year with more enthusiasm and devotion of many members from the church as well as visitors from within our parish. Having begun with four people we now have around a dozen people gathering every week. This is a time for bringing our community needs and intercede for our global Christians too. "I believe my medicine is prayer and good health, one of the biggest things for me, is my faith and prayer itself. I fight my illness with lots of prayer and I don't give up." - Tony Shelley

This year we continued our Bede Park community carols event. Despite of the cold weather many university students joined in the carol singing and some stopped by to have a hot chocolate and cookies.

UKME/GMH leadership



Women's Ministry We continued SISTERS, a monthly gathering for women from our church and community to connect over breakfast or brunch and engage in meaningful faith discussions. We watched the film "War Room" for International Women's Day, leading to insightful discussions and prayer in pairs. Our regular breakfast outings at cafés also strengthens our friendships. To promote spiritual growth, we launched "52 Weeks of Growing Together," a Bible-based journal for individual and group scripture study, deepening our faith and sense of community.



Last year's SISTERS' standout event was the TAKEOVER service in celebration of Black History Month. This inspiring event empowered women from GMH to lead uplifting worship, and impactful sharing.

"Sisters Group is a great opportunity for women to share their faith. For me it has been an exciting and enjoyable time more so in being involved and working alongside notable women like Shobha and Sangeeta to make the vision come to fruition. It's a time I look forward to and can be myself and free to share my vulnerabilities. I feel safe in the presence of my sisters." -Sammy

In March 2024, Sangeetha Malladi who is part of the Young Adults (YA) group was appointed as a MES participant to work along with our Pioneer Minister, and she has been focussing on networking with local universities, social media, 6.15 gathering, and various other ministries.

Several members of Martyr's attended the two-day ANIC conference last year, and some of us volunteered to assist with daily administrative activities. Bertin, Phillippa and Shobha led a session where they shared their IWC journey and learnings with others.



Bishop Meet & Greet In May twenty university students from local universities met +Martyn where they had an opportunity to share their hopes and dreams. It was a memorable experience of good food and conversation. (Here is a link to read more about our [Young Adults Meet and Greet with Bishop Martyn - Diocese of Leicester](#))



Easter Sunday morning Sandhya and Bijesh got baptised, and it was a real joy and encouragement to the whole YA group as they marked their journey with Christ. Many International students continue to visit Martyrs over dinner and are given welcome kits as part of their arrival in Leicester. Some of them attended YA and 6.15 gathering.

Discipleship day out Our YA group visited the WELL project in Kibworth for a day dedicated to learning about different aspects of Christian discipleship. It was a fruitful day filled with personal reflections, a delicious lunch at the café, meaningful conversations. We concluded the day with a prayer walk in Market Harborough.

6.15 gathering At our Sunday evening 6:15 gatherings we aim to provide a relaxed, welcoming and an interactive 'Café Style Church' to help people engage with God and with each other. We regularly welcome new Uni students & young adults, with several of them coming from a different faith or no faith background. Some of them have shared how these gatherings are providing them with the chance to deepen their understanding of the Bible by having meaningful conversations with people from different nationalities around the table.

Watch night service Over 50 members of the UKME and GMH families joined for a joyous New Year's Eve Watch Night Service. Combining Holy Communion with uplifting praise and the sharing of Bible promise cards, the evening celebrated the hope and blessings of the new year.



Martyrs IWC steering group (Erol, Geoff, Jo, Sammy, Sangeetha, Bertin, Phillippa and Shobha) met a few times for breakfast and a brainstorming time at the vicarage throughout 2024. Here we were reflecting at the overall vision of IWC, as well as how best to implement our 3/6/9 months goals and objectives. This group also attended the Community of Practice in June, where most IWC's in Leicester Diocese come together to share, explore and learn together.

"I think being part of the IWC is the most exciting thing to happen to the Martyrs in years. I want to thank our Global Majority Heritage (GMH) members of the congregation for helping my faith grow and helping me to see how vibrant the church of God is around the world. This is such an important mission and one that enriches and blesses us. I would encourage everyone to take this mission seriously and enjoy learning from one another." – Jo Pearce

Shobha Gosa, Intercultural Pioneer Minister

HOMEGROUPS

Home groups have continued to be an important way for us to build fellowship and faith in our church community throughout 2024. Our home groups have covered a variety of material including Bible studies and Bible courses as well as engaging with various other discipleship material.

Throughout 2024 there were six homegroups running at the Martyrs. People leading these groups were Trevor Worsfold, Liz Lawton and Arthur Deegan, Robin Pointon and Angela Gordon, Shobha Gosa, and Phillippa Taylor. Around 45 people have connected with the different groups in 2024.

Each homegroup decides the content of their sessions. However, from time to time we encourage our homegroups to use the same material for a season. Last autumn some of them were using the Bible Course material produced by the Bible Society, something which many people found very helpful.

We would like to develop our Homegroup ministry further in 2025, training more homegroup leaders, launching more homegroups and connecting more people to a home group.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to lead and participate in this important ministry.

Bertin Hermo, Vicar

WORSHIP GROUP

The worship team / music group has played an important part in our sung worship for over 40 years at the Church of the Martyrs with variety of musicians and singers taking part on a Sunday morning and evening. Whether it's been one man and a guitar or an ensemble with singers, guitarist, bassist, drummers, woodwind, strings, brass, organ and pianist we are here to help in the sung worship at the church. As usual we have new people joining us and some leaving for pastures new.

Over the years we have embraced a variety of styles and songs from around the world and will continue to do so as the dynamics of our church changes.

My thanks to those who continue to help in leading what we do on a Sunday morning / evening whether they are singers, musicians, or worship leaders as well as the sound and AV team each give their time, week in and week out.

Please pray for us as we continue to develop our own way of worship that is pleasing to God.

Erol Melbourne

ECO CHURCH

The Martyrs since 2022 has had a team of people focused on helping us as a church be good stewards of our resources and demonstrate good environmental practice. As Christians we are called to care for our planet. It's clear from what we see and hear locally and globally, we definitely could do a better job! The ecoMartyrs team consists of Chris Freeman, Shobha Gosa, Lorraine Pointon, Robin Pointon, Tom Bamford and Cathy Shelly. Phillippa Taylor was part of the group prior to her departure to Derby.

A key focus of the group is our Eco Church Award, a scheme run by A Rocha. It's great to report that we have now achieved Bronze status. The Award helps us to assess how our church demonstrates good environmental practice across the follow areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Over the last year, we've undertaken a number of initiatives to help us be good stewards. Here are some of the highlights:

- ecoCafé: offering practical help on recycling and measuring your carbon footprint
- Installing swift bird boxes on the community hall
- Raising funds for solar photovoltaic panels at the eye hospital in Kiteto, Tanzania
- Enjoying a vegan community lunch
- Having a pop-up Just fair-trade shop in church
- Supporting Shaftesbury Junior School with eco activities
- Running Generosity tables (led by others in the Martyrs)
- Having a herb planter box by the church entrance

For the next 12 months, here are some of our priorities:

- Assessing opportunity to move from Bronze to Silver Eco Church accreditation.
- Obtaining costings for solar photovoltaic panels on our church and community hall roofs
- Running a further ecoCafe
- Producing a video to assist with recycling
- Reducing our carbon footprint in how we travel to church and in our daily lives

Have you ideas of other activities we could do? Please share these with any members of the ecoMartyrs group.

Robin and Lorraine Pointon

SOCIAL TEAM

We have had a busy start to 2025 with events each month so far. We started the year with a Souper Sunday followed by intense games and dedicated jigsawing! February saw the return of family film night with the

screening of 'Sing' with hotdogs & popcorn and of course our shared lunch to say a fond farewell to Phillippa. March began with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party. This proved very popular with around 100 pancakes being served! Various other activities are being planned for this year including an Easter Bunny Drive, a trip to crazy golf, an evening at T20 cricket and maybe a Pimms & Praise event... watch out for details!

'Chips and Chat' continues on the last Wednesday of each month, after the communion service, with between 20 and 30 in regular attendance enjoying all that Frydales (who open up just for us!) have to offer.



Back in 2024 we also enjoyed a successful Saturday morning Lego Café, more shared lunches and picnics, a day trip to the seaside, a harvest quiz and, of course, a fabulous day trip to Rutland Water which was enjoyed by many.

Our aim, as the Social Team, is to organise events that help us to have fun, enjoy each other's company and help us to get to know one another better as a church family. We try to offer a varied programme that is accessible to all. We hope that there will be something, at some point during the year, which appeals to everyone. If there is something YOU would like to do/take part in/see organised please speak to one of the team, your suggestions would be very welcome!

At present we have 11 people on the 'official' social team but we always welcome additional support and ideas from others. If you would be interested in joining the team, then please speak to Julie Shaw. Thanks.

Julie Shaw

GUIDING

Girlguiding at the Martyrs continues to offer weekly activities for girls from the age of 5 to 18 in our Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger units. We are delighted that during the past year the number of girls has risen, particularly for those of Brownie age. Now between the two Brownie units, we have approximately 40 girls. These girls are from different schools and varied backgrounds, and it is great to see diversity again in our units. We now hope that Rainbow numbers will also start to increase.

Once again, we would like to thank the church for the support, we receive in being able to use the hall so frequently, in return for our annual donation. We try to be generous with our donations and accommodating if there are other users but recognise how fortunate we are to have the use of these facilities.

We are always grateful for the help and support that we receive from church members. We have a group of leaders and others -Martyrs Friends of Guiding or FoG, to organise our fundraising events. We are delighted that 3 extra people have joined this group to help us. Many people once again helped with and supported our Christmas Fair. It is a wonderful community event as well as raising £2000! Other fundraising events like our Shopping Evening and Chef and Spice are always well attended by church members, and we thank you for your support. As we have mentioned before, these fundraising activities help to ensure that Girlguiding is affordable for all.

We also held our annual Thinking Day service and breakfast, where current and past members from the Martyrs, other local leaders, as well as church friends joined together for a communion service and fellowship. Our units were also pleased to be involved with Harvest and Christingle Parade services, and we are grateful to service leaders for helping the girls to be involved in the services.

Every week we continue to work on our programme by doing activities, games, cooking and badge work and having fun. Across the groups we have also had days out, nights away, a cinema visit and a panto trip. We would welcome more girls to come and join us and would also welcome any adults or young leaders to help at our groups. Please have a word if you are interested.

Liz Bamford

MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union (MU) is a Christian organisation/charity with 4 million worldwide members, and everyone is welcome to join, not just mothers! Our Martyrs branch had 25 members in 2024, 3 of whom were men. Not all were able to attend the Wednesday afternoon meetings but by joining MU, everyone made a difference to the lives of people around the world and the UK, especially local (grass roots) concerns, hopefully, strengthening and preserving marriage and Christian family life, all with the aid of prayer.

The theme for 2024 continued as "Transformation Now" and a varied and interesting programme entertained us all, with speakers at some of our monthly meetings, to whom we offer our grateful thanks. The social contact and support with prayers are also an important part of MU.

Shirley Waterworth led the Branch, with Karon Price as Treasurer, and joint secretary with Shirley. Thank you to the committee members, Linda Tilley, Angela Sharp and Ruth Twaite; Ruth Fryer and all our generous and loyal branch members. Our thanks also extend to everyone at the Church of the Martyrs and their wonderful support. We wish Bertin continued good health and best wishes to Phillippa Taylor and husband Jim for their move to Derbyshire. Thank you to Phillippa for arranging a beautiful Church Communion Service in September and for your friendship.

We began 2024 with £80 in funds and start 2025 with £59.79. The total giving for the year was £750 which was quite an achievement. Our giving consisted of -

£135	to the Kiteto FGM fund, Ezereda's project to provide a safe place for talking to girls and encouraging all MU members to spread the word about the FGM project.
£70	to the Summer of Hope Appeal for literacy and numeracy projects in DR of Congo.
£110	to Leics Homeless.
£110	to Mary Sumner House (Charity Headquarters).
£100	to AFIA holidays (Away from it all holidays for families in need).
£80	to the hall funds (Martyrs).
£135	for Women's Aid – given to Kate Cooper (Leics MU Administrator).

We campaigned and supported Women's Aid with prayer during the 16 Days of Activism, The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) with donations of Easter Eggs and Christmas gifts for prisoners to give to their children and Collections for Baby Basics. Ruth Fryer was an on-site helper at the AFIA caravan holiday for 10 families, in July.

We enjoyed a Spring lunch at Palmers Garden Centre and afternoon tea in church, in August, when we collected for the Summer Hope of Appeal. Our thanks to Rev. Susan Leighton for the moving Lenton Reflection and for playing her clarinet at our Christmas carols and readings. Sarah and David Shepherd spoke at the Leicestershire Diocesan MU Autumn Forum about their Kiteto visit and gave an update on the FGM campaign. Our branch sadly said goodbye to some of our African visitors, as they moved on. We were fortunate to learn so much about the work of MU in Africa.

Finally, our congratulations go to Ruth Fryer who was elected to serve as our new MU Leicestershire Diocesan President for the new triennial 2025- 2027, the theme of which is “Join Us and Join In”. If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to know more, please see Shirley or Karon.

Shirley Waterworth, Branch Leader

Martyrs CHURCH

**Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester
Sunday 6th April 2025 at 12.00hrs in the Church**

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Appointment of Clerk for Meetings**
3. **Apologies**
4. **Minutes of AMP 2024**
5. **Election of Church Wardens for 2025-26**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of 2024 APCM**
3. **PCC Reports**

a) **Mission and Ministry Reports**

Verbal reports

- Children's and Young Families' – Irene Hart
- Worship Group – Erol Melbourne
- Intercultural Worshipping Community – Shobha Gosa

Written reports

- Baby Basics
- Children's and Young Families' work
- Wonder
- Fuel Cells
- Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC)
- Homegroups
- Worship Group
- Eco church
- Social Team
- Guiding
- Mothers Union

- b) **PCC Proceedings**
- c) **Leadership Group Report**
- d) **Electoral Roll and Attendance Report**
- e) **Church Fabric Report**

- f) Financial Report
- g) Mission Partnership
- h) Deanery Synod Report
- i) Church Hall Report
- j) Health and Safety Report
- k) Safeguarding Report
- l) Pastoral Team report

4. Elections & Appointments

- a) Election of 3 PCC Members to serve for 3 years
- b) Reader representation on PCC for 2025-26
- c) Note Appointment of Deputy/Assistant Wardens
- d) Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2025-26

5. Open Forum: an opportunity to ask questions about the life of the church; questions to be submitted **by Wednesday 2nd April** to Geoff Pollard (07958 359157)
geoffpollard46@gmail.com

6. Closing Prayer.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester Sunday 21st April 2024 at 12.00hrs in the Church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In Attendance:

Revd. Bertin Hermo, Revd. Phillippa Taylor, Liz Bamford, Pete Coopey, Liz Coopey, Julie Shaw, Sue Gammon, Les Gammon, Norman Banner, Ed de Salis Young, Erol Melbourne, Malcolm Greenwood, Chris Roe, Sarah Roe, Lorraine Pointon, Maureen Pointon, Patricia Woods, Linda Tilley, Ann Smith, Sue Hermo, Irene Hart, Margaret Wicks, John Riley, Pat Bailey, Robert Freeman, Chris Freeman, Michael Jawahar Ravuri, Trevor Worsfold, Liz Preston, Richard Jaramba, Sammy Jaramba, Guinevere David, Roz Burch, Ben Lawton, Liz Lawton, Dave Woodcock, Susan Woodcock, Karon Price, Shobha Gosa, Robin Pointon, Clare Pollard, Geoffrey Pollard, Janet Lenton, Sonia Kurian, Shaylesh Raja, David Shepherd, Sarah Shepherd, Steve Ardron, Shayne Ardron, Mick Pinney, Sue Seaman, Richard Burden, Pauline Burden, Hannah Burden, Martin Clarke, Elliot Lee, Tom Bamford, Liz Dampier, Mike Dampier, Katherine Hawker, John Sinclair, Kim Burley Jones, Florence Adediran, Moses Kagwi, Sangeetha Malladi, Sandhya Pasvathi Daela, Shenade Hall, Jo Pearce, Ashok Kumar P, Monica Benno.

Apologies:

Ann Raja, Ruth Fryer, Dave Seaman, Shirley Waterworth, Angela Sharp, Steve Bradley, Kathy Bradley, Angela Sharp, Judith Edwards, Jill Lapworth, Nina de Salis Young.

1. Opening Prayer

Bertin chairing the meeting opened the meeting with prayer at 12.00.

2. Appointment of Clerk for the Meetings

Steve Ardron was appointed as Clerk for the meetings.

3. Minutes of the AMP 2023

It was proposed from the chair that the minutes of the AMP held on 14th May 2023 were an accurate record of the previous meeting. This was accepted unanimously by the meeting and there were no matters arising.

4. Appointment of Church Wardens for 2024/25

Richard Jaramba and Lorraine Pointon had served as dedicated wardens for the past year. Both were willing to stand once more and the following formal nominations for the role of church wardens had been received.

Lorraine Pointon- proposed by Steve Bradley and seconded by Kathy Bradley

Richard Jaramba - proposed by Phillipa Bonny and seconded by Irene Hart

After a show of hands, both Lorraine Pointon and Richard Jaramba were duly declared elected to serve as Church Wardens for one year with full approval of the meeting. The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Lorraine and Richard for being willing to fulfil this role.

Meeting closed 12.15pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Commenced 12.16pm

1. Attendance & Apologies

Both as recorded for the AMP.

2. Minutes of the 2023 APCM

The minutes of the 2023 APCM, held on 14th May 2023 were accepted as a true record after an amendment on page 32 of the Church Report in the finance report section changing “The surplus has risen to £71,393....” To correctly read: - “The reserves have risen to £71,393...”

There were no matters arising.

3. PCC Reports

A range of reports had been produced for the year ended 31st Dec 2023 and circulated both on-line and by way of hard copy, which were also available at the meeting.

a) Mission & Ministry Reports:

Verbal Reports for this year were from the following 3 areas of Ministry to give some additional insight into each.

- **Homegroups** – Phillippa Taylor talked through a review of homegroups that had seen the launch of 3 new groups with new leaders and members. The introduction of a breakfast group and a Thursday evening. She shared that from her personal experience these times have been a source of constant encouragement in her faith. Time to be able to discuss and explore faith away from the “business” of a service.

Homegroups remain keen to grow, and there are people who would like to join, but not always possible to accommodate within current groups. This year all homegroups studied the “life on the frontline” series and all came together at the beginning and end for a much larger session, however during the course each group looked at the course very much in their own individual ways. The course had helped people share through conversations that they maybe would not have done otherwise.

- **Girl Guiding** – Liz Bamford gave some greater insight into group, explaining that it is the largest organisation for girls between ages 4-18. It started in 1928 at the Martyrs. Across Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers there are around 60 girls. Some spaces are available in all the groups.

There is a mix of activity with weekly badge work and mixing with others that is different to what is experienced in a school setting. Girl guiding is not a “faith organisation” but is an important aspect of the Martyrs witness. Around 10 families are members of the Martyrs as they have come along from within the Guiding contact.

Fundraising brings lots of community to the hall and helps people engage with the Martyrs. It has also helped contribute £600 to the hall funds.

Fund raising is also necessary for the organisation has a £50 membership levy for each girl.

- **Baby Basics** – Pete Coopey (on behalf of Laura Hutchinson who was unwell)

The key things for people to understand about Baby Basics which is different to other groups, is that whilst it is one of the sub-committees of the PCC and operates under the Church charity number, it is self-funded.

Its aim is to support disadvantaged families, and this comes through referrals from Council and healthcare professionals in the City and County. Where there was a Council projection of 8-10 families per month perhaps requiring assistance, BB is currently experiencing 55-60 requests per month showing the increasing number of people falling into the disadvantaged criteria.

The notable changes have been the increase in:

1. Families where domestic abuse and violence has been present.
2. The increase in homeless expectant mums.

Baby Basics is fortunate to be linked with the national Baby Basics organisation, and Companies will donate items to the organisation such as cots, push chairs, prams etc. Items are always required and there is currently a 30-40 long waiting list in respect of cots and buggies.

Leicester has a higher than UK average rate of teenage pregnancy and higher rates of under 16's in poverty.

Baby Basics Leicester has grown to a team of 17 regular volunteers and 2 part time staff, who have coped with some 900 referrals in the last year. Thanks specifically should be expressed to Laura Hutchinson and all the others in the team whether that is in preparing or receiving donations, working in finance, being points for drop off locations for donations etc. There are a vast number of people involved at all levels, which is far wider reaching than Martyrs members.

Written Reports

Bertin thanked all those who had written reports which showed the breadth of engagement and that we had much to be thankful for. He briefly highlighted the following –

- **Money Matters: It was confirmed that this would be closing.** Led by Nina De Salis Young, it has been a significant ministry and has had a huge impact in our community since 2016 and thanks were expressed to Nina for her dedication and hard work over the years. Hope 67 will be continuing. We can praise God for the many stories of hope.
- **Families and Children's Work** continues to be at the heart of what we do at The Martyrs, and we are grateful to Irene and all those involved in this work, with Sunday Clubs, Summer clubs, Shake, & Light party continuing to develop. We can celebrate the growing links with Shaftsbury Junior School with half term assembly and craft club involvement.

We would like to grow Fuel Cells from 1 to 2 groups, and we would want to thank all those in leadership roles who week after week work with our young people.

- **IWC** Thanks were expressed to Shobha for her lead along with the steering group. Bertin is particularly encouraged by the number of students making Martyrs their home. He introduced Sangeetha and welcomed her to the Martyrs as our new intern.
- **The Worship Group** It is essential for us to explore how the group reflects our IWC congregation. Singing in different languages has continued to develop. Thanks to Erol Melbourne for heading up and organising rotas, and to Steve Bradley in respect to Sound. There is a continued requirement for AV operators and presentation.
- **Eco Church** It is one of our 5 strands of Mission at the Martyrs. The installation of Swift Boxes at the Hall had been undertaken.
- We are fortunate to have an active **Social Team** headed up by Julie Shaw. There have been a good variety of events and we benefitted from the time spent together with others on the Church holiday. Thanks were expressed to all those who helped with the planning, gave financially and participated to make this a success.
- **Mothers' Union** We are grateful for the ongoing work of our Mothers Union. Many thanks to Shirley Waterworth and Karon Price for their leadership.
- In an update to the **Nave Reordering Project** Bertin confirmed that the PCC had voted unanimously for a faculty application to be prepared and submitted. We will keep everyone informed as this moves forward. Bertin expressed thanks to the working group.

Bertin thanked everyone for giving their time in such a selfless voluntary manner, and whilst not all got mentions in the report there were so many to thank, from Counting money, Gardening, Cleaning etc, etc.

Other more formal Reports

These were run through, allowing times for any queries, especially in respect to the Finance report that follows:

- a) Proceedings of the PCC Report** The report as printed on pages 6&7 of the Annual Report document was presented to the meeting. Bertin publicly wanted to thank those in the committees and sub-committees for all the wisdom that they brought to the various meetings.
- b) Leadership Group Report** The report on the workings and membership of the group was printed on page 7 of the Annual Report document and was presented to the meeting. There were no questions asked.
- d) Electoral Roll Report** The Electoral Roll Report was presented, noting that the list had increased to a total of 172 members on the Electoral Roll with 7 new being added and 2 removed. The report was received by the meeting and Ben Lawton was thanked for his work in managing the Roll and attendance figures.

It was encouraging that both the Wednesday Communion and 6:15 had grown numerically as they had found their own shape and flavour.

e) Fabric Report & Inventory The Fabric Report as printed on page 12 of the Annual Report was presented to the meeting. Thanks to Richard Jaramba for its compilation.

It was noted that the nave reordering project is proceeding with a required faculty application having been submitted. We should pray during 24/25 for the project, which if approved will give people an opportunity to give towards its fulfilment.

f) Finance Report Ed de Salis Young presented the Finance Report (Pg 13) in graphs and charts form, and the accounts to the meeting as printed in the Annual Report. He started by giving some context.

Q: Why do we have a finance team?

- We are dealing with large sums of money.
- Need to ensure it is correctly recorded.
- To be able to report to others and give advice and recommendations on whether we can spend the money.
- Because funds are split into different funds and accounts.

These were commented on as follows:

- General Fund** As “general” suggests this is the account that incorporates the main income and expenditure. This year has seen Income over budget and expenditure under budget. It should however be noted that the Quinquennial building inspection will give rise to some fabric repairs, and some of these necessary repairs will not all be in the same financial year. (A chart was shown to the meeting to illustrate how the fund has moved over time)
- Hall** There have been signs of a turnaround with the Hall lettings thanks to some hard work by Martin. There is still a degree of subsidy to the hall from Church general funds that has an impact on reserves.
- Hardship Fund** This is a new fund that has been set up because of a specific large donation and a portion of Church Tithe. It has a balance of £11,000 and it is for donations to assist individuals where appropriate criteria exists.
- Church Development Fund** This is specifically in place to allow donations to be made towards church fabric, with the Nave re-ordering project falling into this category.
- Children and family worker fund** This element supports the work of our employed worker, Irene Hart, and is made up of both grant income and donations made specifically from individuals. This still does not meet all expected funds required, so PCC would need to take money from general funds where required. Whilst sources of funding continue to be sought, individuals can give directly to this fund if they should so wish.
- Money Matters** As this is closing, any residual funds will be returned or transferred on to Hope 67 who will be continuing their debt advice work.
- Baby Basics** The major move to new premises in 2022 has benefited the work, but increased costs, and reserves will have been reduced.

Some general comments regarding the budget looking forward were shared as like personal finances, the church faces challenges:

- We are projecting a Deficit budget currently.
- The Diocese are looking at increased costs and are requesting prayerful giving from parishes. PCC will need to consider the level of giving in the coming months.
- There may yet be subsidies required for the Hall, despite the increased in lettings.
- Income and expenditure are both projected to rise.

In summary Ed concluded by reminding people about the many ways that they can give, envelopes, cash, QR codes, standing order, etc. If you pay tax, the church can claim gift aid if a suitable declaration form is signed.

He thanked the rest of the team: Malcolm Greenwood, Nina De Salis Young, Martin Clarke, Mike Dampier and all the money counters of cash, and our independent examiner Colin Wood.

Questions

Q: David Shepherd - Could any spare tithes be considered for a Kiteto Project?

A: The PCC would need to consider this and decide where any unallocated tithes are sent in due course. Ed further explained that the PCC tried to have a mix of local and international recipients of the tithe. If anyone had ideas on groups to support, they should mention this to a PCC member.

Q: Are we able to claim back gift aid when using the tap machine?

A: Only some was eligible.

It was proposed by David Shepherd and seconded by Robin Pointon that Ed's verbal financial report along with the preceding written reports of the Annual Report Document plus the accounts as stated at the rear of the document pg.36 onwards be accepted. This was unanimously agreed by a show of hands by the meeting.

Remaining reports formal

- **West Leicester Mission Partnership Pg 15**
- **City of Leicester Deanery Synod Pg 15**
- **Church Hall Report Pg 16.** We want the hall to be a community resource, and it is good to see an increase in its usage. Intentional advertising and banners, Martyrs website and social media advertising etc has assisted. Thanks were expressed to Martin Clarke.
- **Health & Safety Report Pg 17** Thanks to Geoff Pollard for Reviewing the H&S policy.
- **Safeguarding Report Pg 17-18**
- **Pastoral Team Report Pg 15**

Note that the Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Pastoral Team, West Leicester Mission Partnership, Hall, and Deanery Synod Reports were all received by the meeting.

4. Elections and Appointments

a) Parochial Church Council

Thanks to those due to retire this year from PCC. They are:

Wendy Bebbington & Ben Lawton.

In addition:

Osas Uhunamure was standing down early and
Helen Pinney had stepped down earlier in the year.

Bertin declared that nominations had been received as follows:

- Hannah Burden proposed by Sue Seaman and seconded by Lorraine Pointon
- Roz Burch proposed by Patricia Woods and seconded by Trevor Worsfold
- Ashok Panjagala proposed by Michael Ravuriand seconded by Liz Lawton
- Ben Lawton proposed by Guinevere David and seconded by Robin Pointon

In the absence of any other nominations, there was no requirement for a vote and the abovementioned were duly elected to the PCC. It had been agreed at the last PCC meeting that the formal election of officers for the new PCC would be at the beginning of their first meeting.

b) PCC Reader Representative

Shayne Ardron was willing to stand again as the Reader representative on PCC and was duly accepted.

c) Deputy/ Assistant Wardens

Whilst not being formal church appointments the valuable work of Deputy Wardens was recognised. Eileen Melbourne was standing down this year and appreciation was expressed for her service. Liz Bamford had agreed to continue for a further year and would be joined by Robin Pointon.

d) Independent Examiner

Ed de Salis Young proposed that Colin Wood be appointed as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year once again. This was seconded by Liz Lawton and unanimously agreed by the meeting unanimously.

5. Open Forum

It was noted that no questions had been received prior to the meeting for Open Forum discussion, however the following were asked:

Q: As a best guess, when could the Nave r e-ordering start?

A: The faculty application needs to happen first and then fund raising would need to commence if faculty approved. 2025 may give a better indication.

Q: Is there a plan for intergenerational representation on the PCC?

A: The PCC can Co-Opt members, so not essential that younger representation has to stand at the AGM.

6. Votes of thanks

Bertin expressed his appreciation for the help and support he receives. There are of course ups and downs, but it is good to be community “together “in worshipping God.

In response Phillippa thanked Bertin for his thoughtful leadership.

Final Prayer

Lorraine Pointon closed the meeting with a final prayer.

The meeting ended at 1.25pm

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS LEICESTER

Registered Charity no 1134668

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

CONTENTS

Page 2	Statement of Accounting Policies
Page 4	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 5	Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024
Page 6	Notes to the Accounts

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December
2024

Note 1:

Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and on an Accruals basis.

Scope of the Accounts

The Accounts combine the results of the Church, Hall and associated funds for the year. The Accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Funds

Unrestricted funds [general fund] represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use.

Restricted funds represent income and donations from individuals or groups which, may be expended only on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. At the start of 2024 there were 6 active Restricted Funds: Children and Families Worker Fund, Money Matters fund, Baby Basics fund, Organ fund (donations for the church organ), Mission Partnership fund, and Hardship Fund. During the year the Mission Partnership fund was closed and the money distributed back to the various churches that had originally donated it.

Designated Funds have been designated by the PCC and as such could be 'undesigned' in the future. At the start of 2023 there were 3 active Designated Funds: the Hall fund, Buildings Development fund and Tithe fund (to hold unspent tithe monies). As the tithes are now all directly spent, the Tithe fund was not used in 2024.

The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the Accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- Planned giving is recognised only when received
- Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income to which it relates is received.
- All funds raised from events are accounted for gross
- Interest is accounted for as it is paid
- Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Resources used

Outgoing donations made are accounted for when paid. The Parish Share is accounted for when paid, although any unpaid amount at 31st December is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not legal) liability and as such would be shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust of the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Items acquired before 2000 are not included in the accounts either because there is insufficient cost information available or the value is considered too low. The expenditure on individual items and equipment under £1,500 is written off when incurred.

The church does record 5 fixed assets, which are over the £1,500 threshold. Depreciation is applied on a 'straight line' basis over the likely lifespan of each item, based on advice from suppliers. The 5 items are the electronic organ (25 years lifespan), and the main audio visual (AV) projector, sound desk (now zero value), photocopier and church chairs (all 10 years lifespan).

The church (rather than the Diocese) also owns the Martyrs' Community Hall which was built later than the church and paid for by parishioner fundraising. This is noted here, but not shown as a fixed asset in the accounts as the value is uncertain.

Salaries

During the year the PCC employed an Administrator and Premises Officer, a Cleaner, a Children and Families Worker, and for Baby Basics a Manager and an Administrator, making a total of 5 employees at the end of 2024, who were all part-time. The payroll is administered by the Diocese of Leicester, and wages for all employees have had appropriate PAYE and NI deductions made. Pension contributions have been made for the Administrator, the Children and Families Worker and the Baby Basics Manager and Administrator; all employees now have the option to join the pension scheme, which is with NEST.

Payments to PCC Members

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the clergy may relate to their services to the PCC. The only payments made to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, were direct reimbursements for items bought for the church.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Statement of Financial Activities – Year Ending 31st December 2024

Statement of Financial	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
Activites	General Fund	Ch Dev	Ch&Fam	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
			Organ, Hship		MP			
Incoming Resources								
Voluntary income (note 2a)	124,604	3,750	15,793	1,670	62	84,845	230,724	235,265
Investment income (note 2b)	3,526	-	-	-	-	-	3,526	1,029
Income from Charitable Activities (note 2c)	1,376	-	-	49,806	-	8,391	59,573	50,047
Other Incoming Resources (note 2d)	159	-	-	-	-	292	451	1,982
Total Incoming Resources	129,666	3,750	15,793	51,476	62	93,529	294,276	288,323
Resources Expended								
Cost of Generating Funds (note 3a)	283	-	2	-	-	301	586	467
Grants (note 3b)	8,378	-	7,056	-	12,019	14,718	42,171	30,783
Activities directly related to Church Work (3c)	128,710	2,931	19,099	44,720	895	44,862	241,217	238,895
Total Resources Expended	137,370	2,931	26,157	44,720	12,914	59,882	283,974	270,144
Net incoming resources	(7,704)	819	(10,364)	6,756	(12,852)	33,647	10,302	18,179
Transfers between funds (note 4 below)	(5,496)		5,033	1,000	(1,370)	833	-	-
Net movement in funds	(13,200)	819	(5,331)	7,756	(14,222)	34,480	10,302	18,179
Total funds brought forward	94,627	3,753	14,785	91	15,572	23,855	152,684	134,505
Total funds carried forward	81,427	4,572	9,454	7,847	1,350	58,335	162,986	152,684

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2024

Balance Sheet	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church Dev, Hall, Tithe	Organ, MP, MM, BB, CH&Fam	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Fixed Assets - Equipment (note 5)	1,515	1,078	2,340	4,933	6,438
Current Assets					
Cash at bank and hand	74,828	8,946	62,522	146,295	144,567
Debtors - Tax reclaimable (note 6)	4,825	500	1,082	6,407	6,802
Debtors - general (note 6)	985	3,732	4,150	8,867	3,103
Total	80,637	13,178	67,754	161,569	154,472
Current Liabilities (note 7)					
Creditors and Agency Collections	(726)	(1,836)	(954)	(3,517)	(8,228)
Total	(726)	(1,836)	(954)	(3,517)	(8,228)
Total Net Assets	81,427	12,419	69,140	162,986	152,684
Represented by Funds					
Unrestricted					
General fund	81,427			81,427	94,627
Designated					
Hall Fund		7,847		7,847	91
Church Development Fund		4,572		4,572	3,753
Restricted					
Hardship Fund			7,021	7,021	10,724
Children & Families Worker Fund			93	93	1,253
Money Matters Leicester Fund			1,350	1,350	13,350
Baby Basics Fund			58,335	58,335	23,855
Mission Partnership Fund			0	0	2,222
Organ Fund			2,340	2,340	2,808
Balances at 31 December	81,427	12,419	69,140	162,986	152,684

Approved on behalf of the PCC

Name: Bertin Hermo, Vicar

Date:

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Note 2:

Incoming Resources Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam		MP			
			Organ, Hship					
2a Voluntary Income								
Regular donations Gift Aid	27,010.07		3,735.00			315.00	31,060.07	32,159.35
Donations gross via CAF	1,025.00						1,025.00	10,900.00
Donations via PGS	41,367.13						41,367.13	42,858.39
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid and GASDS	16,670.63	750.00	1,203.25		12.25	268.47	18,904.60	27,968.89
Credit Card or online donations	11,532.70		150.00			757.00	12,439.70	11,628.47
Regular donations non Gift Aid	5,913.80		120.00			6,255.00	12,288.80	14,622.66
Cash Collections	1,577.10		444.87			80.00	2,101.97	4,722.75
Special or one off Donations Gift Aid	400.00	3,000.00	1,000.00		50.00	250.00	4,700.00	30,139.44
Special or one off Donations non Gift Aid	2,959.58		640.00	1,670.00		4,554.85	9,824.43	5,190.91
Grants & Legacies	10,000.00		8,500.00			72,365.00	90,865.00	42,018.45
Grants - IWC	6,148.13						6,148.13	13,055.33
Total	124,604.14	3,750.00	15,793.12	1,670.00	62.25	84,845.32	230,724.83	235,264.64
2b Investment Income								
Bank/CBF Interest	3,526.19						3,526.19	1,029.17
Total	3,526.19	-	-	-	-	-	3,526.19	1,029.17
2c Income from Charitable Activities								
PCC Fees (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals)	766.00						766.00	768.00
Hire/Lettings of buildings				49,805.99			49,805.99	30,800.33
Trading Income and Cost Reimbursement	10.00					8,391.41	8,401.41	3,943.98
Church Trips and Holidays	600.04						600.04	14,534.60
Total	1,376.04	-	-	49,805.99	-	8,391.41	59,573.44	50,046.91
2d Other								
Social and Fundraising Events	159.39					292.00	451.39	1,881.56
Miscellaneous Income							-	100.00
Insurance Claims							-	-
Total	159.39	-	-	-	-	292.00	451.39	1,981.56
Total Incoming Resources	129,665.76	3,750.00	15,793.12	51,475.99	62.25	93,528.73	294,275.85	288,322.28

Note 3:

Resources Expended Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2024(£)	2023(£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam		MP			
		Tithe	Organ, Hship					
3a Cost of Generating Funds								
Social Events, Envelopes, fees	283.06		1.73			301.47	586.26	467.40
Total	283.06	-	1.73	-	-	301.47	586.26	467.40
3b Grants								
Tithes paid out to external organisations	6,665.00						6,665.00	8,774.00
Other Donations	1,712.67		7,055.98		12,019.34	14,718.36	35,506.35	22,008.79
Total	8,377.67	-	7,055.98	-	12,019.34	14,718.36	42,171.35	30,782.79
3c Activities directly related to Church Work								
Parish Contribution	72,600.00						72,600.00	66,000.00
Remuneration Costs (inc temporary and interns)	15,742.35		18,428.95	20,365.64		18,681.19	73,218.13	60,138.75
Clergy and Staff Expenses	1,701.96		154.08	140.00		134.59	2,130.63	1,431.06
IWC Staff and Event Spending	4,583.73						4,583.73	3,846.58
Mission: Church Trips and Holidays	962.50						962.50	19,693.56
Mission: Children and Youth inc Holiday Club	2,874.96						2,874.96	1,651.64
Mission: Other events, Alpha etc	1,372.70						1,372.70	1,442.46
Staff Training and Conferences	738.94				594.51		1,333.45	737.55
Printing, Stationery, Phone, Broadband, Postage	2,072.38		48.00	271.07	109.74	5,744.66	8,245.85	8,389.46
External Printing, Publicity, Website	625.00					46.13	671.13	1,060.42
Consumables and Cleaning Equipment	595.31			2,546.00		15.99	3,157.30	2,452.18
Insurance Premiums	3,608.71			2,624.59	103.63		6,336.93	6,464.17
Fees: Subs, Licenses, Membership, PRS	1,253.48			420.96		300.00	1,974.44	3,341.10
Equipment: Computers, furniture etc	1,381.73			626.13	12.47	3.60	2,023.93	3,622.50
Equipment: Worship (PA etc)	-						-	866.65
Worship and Service Resources, Manuals, Books	3,436.38				74.50		3,510.88	4,563.25
Fixed Asset Depreciation	500.15	537.00	468.00				1,505.15	1,507.94
General Maintenance	5,165.89			6,130.37		84.00	11,380.26	11,574.91
Premises: Rental, Rates, legal and valuations	-					17,026.00	17,026.00	16,411.59
Utilities	8,162.54			11,594.99		2,825.56	22,583.09	21,454.63
PCC Expenses and Governance Costs	395.06						395.06	186.84
Major or Quinquennial Work	630.00	2,394.00					3,024.00	1,732.72
Bank Charges	305.85						305.85	325.80
Other Expenses	-						-	-
Total	128,709.62	2,931.00	19,099.03	44,719.75	894.85	44,861.72	241,215.97	238,895.76
Total Resources Expended	137,370.35	2,931.00	26,156.74	44,719.75	12,914.19	59,881.55	283,973.58	270,145.95

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Note 4: For details of Fund transfers, see Note 4 on the summary SOFA page.

Note 5: Fixed Assets

(a) Tangible	Electric Organ	A/V system	Sound Desk	Copier	Church Chairs	Total
Actual Cost						
At 1 January 2024	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Additions						0
Disposals						0
At 31 December 2024	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2024	8,892	18,301	3,600	1,740	3,759	36,292
Additions	468	210	0	290	537	1,505
Disposals						
At 31 December 2024	9,360	18,511	3,600	2,030	4,296	37,797
Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	2,340	639	0	877	1,078	4,934
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	2,808	849	0	1,167	1,615	6,439

Note 6:

Debtors consist of Gift Aid tax recoverable and general debtors (for example Hall users). The stated Gift Aid tax owing at the end of 2024 matches the tax claim made in February 2025.

Note 7: Liabilities consist of Agency collections (those collected for others but not yet paid over), invoices not yet paid, deposits held (including for Hall users), and accruals.

The total Parish Contribution offer the Martyrs made for 2024 was £72,600, which was fully paid during the year.

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Church of The Martyrs, Leicester

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1134668

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

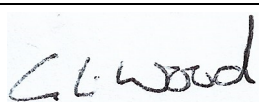
**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date:

08.03.25

Name:

Colin Wood

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

16 Wordsworth Rd

Loughborough

Leics LE11 4LQ

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Accounts

Introduction to the Annual Report 2024

At the beginning of 2023 I spoke about how I felt God wanted to encourage us throughout the year to be courageous. As I now reflect on the year just gone, I so appreciate how we as a church community responded to that word. People have 'stepped up' to volunteer in helping with our children's and youth work, leading home groups, being on the welcome and hospitality team, serving on our PCC, speaking or leading prayers at our services, and also in choosing to come along to our church holiday in Wales last summer! Around 120 people of all ages and from many and varied backgrounds came to our much-anticipated time away at Cefn Lea, and the feedback we've had was that it was a very special time of relaxation, friendship and fun. May I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the church holiday planning team (Phillippa Taylor, Liz and Ben Lawton, Shobha Goza, Pete Gilbert, Stephen Kinyua and Bertin Hermo, Audrey Basopo, Liz Bamford and Julie Shaw). Also, a big thank you to all those who helped run children's events, sports activities, craft sessions, bed time stories, sports day, star gazing, sorting lunches and refreshments, transport... and more. Great work everyone!

As you will read in this annual report, so much has been going on at the Martyrs throughout 2023. We are passionate about encouraging each other in our faith and are especially thankful to everyone leading and speaking at our church services and those helping to lead our homegroups. I am also very grateful for people's willingness to pray for others, whether via the prayer-chain or with people on Sunday mornings and other times. It has been so encouraging hearing about the many answered prayers for people throughout 2023 and how God continue to meet with people in all sorts of ways.

Also, throughout 2023 we have explored how we can share and be the good news of Jesus to our local community. A number of us gathered on Saturday mornings throughout June - August to engage in local outreach and evangelism, with one person joining our church as a result. Our connection and partnership with Shaftesbury Junior School has continued to grow in 2023 with Irene and Phillippa regularly taking assemblies at the school, and, with help from others, to also run weekly craft groups. At other times such as Easter and Christmas the whole school visits the church for special Christian productions (see report from Irene for more details). Our student outreach has also continued to make an impact, and it is such an encouragement to see a number of students from different parts of the world having found a home at the Martyrs over the last year. A big thank you to Shobha and her team for their leadership in this. Finally, I also continue to be impressed with the way our Martyrs guiding group serve many local families and are making a real positive impact on so many girls.

As most of you will know, social action and justice issues have been a key focus for us as a church for a long time. We are grateful for the ministries of Baby Basics and Money Matters Leicester (MML). MML is now in the process of having to stop serving our local community with debt advice and support. We are so very grateful to Nina de Salis Young and others who have volunteered in this ministry since its launch in 2016.

I also want to express my appreciation to our Mothers Union, headed up by Shirley Waterworth and Karon Price. This faithful group of women (and a few men) are also very engaged in helping with social issues and challenges both locally and further afield.

2023 has also been a year where we have had to say farewell to a number of dear friends.

At the beginning of the year Ken Prior went to be with the Lord and in June Su Cullen followed. Also, Basil Scott's dear wife Shirley went to glory last September. We remember them all with much love and fondness.

Whilst some people have moved away from the Martyrs throughout 2023, it has been wonderful to welcome a number of new faces into our church family. We have continued to grow our three main church gatherings in the week (Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings – 6.15, and our Wednesday morning communion service). A big welcome to all of you have made Martyrs your spiritual home in 2023.

After much prayer, planning and discussion over these last three years, the PCC has unanimously decided to move forward with our Nave Reordering Project. We have recently submitted a faculty application and are now awaiting their response. We are hoping and expecting to receive a faculty for the work proposed (lighting, flooring and seating), which means that as we now move forward throughout 2024 we need to pray for the project and opportunities to give financially. It is a significant cost, but we believe that, as in the past, God will provide for us once again.

Alongside many other churches in Leicester we are about to begin exploring the best way forward with the Diocesan Minster Community Vision. More information about this will be available soon, but in the meanwhile please pray for wisdom for the PCC as we work our way through this process throughout 2024 and well into next year.

Finally, a special thank you to those in various leadership roles, whether serving on the PCC or the Leadership Group, lay readers, children and youth workers, homegroup leaders, ministry leaders and of course the staff team. And a huge thank you to others of you who serve faithfully in all sorts of ways to help us 'be church'. Thank you for your hard work, commitment and friendship. It continues to be a great joy serving the Lord with you!!

I commend this annual report to you.

Lord let your Kingdom come and let your will be done!

Bertin

Martyrs Church Holiday Banner



STATUTORY REPORTS

OVERVIEW OF THE PCC

Background

The Church of the Martyrs is situated on Westcotes Drive, Leicester. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd Ole Bertin Hermo, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1134668. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The number of elected members of the PCC is governed by the number of people on the electoral roll. In the case of The Martyrs, with over 100 members on the roll, it enables 12 elected places, with a third of posts being due for re-election each year. Members stand for a term of 3 years. In the case of any member elected to a Deanery synod or General synod, they are part of the PCC in addition to the other elected places.

Existing PCC membership since the last APCM held on the 14th of May 2023 is shown below, along with their date of their next re-election date in brackets,

Vicar	Rev Ole Bertin Hermo
Curate	Rev Phillipa Taylor
IWC Pioneer Minister	Mrs Shobha Gosa
Churchwardens	Mr Richard Jaramba
	Mrs Lorraine Pointon

Other Ex Officio

Deanery Synod	Mrs Shayne Ardron (Ex officio as a member of General Synod)
---------------	---

Elected Members (Retires)

Mrs Liz Bamford (2026 Deanery Synod)	(Vice Chair)
Mrs Julie Shaw (2026 Deanery Synod)	
Mr Steven Ardron (2026 Deanery Synod)	(PCC Secretary)

Mrs Guinevere David (2026)
Mrs Florence Adediran (2026)
Mr Ben Lawton (2024) (Electoral Roll Officer)
Mr Chris Roe (2025)
Mr Daniel Pallatt (2026)
Mrs Helen Pinney (2026)
Mrs Osayomwanbo Uhunamure (2025)
Mr Geoff Pollard (2026)
Mrs Wendy Bebbington (2024)
Mrs Jo Pearce (2025)

Co-Opted Members	Mr Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer)
Reader Representative	Mrs Shayne Ardron (Also General Synod member)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

The PCC is a legal body of the church established to consult on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, to promote the mission of the church (pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical) and has the responsibility for the maintenance of the church buildings, assets and managing church finances. It meets approximately once every 2 months, although we have had some additional ad hoc meetings as circumstances have dictated.

There continues to be much to discuss on a range of issues, and the minutes of the last meetings are available at the back of Church, or on request during the year.

There are many topics covered at each meeting, however as a matter of course the agenda will always include time to discuss matters arising from previous meetings, our health and safety obligations and responses, The PCC's safeguarding and safer recruitment obligations and any required training, as well as regular financial reporting and budgetary matters.

With a very active church, there are also regular reports from our own Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC) steering group, and discussion items that come forward in relation to projects such as Money Matters & Baby Basics. At a Leicester Diocese and National Church level there are also some key topics that have begun to be raised in 2023 that will carry through into future years.

The first is the way in which the Diocese is addressing its shortfall in funding, and with the gradual introduction of Minster Communities, how this may affect the Martyrs and its working links with other Churches. Secondly will be the discussions required for the National debate on "Living in Love and Faith" (LLF) and our responses to identity, sexuality, and marriage in that context.

Of major discussion this year has continued to be the Nave re-ordering project, where a small team from the PCC have continued to work on the presentation material to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). A detailed application explaining the works was submitted in Nov 2023, and positive responses have since been received in February 2024. A formal Chancel faculty would still be required alongside any DAC recommendation to permit. This will lead to more in-depth costing options for PCC to debate and to contemplate the next steps as we move into 2024/5.

This is still very much a journey, and it should be noted that this piece of work has not centred around any single issue, such as pew removal, but seeks to address the overall comfort of the building and its flexibility of usage in future years. This encompasses considering heating options (and heat loss issues) against the backdrop of sustainability advice and targets set by National Church, lighting improvements, flooring repair and maintenance, audio requirements, storage etc.

Inevitably there will be costs for the current and future PCC to consider, and how any such funds should be raised. Even if no changes were being considered, it is apparent that some of our heating and lighting is failing and raising such additional lump sums will be a necessity soon. The larger projects discussed at PCC potentially offer some economies of scale and could also be a prudent way of dealing with outstanding maintenance.

2023 was a year in which we were obliged to have our 5 yearly inspection of the church building, which involved an independent architect reviewing the fabric of the building and bringing matters of any concern to the notice of the PCC for them to address during the next 5-year cycle. The report will be a key topic for the upcoming PCC to discuss, with works being prioritised as raised.

As in 2022, the PCC and other leaders have continued to participate in an away day, to give more time to think about the church in a setting other than a typical business meeting. This time and space in 2023,

facilitated by Archdeacon Claire Wood, was a valuable time to help us to explore and reflect how we connect together – learning from one another about how to build relationships.

Steven Ardron, PCC Secretary

LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT

The current membership is Rev. Bertin Hermo, Richard Jaramba and Lorraine Pointon (church wardens), Liz Bamford (Lay chairperson of the PCC), Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer), Shobha Gosa (IWC Pioneer minister), Phillippa Taylor (curate) and Liz Lawton.

Meetings begin with some reflection on a word from scripture and prayer.

The Leadership Group fulfils two functions: a 'sounding board' and support group for the clergy and staff team as well as acting as the Standing Committee for the PCC. It is the Standing Committee that prepares the PCC agendas and considers finance alongside any urgent business between PCC meetings.

Regular items discussed during the last year include mission and ministry, which includes planning and reflecting upon services throughout the year, particularly planning for the Advent and Christmas periods and Easter; the church vision for the way ahead; our work with children and young people including family events and the holiday club; finance, including the parish gift and tithing; progress with developing Martyrs as an Intercultural Worshipping Community and home groups. We also reflected on the church holiday.

During the early part of the year, we considered the application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee regarding the nave re-ordering project. There was feedback and comments to action from the committee and we are soon to finalise our application for consideration by the Chancellor.

We have discussed the Diocese initiative to form minster communities and the impact on the Martyrs. In the autumn the national Church of England decided at General Synod to authorise prayers of love and faith which may be said with and for same sex couples. This topic was also discussed as part of a meeting.

Meetings are always varied and full of lively discussion. If you have any questions or a topic for us to consider or something you think should be a part of our vision, please speak to a member of the group. And please continue to pray for the clergy and the leadership team!

Thank you.

Lorraine Pointon, Church Warden

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – March 2024

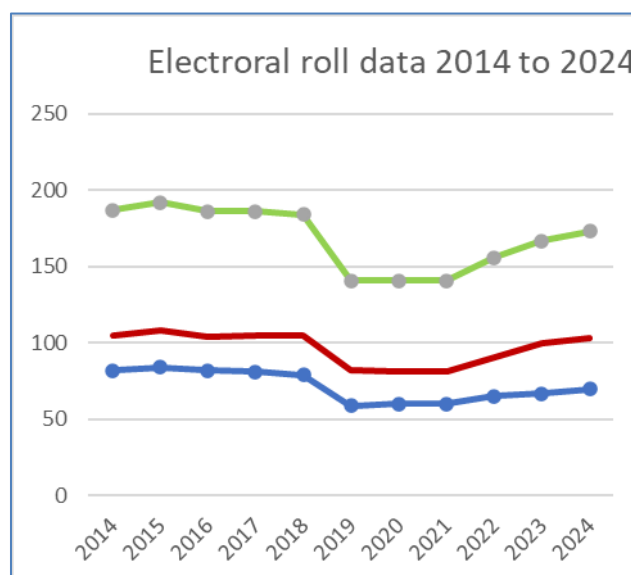
The electoral roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. The number of electors reported at the 2023 annual parochial church meeting was 167. (2 persons added between the report being issued and the date of the APCM)

Total number of electors upon the church electoral roll as of 1st March 2024 is 173

The electoral roll consists of 70 people who are residents of the parish and 103 are non-residents of the parish.

During the last 12 months 6 persons have been added to the electoral roll and none have been removed.

Church of the Martyrs electoral roll summary											
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Resident	82	84	82	81	79	59	60	60	65	67	70
Non-Resident	105	108	104	105	105	82	81	81	91	100	103
Total	187	192	186	186	184	141	141	141	156	167	173
Added	9	11	1	1	0	29	0	2	17	12	6
Removed	0	6	7	1	2	72	0	2	1	1	0



Any person who wants to join the electoral roll and is eligible can apply at any time during the year.

The electoral roll is due for a full revision in 2025. This occurs every 6 years when a completely new roll is prepared in the two months leading up to the annual parochial church meeting. Those on the previous roll are informed so that they can re-apply and anyone who wishes and is eligible to apply can apply to join the electoral roll. This last occurred in 2019.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic seems to be a long time ago and the attendance at The Church of the Martyrs has made a recovery back to pre-pandemic levels. Broadly speaking, at the beginning of 2023 attendance was back to 2019 levels. However, by the end of 2023 attendance levels had increased above the 2019 pre pandemic levels.

Please note the information does not reflect the increased diversity of our church family. The report issued is based on numbers and broad age groups as requested for the year diocese report "Statistics for mission". These are below 16 years of age and above 16 years of age. This report does not give a detailed breakdown of age ranges or ethnic background.

Sunday Clubs

We have had a full year of Sunday clubs except for the summer holiday period and school holidays throughout the year. The following information relates to each group.

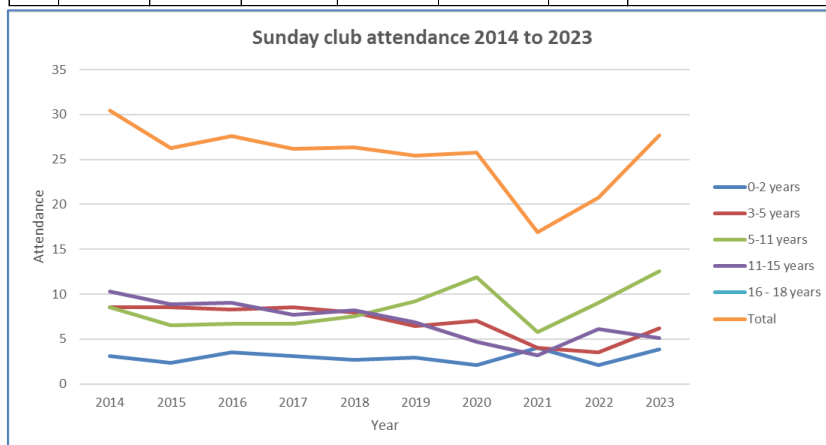
Ark Club met on Sunday mornings on 12 occasions with an average attendance of 4 children and 3 adults over the 12 occasions. Maximum number of children 7.

Rainbows met on Sunday mornings on 29 occasions with an average attendance of 6 children and 4 adults over the 29 occasions. Maximum number of children 10.

Ketchup met on Sunday mornings on 29 occasions with an average attendance of 13 children and 3 adults over the 29 occasions. Maximum number of children 20.

Fuel Cells met on Sunday mornings on 33 occasions with an average attendance of 5 children and 2 adults over the 33 occasions. Maximum number of children 8.

Average Junior church/Sunday clubs							Comments
Year	Crèche Ark 0-2 years	Rockets Rainbows 3-5 years	Explorers Ketchup 5-11 years	Fuel Cells 11-15 years	Torch 16 - 18 years	Total	
2014	3	9	9	10		30	
2015	2	9	7	9		26	
2016	4	8	7	9		28	
2017	3	9	7	8		26	
2018	3	8	8	8		26	
2019	3	6	9	7		25	
2020	2	7	12	5		26	
2021	4	4	6	3		17	
2022	2	3	9	6		21	
2023	4	6	13	5	Not available	28	



Sunday 10:30hrs service

We had a full year of Sunday morning services, and we met on 52 occasions during 2023.

The average attendance over the 52 services was 96 adults and 13 under 16 years giving a combined average of 109. The highest attended service was 9th April 2023 with 217 people attending. Note that these numbers do not include those attending Sunday clubs.

Year	10.30am		Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	
2014 Average	117	16	
2015 Average	106	14	
2016 Average	104	13	
2017 Average	102	12	
2018 Average	96	13	
2019 Average	91	13	Pre covid 19 period
2020 Average	72	6	Covid 19 period
2021 Average	68	11	Covid 19 period
2022 Average	86	13	Post Covid 19 period
2023 Average	96	13	

Sunday 18:15hrs service

We had a full year of 18:15hrs services, and we met on 45 occasions during 2023.

The average attendance over the 45 services was 23 adults. The highest attended service was on 9th February 2023 with an attendance of 41 adults.

Year	Evening services		Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	
2014 Average	8	0	
2015 Average	8	0	
2016 Average	8	0	
2017 Average	18	2	
2018 Average	16	2	
2019 Average	15	1	Pre covid 19 period
2020 Average	12	1	Covid 19 period
2021 Average	25	0	Covid 19 period
2022 Average	20	0	Post Covid 19 period
2023 Average	23	0	

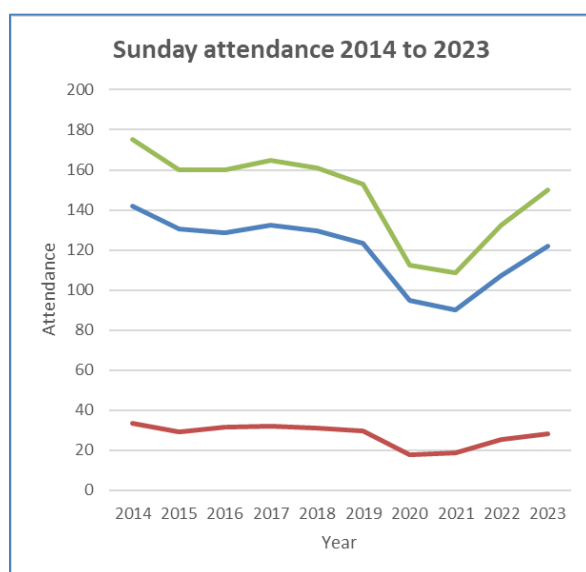
Average Sunday attendance at all services and Sunday clubs

The total average attendance at all Sunday services was 150 people per Sunday during 2023.

Year	10.30am and 06:15pm			Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	Total	
2014	142	34	175	
2015	131	29	160	
2016	129	32	160	
2017	133	32	165	
2018	130	31	161	
2019	123	30	153	
2020	95	18	112	Only 19 week attendance
2021	90	19	109	Only 36 week attendance
2022	107	25	132	
2023	122	28	150	

Cont.

Red line under 16 years, blue line over 16 years, and green line total attendance,



Wednesday 11:00hrs service

We had a full year of Wednesday morning services, and we met on 49 occasions during 2023.

The average attendance over the 49 services was 24 adults. The highest attended service was on 22nd February 2023 with an attendance of 41 people.

Year	Sunday 9am		Wednesday AM service		Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	
2014 Average	12	0			
2015 Average	12	0			
2016 Average	12	0			
2017 Average	11	0			
2018 Average	10	0			
2019 Average	9	0			Pre covid 19 period
2020 Average	8	0			Covid 19 period
2021 Average			18	0	Covid 19 period
2022 Average			20	0	Post Covid 19 period
2023 Average			24	0	

Special Services

Christian festivals celebrated at The Church of The Martyrs in 2023. All were well attended, and generally higher attendance than pre Covid attendance.

Year	Easter Sunday		Cristingle		Carols by candle		Crib Service		Christmas eve communion		Christmas day		Comments
	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	Adults	Under 16s	
2014	174	37	161	58	128	15	91	45	107	13	144	25	
2015	198	41	152	55	160	10	50	60	89	2	117	22	
2016	181	5	156	70	105	27	84	55	72	4	111	31	
2017	208	34	117	57	112	13	78	41	86	1	89	15	
2018	162	30	136	61	131	22	60	25	65	0	127	18	
2019	138	24	128	5	136	9	65	40	58	0	95	19	Pre covid 19 period
2020													Covid 19 period
2021			124	40	103	15	40	10	38	0	73	11	Covid 19 period
2022	125	36	116	49	116	21	42	22	53	1	119	24	Post Covid 19 period
2023	183	34	144	42	146	16	60	35	55	2	88	14	

Ben Lawton

FABRIC REPORT

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION

This 5 yearly inspection was undertaken by a qualified architect, Richard Brooks, in June. Richard Brook's circumstances have changed during the year leading to a delay in the PCC receiving the report. The report provides a description of the condition of the building, described as generally good with the building being well maintained. The report recommends work that should be carried out as soon as possible, work to be carried out within the next year, next two years and next five years. The preparation for the quinquennial necessitated the compilation of a new logbook. This contains: The Electrical Condition Report, 2013 & 2018 Quinquennial Reports, plans of the church building, a log of work undertaken since 2016, Faculty Certificates and supporting paperwork, records of expenditure and a disability audit.

GAS and ELECTRICS

The annual gas maintenance check took place in October at a cost of £569.02

The 5 yearly inspection of fixed electrical installations has taken place. The outcome of this was that Kneller and Kneller completed work in November at a cost of £508.13

HEATING All work undertaken by Busy B Boilers.

13.01.23	£204.02
03.02.23	£1,737.58
21.02.23	£93.60
<u>05.09.23</u>	<u>£883.20</u>
TOTAL	£2,918.40

TREE WORK

The yew trees in the church gardens have been pruned back by Beddow Tree Specialists at a cost of £550.

ONGOING

The carpet at the back of church is badly worn and hard to keep clean. It needs replacing but is tied into the nave reordering work.

Ladder access to the upper-level bell tower needs improving for safety reasons (Quinquennial 2018).

Lighting in the chancel needs attention.

Richard Jaramba, Church Warden

FINANCE REPORT 2023

The Martyrs finances are split into a number of different funds which represent different areas or projects relating to church work. These are accounted for separately and each is described here.

In 2023, the **General fund** had a surplus of £23,293 which compares to a budgeted deficit of £9,333. The surplus has increased our General fund reserves to £94,628.

However, we should note that there was one large one-off donation to the General fund which was intended to cover 3 years. If we count only 1/3 of this in 2023, the surplus is reduced to £5,293, however this is still a good outcome. The figures below are adjusted for this, to be more realistic.

Our overall donation income was 7% over budget. In particular, cash collections and credit card/online giving all increased. Once again, we received significant grants relating to the IWC project, covering Shobha's work and a grant towards the church holiday. We also had the payments made for the holiday itself increasing our overall income.

Against this, our general expenditure, including transfers to other funds, was around 4% under budget. The most significant differences were utilities, which were lower after a peak in 2022, and while some areas were over budget or had unexpected purchases, quite a few were under budget. Some Quinquennial inspection spend was done in 2023, although the delay in receiving the report means that more will be needed in 2024. The General fund also needed to subsidise the Hall fund by £3,500, as discussed below. For 2024, PCC has approved a budget for the General fund which has a deficit of £9,200. This reflects a 17% increase in expected expenditure, including a 10% increase in Parish Contribution, increased maintenance and Quinquennial work, subsidies to other funds, salary increases (including paid church cleaning) and other general increases. It was agreed that the reserves are currently high enough to allow a deficit budget to be set.

The **Hall fund** had another large deficit in 2023, of around £6,600. Rental income and donations both increased, in particular the income from one-off lets tripled and is expected to continue to increase in 2024. This is primarily due to the sterling work of Martin Clarke in decorating, marketing and managing the Hall. Overall, the income increased 6%, despite having no covid grants in 2023. However, hall expenditure also rose and was 7% higher than 2022. Salary costs increased significantly, utilities were similar, and maintenance reduced (due to more in-house work by Martin). With the Hall reserves starting the year at only £3,193, a transfer of £3,500 from the general fund was needed to cover the deficit. Looking forward to 2024, we are forecasting a 20% increase in overall income with an increase in both regular and one-off lets, and hoping for a small surplus if cost rises can be contained.

The **Church Development fund** became active again in 2023, with some donations for the nave reordering project. The only expenditure was the ongoing depreciation on the previous church chair purchase, and the balance at the end of 2023 was £3,753. We expect that fundraising for the nave reordering project will start later in 2024.

The **Mission Partnership fund** was set up to fund Mission Partnership events and expenses. There were no transactions in 2023 and the balance remains at £2,222.

The **Money Matters fund** covers the Money Matters Leicester debt counselling service. This had a small deficit of £2,900 leaving reserves of £12,200 at the end of 2023. Money Matters is closing in 2024 and PCC has agreed that any remaining funds will either be returned to grant givers or donated to their satellite centre Hope67 based at New Life Church in Coalville.

The **Baby Basics fund** has continued to grow and support an increase in referrals and donations, with income increased 30% to £50,154 (including the Martyrs tithe donation). With the first full year of the new premises and employment of a new administrator, spend increased 75% to £61,708 giving a deficit of £11,961, however reserves remain strong at £23,855. Additional grant funding is continually sought, and this will determine how much expenditure can be sustained longer term.

The **Children and Families fund** pays for the work of our Children and Families worker, Irene Hart. We started the year with £1,185. Individual donations to the fund increased again in 2023 (although skewed by also receiving a 3-year one off donation similar to the General fund), and we got the second year of three of our £8,500 grant. Overall, this gave a surplus of £68, leaving reserves of £1,253. In 2024 we are likely to need some subsidy from the General fund, and in 2025 we will need to find a replacement for the current large grant which finishes this year.

The **Organ fund** holds and depreciates the cost of the Organ, current value £2,808.

The **Hardship fund** is new in 2023 and has been set up to support church members or people in the local area who are in need. The Leadership Group tithe has now been transferred to this fund, and with limited time for donations in 2023, the balance was £10,724 at the end of the year.

Finally, the **Tithe fund**, which holds our tithe donations prior to paying out as well as the Leadership Group tithe money. The tithe donations paid out in 2023 were as follows:

- £814 to the Transforming Lives for Good charity
- £814 to the Diocese of Kiteto
- £814 to The Children's Society as a general donation
- £814 to A Rocha as a general donation
- £1,627 to support the work of Bruce and Louise Nadin in South Africa
- £814 to the Woodgate Food Bank
- £814 to Reach all Nations for a Church Planting project in India
- £407 to Money Matters
- £407 to Baby Basics
- £814 allocated to the Leadership Group tithe, remainder later transferred to Hardship fund

With all tithe donations made, the tithe fund balance was £0 at the end of 2023.

Finally, I'd like to thank again the Finance team for their continued support: Martin Clarke in the Church Office; Mike Dampier doing the banking with Martin; Nina de Salis Young who administers Gift Aid; Malcolm Greenwood who administers envelopes; and all the collection counters.

Edward de Salis Young, Treasurer

WEST LEICESTER MISSION PARTNERSHIP

Our main contact throughout 2023 has been the weekly Zoom Morning Prayer every Thursday mornings. These times have provided genuine support and encouragement for clergy and other church leaders, especially during times of prayers for personal challenges and church life in general. Whenever there is a 5th Thursday in the month we have met in person for breakfast.

We have also been able to provide Clergy and Reader support by conducting services at each other's churches and chapels. The 7 churches and ministries in the Mission Partnership are Holy Apostles, Martyrs, St. Anne's with St. Paul's, St. Margaret's, St. Peter's and Wyggestons.

Bertin Hermo

CITY OF LEICESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Leicester City Deanery Synod Report covering 2023 Meetings for 2024 APCMs

Only two deanery synod meetings were held in 2023.

Monday 27th March, St. Andrew's Church Aylestone – Generous Giving

50 people attended this Open meeting. The theme was 'The need to solve the funding gap between parish contributions and clergy costs in the diocese.' A presentation was given by David Palmer, Jonathan Kerry, Claire Bampton, Phil Leech and Simon Wilson, representing the Diocesan Board of Finance. The difficult financial position the diocese is in was outlined, along with thoughts and possible proposals for how we can all contribute to the long-term funding of local ministry, and the consequences of doing nothing.

The diocese is £2.4 million in deficit. Our main source of income (parish contributions) is going down, expenditure on day-to-day operations is greater than our income and is subject to inflation etc.

It was explained that Minster Communities will help. Most people give to the church building, not mission which needs building up. 80% of expenditure is on clergy, so the number of paid clergy needs to reduce. There is a need to build up discipleship and communities, be outward facing, not inward looking.

Deanery Synod Accounts were then briefly read through by the Lay Chair/Assistant Area Dean on behalf of the Treasurer and a Parish Update on St. Andrew's, Aylestone was given by their Vicar, Revd Rowena Bass.

Wed 5th July 2023, All Saints Church, Scraptoft - Climate Crisis and the Church. Following a presentation from Andrew Quigley, who outlined the work the Church of England is doing nationally to work towards our ambitious target of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030, Andrew spoke about the work happening locally in our Diocese to support churches with our contribution to this target. We had presentations from Fr Martin Court (All Saints), Anne Scott, (St Peter's Belgrave), Sharon Plant (St Anne's and St Paul's with St Augustine's) who gave case studies about litter picking, Muddy Church and the Outdoor Worship Leaders (OWL) network and Allotment Church respectively. Zina Zelte from Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire attended, speaking about joining their network and their current campaign asking Leicestershire County Council to divest their pension scheme from fossil fuels. The Synod broke by houses to vote to join both Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire and also support the Pension Divest campaign. The motion was carried in both houses.

Qyan Arnachellum, Leicester City Deanery Administrator

HALL REPORT

This report covers the calendar year 2023.

Our regulars for the year were,

Sunday Clubs
Torch
Armonia (Annexe)
Hopscotch
Money Matters
Leicester Mothers Union
Guides
Brownies
Rangers
Rainbows
Black Annis Women's Morris
GKR Karate
Red Fox Ceilidhs
We Love Pilates
Leicester West Seventh Day Adventist Church
All Nations Assemblies of God
God's Vineyard Church Leicester

The hall has also hosted IWC (Intercultural Worshipping Communities) events for students.

There were forty one-off hirings (twelve in 2022; a 333% increase).

The largest qualitative achievement was the redecoration of the lower hall.

The following is my precis of the Treasurer's report to the Hall Management Group 31/01/2024.

We have a deficit for the year of £6,600. Letting income has increased, one-offs by £3,200 and regular by £1,800, a total of £5,000. However, costs have increased. Salary by £2,500, mainly due to the April increase in Real Living Wage and other factors. Music Steps lease cost £800. Equipment £2,500; £1,350 cooker plus other items used for maintenance (including polishing of the lower hall floor), in which costs are reduced as maintenance is being done more by the premises officer and cleaner. Utilities are also less than 2022. The Hall fund, which incurred huge losses from 2019 to 2021 inclusive, needs a transfer of £3,500 from the general fund.

The good news is that income is increasing well. However, it needs to increase a lot more (one-off bookings are currently running at five times the amount this time last year, regular bookings are increasing and may well do so more substantially), without big cost, if we are to break even in future and not require large transfers from the general fund every year.

All **Health and Safety** items for the hall are up to date, including the annual gas safety inspection, firefighting equipment annual servicing, bi-annual fire alarm and annual emergency lighting inspections.

Martin Peter Clarke, Church & Community Hall Administrator and Premises Officer

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

It is important to remember that we are each responsible for our own safety and the safety of others.

Our policies, so far as is reasonably practicable, is that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors, contractors and others who may use the church, church grounds and the Community Hall. The policies are based on comprehensive risk assessments and a separate Fire Risk

The PCC accepts that it has overall responsibility for the policy and will ensure that adequate resources and training are made available for its implementation. In order to ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item on health and safety will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Parochial Church Council. The Church and Community Hall Administrator liaises with the appointed health and safety coordinator to prepare a written or verbal report for PCC meetings.

The PCC are confident that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who use the church, church grounds and Community Hall.

All scheduled checks for gas, electrics, fire alarms, fire extinguishers and the lightning conductor have taken place. The metal cage around the cellar steps have proved very effective in completely reducing discarded drug taking equipment and the gathering of people who use drugs.

Policies and risk assessments are due in 2024.

Pete Coopey on behalf of the Health and Safety Working Group

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

SAFEGUARDING IS A WHOLE CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY.

At the Martyrs we aim to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults by working to prevent abuse from occurring, protecting those who are at risk of being abused and responding well to those who have been abused. The PCC have allocated the following responsibilities:

Dave Spence: DBS certificates, Safeguarding training and Safer Recruitment. As of January 2024, Dave Spence's responsibilities were taken over by Pete Coopey. A big thank you to Dave Spence for all his help with safeguarding at the Martyrs over many years.

Pete Coopey: Safeguarding Coordinator, DBS certificates, Safeguarding training and Safer Recruitment, policy review, maintaining the safeguarding dashboard and preparing reports to the PCC, the APCM and the diocese.

Phillippa Taylor: Adult Safeguarding Coordinator.

(Please note this refers to 2023 and changes have been made for 2024)

The PCC has adopted all the relevant guidelines issued by the Church of England and the Diocese and has the appropriate up to date policies in place which are reviewed annually. The PCC, wardens and deputy wardens have completed CO (basic) Safeguarding Training with most completing C1 (foundation) as well. Those required to complete both of these and higher level C2 (leadership) have done so. The diocese is encouraging people to undertake the online course on domestic violence.

All appropriate people have a current DBS certificate or are in the process of obtaining one. All members of the congregation involved in work with children and young people or who are members of the Pastoral Team have attended training and have a DBS certificate.

The Parish Dashboard is a diocesan document that all parishes are asked to use. It covers, policies and action plans, safeguarding roles, training for key roles, displaying information, reviews and reports and church activities. Each time the dashboard is updated an action plan is generated for the PCC to consider.

Pete Coopey

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

The Martyrs is a church where a great deal of pastoral care goes on – between friends and from the support given within home groups. Much of this care is discreet and reflects the caring nature of our church life together and much of it is unseen.

The Pastoral Team continues to meet monthly by zoom. In 2023 the team comprised Bertin Hermo, Margaret Farrell, Katherine Hawker, Pete and Liz Coopey, Arthur Deegan, Lorraine Pointon, Jane Berridge, Phillippa Taylor and Shobha Gosa. Margaret Farrell stood down part way through the year. A list of team members is displayed at the back of church.

The team works to a Pastoral Policy that highlights the need for accountability and confidentiality – a copy of this is available on request from Pete Coopey.

The team considers the known needs of the congregation – including those who are no longer able to attend church services and are probably not known to the majority of those who do. Individual team member's visit people (at home, in hospital or in care homes) or make telephone contact. The team oversees the delivery of Easter flowers, harvest baskets and Christmas gifts amongst the congregation.

At Pastoral Team meetings people in need of a visit or telephone support will be identified. I would like to recognize the contribution made by Home Groups and the Mother's Union to the pastoral care of the church.

Pete Coopey, on behalf of the Pastoral Team

BABY BASICS REPORT

There is no surprise that 2023 was Baby Basics busiest year yet. We supported 909 children, which was a 27 percent increase from the previous year. 6 1/2 years ago, when we started Baby Basics, Leicester City council estimated there would be about 8 families a month that needed help. It is now a very different story, and we are bigger than we ever imagined! It is very sad that so many families are in need of such help and with as cost of living crisis continues it will not calm down anytime soon.

At the beginning of 2023 we employed Jo, another local Vicars wife, to help with administration tasks. This was funded for a year by a grant and has been a great success for sharing the workload and bringing more consistency to the way we run. Baby Basics UK continue to support us by sending quarterly pallet loads of new donations from well-known British brands such as Silver Cross, Mamas and Papas, Maclaren and Jellycat toys. It is such a delight to receive brand new donated items and be able to give them out alongside the pre-loved items.

Thanks to a huge cot donation, we have been able to clear a large waiting list for cots and give them out as soon as they are needed. Sadly, it was reported last year that 1 million children sleep on the floor or share a bed, we are glad we are part of changing this statistic.

We now have a core team of 17 regular volunteers all doing various tasks at Baby Basics. Our regular team grew in strength last year which has allowed us to relook at the structure of our team in the year ahead. With sending out more referrals each month in 2023 we also saw our overhead costs increase too. We will therefore be setting up a fundraising committee if anyone wishes to join for the year ahead. We have also hosted several volunteer workdays where companies encourage their staff to volunteer in the community.

For the last 5 months Laura has taken on an extra role of being a Regional Hub for the Baby Basics centres in the North Midlands. This is to provide support and encouragement to the ever-growing network of centres. The baby bank sector is still getting a lot of publicity from HRH The Princess of Wales who proactively visits and supports baby banks across the county. Who knows we may get a visit from her one day?! We continue to work closely with Health professionals and other charities to make sure we provide what vulnerable families need and get it in time for their babies' arrival.

Laura Hutchinson

MONEY MATTERS LEICESTER REPORT

I regret to confirm that Money Matters Leicester stopped taking new clients in Autumn 2023 and will be closing completely in mid-2024. The remaining time will be devoted to overseeing Hope67's debt advice until they can obtain alternative Financial Conduct Authority authorisation.

Why are we closing?

- We have been unable to recruit enough volunteers since the pandemic.
- The role of debt adviser has grown too large and complicated for most volunteers.
- Our clients have been more complicated and require multi-disciplinary support for several months before we can even start on the debt problems.

These issues are reflected nationally, both within Community Money Advice (CMA), our parent charity, and in other debt advice providers.

We have spent several months exploring alternatives, including employing advisers. However, this would mean allying ourselves with non-Christian organizations, having to move away from the Hall to larger premises, and signing up to clients targets which would conflict with our strongly held principle of giving clients as much time as they need. We have dealt with some of the most vulnerable people in our community, and we do not want to run a compromised service.

Clients

As we are closing, I am giving lifetime figures from our start in 2016 until the end of 2023.

Over this period, Money Matters has had:

- 360 clients
- 600 clients including family members
- In £3.1 million of debt
- 60% of whom were living below the poverty line
- £33,000 extra income per month

What next for the remaining volunteers?

Our remaining volunteers will be carrying on in this area with other groups. Nina is going to volunteer at Hope67, who are more sustainable as they are closely linked to a Food Bank, who fund the Centre Manager post, and possibly another adviser post. Roz will be carrying on with her Benefits advice, and Richard will be

carrying on his role as Midlands Operations Support Manager for CMA. Nina will also be doing work for CMA in training and specialist debt advice.

Thank you

We'd like to say a big Thank You to everyone who has supported us through the last seven years. We could not have done it without you.

Nina de Salis Young, Centre Manager, Money Matters Leicester

YOUNG CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES' WORK REPORT

2023 was a year of growth, change and fun for our Children's and families work. Our Martyrs Children's Team has continued to focus on family discipleship, encouraging children to grow in their faith, reaching out to our local community and fostering a sense of belonging.

Shake Shake continues to thrive and grow, mainly through word of mouth. There are regularly 13-18 children attending with their grownups each week. Some families come most weeks and others feel comfortable to pop along when it's a good week for them. The ability to access early years education/childcare has been noticeable as most of our children now being 0-2's and going to nursery when they turn 3. Many of our children were born around the time of Covid restrictions and benefit from interaction and space to run and play. Many of our children don't have a garden. Some weeks there is not enough space to encourage being active which is essential to the children's development. This is particularly tricky in the winter. Some Shake families have started coming to church regularly or for events and Family Services and are building friendships within the church family.

Our Shake Team is committed and works well together. Thank you to Phillippa, Ruth, Margaret, Jean and Clare for all you've done in 2023. We were sad that Margaret has been unable to be with us at Shake for a while and welcome Patricia to the team.

Holiday Club Super Squad was a brilliant time for the children who attended and our Holiday Club Team. Dave Gilbert and Liz Lucas were our experts who helped us put together a hands-on and watching activities exploring God's superpower. The children were from our church family, friends and family, and the local community. Some of them shared what they felt God was saying to them, they asked and explored some great questions, enjoyed our Super Wonderful song and stories of God's amazing superpower in Jesus and his friends including us! We enjoyed learning that God's superpower is with his friends every day and we can change the world when we're in God's Super Squad.

We celebrated and shared what we had done at Super Squad in our Holiday Club Family Service. It was great for others to experience the joy and fun the children had experienced during the week.

Thank you to everyone on the team who made it such a wonderful week. We're looking forward to holiday club in 2024.

Ketchup Club Our Y1-Y6 kids have been continuing to grow in their faith, friendships and belonging. The older children enjoy asking questions and finding out things about Jesus and stories in the Bible. We have continued to have some quite deep theological discussions and explored the children's questions by running sessions on them. One of our themes was from their question 'Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem?' We looked at different times Jesus went to Jerusalem and what he did or celebrated there. This theme is continuing currently.

Ketchup Club enjoyed their Christmas Activity Day at the beginning of December where we made crafts, played games, sang songs, prayed and had lots of fun based on the Nativity. We also had a chip shop lunch and movie time. It was a fun time of friendship and exploring what the Christmas story means for us.

Our Ketchup Club Team are amazing and help the kids engage well with topics, activities and each other. We always have lots of fun. Thank you to Robin, Dave, Magda and Sophie.

Rainbow Club Rainbow Club in 2023 is led by a small but committed and knowledgeable team. There has been a lot of work put in to grow the number of children, the children's confidence and find new team members. We have taken some children into this group a year early as we had very few children who were 4 & 5. This group is now a good size, and friendships are being built. The children sing, hear Bible stories, pray and explore the stories and God's love through craft, games and play.

Thank you to Liz B, Kim, Katherine, Liz L & Guinevere for all you do for our Rainbow Club children and families.

The Ark The Ark (0-2's) has been hard to find regular leaders for and is currently without a team.

Light Party Our annual Light Party at the end of October has been a chance for our children to invite their friends to have fun while finding out about Jesus, The Light of the World. We used it as a reunion for Holiday Club and to give children the opportunity to explore or grow in their friendship with Jesus. We also saw some children we'd invited from SJS join us which was brilliant.

Good Friday Family Event Our annual Good Friday Family Event helped our church families and those in our wider community celebrate and explore the meaning of Easter. We included more of a focus on under 5's than previous years with a play dough kitchen and other activities as well as our usual fun for primary age children. This continues to be a popular event and supported well by the Martyrs Children's Team.

Links with Shaftesbury Junior School We continued to host the annual Christmas and Easter plays put on for schools by a team in our diocese led by HTL. This event is always something the children from school look forward to engaging enthusiastically with and enjoy as a whole school community. We are grateful to the team who put this on and enjoy hosting them and using it as an opportunity to build our relationship with the school.

Irene and Phillippa and our schools team run assembly usually 2-3 times each term. The theme is the school's character trait of the week which we link in with a Bible story and explore through games and object lessons. We particularly enjoyed the assembly on sharing where we had a bag of objects that we asked the children to decide if they were good to share or not and then revealed a few boxes of bananas we'd bought to share with the whole school.

In May 2023 we ran The Diary of a Disciple Schools Workshop for the whole school! The workshop was well received, and the children explored stories from Luke to find out about what the Bible is, who Jesus is and why he's important to Christians. Thank you to the team who helped.

In the summer term of 2023, we started MAKE it afterschool club. We have mainly run 6 weeks blocks for different year groups due to the high demand. Each group have done 3 weeks on 'I'm Special, You're Special' and 3 weeks on a seasonal or tailored activities for the group. Each week there is a Bible or Bible truth story, icebreaker and activity. We are growing our school's team and thank you to those who've been involved.

Other Schools & Nurseries We continue to welcome schools and nurseries for visits to church. At Harvest and Christmas 3 nurseries visited where we shared about what we celebrate and had stories, games, songs and activities. We had some very positive feedback on these sessions and both leaders and children had a fun time.

Please continue to pray for all aspects of the work we do with children and families that lives will be impacted by God's amazing and saving love. There are opportunities for our others to join our team on this amazing adventure and we're so grateful to those who've recently enquired about joining our team.

Thank you to many of you for the amazing support and encouragement you give me and our team.

Irene Hart, Children's and Young Families' Worker

FUEL CELLS

Fuel Cells are a group of 4-5 young people and some slightly older leaders, meeting together in the hall on Sunday mornings. We have explored our identities as Christians, what our influences are and events in the news. Our sessions are a mix of games, activities and reading the bible. We have enjoyed Laserforce with torch and joined in the Leicester 'United' youth events. We aim for a relaxed and open space where our group can grow as young people and explore their Christian faith.

David Seaman

TORCH

In the current academic year, the Torch group has met on average once a month during the term time in the usual Sunday night slot of 6-8pm in the church hall.

We have between 3 to 6 young people who come. The group remains an informal gathering with a mix of board games, music, food/drink, and conversations.

The group continues to spend time discussing topics of interest including faith and doubt, identity, our personal stories, the environment, our future plans, and being part of the church family.

Torch is open to those in Year 10 (14 years+) and above, for those who might be interested in coming to join us, we offer fun and an inclusive and chilled out space.

Chris and Libby Elsey

INTERCULTURAL WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY (IWC)

The year has been a year of building friendships and continuing with reaching out to people in our community. We have run various training programmes and engaged in different activities and new initiatives as part of our ongoing quarterly plans. Throughout 2023 we continued to benefit from having access to the money allocated to our IWC project. Many thanks to our steering group for their ongoing support and many others who have helped in different ways. Here are some of the highlights.

Women's Ministry – launch of SISTERS on 'Black History Month' was a great opportunity for all women, and particularly many of our African, Caribbean and UKME (United Kingdom Minority Ethnic) background women to gather. It provided a space for women to connect with one another on a deeper level and in offering support and encouragement in their faith journeys.

Community prayer and witness We have continued our Wednesday morning (coffee & croissant) gatherings to pray for our church and community and there is an increasing sense of meeting with God and hearing reports of prayers being answered.

Last summer from May to June a number of people were involved in reaching out to our immediate neighbourhood with the good news of Jesus by offering prayer for people, sharing their faith, and by acts of kindness. Many positive conversations were held, with some beginning to attend Martyrs regularly since (including baptism last Easter).

Just prior to Christmas a number of us went to Bede Park for a Community Carols event. It was a fun time with multilingual carols, hot chocolate and cakes. Several people walking by stopped and joined in with the singing.



Young Adults and Students Ministry

In October we organised a welcome dinner for newly arrived international students and almost 40 students joined us for interactive activities and a meal. This event was done in collaboration with Friends International and Christian Union. We further invited students to our Sunday 6.15 gathering to receive welcome kits prepared with donations from Martyrs

congregation. We have also been able to help international students with mock interviews and CV writing sessions. There are regular Young Adult and Student socials taking place as well as a weekly home group.

Many students have shared how they have appreciated our Martyrs warm welcoming and hospitality. Bijina is one of the students who has been journeying with us since she came to Leicester as a student. After graduating from university, she continues to attend our Young Adult group and church. Having come along to our church holiday last summer, Bijina expressed how thankful she was to the church for welcoming her to be part of our church family.

6.15 gathering At our Sunday evening 6:15 gatherings we aim to provide a relaxed, welcoming and an interactive 'Café Style Church' to help people engage with God and with each other. We regularly welcome new Uni students & young adults to 6.15, with several of them coming from a different faith or no faith background. Some of them have shared how these gatherings are providing them with the chance to deepen their understanding of the Bible by having meaningful conversations with people from different nationalities around the table.

Watch night service Over 50 people, mainly from Martyrs UKME families, attended last year's New Year Eve Watch Night Service. There was singing and praying and eating together. A couple of families passing by the church came inside and were touched by the welcome they received.

Shobha Gosa, Intercultural Pioneer Minister

HOMEGROUPS

Home groups have continued to be an important way for us to build fellowship and faith in our church community throughout 2023. Our home groups have covered a variety of material including Bible study, discipleship and evangelism courses.

Following a homegroup launch in January two new home groups started and we now have six homegroups which are run by Trevor Worsfold, Liz Lawton and Arthur Deegan, Robin Pointon, Shobha Gosa, and Phillippa Taylor. Around 40 people have connected with the different groups in 2023.

Each homegroup decides the content of their sessions. However, the home groups met together in September for the launch of the Life on the Frontline course which all of the homegroups studied at the same time and created some interesting conversation about how we share faith in everyday life.

We would like to develop this ministry further in 2024, training more homegroup leaders, launching more homegroups and connecting more people to a home group.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to lead and participate in this important ministry.

Phillippa Taylor, Curate

WORSHIP GROUP

It's been an interesting year for the worship team since the last report. We have had some new members joining the team whilst some are having a break for a while. We've had some memorable moments, the Christmas Carol Service being one of them.

My thanks to those who continue to help in leading what we do on a Sunday morning / evening whether they are singers, musicians, or worship leaders as well as the sound and AV team each give their time, week in and week out.

Over the last year we have continued to hold our once a term worship workshop which we introduced the other year. This gives an opportunity to anyone at the Martyrs to come along to learn and practice new & old songs. It's been a useful time for us where we had the chance to learn new songs which we've been able to use in our services.

Please pray for us as we continue to develop our own way of worship that is pleasing to our Lord, God.

Erol Melbourne

ECO CHURCH

In October 2022 the PCC agreed that Martyrs Church would make a formal commitment to improve the environmental credentials of our church by endorsing the undertaking of work towards an Eco Church Award.

Following this decision, an Eco team consisting of Chris Freeman, Shobha Gosa, Lorraine Pointon, Robin Pointon, Phillippa Taylor and Cathy Shelly was formed in February 2023 with the initial goal of working towards achieving the bronze A Rocha Eco Church Award.

This work is an important part of our missional call 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew life of the earth' and supports one of the strategic priorities of the Diocese of Leicester to build eco communities which take seriously our calling to be good stewards of the natural world, especially in light of climate crisis.

During 2023 the Martyrs eco team have completed the A Rocha Eco Church survey which assesses how we as a church are caring for God's creation in the areas of:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

The results of the survey indicate that Martyrs Church is already undertaking work which would achieve a bronze level award in the areas of worship and teaching and management of church buildings. However, we need to achieve bronze in all five areas to successfully obtain the award.

Events such as the showing of the 'Ants and the Grasshopper' film in church, creation of 'bug hotels' in our church garden and Sarah Shepherd talking to us in church about the work of the Just Shop in Leicester have all contributed to our eco church work.

The eco church team are really excited about continuing this work in 2023 and would welcome anyone with an interest in eco church to join our team!

Phillippa Taylor, Curate

SOCIAL TEAM

As a Social Team we hope to organise events that help us to get to know one another better as a church family. We try to offer a varied programme in the hope that there will be something, at some point, that appeals to everyone. If there is something **YOU** would like to do/take part in/see organised please speak to one of the team, your suggestions would be very welcome!

Since last writing a report for the AGM we have enjoyed a wide variety of events at The Martyrs. 'Martyrs Café' on first Saturdays continued for the remainder of 2023 and was relaunched with the Eco Café in February this year. 'Chips and Chat' on the last Wednesday of each month has continued to be a popular with 'Coronation' and 'Festive' specials featuring in 2023. We enjoyed a very well attended Biryani and Bhangra night in church, some folks joined the Red Fox Ceilidhs and enjoyed some energetic barn dancing in the upper hall, the harvest quiz took place at the end of September and Beer and Carols made a welcome return at Christmas in a new location at the Merry Monarch. In early 2024 we hosted Souper Sunday after the morning service followed by board games and jigsaws and more recently a group of about 30 enjoyed an evening at Laser Quest. It proved very popular and I'm sure it could become a regular event.

Currently we have 11 folks on the 'official' social team: Bertin, Phillippa, Audrey Basopo, Dave Seaman, Sarah Roe, Robert Freeman, Judy Edwards, Margaret Wicks, Daniel Pallatt, Jane Berridge and Julie Shaw. However, there are others who support and help with events on an ad hoc basis and a huge thanks go them too!

Julie Shaw

GUIDING

Girlguiding at the Martyrs continues to offer weekly activities for girls from the age of 5 to 18 in our Rainbow, Brownie, Guide and Ranger units. In 2023 we have been pleased to welcome more adult volunteers to support our groups. The number of girls is gradually growing, although we are still looking for ways to recruit more girls, especially of Brownie age.

We are always grateful for the huge support that we receive from church members. Many people helped with and supported our Christmas Fair which raised a record amount of £1700 and also attracted many

people from our community. Other fundraising events like our Shopping Evening and Chef and Spice are always well attended by church members, for which we are very grateful. This means we can try to keep Girlguiding affordable for all. We have to pay an annual subscription (2023 - £47.50) and thanks to our fundraising and our weekly subs we didn't have to ask for any further contributions from parents.

Every week girls can be found in the hall busy doing craft activities, games, cooking, badge work and skills, eating and having fun! Across the groups we have also had days out, nights away, a cinema visit and a panto trip. We would love to welcome more girls to come and join us.

We are grateful to Bertin and Phillippa for valuing our groups, to people who just ask us how Girlguiding at the Martyrs is going and once again to all those who support our events. Thank you!

Liz Bamford

MOTHERS UNION

Mothers' Union (MU) is a Christian organisation/charity with 4 million worldwide members. Membership is open to everyone who would like to "make a difference" to the lives of people around the world and the UK, especially local (grass roots) concerns. All aided with prayer.

Our theme for 2023 "Transformation Now!" continued from the previous year, the aim to adapt to a changing world. Our branch had a successful and enjoyable year. We had 28 members, not all are able to attend the monthly Wednesday afternoon meetings. We were invited to contribute a stall at the "Market Day Sunday" in church at the May AGM, to "advertise" our work and distribute brochures.

Audrey Maydwell's funeral in January, at the Martyrs was well attended, and she is greatly missed. Over the year, we were very pleased to welcome Mary, Eileen, Leonie and Oji (from Nigeria, visiting her daughter).

All our monthly meetings took place, some with speakers and our annual September Church Communion Service, was kindly led by Phillippa. It was interesting to hear Dr Codra Spencer speak about MU in Zimbabwe. Also, Leonie and Oji's contributions about the pride of belonging to MU and the good work that is being achieved in the communities over there. Domestic violence and FGM continue to be a concern and MU's assistance in providing education for women and men, and empowerment for women is very important, to enable changes to happen. We were encouraged by Leics. Diocese to support with donations and prayers, Bishop Isaiah Chambal's wife Ezerada's FGM initiative, in the Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania.

The social aspect of MU is immensely important. A delicious lunch was held in May at Palmer's Garden Centre and our grateful thanks to Bertin and Sue for hosting our August afternoon tea, on a lovely sunny day in their garden. We raised £110 for the *Summer of Hope Appeal* for UK projects.

£240 was also donated to other MU causes including the work of the Leicestershire Homeless and £80 was given to the Hall Fund. We continued to campaign and support Women's Aid with prayer during the *16 Days of Activism* and with donations, *PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust)* supporting families of prisoners in Leicester/shire prisons, *Baby Basics*, and *Away From It All holidays (AFIA)* for 10 families in need in 2023. MU also collaborates with the Clewer Initiative to work to address and raise awareness of modern-day slavery and of young people drawn into the county lines drug gangs.

My thanks and appreciation to Karon Price (Treasurer), committee members Linda Tilley, Angela Sharp and Ruth Twaite, Bertin, Phillippa, everyone at the Martyr's and all our generous and loyal branch members. We always welcome new members, even if they are unable to attend monthly meetings, but wish to support our work.

Shirley Waterworth, Branch Leader

Martyrs CHURCH

**Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester
Sunday 21st April 2024 at 12.00hrs in the Church**

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Appointment of Clerk for Meetings**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Minutes of AMP 2023**
- 5. Election of Church Wardens for 2024-25**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of 2023 APCM**
- 3. PCC Reports**
 - a) Mission and Ministry Reports
 - Verbal reports
 - Home groups – Phillippa Taylor
 - Girlguiding– Liz Bamford
 - Baby Basics – Laura Hutchinson
 - Written reports
 - Baby Basics
 - Money Matters Leicester
 - Family and children's work
 - Fuel Cells
 - Torch
 - Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC)
 - Homegroups
 - Worship Group
 - Eco church
 - Social Team

- Girlguiding
- Mothers Union

- b) PCC Proceedings
- c) Leadership Group Report
- d) Electoral Roll and Attendance Report
- e) Church Fabric and Inventory Report
- f) Financial Report
- g) Mission Partnership
- h) Deanery Synod Report
- i) Church Hall Report
- j) Health and Safety Report
- k) Safeguarding Report
- l) Pastoral Team report

4. **Elections & Appointments**

- a) Election of 2 PCC Members to serve for 3 years and 1 PCC Member to serve for 2 years and 1 PCC member to serve for 1 year
- b) Reader representation on PCC for 2024-25
- c) Note Appointment of Deputy/Assistant Wardens
- d) Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024-25

5. **Open Forum:** an opportunity to ask questions about the life of the church; questions to be submitted **by Wednesday 17th April** to Steve Ardron (07770 852149) steven.ardron@virginmedia.com)

6. **Closing Prayer.**

Martyrs CHURCH

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester Sunday 14th May 2023 at 12.15pm in the Church

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

In Attendance:

Revd. Bertin Hermo, Revd. Phillippa Taylor, Liz Bamford, Pete Coopey, Liz Coopey, Julie Shaw, Sue Gammon, Les Gammon, Helen Pinney, Norman Banner, Renee Bose, Ed de Salis Young, Nina de Salis Young, Erol Melbourne, Eileen Melbourne, Malcolm Greenwood, Chris Roe, Sarah Roe, Lorraine Pointon, Steve Bradley, Kathy Bradley, OG, Angela Sharp, Maureen Pointon, Pat Woods, Linda Tilley, Libby Elsey, Ann Smith, Sue Hermo, Irene Hart, Margaret Wicks, Tony Shelley, Cathy Shelly, John Riley, Rosemary Matley, Pat Bailey, Robert Freeman, Chris Freeman, Harriet Asare, Wisdom Chikwe, Kike George, Olayinka Olatunde-Shittu, Trevor Worsfold, Liz Preston, Angela Gordon, Margaret Farrell, Richard Jaramba, Sammy Jaramba, David Seaman, Guinevere David, Paisible Ndacayisaba, Leonie Nibona, Roz Burch, Ben Lawton, Liz Lawton, Dave Woodcock, Karon Price, Shobha Gosa, Robin Pointon, Clare Pollard, Geoffrey Pollard, Shirley Waterworth, Janet Lenton, Ruth Fryer, Thushara Jagadeesh, Sonia Kurian, Shaylesh Raja

Apologies:

Ann Raja, David Gilbert, Freya Gilbert, Shayne Ardron, Steve Ardron, Sue Seaman, Pete Gilbert, Debra Gilbert, Dave Shepherd, Sarah Shepherd, Wendy Bebbington, Daniel Pallett, Rachel Pallett, Mike Pinney, Ben Dickson, Jean Miller, Mavis Millins, Emma Worsfold, Sue Woodcock, Sojan K. Iype,

1. Opening Prayer

Bertin chairing the meeting opened the meeting with prayer at 12.20pm.

2. Appointment of Clerk for the Meetings

Liz Bamford was appointed as Clerk for the meetings.

3. Minutes of the AMP 2022

It was proposed from the chair that the minutes of the AMP held on 15th May 2022 were an accurate record of the previous meeting. This was accepted unanimously by the meeting and there were no matters arising.

4. Appointment of Church Wardens for 2022/23

Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon have served as dedicated wardens for the past year. Lorraine was appointed in Oct 2020 and is willing to serve again. Pete having served since 2014 is standing down this year.

Bertin thanked Pete for the wonderful service he has given and for doing such a fantastic job for the last nine years. He presented Pete with a small gift as a token of thanks.

In response Pete thanked his fellow wardens – Ben Lawton, John Sinclair and Lorraine Pointon. He also thanked David Hemmings, Martin Clarke and Liz Bamford for their help and support.

The following nominations for the role of church warden had been received, Lorraine Pointon - proposed by Erol Melbourne and seconded by Liz Coopey Richard Jaramba - proposed by Debra Gilbert and seconded by Sue Seaman

After a show of hands, both Lorraine Pointon and Richard Jaramba were duly declared elected to serve as Church Wardens for one year with full approval of the meeting. The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Lorraine and Richard for being willing to fulfil this role.

Meeting closed 12.26pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Commenced 12.30pm

1. Attendance & Apologies

Both as recorded for the AMP.

2. Minutes of the 2022 APCM

The minutes of the 2022 APCM, held on 15th May 2022 were accepted as a true record with no matters arising.

3. PCC Reports

A range of reports had been produced for the year ended 31st Dec 2022 and circulated both on-line and by way of hard copy, which were also available at the meeting.

a) Mission & Ministry Reports:

Verbal Reports

- **Family and Children's Work** – Irene Hart

Irene gave a brief review of the past year and shared the encouragement that children's work was thriving although that meant that more help was needed. Shake Rattle and Roll continued to be very popular and is well known in the local community. Relationships had been built with local nurseries who had visited at Harvest and Christmas. Schools had visited to support the delivery of the RE curriculum. Links with Shaftesbury are developing and we have hosted Easter and Christmas plays, started an after-school club and are currently delivering an activity programme based on Luke, to the whole school.

Church activities have included a Light Party, Crib Service and Good Friday family event. A very successful holiday club was held and hopefully another will be held this year. It is encouraging to see children growing in their faith. The Parenting in Faith Course had been successful and another one is being considered.

Irene expressed thanks to all those involved with the Children's Team over the past year.

- **Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC)** - Shobha Gosa

Shobha shared some of the work that had happened this year. She reminded us of the 5 themes that IWC is based on, as explained in her report. She reinforced that IWC is part of the church vision. She had been working with Michael, Wisdom and the staff team in welcoming foreign students, families, migrants and reaching out to others. Linking this to the church values and encouraging us to be open and honest to follow Jesus and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this community. Shobha ended by sharing a brief video showing the impact of Young Adults, Events, Community Prayers, Outreach Prayer Walks and 6.15 Gathering.

- **Nave Re-ordering:**

As Ben Lawton had recently given an update in church regarding this it was not included again as part of this meeting.

Written Reports

Bertin thanked all those who had written reports which showed the breadth of engagement and that we had much to be thankful for. He briefly highlighted the following -

- **Baby Basics** headed up by Laura Hutchinson and **Money Matters** led by Nina De Salis Young both have a huge impact in our community.
- **Families and Children's Work** is at the heart of what we do at The Martyrs and we are grateful to Irene and all those involved.
- Although presently we do not have many teenagers, we aim to grow this work and value our young people. Thanks to Dave Seaman, Ben Lawton, Sarah Roe, Chris and Libby Elsey who lead **Fuel Cells** and **Torch**
- Thanks to Michael and Wisdom for their work supporting Shobha with **IWC**. Thanks also to the steering group that now consists of Erol Melbourne, Geoff Pollard, Michael Jawahar, Bertin Hermo, Phillippa Taylor and Shobha Gosa.
- **Homegroups** are now headed up by Phillippa and it is wonderful to note that more people are engaging and hope that even more may become involved.
- **The Worship Group** have been working hard to ensure our music can reflect our church and its diversity, by learning new songs especially some in other languages. Thanks to Erol and all those who lead worship and Shaylesh Raja and Steve Bradley for heading up AV and Sound respectively.
- We are fortunate to have an active **Social Team** headed up by Julie Shaw. We have held many successful events and continue to look for more ideas for ways to socialise. Looking forward to the church holiday later in the year.
- **Girlguiding** has a rich history at the Martyrs and Bertin expressed his appreciation as vicar, for the strong connection and impact guiding has in the life of the church and the community.
- Likewise **Mothers' Union** historically has a great importance in this church and Shirley Waterworth and those involved were thanked for their commitment and always ensuring a warm welcome was given.
- In an update to the **Nave Reordering Project** Bertin confirmed that the PCC had voted unanimously for a faculty application to be prepared and submitted. We will keep everyone informed as this moves forward. Bertin expressed thanks to the working group.

Bertin thanked everyone for giving their time, commitment and skills, including those involved with welcome teams, counting money, gardening, cleaning and visiting. He reminded us how this commitment links to our vision and values. He commended all these ministry projects and reports to the AGM.

b) Proceedings of the PCC Report

The report as printed on page 5 of the Annual Report document was presented to the meeting. Bertin thanked the PCC for all their commitment and engagement this year.

c) Leadership Group Report

The report on the workings and membership of the group was printed on page 5 & 6 of the Annual Report document and was presented to the meeting.

Thanks to Steve Ardron and Lorraine Pointon for preparing these reports.

There were no questions asked.

d) Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll Report was presented, noting that the list had increased to a total of 167 members on the Electoral Roll (this is 2 more than shown in the report) with 12 added and one removed. The report was

received by the meeting and Ben Lawton was thanked for his work in managing the Roll and attendance figures. It is encouraging that new people are joining us and interesting to note the success of the Wednesday morning service that now has between 20-30 people regularly attending.

Question: Eileen Melbourne asked why the figure removed from the electoral roll in 2019 was so high – 72 people, was this because it was revised then? Bertin confirmed that was the case and the roll is reviewed every 6th year.

e) Fabric Report & Inventory

The Fabric Report as printed on pages 10 & 11 of the Annual Report was presented to the meeting. Thanks to Pete Coopey for its compilation. It was noted that should the nave reordering go ahead there would be significant changes to the flooring, lighting and seating and at a later point the heating. It was also noted that the Quinquennial inspection was due this year.

f) Finance Report

Ed de Salis Young presented the Finance Report (Pg 11-12) in graphs and charts form, and the accounts to the meeting as printed in the Annual Report,

Funds are held in separate accounts and comments regarding each were made in the following order:

- a. General Fund: The surplus has risen to £71,393 due to a rise in income and despite a rise in expenditure. A deficit was anticipated but we had increased giving, particularly through the new card machine and we utilised grants/reimbursements from the IVC project.
- b. Hall: This remains challenging with a deficit of around £6000 leaving reserves of £3,193. Letting income has increased this year but expenditure particularly inflation and utilities had resulted in a deficit.
- c. Children and family worker fund: This currently has reserves of £1,815 and although we had a deficit this year of £2,627 this was less than expected due to a grant of £8,500pa for the next 3 years being awarded with thanks to Pete Coopey for working on this. This still does not meet all expected funds required, so PCC would take money from general funds where required. Individuals can give directly to this fund if they should so wish.
- d. Money Matters: This fund had a slight deficit of £1,695 reserves stand at £15,101.
- e. Baby Basics: The fund has increased due to a combination of further grants and Lottery funding. This year had a surplus of £3,389 with reserves of £38,583. This is encouraging given the move to larger premises and additional staff costs.

Some general comments regarding the budget looking forward were shared:

- Regular giving increased around 10% and is now higher than 2019
- Credit/debit card giving was around £6000
- Overall the surplus for 2022 was better than expected.
- This year's budget is currently showing a deficit of £9000 due to utilities, inflation, cost of Quinquennial inspection, an increase to Parish Contribution of £3000 and a of £3000 to the Children's and Families Worker Fund if required.
- We are fortunate to have funds if needed.

Hall

- The Hall budget for 2023 has a £6000 deficit.
- Lettings have increased with thanks to Martin for getting new bookings and for redecorating.
- Cost increases with salary rises (7% general and 10% Real Living Wage)

- Utility cost increases
- Expected that money will be needed this year from general reserves.

In summary Ed concluded

- We are doing OK!
- Costs are higher but giving is rising and we have good reserves.
- The Hall is challenging at the moment.
- PCC is always aware and has to think carefully about what we can afford and what we want to spend money on.
- Looking forward the Quinquennial Report may mean we have some large maintenance bills.
- Reminders of ways to give with a reminder to Gift Aid if possible -
 - Parish Giving Scheme
 - Standing Orders
 - Online with Givealittle
 - The card machine
 - Collection and Envelopes

Ed thanked those who contributed to accounts and managing income including Nina De Salis Young, Martin Clarke, Malcolm Greenwood, Mike Dampier, the collection counters and the Independent Examiner Colin Wood. He also thanked everyone who gives to the church.

Questions

Q: Nina De Salis Young wanted to clarify that both Money Matters and Baby Basics were not run as independent charities and very much valued the support and prayers of the church.

Q: Pat Woods asked if people wanted to give money to support the church hall how could we do that?

A: The church is committed to supporting the hall through general funds. It would be good to encourage the community to use the hall. It was also suggested that specific fundraising for hall projects could be useful. Ben Hart shared ideas for fundraising.

Ruth Fryer thanked Ed for presenting the Financial Report and Finances so clearly.

Bertin also thanked Ed and all those involved and also shared a note of thanks from a Ukrainian family who had received a financial gift to set up home in Leicestershire from one of our tithes.

It was proposed by Shaylesh Raja and seconded by Sarah Roe that Ed's verbal financial report along with the preceding written reports of the Annual Report Document plus the accounts as stated at the rear of the document pg. 30 onwards be accepted. This was unanimously agreed by a show of hands by the meeting.

g) West Leicester Mission Partnership Pg 12

h) City of Leicester Deanery Synod Pg 13

i) Church Hall Report Pg 13-14

A fantastic resource for community use and thanks expressed to Martin Clarke.

j) Health & Safety Report Pg 14

k) Safeguarding Report Pg 14-15

Thanks to Pete Coopey, Katherine Hawker, Dave Spence and Phillippa Taylor for work on this during the last year.

l) Pastoral Team Report Pg 15

Thanks to this team for their support and care for others.

Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Pastoral Team, West Leicester Mission Partnership, Hall, and Deanery Synod Reports were all received by the meeting.

4. Elections and Appointments

a) Parochial Church Council

Thanks to those due to retire this year from PCC. They are:

Lloyd Ganza
Cynthia Ganza
Debra Gilbert
David Basopo
David Spence who was stepping down after moving away

Bertin declared that nominations had been received as follows:

- Geoff Pollard proposed by Michael Jawaha and seconded by Liz Bamford
- Helen Pinney proposed by Phillippa Taylor and seconded by Margaret Farrell
- Guinevere David proposed by Lorraine Pointon and seconded by Julie Shaw.
- Florence Adediran proposed by Shobha Gosa and seconded by Phillippa Taylor
- Daniel Pallett proposed by Pete Coopey and seconded by John Sinclair

In the absence of any other nominations, there was no requirement for a vote and the above mentioned were duly elected to the PCC. It had been agreed at the last PCC meeting that the formal election of officers for the new PCC would be at the beginning of their first meeting. It will also be decided who of the 4 new members will serve for three years and who will serve for 1 year.

b) Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod membership is to be reviewed this year. Steve Ardron, Liz Bamford and Julie Shaw have been our representatives.

The following nominations have been received:

- Liz Bamford proposed by Shayne Ardron and seconded by Sue Hermo
- Julie Shaw proposed by Rosemary Matley and seconded by Lorraine Pointon
- Steve Ardron proposed by Steve Bradley and seconded by Pete Coopey

In the absence of any other nominations, there was no requirement for a vote and the above mentioned were duly elected as representatives on the Deanery Synod and members of the PCC.

c) PCC Reader Representative

Shayne Ardron is appointed as Reader representative on the PCC.

d) Deputy / Assistant Wardens

Whilst not being formal church appointments the valuable work of Deputy Wardens was recognised. Eileen Melbourne and Liz Bamford have agreed to continue in this role.

e) Independent Examiner

Nina de Salis Young proposed that Colin Wood be appointed as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Liz Lawton and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

5. Open Forum

It was noted that no questions had been received prior to the meeting for Open Forum discussion.

6. Votes of thanks

Bertin expressed his appreciation for the help and support he receives. There are of course ups and downs and it is good to be a community doing things together. Supporting one another when people are struggling

and rejoicing when people are celebrating. It is great to learn together, to worship Jesus together, to change, to grow. It's great to be church and to be community.

In response Lorraine Pointon thanked Bertin for all he does and expressed the appreciation of the church for his wisdom and leadership. Shobha also expressed thanks to Sue Hermo.

Final Prayer

Pete Coopey closed the meeting with a final prayer.

The meeting ended at 1.35pm

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS LEICESTER

Registered Charity no 1134668

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

CONTENTS

Page 2	Statement of Accounting Policies
Page 4	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 5	Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023
Page 6	Notes to the Accounts

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December
2023

Note 1:

Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and on an Accruals basis.

Scope of the Accounts

The Accounts combine the results of the Church, Hall and associated funds for the year. The Accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Funds

Unrestricted funds [general fund] represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use.

Restricted funds represent income and donations from individuals or groups which, may be expended only on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. At the start of 2023 there were 5 active Restricted Funds: Children and Families Worker Fund, Money Matters fund, Baby Basics fund, Organ fund (donations for the church organ), and Mission Partnership fund. During the year one new restricted fund was created, the Hardship fund. This is to support people in need, either locally or church members.

Designated Funds have been designated by the PCC and as such could be 'undesigned' in the future. At the start of 2023 there were 3 active Designated Funds: the Hall fund, Buildings Development fund and Tithe fund (to hold unspent tithe monies). This did not change during the year.

The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the Accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- Planned giving is recognised only when received
- Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income to which it relates is received
- All funds raised from events are accounted for gross
- Interest is accounted for as it is paid
- Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Resources used

Outgoing donations made are accounted for when paid. The Parish Share is accounted for when paid, although any unpaid amount at 31st December is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not legal) liability and as such would be shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust of the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Items acquired before 2000 are not included in the accounts either because there is insufficient cost information available or the value is considered too low. The expenditure on individual items and equipment under £1,500 is written off when incurred.

The church does record 5 fixed assets, which are over the £1,500 threshold. Depreciation is applied on a 'straight line' basis over the likely lifespan of each item, based on advice from suppliers. The 5 items are the electronic organ (25 years lifespan), and the main audio visual (AV) projector, sound desk (now zero value), photocopier and church chairs (all 10 years lifespan).

The church (rather than the Diocese) also owns the Martyrs' Community Hall which was built later than the church and paid for by parishioner fundraising. This is noted here, but not shown as a fixed asset in the accounts as the value is uncertain.

Salaries

During the year the PCC employed an Administrator, a Premises Officer, two Hall Cleaners (due to a change in September), a Children and Families Worker, and for Baby Basics a Manager and an Administrator. Currently the Administrator and Premises Officer roles are done by the same person, making a total of 5 employees at the end of 2023, who were all part-time. The payroll is administered by the Diocese of Leicester, and wages for all employees have had appropriate PAYE and NI deductions made. Pension contributions have been made for the Administrator, the Children and Families Worker and the Baby Basics Manager and Administrator; all employees now have the option to join the pension scheme, which is with NEST.

Payments to PCC Members

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the clergy may relate to their services to the PCC. The only payments made to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, were direct reimbursements for items bought for the church.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Statement of Financial Activities – Year Ending 31st December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities	Unrestricted Church General Fund	Designated Church Ch Dev Tithe	Restricted Church Ch&Fam Organ, Hship	Total Church	Designated Hall	Restricted Money Matters MP	Restricted Baby Basics	PCC Total 2023 (£)	PCC Total 2022 (£)
Incoming Resources									
Voluntary income (note 2a)	150,997	3,750	27,787	182,534	1,915	6,994	43,822	235,265	185,486
Investment income (note 2b)	1,029	-	-	1,029	-	-	-	1,029	406
Income from Charitable Activities (note 2c)	15,303	-	-	15,303	30,800	-	3,944	50,047	27,418
Other Incoming Resources (note 2d)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,982	1,982	886
Total Incoming Resources	167,329	3,750	27,787	198,866	32,715	6,994	49,748	288,323	214,196
Resources Expended									
Cost of Generating Funds (note 3a)	207	-	-	207	-	15	245	467	114
Grants (note 3b)	583	8,774	70	9,427	-	2,410	18,946	30,783	17,407
Activities directly related to Church Work (3c)	131,608	540	18,186	150,335	41,317	4,726	42,517	238,895	197,761
Total Resources Expended	132,398	9,314	18,256	159,968	41,317	7,151	61,708	270,144	215,341
Net incoming resources	34,931	(5,564)	9,531	38,898	(8,602)	(157)	(11,960)	18,179	(1,144)
Transfers between funds (note 4 below)	(11,638)	6,530	794	(4,314)	5,500	(1,593)	407	-	-
Net movement in funds	23,293	966	10,325	34,584	(3,102)	(1,750)	(11,553)	18,179	(1,144)
Total funds brought forward	71,335	2,784	4,461	78,580	3,193	17,323	35,409	134,505	135,649
Total funds carried forward	94,628	3,750	14,786	113,164	91	15,573	23,856	152,684	134,505
Note 4: Fund transfers were:									
General to Tithe fund (tithes)		8,138							
General to Hall fund (support)		3,500							
Tithe fund to Money Matters (half tithe)		407							
Tithe fund to Baby Basics (half tithe)		407							
Tithe fund to Hardship fund (LG tithe)		794							
Money Matters to Hall fund (rent)		2,000							

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2023

Balance Sheet	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church Dev, Hall, Tithe	Organ, MP, MM, BB, CH&Fam	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Fixed Assets - Equipment (note 5)	2,015	1,615	2,808	6,438	7,943
Current Assets					
Cash at bank and hand	88,598	6,363	49,606	144,567	123,088
Debtors - Tax reclaimable (note 6)	5,833	0	969	6,802	9,622
Debtors - general (note 6)	763	1,023	1,317	3,103	1,718
Total	95,194	7,386	51,892	154,472	134,428
Current Liabilities (note 7)					
Agency collections	(487)	0	0	(487)	(44)
Creditors - general	(2,095)	(5,157)	(487)	(7,740)	(7,824)
Total	(2,583)	(5,157)	(487)	(8,228)	(7,868)
Total Net Assets	94,627	3,844	54,213	152,684	134,504
Represented by Funds					
Unrestricted					
General fund	94,627			94,627	71,334
Designated					
Hall Fund		91		91	3,193
Church Development Fund		3,753		3,753	540
Tithe Fund		0		0	2,244
Restricted					
Hardship Fund			10,724	10,724	0
Children & Families Worker Fund			1,253	1,253	1,185
Money Matters Leicester Fund			13,350	13,350	15,101
Baby Basics Fund			23,855	23,855	35,409
Mission Partnership Fund			2,222	2,222	2,222
Organ Fund			2,808	2,808	3,276
Balances at 31 December	94,627	3,844	54,213	152,684	134,504

Approved on behalf of the PCC *Bertin Hermo*
CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER.

Name: Bertin Hermo, Vicar

Date: 11/04/2024

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Note 2:

Incoming Resources Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam						
		Tithe	Organ, Hship						
2a Voluntary Income									
Regular donations Gift Aid	28,079.35		3,640.00	31,719.35			440.00	32,159.35	30,834.23
Donations gross via CAF	900.00		10,000.00	10,900.00				10,900.00	-
Donations gross via PGS	53,572.99			53,572.99				53,572.99	60,378.89
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	14,071.54	750.00	1,806.75	16,628.29		384.00	242.00	17,254.29	9,677.52
Credit Card or online donations	8,804.47			8,804.47		908.00	1,916.00	11,628.47	-
Regular donations non Gift Aid	5,110.80		240.00	5,350.80		251.86	9,020.00	14,622.66	13,462.38
Cash Collections	4,224.30			4,224.30	25.00		473.45	4,722.75	3,884.12
Special or one off Donations Gift Aid	22,349.44	3,000.00	3,600.00	28,949.44		1,150.00	40.00	30,139.44	3,041.00
Special or one off Donations non Gift Aid	313.91			313.91	1,890.00		2,987.00	5,190.91	9,001.94
Grants & Legacies	514.65		8,500.00	9,014.65		4,300.00	28,703.80	42,018.45	43,902.70
Grants - IWC	13,055.33			13,055.33				13,055.33	11,302.94
Total	150,996.78	3,750.00	27,786.75	182,533.53	1,915.00	6,993.86	43,822.25	235,264.64	185,485.72
2b Investment Income									
Bank/CBF Interest	1,029.17			1,029.17				1,029.17	406.13
Total	1,029.17	-	-	1,029.17	-	-	-	1,029.17	406.13
2c Income from Charitable Activities									
PCC Fees (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals)	768.00			768.00				768.00	428.00
Hire/Lettings of buildings	-			-	30,800.33			30,800.33	25,984.07
Trading Income and Cost Reimbursement	-			-			3,943.98	3,943.98	1,006.77
Parish Holiday (Note 8)	14,534.60			14,534.60				14,534.60	-
Total	15,302.60	-	-	15,302.60	30,800.33	-	3,943.98	50,046.91	27,418.84
2d Other									
Social and Fundraising Events	-			-			1,881.56	1,881.56	886.00
Miscellaneous Income	-			-			100.00	100.00	-
Insurance Claims	-			-				-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,981.56	1,981.56	886.00
Total Incoming Resources	167,328.55	3,750.00	27,786.75	198,865.30	32,715.33	6,993.86	49,747.79	288,322.28	214,196.69

Note 3:

Resources Expended Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2023(£)	2022(£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam						
		Tithe	Organ, Hship						
3a Cost of Generating Funds									
Social Events, Envelopes, fees	207.02			207.02		15.47	244.91	467.40	114.42
Total	207.02	-	-	207.02	-	15.47	244.91	467.40	114.42
3b Grants									
Tithes paid out		8,774.00		8,774.00				8,774.00	6,148.98
Other Donations	582.57		70.00	652.57		2,410.00	18,946.22	22,008.79	11,257.80
Total	582.57	8,774.00	70.00	9,426.57	-	2,410.00	18,946.22	30,782.79	17,406.78
3c Activities directly related to Church Work									
Parish Contribution	66,000.00			66,000.00				66,000.00	63,000.00
Remuneration Costs (inc temporary)	6,763.13		17,538.78	24,301.91	18,396.15		17,440.69	60,138.75	45,718.02
Clergy and Staff Expenses	1,431.06			1,431.06				1,431.06	1,139.33
IWC Staff and Event Spending	3,846.58			3,846.58				3,846.58	3,244.73
Mission: Church Trips and Holidays	19,693.56			19,693.56				19,693.56	-
Mission: Children and Youth inc Holiday Club	1,651.64			1,651.64				1,651.64	911.87
Mission: Other events, Alpha etc	1,442.46			1,442.46				1,442.46	317.82
Staff Training and Conferences	501.55			501.55		130.00	106.00	737.55	3,211.43
Printing, Stationery, Phone, Broadband, Postage	2,436.84		179.67	2,616.51	225.00	1,040.35	4,507.60	8,389.46	4,576.31
External Printing, Publicity, Website	596.60			596.60		327.04	136.78	1,060.42	9,030.78
Consumables and Cleaning Equipment	648.30			648.30	1,755.99		47.89	2,452.18	2,107.93
Insurance Premiums	3,553.08			3,553.08	2,457.38	453.71		6,464.17	5,733.76
Fees: Subs, Licenses, Membership, PRS	1,248.10			1,248.10		1,793.00	300.00	3,341.10	3,080.14
Equipment: Computers, furniture etc	587.54			587.54	2,487.43	215.33	332.20	3,622.50	1,809.40
Equipment: Worship (PA etc)	866.65			866.65				866.65	33.00
Worship and Service Resources, Manuals, Books	3,802.21			3,802.21		761.04		4,563.25	2,738.03
Fixed Asset Depreciation	500.15	539.79	468.00	1,507.94				1,507.94	1,865.15
General Maintenance	6,167.87			6,167.87	5,119.04		288.00	11,574.91	12,635.80
Premises: Rental, legal and valuations	-			-	780.00		15,631.59	16,411.59	12,764.10
Utilities	7,631.80			7,631.80	10,096.17		3,726.66	21,454.63	23,607.95
PCC Expenses and Governance Costs	186.84			186.84				186.84	10.30
Major or Quinquennial Work	1,732.72			1,732.72				1,732.72	-
Bank Charges	319.80			319.80		6.00		325.80	283.05
Other Expenses	-			-				-	0.90
Total	131,608.48	539.79	18,186.45	150,334.72	41,317.16	4,726.47	42,517.41	238,895.76	197,819.80
Total Resources Expended	132,398.07	9,313.79	18,256.45	159,968.31	41,317.16	7,151.94	61,708.54	270,145.95	215,341.00

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Note 4: For details of Fund transfers, see Note 4 on the summary SOFA page.

Note 5: Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets						
(a) Tangible	Electric Organ	A/V system	Sound Desk	Copier	Church Chairs	Total
Actual Cost						
At 1 January 2023	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Additions						0
Disposals						0
At 31 December 2023	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	8,424	18,091	3,600	1,450	3,222	34,787
Additions	468	210	0	290	537	1,505
Disposals						
At 31 December 2023	8,892	18,301	3,600	1,740	3,759	36,292
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	2,808	849	0	1,167	1,615	6,439
Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	3,276	1,059	0	1,457	2,152	7,944

Note 6:

Debtors consist of Gift Aid tax recoverable and general debtors (for example Hall users). The stated Gift Aid tax owing at the end of 2023 matches the tax claim made in February 2023.

Note 7: Liabilities consist of Agency collections (those collected for others but not yet paid over), invoices not yet paid, deposits held (including for Hall users), and accruals.

The total Parish Contribution offer the Martyrs made for 2023 was £66,000, which was fully paid during the year.

Note 8: Church Holiday

In 2023 the church organised a summer holiday at Cefn Lea in mid-Wales for its members. Items such as accommodation, food and transport were directly paid by the church. Attendees were then charged based a range of factors (some deposit payments were made in 2022 which were carried forward as creditors and recorded as payments in 2023). The church also received a grant from the IWC seed fund which was used towards the holiday cost.

The holiday has been accounted for in the General fund and the summary of receipts and payments is as follows:

Total payments received from attendees:	£14,535
Seed Fund grant received:	£8,000
Total Holiday costs paid out:	£19,694

Accounts



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Church of The Martyrs, Leicester

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 20.03.23

Name:

Colin Wood

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

16 Wordsworth Rd

Loughborough

Leics LE11 4LQ

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS LEICESTER

Registered Charity no 1134668

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

CONTENTS

Page 2	Statement of Accounting Policies
Page 4	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 5	Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022
Page 6	Notes to the Accounts

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December
2022

Note 1:

Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Scope of the Accounts

The Accounts combine the results of the Church, Hall and associated funds for the year. The Accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Funds

Unrestricted funds [general fund] represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use.

Restricted funds represent income and donations from individuals or groups which, may be expended only on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. At the start of 2022 there were 5 active Restricted Funds: Children and Families Worker Fund, Money Matters fund, Baby Basics fund, Organ fund (donations for the church organ), and Mission Partnership fund. This did not change during the year.

Designated Funds have been designated by the PCC and as such could be 'undesignated' in the future. At the start of 2022 there were 3 active Designated Funds: the Hall fund, Buildings Development fund and Tithe fund (to hold unspent tithe monies). This did not change during the year.

The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the Accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- Planned giving is recognised only when received
- Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income to which it relates is received
- All funds raised from events are accounted for gross
- Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue
- Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Resources used

Outgoing donations made are accounted for when paid. The Parish Share is accounted for when paid, although any unpaid amount at 31st December is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not legal) liability and as such would be shown as a

creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust of the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Items acquired before 2000 are not included in the accounts either because there is insufficient cost information available or the value is considered too low. The expenditure on individual items and equipment under £1,500 is written off when incurred.

The church does record 5 fixed assets, which are over the £1,500 threshold. Depreciation is applied on a 'straight line' basis over the likely lifespan of each item, based on advice from suppliers. The 5 items are the electronic organ (25 years lifespan), and the main audio visual (AV) projector, sound desk, photocopier and church chairs (all 10 years lifespan).

The church (rather than the Diocese) also owns the Martyrs' Community Hall which was built later than the church and paid for by parishioner fundraising. This is noted here, but not shown as a fixed asset in the accounts as the value is uncertain.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Statement of Financial Activities – Year Ending 31st December 2022

Statement of Financial	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
Activites	Church	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam						
		Tithe	Organ						
Incoming Resources									
Voluntary income (note 2a)	127,196	-	13,873	141,069	4,737	3,585	36,095	185,486	182,459
Investment income (note 2b)	406	-	-	406	-	-	-	406	16
Income from Charitable Activities (note 2c)	645	-	-	645	25,984	-	789	27,418	20,103
Other Incoming Resources (note 2d)	-	-	-	-	-	-	886	886	1,805
Total Incoming Resources	128,247	-	13,873	142,120	30,721	3,585	37,770	214,196	204,383
Resources Expended									
Cost of Generating Funds (note 3a)	54	-	-	54	(96)	-	156	114	369
Grants (note 3b)	795	6,149	-	6,944	-	1,260	9,203	17,407	18,988
Activities directly related to Church Work (3c)	112,808	537	16,967	130,313	38,581	3,033	25,834	197,761	166,622
Total Resources Expended	113,657	6,686	16,967	137,310	38,485	4,293	35,193	215,281	185,979
Net incoming resources	14,590	-	6,686	4,810	(7,764)	-	708	2,577	1,085
Transfers between funds (note 4 below)	-	8,126	6,500	-	1,626	-	987	813	-
Net movement in funds	6,464	-	186	3,094	5,964	-	1,695	3,390	18,404
Total funds brought forward	64,928	2,970	7,556	75,454	9,157	16,796	32,020	133,427	117,245
Total funds carried forward	71,392	2,784	4,462	78,638	3,193	15,101	35,410	132,342	135,649
Note 4: Fund transfers were:									
General to Tithe fund (tithes)		8,126							
Tithe fund to Money Matters (tithe)		813							
Tithe fund to Baby Basics (tithe)		813							
Money Matters to Hall fund (rent)		1,800							

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2022

Balance Sheet	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church Dev, Hall, Tithe	Organ, MP, MM, BB, CH&Fam	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Fixed Assets - Equipment (note 5)	2,515	2,152	3,276	7,943	13,371
Current Assets					
Cash at bank and hand	62,783	5,468	54,895	123,146	120,513
Debtors - Tax reclaimable (note 6)	8,610	-	1,013	9,622	8,196
Debtors - general (note 6)	985	733	-	1,718	1,612
Total	72,378	6,201	55,908	134,486	130,321
Current Liabilities (note 7)					
Agency collections	- 44	-	-	- 44	- 337
Creditors - general	- 3,457	- 2,376	- 1,990	- 7,824	- 4,145
Total	- 3,501	- 2,376	- 1,990	- 7,868	- 4,482
Total Net Assets	71,393	5,976	57,194	134,563	135,649
Represented by Funds					
Unrestricted					
General fund	71,393			71,393	64,928
Designated					
Hall Fund		3,193		3,193	9,157
Church Development Fund		540		540	1,077
Tithe Fund		2,244		2,244	1,893
Restricted					
Baby Basics			35,409	35,409	32,020
Mission Partnership Fund			2,222	2,222	2,222
Money Matters Fund			15,101	15,101	16,796
Organ			3,276	3,276	3,744
Children & Families Worker			1,185	1,185	3,812
Balances at 31 December	71,393	5,976	57,194	134,563	135,649

Approved on behalf of the PCC
CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER.

Name: Bertin Hermo, Vicar

Date:

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

Note 2:

Incoming Resources Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam						
		Tithe	Organ						
2a Voluntary Income									
General donations Gift Aid	28,929.23		1,715.00	30,644.23			190.00	30,834.23	31,127.84
Donations gross via CAF				-				-	-
Donations gross via PGS	60,378.89			60,378.89				60,378.89	58,475.45
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,614.80		942.72	9,557.52		10.00	110.00	9,677.52	10,792.00
Credit Card or online donations									
General donations (non Gift Aid)	5,112.38		280.00	5,392.38	2,070.00		6,000.00	13,462.38	11,998.82
Cash Collections	3,732.12			3,732.12			152.00	3,884.12	960.79
Special or one off Donations Gift Aid	41.00		2,435.00	2,476.00		40.00	525.00	3,041.00	7,200.00
One off and credit card Donations non Gift Aid	5,998.00			5,998.00		35.00	2,968.94	9,001.94	5,526.58
Grants & Legacies	3,087.00		8,500.00	11,587.00	2,667.00	3,500.00	26,148.70	43,902.70	51,054.19
Grants - IWC	11,302.94			11,302.94				11,302.94	5,323.26
Total	127,196.36	-	13,872.72	141,069.08	4,737.00	3,585.00	36,094.64	185,485.72	182,458.93
2b Investment Income									
Bank/CBF Interest	406.13			406.13				406.13	16.08
Total	406.13	-	-	406.13	-	-	-	406.13	16.08
2c Income from Charitable Activities									
PCC Fees (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals)	428.00			428.00				428.00	891.00
Hire/Lettings of buildings				-	25,984.07			25,984.07	19,182.40
Trading Income and Cost Reimbursement	217.36			217.36			789.41	1,006.77	30.00
Parish Holiday				-				-	-
Total	645.36	-	-	645.36	25,984.07	-	789.41	27,418.84	20,103.40
2d Other									
Social and Fundraising Events				-			886.00	886.00	1,805.18
Miscellaneous Income				-				-	-
Insurance Claims				-				-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	886.00	886.00	1,805.18
Total Incoming Resources	128,247.85	-	13,872.72	142,120.57	30,721.07	3,585.00	37,770.05	214,196.69	204,383.59

Note 3:

Resources Expended Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Church	Hall	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2022(£)	2021(£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Ch&Fam						
		Tithe	Organ						
3a Cost of Generating Funds									
Social Events, Envelopes, credit card fees	54.48			54.48	- 96.11		156.05	114.42	368.94
Total	54.48	-	-	54.48	- 96.11	-	156.05	114.42	368.94
3b Grants									
Tithes paid out		6,148.98		6,148.98				6,148.98	8,003.00
Other Donations	794.65			794.65		1,260.00	9,203.15	11,257.80	10,985.27
Total	794.65	6,148.98	-	6,943.63	-	1,260.00	9,203.15	17,406.78	18,988.27
3c Activities directly related to Church Work									
Parish Contribution	63,000.00			63,000.00				63,000.00	72,812.00
Remuneration Costs (inc temporary)	5,566.57		16,382.99	21,949.56	15,838.02		7,930.44	45,718.02	42,848.11
Clergy and Staff Expenses	1,023.05		116.28	1,139.33				1,139.33	1,500.57
IWC Staff and Event Spending	3,244.73			3,244.73				3,244.73	-
Intern Training and Accomodation				-				-	4,400.00
Mission: Children and Youth inc Holiday Club	911.87			911.87				911.87	1,154.11
Mission: Other events, Alpha etc	317.82			317.82				317.82	470.88
Staff Training and Conferences	2,598.00			2,598.00		613.43		3,211.43	1,400.00
Office: Photocopying, Broadband, stationery	2,236.96			2,236.96	255.28	727.93	1,356.14	4,576.31	2,683.68
External Printing, Publicity, Website	8,847.78			8,847.78	75.00		108.00	9,030.78	558.13
Consumables and Cleaning Equipment	610.51			610.51	1,497.42			2,107.93	1,547.04
Insurance Premiums	3,320.95			3,320.95	2,214.00	198.81		5,733.76	5,952.60
Fees: Subs, Licenses, Membership, PRS	1,105.28			1,105.28	402.76	1,272.10	300.00	3,080.14	2,519.01
Equipment: Computers, furniture etc	73.97			73.97		163.24	1,572.19	1,809.40	2,507.13
Equipment: Worship (PA etc)	33.00			33.00				33.00	-
Worship and Service Resources, Manuals, Books	2,668.71			2,668.71	12.82	56.50		2,738.03	1,559.96
Fixed Asset Depreciation	860.15	537.00	468.00	1,865.15				1,865.15	1,865.15
General Maintenance	4,747.43			4,747.43	7,888.37			12,635.80	13,012.44
Premises: Rental, legal and valuations				-			12,764.10	12,764.10	2,844.00
Utilities	11,406.54			11,406.54	10,397.80		1,803.61	23,607.95	7,890.45
PCC Expenses and Governance Costs	10.30			10.30				10.30	65.76
Major or Quinquennial Work				-				-	-
Bank Charges	224.85			224.85				224.85	247.80
Other Expenses				-		0.90		0.90	183.50
Total	112,808.47	537.00	16,967.27	130,312.74	38,581.47	3,032.91	25,834.48	197,761.60	166,622.32
Total Resources Expended	113,657.60	6,685.98	16,967.27	137,310.85	38,485.36	4,292.91	35,193.68	215,282.80	185,979.53

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

Note 4: For details of Fund transfers, see Note 4 on the summary SOFA page.

Note 5: Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets						
(a) Tangible	Electric Organ	A/V system	Sound Desk	Copier	Church Chairs	Total
Actual Cost						
At 1 January 2022	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Additions						0
Disposals						0
At 31 December 2022	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2022	7,956	17,881	3,240	1,160	2,685	32,922
Additions	468	210	360	290	537	1,865
Disposals						
At 31 December 2022	8,424	18,091	3,600	1,450	3,222	34,787
Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	3,276	1,059	0	1,457	2,152	7,944
Net Book Value at 31 December 2021	3,744	1,269	360	1,747	2,689	9,809

Note 6:

Debtors consist of Gift Aid tax recoverable and general debtors (for example Hall users). The stated Gift Aid tax owing at the end of 2022 matches the tax claim made in February 2023.

Note 7: Liabilities consist of Agency collections (those collected for others but not yet paid over), invoices not yet paid, deposits held (including for the 2023 Church Holiday), and accruals.

The total Parish Contribution offer the Martyrs made for 2022 was £63,000, which was fully paid during the year.

Note 8:

(a) Salaries

During the year the PCC employed an Administrator, a Premises Officer, a Hall Cleaner, a Children and Families Worker, and a Baby Basics Manager. Currently the Administrator and Premises Officer roles are done by the same person, making a total of 5 employees at the end of 2022, who were all part-time. The payroll is administered by the Diocese of Leicester, and wages for all employees have had appropriate PAYE and NI deductions made. Pension contributions have been made for the Administrator and the Children and Families Worker; other employees were below the threshold for pension enrolment.

(b) Payments to PCC Members

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services to the PCC. No other payment or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, except for direct reimbursements for items bought for the church.

Accounts



Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2021

Church Wardens

Pete Coopey
53 Barons Close
Kirby Muxloe
LE9 2BW

Lorraine Pointon
38 Sykefield Avenue
Leicester
LE3 0LB

Bank
Unity Trust
4 Brindley Place
Birmingham

Independent Examiner
Mr. Noel Smith
Broughton Astley
Leicestershire

Contents

Introduction to the Annual Report.....	2
Overview of the PCC.....	4
Proceedings of the PCC.....	5
Leadership Group Report.....	5
Electoral Roll Report.....	6
Attendance Report.....	7
Fabric Report.....	8
West Leicester Mission Partnership.....	9
City of Leicester Deanery Synod.....	9
Hall Report.....	10
Health & Safety Report.....	11
Safeguarding Report.....	11
Pastoral Team Report.....	12
Young Children's and Families' Work Report.....	12
Money Matters Leicester Report	13
Baby Basics Report.....	14
Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC).....	14
Finance Report.....	15
Agenda for the AGM 2022.....	17
Minutes of the AGM 2021.....	18
Accounts for Year Ending 31 st December 2021.....	24

Introduction to the Annual Report

The impact of covid has continued at our church and in our community throughout 2021. Many of Church of the Martyrs regular events and ministries, including 'in person' church services, had to be put on hold for some or most of last year. However, as the year moved on, and with some of the national guidelines and restrictions lifting, we were able to restart a number of activities, as well as gather again 'in person' on Sundays and at other times.

We appreciate that 2021 has been a difficult and stretching year for many people in our church and community and some continue to feel scared by the impact of covid. Many have battled illnesses and hospitalisation, others have had to juggle work and home schooling, and a number of people have continued to work in very challenging and stressful circumstances in our NHS, care homes, local schools, and other person-centred institutions.

During the year I have again and again witnessed how the Martyrs congregation have rallied to provide support, encouragement, and care for those around them. People have called one another regularly, many have provided meals for those who had to isolate in their homes, others have spent time in prayer and intercession for needs at the church and our neighbourhoods. There has been a real community effort at the Martyrs to see us through 2021. Thank you everyone!!

2021 has also brought some highlights and things to celebrate. We are especially grateful for the arrival of Michael and Shobha, with Shobha taking on the role as our Pioneer Minister. We also learned last year that a new curate is coming our way this summer, with Phillippa Taylor due to join us toward the end of June.

The various reports in this paper reminds us that the work of sharing and being the good news of Jesus to those around us; the challenge to encourage each other to know, love and obey God; and our involvement in working for God's justice locally and in the world, continues to be central to all that we try to do here at the Martyrs.

These reports also remind us once again that throughout 2021 God has remained faithful!
***Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness*** (Lamentations 3.22-23)

As we look ahead, we continue to hold on to God's faithfulness and his promises for us at the Martyrs. As a church we continue to seek God for guidance and wisdom in how best to move the IWC vision forward, as well as to explore the next steps in our Nave Reordering process. Although this means more change and therefore a willingness by us all to embrace something new and different, there is also the opportunity to see many more 'unchurched' people impacted by the gospel. These last couple of years has shown us that we can adjust and adapt to new ways of doing things, and I am convinced that wherever God leads us throughout 2022 and beyond, he will remain present and faithful!

Finally, a special thank you to those in various leadership roles, whether serving on the PCC, part of the Leadership Group, lay readers, children and youth workers, homegroup leaders, pastoral assistants, ministry leaders and of course the staff team. Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and friendship. It continues to be a great joy serving the Lord with you!!

Please note that although this is a very comprehensive report there are other very valuable ministries and activities not included, such as Mothers Union, youth work, student ministry, Worship Team, Guides/ Brownies and homegroups – the list could go on.

I commend this annual report to you.

Lord let your Kingdom come and let your will be done!

Bertin

STATUTORY REPORTS

OVERVIEW OF THE PCC

Location & Contact Information

The Church of the Martyrs is situated on Westcotes Drive, Leicester, with its office being within the Church Hall at 19 Westcotes Drive, Leicester LE3 0QT. Any correspondence to this address or emailed to churchadmin@martyrs.org.uk

Background

The PCC is a legal body of the church registered with the Charity Commission under registration 1134668. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd Ole Bertin Hermo, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, (pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical) and has the responsibility for the maintenance of church buildings, assets and managing church finances. The PCC meets approximately once every 2 months, although there have been some additional ad hoc meetings as circumstances have dictated.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The number of elected members of the PCC is governed by the number of people on the electoral roll. In the case of The Martyrs, with over 100 members on the roll, it enables 12 elected places, with a 3rd of posts being due for re-election each year. Members stand for a term of 3 years. In the case of any member elected to Deanery Synod or General Synod, they are part of the PCC in addition to the other elected places. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ministers:

Vicar: Revd Ole Bertin Hermo (*Chair*)

Curate: Vacancy

IWC Pioneer Minister: Shobha Gosa

Churchwardens:

Mr Pete Coopey (from APCM 2014)

Mrs Lorraine Pointon (from APCM 2020)

Other Ex Officio:

Mrs. Shayne Ardron (*General Synod & Reader representative on PCC*)

Elected Members:

Mrs Liz Bamford (until APCM 2023) (*Lay Chair & Deanery Synod*)

Mrs Julie Shaw (until APCM 2023) (*Deanery Synod*)

Mr Pete Gilbert (until APCM 2022)

Mrs Nina de Salis Young (until APCM 2022)

Mr Robin Pointon (until APCM 2022)

Mr Lloyd Ganza (until APCM 2023)

Mrs Cynthia Ganza (until APCM 2023)

Mr David Basopo (until APCM 2023)

Mrs Debra Gilbert (until APCM 2023)

Mrs Wendy Bebbington (until APCM 2024)

Mr David Spence (until APCM 2024)

Mr Ben Lawton (until APCM 2024)

Mr. Steven Ardron (until APCM 2023) (*PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod*)

Co-opted members:

Mr. Edward de Salis Young (*Treasurer*)

Standing Committee (Leadership Group)

The Standing Committee is a formally constituted body that exists to transact the business of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) between meetings of the PCC subject to any directions given by the PCC. It has authority to deal with any matters of urgency that may arise between PCC meetings. At the Martyrs it is combined with, and is known as, the Leadership Group with an expanded role of providing guidance and leadership on matters of liturgy, worship, faith, and the life of the church. It is comprised of the Clergy, the Church Wardens (Pete Coopey & Lorraine Pointon), and the Treasurer (Ed de Salis Young), plus a number of nominated representatives approved by the PCC; currently these are: Liz Bamford, Lloyd Ganza, Sue Seaman, Liz Lawton, David Gilbert, and Shobha Gosa.

Hall Management Committee

This is a sub-committee of the PCC. It has responsibility for the running, usage, and maintenance of the Hall. The Hall Management Committee usually meets twice a year. Membership during the past year: David Hemmings (Chair), Bertin Hermo, Ed de Salis Young, Ruth Inman, Liz Coopey and Julie Shaw.

Other Groups and Teams

There are a wide range of other groups and teams and mission initiatives whose work enables the Church of the Martyrs to thrive. At this point of the year we thank God for the immense contribution that the individuals connected to them make to the life and mission of our church.

Steven Ardron, PCC Secretary

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

During the course of this year the PCC has been able to move back to more “in person” meetings. There continues to be much to discuss on a range of issues, and the minutes of the last meetings would be available at the back of Church, or on request. Topics covered have continued to include how we meet with pandemic restrictions, and how the Church responds to changing regulations. With the arrival of Shobha Gosa as Pioneer Minister under the IWC funding, the development of being an Intercultural and intergenerational Church has moved forward with more pace with a support/focus group formed, along with meetings involving other IWC churches in the Diocese taking place.

Major discussions have centred around the Nave re-ordering, (including congregational feedback) and how the project is taken forwards, the financial contribution to the Diocese and updating the Martyrs website. There remains our commitment to safeguarding and training, health and safety issues, youth work updates, Baby Basics, Money Matters, and all practical issues to do with day-to-day finances, giving, and the ever increasing cost of living that equally impacts the running of the Church.

Steven Ardron, PCC Secretary.

LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT

Current membership: Rev. Bertin Hermo, Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon (church wardens), Liz Bamford (Lay chairperson of the PCC), Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer), Lloyd Ganza (ICW) with Sue Seaman, Liz Lawton, David Gilbert and Shobha Gosa.

Meetings begin with some reflection on a word from scripture and prayer.

The Leadership Group acts as the Standing Committee for the church when it considers a finance report and prepares the PCC agendas – sometimes making recommendations for the PCC to consider. It also acts as a support group and “sounding board” for the clergy.

Regular items discussed include: Finance and Tithing, Work with Children and Young People, Mission and Ministry, Developing Discipleship, Home Groups and progress with developing Martyrs as an

Intercultural Worshipping Community. During the Covid pandemic there has been a close monitoring of how the church should respond to the changing restrictions and requirements. One major focus has been to discuss the Nave Reordering project. The focus of the group is gradually shifting from “business items” to that of Mission and Ministry.

Pete Coopey, Secretary to the Leadership Group

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – MAY 2022

The electoral roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. The number of electors reported at the 2021 annual parochial church meeting was 141.

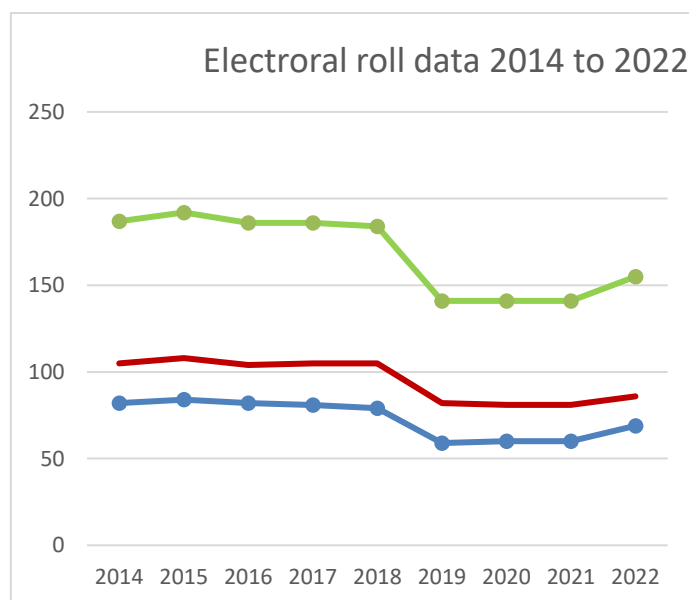
Total number of electors upon the church electoral roll for 2022 is 155.

The electoral roll consists of 69 people who are residents of the parish and 86 are non-residents of the parish.

During the last 12 months 15 persons have been added to the electoral roll and 1 has been removed.

Church of the Martyrs electoral roll summary

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Resident	82	84	82	81	79	59	60	60	69
Non-Resident	105	108	104	105	105	82	81	81	86
Total	187	192	186	186	184	141	141	141	155
Added	9	11	1	1	0	29	0	2	15
Removed	0	6	7	1	2	72	0	2	1



Ben Lawton, Electoral Roll Officer

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Introduction

Sitting down to produce a church attendance report for the calendar year 2021 is a similar process to producing the 2020 report. This year the report will have a little more detail on numbers, however comparison against earlier years is not relevant as church attendance at the church building was not the full picture. Increases in numbers or decreases in numbers is not available or not relevant for most of 2021.

We have seen more attended services during 2021 compared to 2020 however reduced numbers at attended services due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. With this in mind the following attendance report is for the calendar year 2021.

Covid-19 lock down

Like 2020 there was a period between the start of 2021 and Sunday 11th April 2021 inclusive, that the Church of the Martyrs building closed its doors for a period of 14 weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Church of England guidance.

COVID-19 restrictions were partially lifted from Wednesday 14th April 2021 and reduced numbers were allowed to attend the Wednesday and Sunday services until 5th September 2021.

The Church of England and UK government lifted COVID-19 restrictions for Sunday 5th September 2021 when numbers attending church was not restricted.

Church Building Closure period

From Sunday 3rd January 2021 until Wednesday 14th April 2021 no attended services were held within The Church of the Martyrs building, thus attendance in the church building on Sunday was Zero. However, we continued to meet as a Church in other ways.

Online service streaming via Facebook continued through this period. The number of people partaking in the service is almost impossible to confirm. Not knowing the numbers viewing at each IP address or knowing who views for a short period or starts the service part way through.

However, we do know the views at the time of posting the services was between 40 and 50 IP addresses.

The online Sunday service was followed by an online Zoom meeting at 11:30hrs where several of the church family joined together to generally catch up on church news. Again, the number joining varied from week to week.

Sunday 9:00hrs service

The 09:00hrs Sunday communion service did not recommence in 2021 and was replaced by the Wednesday morning service.

Sunday Ketchup Club

From the beginning of 2021 until May 2021 zoom meetings were conducted on a Sunday afternoon and between 4 and 6 children participated.

Some Sunday clubs were held during June and July 2021. From Sunday 12th September 2021 the Sunday clubs fully opened for the remaining part of 2021. However, this was at reduced numbers compared to pre pandemic attendance

Sunday 10:30hrs service

From Sunday 11th April 2021 the church doors reopened weekly to a limited number of the congregation at 10:30hrs. The average congregation attendance at this service was 68 people of this 14.7% were young people under the age of 16 years. This reflects the agreed restricted capacity of the building by the PCC to comply with social distancing guidance. Sunday live services continued streaming online during this period.

From Sunday 5th September 2021 most of covid restrictions were lifted. The church attendance including Sunday clubs rose to an average of 100 people of this 19% were young people under the age of 16 years. To place this into context

Persons attending (Average)	Pre Covid 19 (2019 attendance)	Covid-19 restrictions	Partial Covid-19 restriction's
Under 16 years	28	10	19
Over 16 years	101	58	81
Total	129	68	100

Sunday 18:15hrs service

The Sunday evening services in the 6:15 format did not commence in 2021. An alpha course was conducted in the church building from Sunday 10th October to Sunday 28th November average attendance at the event was 25 people, no young people under the age of 16 years attended this event.

Wednesday 11:00hrs service

The Wednesday service commenced on Wednesday 14th April 2021. The church building opened weekly at 11:00hrs for short services. The average congregation at this service was 18 people, no young people under the age of 16 years attended this service. This was an increase from 2020 of 80%

Persons attending (Average)	Pre Covid 19 Sunday 09:00hrs (2019 attendance)	Covid-19 restrictions	Partial Covid-19 restriction's
Under 16 years	0	0	0
Over 16 years	9	17	19
Total	9	17	19

Special Services

The usual Christian festival events did not all occur as normal within the church building during 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Easter was during the 2021 COVID-19 lockdown period and online services continued for these festivals.

Christmas services recommenced as most COVID-19 restrictions on numbers had been relaxed. However, the attendance was lower than pre Covid levels.

Christmas period service	Pre Covid 19 (2019 attendance)			2021 attendance		
	Under 16	Over 16	Total	Under 16	Over 16	Total
Carols by candlelight	9	136	142	15	103	118
Crib Service	40	65	105	10	40	50
Christmas eve communion	0	58	58	0	38	38
Christmas day family service	19	95	114	11	73	84

Tomatoes Central

Tomatoes Central has not been operating during 2021. Ongoing discussions relating to this meeting are continuing

Ben Lawton

FABRIC REPORT

Nave Reordering Proposal

This is a work in progress and a final decision is yet to be made by the PCC. The working group consists of: Rev Bertin Hermo, Ben Lawton, Pete Coopey, Lorraine Pointon, Irene Hart, Wendy Bebbington and Michael Jawahar.

The proposal is wide reaching and includes looking at: The removal of the pews and replacing them with stackable chairs, a review of church heating, lighting, floor coverings and sound production. At the time of writing views are being sought from specialist advisers.

Gas and Electrics

The annual gas safety check and servicing of the boilers has taken place and no repairs were needed. A smart meter for electrics only has been installed in the church.

Church External Doors

The three external church doors have been renovated and the appearance of the entrance to the church is much improved.

External Storage Unit

This was ordered in October and installed in January 2022 and will be used to store large toys. Thanks to Dave Woodcock for installing the hard standing.

Toilet

The WC in the toilet by the boiler room has needed repairs and some new parts were fitted.

Dormer Window

Dave Woodcock has inspected the dormer window above the worship group area and commented that the external sealant used was of good quality and it does not indicate the need for any additional works.

Ongoing

The carpet at the back of church is badly worn and hard to keep clean. It needs replacing but is tied into the nave reordering work.

Lighting in the chancel needs attention.

The dormer window (above the Music Group) was identified as being in need of repair by the 2013 quinquennial inspection as it was leaking. However, some sealant has been applied and there have been no significant problems since then.

Ladder access to the upper-level bell tower needs improving for safety reasons (Quinquennial 2018).

Pete Coopey, Church Warden

WEST LEICESTER MISSION PARTNERSHIP

Throughout 2021, due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and restrictions, the West Leicester Mission Partnership (WLMP) have had very few opportunities to meet together for joint events.

However, we have been able to provide support for each other in various other ways. With two parishes in the WLMP being in interregnum (St. Peter's and St. Margaret's) clergy have been able to give some support by conducting services as part of a wider rota base.

Our main contact has been the weekly Zoom Morning Prayer every Thursday morning. These times have provided genuine support and encouragement for clergy and other church leaders, especially during times of prayers for each other, church, and community. Whenever there is a 5th Thursday in the month we have met in person for breakfast.

The 8 churches and ministries in the Mission Partnership are Holy Apostles, Martyrs, St. Anne's with St. Paul's, St. Margaret's, St. Peter's, Sound Cafe and Wyggeston.

Bertin Hermo

CITY OF LEICESTER DEANERY SYNOD

In another year of Covid restrictions, two meetings were held via Zoom and one in July was held both in person and online.

23rd March

A Shaped by God Together (SBGT) update was given by Stuart Burns and Jon Barrett. The basics of the proposed new diocesan framework were described as well as an explanation given as to why the process is taking place. A video of the process and timeframe was also shown and discussed.

Fr Paskal Clement gave an update on life within his own parish, the Parish of the Resurrection, and Fr Andrew Quigley gave an update on the Leicester diocesan efforts to become an Eco Diocese and briefly detailed the national situation in this respect.

7th July

A presentation was given on the subject of 'Everyday Faith at Work' by the Revd Lyn Weston from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC). The session included an introduction to the book 'Fruitfulness on the Front Line' by Mark Greene and the accompanying course of eight weeks duration. The Revd Ed Down updated the meeting on life within Hope Hamilton Church which is a fresh expression of church meeting in a school.

18th November

A presentation was given by Emma Crick de Boom about the Difference Course which she helps to run. The course asks us to re-imagine, look for hope and opportunity and to have a positive impact across church and community. Time was also given to allow synod members to meet up and get to know one another in break out rooms.

Various clergy have left the deanery during the year, we wish them well in their new positions or in retirement. Some have joined us, and we welcome them. My very best wishes to you all.

Qyan Arnachellum, Leicester City Deanery Administrator

HALL REPORT

This report covers the calendar year 2021. During the year, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the third national lockdown, and the prolonged roadmap out of lockdown all combined to have a significant impact on Hall bookings and revenues particularly between January and August 2021. The third national lockdown began on 06/01/21. From 08/03/21 England began a phased exit out of lockdown, and this took place between March and July 2021.

The effect on the Hall was that our revenues were severely reduced during the first eight months of the year. (Only one regular user was able to continue throughout the lockdown period). There was an understandable caution on the part of Hall users on when or if they should return to the Hall, even after the roadmap out of lockdown had completed. The net effect was that the majority of regular users did not return to the Hall until September onwards and three regular users did not return at all. One-off bookings were also severely impacted with no bookings from January to September 2021. Two one-off bookings took place towards the end of the year, one in November and one in December.

Hall maintenance was carefully managed so that only essential maintenance took place during the year. Improvements and such items as the much-needed redecoration of the Lower Hall were deferred to at least 2022 and possibly into 2023 depending on income and budget availability. The Lower Hall wooden floor also needs to be stripped down, repaired, sanded, and resealed, in a similar way to the work done on the Upper Hall floor a few years ago. It is perhaps worth considering making some modest improvements to the Hall in 2022 in order to encourage additional bookings, rather than waiting until 2023.

All Health and Safety items for the Hall are up to date, including the annual gas safety inspection, the fire extinguisher and fire fighting equipment annual servicing, the fire alarm system maintenance visits (completed every six months) and the Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) which is completed every five years.

David Hemmings, Church & Community Hall Administrator

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

Our policies, so far as is reasonably practicable, is that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors, contractors, and others who may use the church, church grounds and the Community Hall. The policies are based on comprehensive risk assessments and a separate Fire Risk assessment. As required by the changing COVID-19 regulations separate risk assessments have been drawn up for the church and the community hall. These are kept under regular review and incorporate guidance from the government and the Church of England.

The PCC accepts that it has overall responsibility for the policy and will ensure that adequate resources and training are made available for its implementation. In order to ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item on health and safety will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Parochial Church Council. The Church and Community Hall Administrator meets with one of the wardens before each PCC meeting to prepare a report.

The PCC are confident that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all who use the church, church grounds and Community Hall. Policies and risk assessments are due for review in 2022.

All scheduled checks for gas, electrics, fire alarms, fire extinguishers and the lightning conductor have taken place. The metal cage around the cellar steps has proved very effective in completely reducing discarded drug taking equipment and the gathering of people who use drugs.

Pete Coopey on behalf of the Health and Safety Working Group

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

SAFEGUARDING IS A WHOLE CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY

At the Martyrs we aim to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults by working to prevent abuse from occurring, protecting those who are at risk of being abused and responding well to those who have been abused. The PCC have allocated the following responsibilities:

Dave Spence: DBS certificates, Safeguarding training and Safer Recruitment.

Pete Coopey: Safeguarding Coordinator, Policy review, maintaining the safeguarding dashboard and preparing reports to the PCC, the APCM and the diocese.

Katherine Hawker: Adult Safeguarding.

The PCC has adopted all the relevant guidelines issued by the Church of England and the Diocese and has the appropriate up to date policies in place which are reviewed annually. The PCC, wardens and deputy wardens have completed C0 (basic) Safeguarding Training with most completing C1 (foundation) as well. Those required to complete both of these and higher level C2 (leadership) have done so. All have a current DBS certificate. All members of the congregation involved in work with children and young people and members of the Pastoral Team have attended training and have a DBS certificate.

The Parish Dashboard is a diocesan document that all parishes are asked to use. It covers: policies and action plans; safeguarding roles; training for key roles, displaying information, reviews and reports and church activities. Each time the dashboard is updated an action plan is generated for the PCC to consider.

Pete Coopey and Dave Spence

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

The Martyrs is a church where a great deal of pastoral care goes on – between friends and from the support given within home groups. Much of this care is discreet and reflects the caring nature of our church life together and much of it is unseen.

The Pastoral Team continues to meet monthly by zoom. The team currently comprises Bertin Hermo, Margaret Farrell, Katherine Hawker, Pete and Liz Coopey, Lorraine Pointon, Jane Berridge, and Audrey Basopo. The team works to a Pastoral Policy that highlights the need for accountability and confidentiality – a copy of this is available on request from Pete Coopey.

The team considers the known needs of the congregation – including those who are no longer able to attend church services and are probably not known to the majority of those who do. Individual team members visit people (at home, in hospital or in care homes) or make telephone contact. The team oversees the delivery of Easter flowers, Harvest Baskets, and Christmas gifts amongst the congregation.

Lockdown has made it difficult to offer Home Communion but as restrictions ease this will become more manageable. The way support is offered has had to change due to the restrictions caused by Covid 19 and the “lockdown”. At Pastoral Team meetings people in need of a visit or telephone support will be identified. I would like to recognize the contribution made by Home Groups and the Mother’s Union to the pastoral care of the church.

Pete Coopey, on behalf of the Pastoral Team

YOUNG CHILDREN’S AND FAMILIES’ WORK REPORT

2021 was a challenging year for our children and families, with schools and nurseries shut for a time and routines changing. Restrictions and the impact of covid on individuals, families and our team members meant careful consideration of how to be together and how we can worship, learn, pray, and have fun in a safe way. Often this meant finding a different way to do things.

Shake Rattle n Roll stopped meeting in person during the restrictions and had a time of meeting via Zoom. This included a short Bible Story, song and prayer time and time for the grownups to chat. We opened the group up in the church building again in the Autumn.

Sunday Clubs were tricky to run for our 0-5’s with restrictions as most of the children found Zoom unappealing. Our **Ketchup Club**, however, kept going online on a Sunday afternoon through the start of the year until May. The Ketchup Club team and kids were brilliant in their commitment and enthusiasm. We were able to have some brilliant discussions, prayer, praise times and games together.

In June our kids team ran **God’s Great Gazebo Get Together** in the church gardens during the 10.30 service. We were blessed with the weather and had fun together learning about Joshua and how we can be strong and courageous when God helps us. This helped us reconnect with some of our children and families in person and look at the needs of the children going forward.

In September we started our Sunday Clubs in person again. We decided due to all the changes and tricky times the children had been through that we would keep most children in the same groups as pre-covid to settle them back in. This has worked out well for those children and helped them become friends and feel they belong together. Debra Gilbert became the team leader in **Rainbow Club** supported by a great team. They have had lots of fun together listening, playing, and exploring Bible stories as well as singing, prayer, crafts, games, and snack time.

Ketchup Club met again with Robin Pointon and myself leading and a great supporting team. The children were very keen to get back and we’ve had a great time exploring what God has to say to us in the Bible, through what we see happening around us and in prayer. We are seeing the children become more confident in asking their own questions, talking to God, and knowing God’s voice more, and in their friendships with each other.

The Ark for our younger children continued to be in the prayer vestry with toys and space for parents and babies/toddlers. When a team member is available the aim is for a short story and song time and also to encourage parents/carers.

In the Autumn term we ran a **Light Party** and our first **Christmas Activity Day** for primary kids. These were a positive and fun time engaging with teaching and activities about Jesus.

The **Crib Service** for families on Christmas Eve was not able to run in the way the team had hoped due to covid concerns, but we were able to provide a welcoming Nativity story event using the Bible Society's Instant Nativity.

A big thank you to all who led and helped in our Sunday Clubs and kids events in 2021.

Please continue to pray for our team as we look to the future and what God has in store for our children and families. Thank you.

Irene Hart, Children's and Young Families' Worker

MONEY MATTERS LEICESTER REPORT

Money Matters had 47 new clients in 2021, plus working on 10 returners. Our satellite Hope67, in Coalville, which started in Jan 2021, had 13 clients, although the level of enquiries increased significantly as the service became more widely known. We have agreed with PCC to renew the satellite agreement with Hope67 for 2022, as both centres found the arrangement beneficial in sharing volunteers, skills, and expertise.

Our clients are tending to have more complex long-standing problems, requiring many hours of work to understand the whole situation, collect evidence, and find solutions.

Some client stories:

C, aged 51, suffering from isolation and very low confidence exacerbated by living in poverty on benefits. £16k of debt, including an Amigo (guarantor) loan. Amigo loan will most likely be cancelled (ongoing case) due to our proving mis-selling for both him and guarantor. Debt Relief Order granted, now in full time work and very happy. This case involved trawling through piles of documentation and listening to 10 hours of phone conversation recordings between client and Amigo.

E, aged 43, struggling to pay car finance lump sum due to finance unreasonably terminated by finance company. We proved the finance company was at fault, after a great deal of work, and saved the client £7,000.

F and G, a couple, living in a flat with a complete window & frame missing, for three years. On Universal Credit. We helped them to stop smoking, saving a huge amount of money, and gave them confidence to apply for social housing. Both are facing bankruptcy with over £40k of joint debts, but we may be able to get partial write-offs to reduce this and avoid the need for bankruptcy.

In these cases, as for most of our clients, our ability to spend large amounts of time and persistence paid off in some very complex and difficult cases.

Some client comments:

'I can never THANK you enough for all what you have done for me '

'Again, may I take this opportunity to thank all of you very much for your help! Without your support and help I would have been in a very dark place, and I shudder think what may have happened, So thank you!'

'Thanks so much. I just fall to pieces when it comes to this. Huge thanks'

'I have just received a very welcome and pleasant Christmas card from you and want to thank you most sincerely for this wonderful and unexpected gesture. After the worst year in my life, it does at least mean that the family will get a dinner this year and not beans on toast again for Christmas. I can only say that you are lovely caring people and I do appreciate that you tried to help me with the overwhelming problems.'

Nina de Salis Young, Centre Manager, Money Matters Leicester

BABY BASICS REPORT

At the beginning of 2021 Baby Basics started the tricky and complicated process of applying for a National Lottery Grant to fund new premises for us to work from. The pandemic highlighted how desperate we were for more space to keep up with the demand of referrals coming in. We were delighted that in June we received the grant of 70k over the next 5 years for renting a new home. So far, we have not been able to move with some major hold ups along the way. We hope that this will be resolved quickly so we can continue to keep up with the demand out there.

Referrals have continued to rise during 2021, averaging at about 55-60 a month. We are hardly ever short of donations to fulfil our referrals with an amazing and generous community. Social media continues to be a great source of these donations, but we do have to be careful what we say 'yes' to with 5,000 followers. We have also developed our team of regular volunteers during the year and have more on our waiting list to help once we move. Drop-off points for donations has increased around the city/county as well to make it easier to donate.

Fundraising has had another quiet year due to the pandemic which has limited us on how often we can buy bigger items such as cots and buggies when we are short. Despite this we have been successful with several trust funds and the Aviva Community Fund too.

Baby Basics Leicester continues to be part of a larger network, currently the second busiest in the UK. Baby Basics UK continues to offer support to their centres as well as being very involved with supporting refugees.

Laura Hutchinson

INTERCULTURAL WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY (IWC)

Throughout 2021 we have continued in our effort to grow the work of shaping an Intercultural Worshipping Community at Church of the Martyrs. The IWC vision is essentially to form a Christian community where people from different cultural and ethnic heritage deliberately interact with one another in order to deepen their understanding and experience of God and of each other. Five members of the current IWC steering group spent a day together in October 2020 to pray and reflect on how this overall vision can best be demonstrated in our context here at the Martyrs. On the back of this away day, we felt that our aim over the next five years is for Martyrs to be:

1. a diverse, vibrant, and growing community that reflects the wider context of Leicester's West End.
2. a church where many and varied voices are contributing to all aspects of church life in order to shape a congregation which is known for its friendships, risk taking and serving, and where all people, both old and new, find it easy to belong and to grow in their faith.
3. a very outward focused and transparent community, intentionally engaging with and impacting our local community through preaching and demonstrating the good news of Jesus through personal and physical engagements and via online and social media.
4. a church which intentionally seeks to promote opportunities for others in the community to express themselves in the church within their ethnic and cultural framework and preferences, including welcoming the use of a variety of languages in our gatherings.
5. a creative, energetic, and visionary church, quick to see and seize opportunities of pioneering and joining new projects and developing outreach hubs.

In response to the vision above, here are some of the things we as a church have been able to do throughout 2021:

- Welcomed our Pioneer Minister, Shobha Gosa.
- Recruited an Intern, Philip Mathew, to work alongside and provide support to our Pioneer Minister.
- Ran anti-racism training across three evenings in September with 15-18 people present.

- Received funding for a new Martyrs website.
- Began termly Worship Workshops.
- Launched a new student and young person's homegroup.

We have a steering group in place at the church to help champion the IWC vision to the wider congregation, to be involved in developing strategy and new IWC initiatives, and also to support our Pioneer Minister in her work. Those currently on the steering group are: Lloyd Ganza (Lead), Bertin Hermo, Shobha Gosa, Sarah Shepherd, Osas Uhunamure, Renee Bose, Pete Gilbert, Erol Melbourne and Philip Mathew.

Bertin Hermo

FINANCE REPORT

The Martyrs finances are split into a number of different funds which represent different areas or projects relating to church work. These are accounted for separately and each is described here.

In 2021, the **General fund** had a surplus of £12,785 which compares to a budgeted deficit of £1,800.

Our overall income was almost £10,000 over budget. General Donation income was slightly lower than budgeted, but this was offset with a legacy, a one-off donation, and additional grants including the first of the IWC grant funds. Against this, our expenditure, including transfers to other funds, was around £4,000 under budget. There were savings in a range of areas including utilities, service resources, and other costs due to services and other events still being reduced, and the church being closed in the early part of the year. The surplus has increased our General fund reserves to £64,928 which is very welcome, with the current cost increases we are seeing.

The **Hall fund** had another deficit in 2021, of £2,107. The rental income, although higher than 2020, was still 40% below 2019 levels, although covid and furlough grants helped cover some of this. Hall expenditure was similar to previous years, with salary, utility and maintenance being the main costs. This deficit has reduced the Hall reserves once again, to £9,157. We hope for increased rental income in 2022 as bookings come back closer to normal.

The **Church Development fund** is currently dormant, with the side aisle restoration and new chairs purchase completed in 2017. The remaining funds of £1,077 at the end of 2021 are being used to pay the depreciation on the chairs, and this will cover the next 2 years of that cost.

The **Mission Partnership fund** was set up to fund Mission Partnership events and expenses. Some small payments were made towards book-keeping at one church, leaving a balance of £2,222.

The **Money Matters fund** covers the Money Matters Leicester debt counselling service. This had a small deficit of £1,604 leaving reserves of £16,796. This should provide funding for 2022 and beyond.

The **Baby Basics fund** has continued to grow and support an increase in referrals and donations, with income of £33,770 and spend of £19,022 giving a surplus of £14,748. Around half the income relates to the National Lottery grant towards new premises, although it has not been possible to move to these yet. The fund continues to pay the Baby Basics Manager part-time.

The **Children and Families fund** pays for the work of our Children and Families worker, Irene Hart. We started the year with £8,492. Individual donations to the fund increased in 2021, but with the final (reduced) diocese grant, there was a deficit of £4,680 leaving £3,812 in reserves. The current level of donations will not cover costs in 2022, meaning additional fundraising and/or a transfer from the general fund will be needed.

The **Organ fund** holds and depreciates the cost of the Organ, current value £3,744.

Finally, the **Tithe fund**, which holds our tithe donations prior to paying out as well as the Leadership Group tithe money. The final tithe donations paid out in 2021 were as follows:

- £423 to the Tree of Life project of Leicester Diocese
- £845 to the Diocese of Kiteto
- £845 to CMS as a general donation
- £845 to The Children's Society as a general donation
- £845 to the One Roof Project in Leicester
- £1,690 to support the work of Bruce and Louise Nadin in South Africa
- £845 to support the Tearfund "Reboot" campaign.
- £423 to the support UNICEF vaccinaid.org project
- £845 to increase the Leadership Group tithe

Donations totalling £398 were made from the Leadership Group tithe, leaving £1893 remaining in the Tithe fund which represents the remaining Leadership Group tithe money available to donate.

Finally, I'd like to thank again the Finance team for their continued support: Nina de Salis Young who administers Gift Aid and does most of the data entry; Malcolm Greenwood who runs the envelope scheme; all the collection counters; Noel Smith, our Independent Examiner; Mike Dampier doing the banking; and of course, David Hemmings in the Church Office.

Edward de Salis Young, Treasurer

Church

OF THE MARTYRS

Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester Sunday 15th May 2022 at 11.45hrs in the Church

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Appointment of Clerk for Meetings**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Minutes of AMP 2021**
- 5. Election of Church Wardens for 2022-23**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of 2021 APCM**
- 3. PCC Reports** (Written and verbal)
 - a) Mission and Ministry Reports
 - Baby Basics
 - Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC)
 - Nave Reordering report
 - Family and children's work
 - Money Matters Leicester
 - b) PCC Proceedings
 - c) Leadership Group Report
 - d) Electoral Roll and Attendance Report
 - e) Church Fabric and Inventory Report
 - f) Financial Report
 - g) Mission Partnership
 - h) Deanery Synod Report
 - i) Church Hall Report
 - j) Health and Safety Report
 - k) Safeguarding Report
 - l) Pastoral Team report
- 4. Elections & Appointments**
 - a) Election of 3 PCC Members to serve for 3 years
 - b) Note Appointment of Deputy/Assistant Wardens
 - c) Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022-23
 - d) Reader representation on PCC for 2022-23

5. **Open Forum:** an opportunity to ask questions about the life of the church; questions to be submitted by **Wednesday 11th May** to Steve Ardron (07770 852149) steven.ardron@virginmedia.com)
6. **Closing Prayer.**

Church

OF THE MARTYRS

**Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester
Sunday 16th May 2021 at 11.25hrs in the Church**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS SUNDAY 16th May 2021

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Present in Church:

Revd. Bertin Hermo, Elizabeth Bamford, Pete Coopey, Shayne Ardron, Steve Ardron, Ed de Salis Young, Nina de Salis Young, Wendy Bebbington, Steve Bradly, Erol Melbourne, Julie Shaw, Sue Seaman, Malcolm Greenwood, Tony Lee, Shaylesh Raja, Chris Roe, Sarah Roe, Lorraine Pointon, Maureen Pointon, Trevor Worsfold, Pete Gilbert, Debra Gilbert. Ruth Twaite, Sue Gammon, Les Gammon, Ruth Fryer, Liz Coopey, Pat Woods, Linda Tilley, Pat Bailey, Sue Hermo, Judith Edwards, Eileen Hart. Margaret Wicks, Tim Attewell, Dave Woodcock.

Present by Zoom: Engagement managed by Liz Bamford

Chris Freeman, Lloyd Ganza, Cynthia Kupara, Sarah Shepherd, Dave Spence, Roz Burch, Eileen Melbourne, Sarah Barnes, Darren Barnes, Liz Lawton.

Apologies:

David Seaman

1. Opening Prayer

Bertin chairing the meeting opened the meeting with prayer at 11.25hrs.

2. Appointment of Clerk for the Meetings

Steve Ardron was appointed as Clerk for the meetings, with Liz Bamford being an assistant clerk to keep control of Zoom participant interaction.

3. Minutes of the AMP 2020

It was proposed from the chair that the minutes of the AMP held on 4th October 2020 were an accurate record of the previous meeting. This was accepted unanimously by the meeting and there were no matters arising.

4. Appointment of Church Wardens for 2021/2

Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon had been proposed for the roles of Church Warden. However, the meeting was reminded that as Pete Coopey had already stood for more than 6 consecutive years, that under Church of England rules, the meeting would need to waive the requirement for a new candidate given his length of continuous service.

It was proposed to waive this rule by Sarah Roe and seconded by Julie Shaw. Following a unanimous show of hands Pete Coopey's candidature was accepted.

Pete Coopey was proposed by John Riley and seconded by Jean Miller.

Lorraine Pointon was proposed by Julie Shaw and seconded by Liz Bamford.

After a show of hands, both Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon were duly declared elected to serve as Church Wardens for one year with full approval of the meeting. Thanks of the meeting were expressed to Pete & Lorraine for undertaking all of their work throughout the lockdown.

Meeting closed 11:40

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Commenced 11:43

1. Attendance & Apologies

Both as recorded for the AMP.

2. Minutes of the 2020 APCM

The minutes of the 2020 APCM, held on 4th Oct 2020 were accepted as a true record with no matters arising.

3. Reports

A range of reports had been produced for the year ended 31st Dec 2020 and circulated both to online and by way of hard copy, which were also available at the meeting. Bertin outlined that the PCC had already met to review and approve these reports prior to issue.

a) Proceedings of the PCC Report

The report as printed on pages 3, 4 of the Annual Report document and was presented to the meeting and members given the opportunity to ask questions. There were no matters arising and no questions asked.

b) Leadership Group Report

The report on the workings and membership of the group was printed on page 4 & 5 of the Annual Report document and was presented to the meeting and members given the opportunity to ask questions. There were no matters arising and no questions asked. **Current membership:** Rev. Bertin Hermo, Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon (church wardens), Liz Bamford (Lay chairperson of the PCC), Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer), Lloyd Ganza (IWC) with Sue Seaman, Liz Lawton, and David Gilbert. It is anticipated that the Pioneer Minister (IWC) to be appointed in 2021 will join the group.

c) Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll Report was presented noting that the previous year there had continued to be a total of 141 members on the Electoral Roll, but with 2 added and 2 removed in the last shortened period 7 months. The report was received by the meeting and Ben Lawton was thanked for all his hard work in managing the Roll as required this year.

Difficult to know who still considers the Martyrs to be their church during lockdown, given the ever-changing restrictions and forms of services being online. This may become clearer over 2021.

d) Fabric Report & Inventory

The Fabric Report as printed on page 8 of the Annual Report was presented to the meeting. Thanks to Pete Coopey for its compilation. Key items worth noting were:

Pigeon guano removal from the tower

Paving slabs on the Shaftsbury Side of Church

Cage installation to boiler stairs had seemingly removed issue of drug taking needles being left.

Past Vicars Board

Point of clarification from Pete during the meeting was that whilst he had prepared the report the credit for the completion of these works should go to the team of people who have been involved with these tasks. A special mention of Dave Woodcock's input is therefore minuted with regard to the Vicars board.

e) Finance Report

Ed de Salis Young presented the Finance Report and the accounts to the meeting as printed in the Annual Report,

Thanks to all for the way in which Martyrs Income increased, but regular giving decreased.
Hall fund reduced.

Start of 2021 with roughly similar funds. Church had benefitted from Furlough.
Increase in grants and funding for Children's worker and Money Matters & Baby Basics.

Overall funds increased over the past year.

Surplus in reserves of approx. £10k

Children's and families worker fund is better than expected and now into the 3rd year of the project. Can certainly fund 2021 and part into 2022. The Church will need to increase its % as the Diocesan fund gets reduced during 2021.

Reminder on the giving and Gift Aid. Please advise of any changes to the circumstances that may affect ability to reclaim tax back.

Online giving for one off events now available with Gift Aid

All giving can be without gift aid.

Sum up does now enable online giving. No collections since lockdown, but they will resume at some point. (counters a light year!)

Ed was thanked from the floor and the rest of the meeting for his work in managing the budget and presenting such a clear report. He in turn thanked those who contributed to accounts and managing income including Nina De Salis Young, David Hemmings, Malcolm Greenwood, Mike Dampier, and all the weekly collection counters. Ed also thanked Noel Smith our Independent Examiner for his work in auditing the accounts.

Questions

Shayne: will we be in a position to give extra to the Diocese to help support their anticipated £1.5m shortfall?

Diocese asked that the share could be kept the same, which we agreed to. We have not made the offer for 2022. Thing to note that the regular giving has gone down. PCC will have to think that through overall.

It was proposed by Debra Gilbert that Ed's verbal financial report along with the preceding written reports of the Annual Report document plus the accounts as stated at the rear of the document pg 23 onwards be accepted. This was seconded by Robin Pointon and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

f) West Leicester Mission Partnership

g) City of Leicester Deanery Synod

h) Church Hall Report

i) Health & Safety Report

j) Safeguarding Report

k) Pastoral Team Report

Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Pastoral Team, West Leicester Mission Partnership, Hall, and Deanery Synod Reports were all received by the meeting.

I) Mission & Ministry Reports: whilst not formal reports to receive, Bertin highlighted

- Young Children's and Families' Work Report. Thanks were expressed to Irene for her work during 2020/21. Some work in this area (like Shake) has had to be cancelled because of social distancing restrictions, whereas other ministry has been able to continue.
- Money Matters Leicester. The church appreciates the work done by Nina and all other team members of Money Matters, which has been brought into full focus during the pandemic.
- Baby Basics: Charity seeking to support those struggling to afford bringing up their new arrivals. Thanks to Laura and team for all they do.
- Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC). The update in this area is that a Pioneer Minister will be appointed by the Diocese and would hope to start this summer at the Martyrs. This will be a 5-year position fully funded by the Diocese IWC project. Martyrs is one of 5 churches in the Diocese involved in the project. A Martyrs Steering Group, headed up by Lloyd Ganza, is helping to move the vision forward.

Questions:

None

5. Elections and Appointments

a) Parochial Church Council

Thanks to those due to retire this year from PCC. They are:

Wendy Bebbington
Wale Ogunsemi
Ben Lawton
David Spence

Bertin declared that nominations had been received as follows:

- Wendy Bebbington proposed by Pete Coopey and seconded by Liz Lawton
- Ben Lawton proposed by Lorraine Pointon and seconded by Wendy Bebbington
- Dave Spence proposed by Liz Bamford and seconded by Julie Shaw.

In the absence of any other nominations, there was no requirement for a vote and the above mentioned were duly elected to the PCC. It had been agreed at the last PCC meeting that the formal election of officers for the new PCC would be at the beginning of the first meeting.

b) Deputy / Assistant Wardens

Whilst not being formal church appointments the valuable work of Deputy Wardens was recognised. The Deputy Wardens for this year are Liz Bamford, Katherine Hawker and Eileen Melbourne.

c) PCC Reader Representative

Shayne Ardron is appointed as Reader representative on the PCC.

d) Deanery Synod

There are currently no vacancies on the Deanery Synod. Those places currently being filled until 2023 by:

- Steve Ardron
- Liz Bamford
- Julie Shaw

e) West Leicester Mission Partnership

It was noted that Linda Tilley had been proposed by Jenny Fox and Seconded by Ruth Twaite to be the Lay Representative on the West Leicester Mission Partnership Action Group for a further year. This was approved unanimously by the meeting.

f) Independent Examiner

Ed de Salis Young proposed that Noel Smith be appointed as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Pete Coopey and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

7. Open Forum

It was noted that no questions had been received prior to the meeting for Open Forum discussion. No further questions from the floor or on Zoom were received.

8. Votes of Thanks from Bertin

The changes experienced to church ministry and individuals' involvement have been many in the last year, with developing new ways of being Church. This has included many new ways of meeting and involving people online and in person. Bertin thanked everyone and wanted to highlight that the PCC and church will want to consider what further changes God may be guiding us toward.

From a building's perspective, questions to explore would be what changes may be in the Nave area going forwards. Changes to this area could be made to space, facilities, heating lighting & visual provision. The PCC is keen to engage with everyone, and therefore as the start of an engagement process a questionnaire had been produced for people to take with them and offer feedback. Martyrs Matters communication would also contain the questionnaire and be sent out on the 17th May.

Bertin wanted to express his thanks for the large team of people that serves everyone at the Martyrs, and he could see that such deep friendships exist, giving him cause to be excited about the journey ahead.

The Warden's then added their comment:

Pete Coopey wanted to mention all the items that do not get into the reports. The small acts of kindness and the vast number of people who have quietly kept things running. Thanks were expressed to all those making the church and gardens continually look attractive and welcoming.

It could also not go unmentioned how much the church would miss the tireless work of Gwyneth Moor for all her unseen acts and the fantastic pastoral care she offered to so many within the community. Her contribution was outstanding and noted for the formal record.

Bertin and Sue were thanked for all they do to lead the Church.

9. Meeting Close

Lorraine Pointon then led a short time of prayer before the meeting closed.

Bertin closed the meeting 12:15 hrs thanking all those for their attendance.

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Begins on the following page

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS LEICESTER

Registered Charity no 1134668

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

CONTENTS

Page 2	Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC
Page 3	Statement of Accounting Policies
Page 5	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 6	Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021
Page 7	Notes to the Accounts

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December
2021

Note 1:

Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Scope of the Accounts

The Accounts combine the results of the Church, Hall and associated funds for the year. The Accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Funds

Unrestricted funds [general fund] represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use.

Restricted funds represent income and donations from individuals or groups which, may be expended only on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. At the start of 2021 there were 5 active Restricted Funds: Children and Families Worker Fund, Money Matters fund, Baby Basics fund, Organ fund (donations for the church organ), and Mission Partnership fund. This did not change during the year.

Designated Funds have been designated by the PCC and as such could be 'undesignated' in the future. At the start of 2021 there were 3 active Designated Funds: the Hall fund, Buildings Development fund and Tithe fund (to hold unspent tithe monies). This did not change during the year.

The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the Accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Statement of Financial Activities – Year Ending 31st December 2021

Statement of Financial Activities		Unrestricted		Designated		Restricted		Restricted		Restricted		Restricted		PCC Total 2021 (£)	PCC Total 2020 (£)
		Church General Fund	Church Buildings Tithe	Church Buildings	Church Tithe	Church Organ	Church Ch&Fam	Total Church	Designated Hall	Restricted MP	Restricted Money Matters	Restricted Baby Basics			
Incoming Resources															
Voluntary income (note 2a)	121,618	-	-	-	12,502	134,120	8,874	-	7,500	31,965			182,459	185,429	
Investment income (note 2b)	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-			16	131	
Income from Charitable Activities (note 2c)	921	-	-	-	-	921	19,182	-	-	-			20,103	20,182	
Other Incoming Resources (note 2d)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,805			1,805	361	
Total Incoming Resources	122,555	-	-	-	12,502	135,057	28,056	-	7,500	33,770			204,383	206,103	
Resources Expended															
Cost of Generating Funds (note 3a)	260	-	-	-	-	260	96	-	-	13			369	154	
Grants (note 3b)	454	8,003	-	-	-	8,457	-	-	2,770	7,761			18,988	21,002	
Activities directly related to Church Work (3c)	101,481	537	468	17,182	119,668	31,767	180	3,759	11,248				166,622	155,128	
Total Resources Expended	102,195	8,540	468	17,182	128,385	31,863	(3,807)	180	6,529	19,022			185,979	176,284	
Net incoming resources	20,360	-	8,540	468	4,680	6,672	-	180	971	14,748			18,404	29,819	
Transfers between funds (note 4 below)	-	7,575	8,450	-	-	875	1,700	-	2,575	-			-	-	
Net movement in funds	12,785	-	90	-	468	7,547	(2,107)	180	1,604	14,748			18,404	29,819	
Total funds brought forward	52,143	3,060	4,212	8,492	67,907	11,264	2,402	17,272	11,264	17,272			117,245	87,426	
Total funds carried forward	64,928	2,970	3,744	3,812	75,454	9,157	2,222	32,020	9,157	32,020			135,649	117,245	

Note 4: Fund transfers were:

General to Tithe fund (tithes)	8,450.00
Money Matters to General fund (intern cost)	875.00
Money Matters to Hall fund (rent)	1,700.00

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

Note 2:

Incoming Resources Detail		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Designated	Total	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
		Church	Church	Church	Church	Money Matters	Hall	Church	Baby Basics	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
		General Fund	Buildings	Organ	Ch&Fam						
			Tithe								
2a Voluntary Income											
General donations Gift Aid		28,807.84			2,090.00			30,897.84		31,127.84	36,774
Donations gross via CAF									70.00	-	5,430
Donations gross via PGS		58,475.45						58,475.45		58,475.45	58,126
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid		9,843.25			860.00			10,703.25	48.75	10,792.00	7,449
General donations (non Gift Aid)		5,668.82			10.00		15.00	5,678.82	6,005.00	11,998.82	17,621
Cash Collections		960.79						960.79		960.79	1,283
Special or one off Donations Gift Aid		5,400.00			1,510.00			6,910.00	290.00	7,200.00	2,563
Special or one off Donations non Gift Aid		715.00						715.00	4,811.58	5,526.58	2,479
Grants & Legacies		6,423.67			8,031.56		8,858.96	14,455.23	20,740.00	51,054.19	53,705
Grants - IWC		5,323.26						5,323.26		5,323.26	-
Total		121,618.08			12,501.56		8,873.96	134,119.64	31,965.33	182,458.93	185,430
2b Investment Income											
Bank/CBF Interest		16.08						16.08		16.08	131
Total		16.08						16.08		16.08	131
2c Income from Charitable Activities											
Tomatoes Donations											439
PCC Fees (Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals)		891.00						891.00		891.00	166
Hire/Lettings of buildings							19,182.40			19,182.40	19,577
Trading Income		30.00						30.00		30.00	-
Parish Holiday, Soul Survivor											-
Total		921.00					19,182.40	921.00		20,103.40	20,182
2d Other											
Social Events											
Miscellaneous Income									1,805.18	1,805.18	361
Insurance Claims											-
Total											-
Total Incoming Resources		122,555.16			12,501.56		28,056.36	135,056.72	33,770.51	204,383.59	206,104

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

Note 4: For details of Fund transfers, see Note 4 on the summary SOFA page.

Note 5: Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets						
(a) Tangible	Electric Organ	A/V system	Sound Desk	Copier	Church Chairs	Total
Actual Cost						
At 1 January 2021	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Additions						0
Disposals						0
At 31 December 2021	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2021	7,488	17,671	2,880	870	2,148	31,057
Additions	468	210	360	290	537	1,865
Disposals						
At 31 December 2021	7,956	17,881	3,240	1,160	2,685	32,922
Net Book Value at 31 December 2021	3,744	1,269	360	1,747	2,689	9,809
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020	4,212	1,479	720	2,037	3,226	11,674

Note 6:

Debtors consist of Gift Aid tax recoverable and general debtors (for example Hall users). The stated Gift Aid tax owing at the end of 2021 matches the tax claim made in Q1 2020.

Note 7: Liabilities consist of Agency collections (those collected for others but not yet paid over), invoices not yet paid, deposits held, and accruals.

The total Parish Contribution offer the Martyrs made for 2021 was £72,812, which was fully paid during the year.

Note 8:

(a) Salaries

During the year the PCC employed an Administrator, a Premises Officer, a Hall Cleaner, a Children and Families Worker, and a Baby Basics Manager, making a total of 6 employees who were all part-time. The payroll is administered by the Diocese of Leicester, and wages for all employees have had appropriate PAYE and NI deductions made. Pension contributions have been made for the Administrator and the Children and Families Worker; other employees were below the threshold for pension enrolment.

(b) Payments to PCC Members

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services to the PCC. No other payment or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, except for direct reimbursements for items bought for the church.

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC for the year ended 31st Dec 2021

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 3 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Mr Noel Smith

Address: Broughton Astley, Leicestershire

Date: 21 March 2022

Accounts



Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2020

Church Wardens

Pete Coopey
53 Barons Close
Kirby Muxloe
LE9 2BW

Lorraine Pointon
38 Sykefield Avenue
Leicester
LE3 0LB

Bank
Unity Trust
4 Brindley Place
Birmingham

Independent Examiner
Mr. Noel Smith
Broughton Astley
Leicestershire

Contents

Introduction to the Annual Report.....	2
Overview of the PCC.....	4
Proceedings of the PCC.....	5
Leadership Group Report.....	5
Electoral Roll Report.....	6
Attendance Report.....	7
Fabric Report.....	9
West Leicester Mission Partnership.....	9
City of Leicester Deanery Synod.....	10
Hall Report.....	10
Health & Safety Report.....	11
Safeguarding Report.....	12
Pastoral Team Report.....	12
Young Children's and Families' Work Report.....	13
Money Matters Leicester Report	14
Baby Basics Report.....	15
Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC).....	15
Finance Report.....	16
Agenda for the AGM 2021.....	18
Minutes of the AGM 2020.....	19
Accounts for Year Ending 31 st December 2020.....	25

APCM - Introduction to the Annual Report

Having had our last year's APCM in October 2020, we are now adjusting back to the normal date for holding our annual meeting and the opportunity to reflect and report on the 'strange' year that 2020 has been. Due to the timing of last year's APCM, you will find that a significant part of the reports in these pages will resemble those from last year. However, we have made sure to include what took place in the last term of 2020, so please read on!

Throughout 2020 we have all had to make significant adjustments to the way we go about doing things. It was no longer possible to 'just pop out' without asking 'do I need to go? Is this my one bit of exercise? What is local? Have I got my face mask?...'

As a church community we have also had to learn to hold things lightly throughout 2020 and to make changes as we went along. Many of our well laid plans had to change at the beginning of the year with the arrival of the first lockdown, such as launching new home groups in April 2020 and running a mission week last summer. We had to quickly learn and discover how best to stay connected with each other when we couldn't meet physically. And although we had a few months toward the end of 2020 when we could gather for 'in person' services, for the majority of the year we have had to move online, learning our way around Zoom and Screenshare, breakout rooms and Mute/ Unmute! A whole new world for many of us... I am very grateful to all those who have helped us with this transition to 'doing things online', not least Gareth Hutchinson, Shaylesh Raja and Chris Roe.

2020 saw a number of people move to pastures new, including the Hutchinson family (although they didn't move far!) We are very grateful for having had Gareth and Laura, Noah and Eli here at the Martyrs for a number of years and continue to wish them well in Kirby Muxloe and Desford.

In this report you will discover all sorts of different ways we as a church have sought to continue to fulfil the mission God has called us to. It is a good and encouraging read!

However, we also appreciate that 2020 has been a very challenging and stretching year for many people in our church and community. Many have battled illnesses and hospitalisation, others have had to juggle work and home schooling, some have been faced with being laid off from work and with very bleak employment opportunities ahead. It has been a tough year for young and old...

In recent months we have also grieved the passing of Gwyneth Moor, a very special friend to so many of us, especially through her involvement in the Girl Guides movement over several decades. We continue to feel sad that Gwyneth is no longer with us, as well as giving God thanks for her life and the significant impact she made in so many lives.

So, as we take time to look back and reflect after a challenging year, the good news of Jesus still brings hope to our world.

Paul admonishes us not to... *lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.* **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

As we continue to move forward into 2021, we will encourage one another not to lose heart and to hold on to hope. We remain grateful for the vaccination roll out and are hoping for a summer free of most, if not all, restrictions. We are committed to our lives being lived together as a church community, within our local community, where we are willing to come alongside one another and provide friendship, prayer and practical support. And we continue to keep our eyes on Jesus and to follow him closely, whatever the future holds.

Finally, a special thank you to those in various leadership roles, whether serving on the PCC, part of the Leadership Group, lay readers, homegroup leaders, pastoral assistants, licensed evangelist, ministry leaders and of course the staff team. Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and friendship!

Please note that although this is a very comprehensive report there are other ministries and activities not included, such as 'Tomatoes', Mothers' Union, 'Shake, Rattle and Roll', 'You and Me', youth work, student ministry, Music Group, Guides / Brownies and homegroups – the list could go on.

I commend this annual report to you.

Lord let your Kingdom come and let your will be done!

Bertin

STATUTORY REPORTS

OVERVIEW OF THE PCC

Location & Contact Information

The Church of the Martyrs is situated on Westcotes Drive, Leicester, with its office being within the Church Hall at 19 Westcotes Drive, Leicester LE3 0QT. Any correspondence to this address or emailed to churchadmin@martyrs.org.uk

Background

The PCC is a legal body of the church registered with the Charity Commission under registration 1134668. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd Ole Bertin Hermo, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, (pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical) and has the responsibility for the maintenance of church buildings, assets and managing church finances. The PCC meets approximately once every 2 months, although there have been some additional ad hoc meetings as circumstances have dictated.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The number of elected members of the PCC is governed by the number of people on the electoral roll. In the case of The Martyrs, with over 100 members on the roll, it enables 12 elected places, with a 3rd of posts being due for re-election each year. Members stand for a term of 3 years. In the case of any member elected to Deanery Synod or General Synod, they are part of the PCC in addition to the other elected places.

Membership

In normal circumstance the APCM should be held before the end of May. As a result of the COVID restrictions brought into force by the Government, the Diocese extended the 2019/20 year to the end of October. As a result, the existing PCC membership shown below have only been in post since the last APCM held on the 4th October 2020. Members who have served during this shortened last extended year are as follows:

Ministers:

Vicar: Revd Ole Bertin Hermo (*Chair*)

Curate: Vacancy

Churchwardens:

Mr Pete Coopey (from APCM 2014)

Mrs Lorraine Pointon (from APCM 2020)

Other Ex Officio:

Mrs. Shayne Ardron (*General Synod & Reader representative on PCC*)

Elected Members:

Mrs Liz Bamford (until APCM 2023) (*Lay Chair & Deanery Synod*)

Mrs Julie Shaw (until APCM 2023) (*Deanery Synod*)

Mr David Spence (until APCM 2021)

Mr Wale Ogunsemi (until APCM 2021)

Mr Ben Lawton (until APCM 2021)

Mrs Wendy Bebbington (until APCM 2021)

Mr Pete Gilbert (until APCM 2022)

Mrs Nina de Salis Young (until APCM 2022)

Mr Robin Pointon (until APCM 2022)

Mr Lloyd Ganza (until APCM 2023)

Ms Cynthia Kupara (until APCM 2023)

Mr David Basopo (until APCM 2023)
Mrs Debra Gilbert (until APCM 2023)
Mr. Steven Ardron (until APCM 2023) (*PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod*)

Co-opted members:

Mr. Edward de Salis Young (*Treasurer*)

Standing Committee (Leadership Group)

The Standing Committee is a formally constituted body that exists to transact the business of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) between meetings of the PCC subject to any directions given by the PCC. It has authority to deal with any matters of urgency that may arise between PCC meetings. At the Martyrs it is combined with, and is known as, the Leadership Group with an expanded role of providing guidance and leadership on matters of liturgy, worship, faith, and the life of the church. It is comprised of the Clergy, the Church Wardens (Pete Coopey & Lorraine Pointon), and the Treasurer (Ed de Salis Young), plus a number of nominated representatives approved by the PCC; currently these are: Liz Bamford, Lloyd Ganza, Sue Seaman, Liz Lawton, and David Gilbert.

Hall Management Committee

This is a sub-committee of the PCC. It has responsibility for the running, usage, and maintenance of the Hall. The Hall Management Committee usually meets twice a year. Membership during the past year: David Hemmings (Chair), Bertin Hermo, Ed de Salis Young, Ruth Inman, Liz Coopey, Julie Shaw, and James Hart.

Other Groups and Teams

There are a wide range of other groups and teams and mission initiatives whose work enables the Church of the Martyrs to thrive. At this point of the year we thank God for the immense contribution that the individuals connected to them make to the life and mission of our church.

Steven Ardron, PCC Secretary

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC

During the course of this shortened year the PCC has continued to discuss a range of issues and the minutes of the last meetings would be available at the back of Church, or on request. Topics covered have, as always been varied, but have continued to centre around how we meet during a pandemic, when we can reopen and the challenges we face with the restrictions in place. Continued safeguarding training, youth work updates, Baby Basics, Money Matters, and practical issues to do with finances and the Church fabric have all equally taken time in our discussions, as we have continued to meet in a Zoom format.

Significant progress has been made in respect of the Pioneer minister opportunity with the Diocese in connection with our move to becoming an Intercultural Worshipping Community. Some members of the PCC and Church Wardens have been involved with the recent interview process, and an announcement on an appointment will hopefully be made in due course.

Steven Ardron, PCC Secretary.

LEADERSHIP GROUP REPORT

Membership January to October: Rev. Bertin Hermo, Pete Coopey and John Sinclair (church wardens), Liz Bamford (Lay chairperson of the PCC), Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer), Lloyd Ganza (ICW) with Sue Seaman, Liz Lawton, and David Gilbert, with Rev. Gareth Hutchinson until July and Gail Gould leaving in August.

Current membership: Rev. Bertin Hermo, Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon (church wardens), Liz Bamford (Lay chairperson of the PCC), Ed de Salis Young (Treasurer), Lloyd Ganza (ICW) with Sue Seaman, Liz Lawton, and David Gilbert. It is anticipated that the Pioneer Minister to be appointed in 2021 will join the group.

Meetings begin with some reflection on a word from scripture and prayer.

The Leadership Group acts as the Standing Committee for the church when it considers a finance report and prepares the PCC agendas – sometimes making recommendations for the PCC to consider. It also acts a support group and “sounding board” for the clergy.

Regular items discussed include: Finance and Tithing, progress with the Quinquennial report (the maintenance work recommended by a 5-yearly inspection of the building), Work with Children and Young People, Mission and Ministry, Developing Discipleship, the prayer life of the church and progress with the idea of Intercultural Worship. During lockdown there has been a regular update on staffing as the church has used the furlough scheme. The group has also looked at how the Pastoral Work of the church happens. The focus of the group is gradually shifting from “business items” to that of Mission and Ministry.

Since lockdown began meetings have been held by Zoom and have really had to focus on the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown – this has meant responding to the various changes in regulations both nationally and from the diocese. This has led to a necessary change of focus and the group has devoted time to how the church could safely open for private prayer and public worship; the response to online services, socials, and opportunities for prayer; having an oversight of the pastoral needs of the congregation; considering how the needs of children and young people can best be met and has touched on the link between The Black Lives Matters Movement and our developments with the BAME population.

Pete Coopey, Secretary to the Leadership Group

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – APRIL 2021

The electoral roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. The number of electors reported at the 2020 annual parochial church meeting was 141.

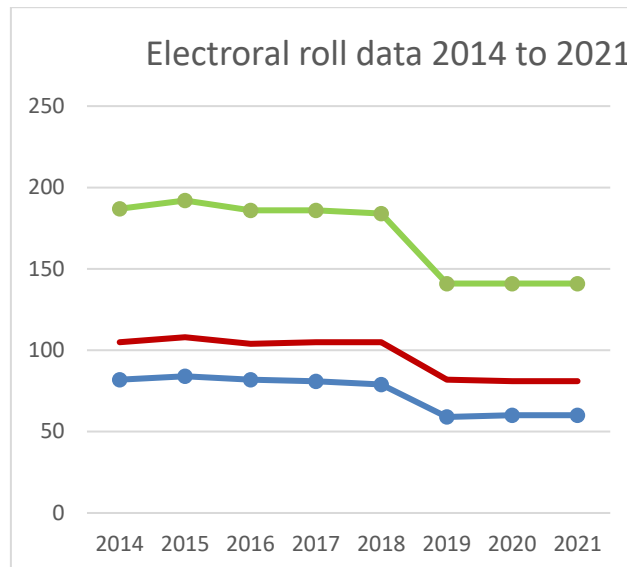
Total number of electors upon the church electoral roll for 2021 is 141.

The electoral roll consists of 60 people who are residents of the parish and 81 are non-residents of the parish.

During the last 7 months 2 names have been added and 2 names have been removed

Church of the Martyrs electoral roll summary

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Resident	82	84	82	81	79	59	60	60
Non-Resident	105	108	104	105	105	82	81	81
Total	187	192	186	186	184	141	141	141
Added	9	11	1	1	0	29	6	2
Removed	0	6	7	1	2	72	6	2



Ben Lawton, Electoral Roll Officer

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Introduction

Sitting down to produce a church attendance report for the calendar year 2020 has been quite a thought-provoking exercise. This year the report will have very little detail on numbers and comparison against earlier years as church attendance at the church building was not the full picture. Increases in numbers or decreases in numbers is not available or not relevant for most of 2020.

For myself I have not attended a service at The Church of the Martyrs since March 2020 and only entered the church building twice in the last 12 months. We have seen few attended services and reduced numbers at attended services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With this in mind the following attendance report is for the calendar year 2020.

Pre Covid-19 lockdown

On Sunday 15th March 2020, the Church of the Martyrs building closed its doors for a period of 25 weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Church of England guidance. Up to and including Sunday 15th March church attendance was similar to 2019.

Church Building Closure period

From Sunday 22nd March until Sunday 13th September 2020 no attended services were held within the Church of the Martyrs building, thus attendance in the church building on Sunday was zero. However, we continued to meet as a Church in other ways.

Online service streaming via Facebook commenced on Sunday 22nd March 2020. The number of people partaking in the service is almost impossible to confirm. Not knowing the numbers viewing at each IP address or knowing who views for a short period or starts the service part way through. However, we do know the views at the time of posting the services was between 50 and 60 IP addresses.

The online Sunday service was followed by an online Zoom meeting at 11:30hrs where several of the church family joined together to generally catch up on church news. Again, the number joining varied from week to week.

Sunday Clubs

On Sunday 15th March 2020, the last Sunday clubs were held. Up until that date Sunday club attendance was similar to 2019. From 22nd March 2020 the Sunday clubs remained closed for the remaining duration of 2020.

Restricted church opening from 13th September 2020

Sunday 09:00hrs service

The 09:00hrs Sunday communion service did not recommence and was suspended for the rest of 2020.

Sunday 10:30hrs service

From Sunday 13th September 2020 the church doors reopened weekly to a limited number of the congregation at 10:30hrs. The average congregation attendance at this service was 48 people, of this 7.8% was young people under the age of 16 years. This reflects the agreed restricted capacity of the building set at 55 by the PCC to comply with social distancing guidance. Sunday live services continued streaming online during this period.

Sunday Ketchup Club

From Sunday 13th September 2020 a weekly Sunday afternoon online young people's club was commenced. This continued weekly for the remainder of 2020 with the exceptions of Sundays when there was an all-age service.

Sunday 18:15hrs service

From Sunday 13th September 2020 the 18:15hrs Sunday service recommenced. The average congregation at this service was 10 people, no young people under the age of 16 years attended this service.

Wednesday 11:00hrs service

An additional service was introduced from Wednesday 16th September 2020, the church building opened weekly at 11:00hrs for short services. The average congregation at this service was 15 people, no young people under the age of 16 years attended this service.

Additional information

During the above period, a local lockdown closed the church building for 4 weeks from 5th November to 8th December 2020. During this time, the attendance at The Church of the Martyrs was zero.

Apart from the above all services continued to the end of 2020 until the first week of January 2021 when we entered the second national COVID-19 lockdown and the Church of the Martyrs building then closed once more.

Special Services

The usual Christian festival events did not all occur as normal within the church building during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Easter and Harvest was during the first COVID-19 lockdown period and online services continued for these festivals.

Some Christmas services only occurred online including carols by candlelight and the crib service. The Christmas eve midnight service was held within the church to limited numbers. The Christmas day service was held within the church and also live online.

Tomatoes Local

Tomatoes Local commenced 2020 as normal meeting every 2 weeks until Saturday 7th March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Tomatoes closed for the rest of 2020.

Ben Lawton

FABRIC REPORT

Vicars Board

The proposal passed by the PCC required a full faculty - which was rejected, the diocese preferring to keep the original board and find an engraver to update it. I have found a company in Hinckley who do laser engraving on wood. Following a number of emails this company has failed to respond hence we now need to look for a company who will agree to undertake the work.

Electrical Works

The Chancel spotlights are now in need of replacement as a number of these are failing.

Church Heating

The current church building heating is split into 2 sections. Each section is powered by 2 gas-fired boilers. The system is now more than 20 years old, and the cost of maintenance can be relatively high. The heating system will require assessing for suitability going forwards and quotations for possible upgrades to the system or replacement should be sought.

Pigeon Infestation

There was a pigeon infestation in the upper level of the church tower. This has been cleaned out by a working party from the church and new mesh installed to prevent pigeons entering the loft. Thanks to Bertin Hermo, Ben Lawton and Dave Seaman.

Relaying Slabs near the Shaftesbury Road entrance

Work undertaken during the year included relaying the slabs near the Shaftesbury Road entrance. The contractor has done an excellent job and there has been some very good feedback on the work.

Metal Cage erected around the cellar steps

A metal cage was erected around the cellar steps (to prevent this area being used by drug takers who had been leaving a lot of discarded needles).

General Repairs and Maintenance

There are a few areas of concern with regards ongoing maintenance issues as follows:

- Church heating - as noted above.
- The carpet in the area at the back of the church is showing signs of wear and is proving increasingly difficult to keep clean. Provision should be made to either replace the carpet or consider alternative floor covering within the coming years.
- Ladder access to the upper level of the bell tower needs to be improved.
- Several of the high-level spotlights in the Chancel area have failed. Quotations are being sought for new lighting units.
- We should also consider the repair of the dormer window.

Pete Coopey, Church Warden

WEST LEICESTER MISSION PARTNERSHIP

2020 was a different year in so many ways because of COVID-19. We were unable to hold any of our usual joint events. Every parish or worshipping community has found different ways to keep in touch and worship together and serve one another. Clergy and others have continued to meet weekly for Morning Prayer by Zoom, circulating 'virtually' around the churches and worshipping communities. On those Thursday mornings we have been able to share our concerns and ideas and pray for each other and our communities.

We also had a ZOOM farewell breakfast, including delivering a 'socially distanced' gift for Keith Magee as he moved on from St Peter's Braunstone Park to a new parish.

For reference, the churches and worshipping communities in the Mission Partnership are Holy Apostles, Church of the Martyrs, St. Anne's & St Paul's with St Augustine's, St Margaret's, St. Peter's Braunstone, Wyggeston's and the Sound Cafe.

Bertin Hermo

CITY OF LEICESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Due to the unprecedented year we have all experienced, as you are aware things were rather different. The Synod met twice by zoom plus a newsletter and presentation was distributed.

May – with Bishop Guli

Bishop Guli led an online meeting to which everyone on the Synod was invited. There was no formal agenda, but we discussed how the pandemic was impacting our churches. Her pastoral support in this way was most appreciated by those able to attend.

July – Newsletter and presentation on YouTube

A newsletter was distributed focussing on “green” issues including working towards being an eco-diocese and the youth climate strikes. We reflected on “A green recovery” and had suggestions for Creationtide. An accompanying presentation was available on YouTube.

November – Full Zoom Meeting

39 people managed to connect for our first full virtual meeting. We opened with a hymn. Pioneers Kat Gibson and Matthew Gough reflected on their experiences working through the pandemic including the founding of Roots a new fresh expression. Les Michelmores, Lay Chair talked about what the deanery standing committee does and requested to delay elections until 2021. Vic Allsop, Deanery Treasurer has been working with the Generous Giving Team on Parish Gift pledges and thanked all those who have already pledged. Richard Pickering of Green Christians shared a PowerPoint presentation on climate change put together in conjunction with Climate Action Leicester and the Leicester chapter of Friends of the Earth which talked about living with the planets environmental limits and achieving a sustainable economy which was endorsed by those attending.

As you can understand this has been far from a normal year, but the work of all in the Deanery has continued and we thank the clergy who have been supporting us all throughout these difficult times and in particular our Area Dean Anthony, and Assistant Area Dean Adrian who have been supporting our clergy.

Annabel Cowley, Deanery Administrator

HALL REPORT

Introduction

This report covers the calendar year 2020. Hall bookings continued as usual during the early part of the year from January to mid-March. In line with government guidance regarding the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown announced in March 2020, all Hall bookings, whether regular or one-off, were suspended from 22/03/20 onwards. The Hall then remained closed for the rest of the year apart from a very small number of user groups noted below. This closure of more than 9 months has of course had a significant impact on the Hall's revenues. Further details can be found in the Finance Report.

Two of our regular user groups were able to return in mid-September and October but bookings were again suspended from early November onwards due to the second lockdown. Hopscotch were able to have a limited reopening on 01/06/20 for a month and then closed for the summer holidays. Hopscotch then opened for the Autumn term on 01/09/20.

A COVID-19 risk assessment was completed for the Hall during the year in line with government guidance. A copy of the risk assessment was sent out to representatives of the Hall's regular user groups for information and to help them in their own planning for when bookings are allowed to resume.

Repairs and Maintenance

Repairs and maintenance items completed during the year:

- Hall electrical items – a number of fluorescent tube units failed in the Hall during the early part of the year and were declared obsolete. LED tube lighting units were fitted as replacements.
- Fly-tipping in the Hall car park and grounds – fly-tipping has been a problem on a number of occasions through the year. Items dumped included an old 3-seater sofa; a mattress; a child's buggy; bags of old clothing and black bin liners full of household rubbish; several pillows and an old duvet. The items were disposed of as quickly as possible.
- Hall Annexe – the tenants, (Armonia Music Tuition), said that a number of changes were required in order to make the Annexe COVID-19 compliant before they could reopen for the Autumn term. Most of the work was done by the tenants, (for example, deep cleaning, providing hand sanitisers, signage and screens etc) but one item needed the Hall's involvement:
Providing improved ventilation – the two large sash windows in the main tuition area were found to be painted and sealed shut. A specialist contractor freed up both windows, made repairs where necessary, and re-corded the sash fitments. One of the windows needed significant repairs due to the presence of rotting timber. New sash window locks and catches were also required. The work was completed during August and September. The windows now work well and provide much improved ventilation.
- First floor meeting room – secondary glazing units were fitted to the windows in October. This will make the room more comfortable to use and will also help in reducing heating costs.
- Hall cellar – ingress of water when there is heavy rain – external repairs were completed by a contractor in October and appear to have resolved the problem.

Health & Safety

- Hall fire alarm control panel – new panel fitted in January 2020. The old panel had developed faults and could not be repaired.
- The annual gas safety inspection was completed in February 2020.
- The annual fire extinguisher safety check was completed as scheduled in January 2020.
- The Hall Health and Safety Policy document was reviewed and updated in April 2020.
- A COVID-19 risk assessment was completed for the Hall during the year in line with government guidance.
- The fixed electrical wiring test is completed every five years and is next due in September 2021.

David Hemmings, Church & Community Hall Administrator

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

A small team has invested time in reviewing and updating our Health and Safety Policies – one for the church and one for the Community Hall. These were approved by the PCC in May 2020.

Our policies, so far as is reasonably practicable, is that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors, contractors, and others who may use the church, church grounds and the Community Hall. The policies are based on comprehensive risk assessments and a separate Fire Risk assessment.

The PCC accepts that it has overall responsibility for the policy and will ensure that adequate resources and training are made available for its implementation. In order to ensure that health and

safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item on health and safety will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Parochial Church Council. The Church and Community Hall Administrator meets with one of the wardens before each PCC meeting to help prepare a report.

The PCC are confident that appropriate measures are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who use the church, church grounds and Community Hall.

Work undertaken this year includes relaying the slabs to the Shaftesbury Road door, building a metal cage around the cellar steps (to prevent this area being used by drug takers who had been leaving a lot of discarded needles), writing guidelines for the safe handling of discarded needles and ensuring all fire, gas and electrical checks have taken place and been recorded.

Pete Coopey on behalf of the Health and Safety Working Group

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

At the Martyrs we aim to promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults by working to prevent abuse from occurring, protecting those who are at risk of being abused and responding well to those who have been abused. This is a whole church responsibility.

The PCC have allocated the following responsibilities:

Dave Spence: DBS certificates, Safeguarding training and Safer Recruitment.

Pete Coopey: Safeguarding Coordinator, Policy review, Maintaining the safeguarding dashboard and preparing reports to the PCC, the APCM and the diocese.

Katherine Hawker: Adult Safeguarding.

The PCC has adopted all the relevant guidelines issued by the Church of England and the Diocese and has the appropriate up to date policies in place which are reviewed annually. The majority of the PCC, all wardens and deputy wardens have attended C1 (foundation) Safeguarding Training and have a current DBS. All members of the congregation involved in work with children and young people, and members of the Pastoral Team, have attended safeguarding training and have a current DBS certificate.

The Parish Dashboard generates action points and the priority from this is to ensure that all new members of the PCC have a DBS check and complete Level C0 (basic awareness) as a minimum and Level C1 (foundation) training where possible. In addition, this year we audited both DBS certificate holders and safeguarding training to ensure that renewals and the appropriate level of training are undertaken. All new Church volunteers and workers requiring a DBS certificate are asked to undertake safeguarding training.

Pete Coopey and Dave Spence

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

Although outside of this time frame (Jan-Dec 2020) it is only right and proper to acknowledge and give thanks for the wonderful and selfless example of Gwyneth Moor in caring for and supporting many, many people.

The Martyrs is a church where a great deal of pastoral care goes on – between friends and from the support given within home groups. Much of this care is discreet and reflects the caring nature of our church life together and much of it is unseen.

The Pastoral Team continues to meet regularly, every fortnight if possible. The team currently comprises Bertin Hermo, Margaret Farrell, Kathryn Hawker, Pete and Liz Coopey. Gareth Hutchinson left the team to take up a new post. In 2021 Audrey Basopo and Jane Berridge have joined the team. The team works to a Pastoral Policy that highlights the need for accountability and confidentiality – a copy of this is available on request from Pete Coopey.

The team considers the known needs of the congregation – including those who are no longer able to attend church services and are probably not known to the majority of those who do. Individual team members visit people (at home, in hospital or in care homes) or make telephone contact. The team oversees the delivery of Easter flowers, Harvest Baskets and Christmas gifts amongst the congregation. This year some extra Christmas “goody boxes” were delivered to people living on their own.

Under normal circumstances members of the team make Home Communion available to people who are housebound – this has not been possible due to lockdown. The way support is offered has had to change due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19 and the “lockdown”. Each member of the Pastoral Team has undertaken to contact named individuals who live alone or who are particularly vulnerable. Contact is made by phone and some doorstep conversations. Some shopping has also been done for people who have been shielding. The House Groups have helped doing this. Where possible key information e.g., the newsletter and Martyrs Matters have been delivered to people who cannot access the internet.

I would like to recognize the contribution made by the Mothers’ Union to the pastoral care of the church.

Pete Coopey, on behalf of the Pastoral Team

YOUNG CHILDREN’S AND FAMILIES’ WORK REPORT

It seems a long time ago since our amazing children’s teams and kids were having fun together getting to know Jesus in our church buildings.

Some of our families enjoyed taking part in the Prayer Day held early in the year where we had corporate, individual, and creative prayer. I helped organise some of this with a team of others.

When lockdown started in March, we were sad to close our Sunday Clubs and Shake (toddler group) and hoped it wouldn’t be for long, but we all know how that panned out! We also had to cancel our Good Friday Family Event which was planned in a similar style to the previous year where we had many families from our church and the community get together with Easter activities and exploring the Easter story.

Shayne started to post Shake sessions online which we found many adults were accessing rather than Shake regulars, so she used this opportunity to encourage those engaging with the sessions.

I was on full and part time furlough over the spring and summer months and learnt about new ways of communicating. In the summer some of our children took part in the online holiday club run by the diocese. It was brilliant, with an amazing magazine style interactive programme, followed by small group time on Zoom.

Over the early summer we started looking at using Zoom with our children and had a few Ketchup Catchups to interact with our families and see how that might work. We also spoke to families to find out if their children found the Zoom style of meeting helpful.

Bertin and I also distributed a gift to each child in Rainbow Club and Ketchup Club. It was lovely to see some of the children and pray with them and their families.

I’ve also taken part in planning, recording and delivering elements of our in person and online 10.30 services. It has been a steep learning curve in tech and looking at what things work in a recorded or social distanced format!

In September we started Ketchup Club online with the idea of families participating in exploring the Bible together. Most of the time we have followed the themes from the 10.30 services to

compliment them. We have looked at God's superpower The Holy Spirit and exploring Christmas. We have seen children express their faith, get to know Jesus better, have amazing discussions and pray with some crazy songs and games along the way!

We launched Shake on Zoom after half term but didn't get much uptake on it so decided to go back to Shayne's Facebook sessions after Christmas.

For Christmas we invited Hopscotch Playgroup to a Christmas Story Trail in the church gardens and to visit the tree and crib scene. This was a big success with lots of positive feedback from children and grownups.

The Shake Leaders team were able to run a pre-recorded crib service online and I helped plan and lead elements of the Christmas Day All Age Celebration.

Thank you so much to all in our church family who have helped me, children, and our families in so many ways in 2020 whether in person, indirectly or through prayer.

Irene Hart, Children's and Young Families' Worker

MONEY MATTERS LEICESTER REPORT

Due to Covid, From May, we moved entirely to remote working, using WhatsApp video calls and phone calls.

We saw an extraordinary instance of God's provision when we received several unexpected grants and donations, bringing our income to over £22,000 for the year. We gave away over £2,300 of this as Christmas vouchers, food vouchers and fees for insolvency.

As our costs are around £9,000pa, we are now securely funded for some time.

We've helped Hope67 in Coalville to open as a satellite centre of MML.

We have a wonderful team of 10 volunteers.

Our Clients in 2020

In this extraordinary year, our usual clients – typically single mums on benefits living in social housing, and often with Council Tax and catalogue type debts - were no longer coming forward. It may be because those types of debts were not aggressively pursued during the pandemic. This experience was replicated across the network.

Instead, the absence of these clients revealed another type of client, who had been there all along, but less visible: those with long term serious and complex problems such as gambling, domestic, sexual, and financial abuse, and court cases around family breakup. These clients were more likely to be in work; a few even had stable and well-paid jobs. Their debt problems tended to be complex in ways which were sometimes new to us.

We saw over 70 clients in 171 appointments. 71% of clients live in most deprived 30% of areas. 33% have one or more disabled people in the household. They had a total of £767,000 debt, excluding mortgages.

Two client comments

'Thank you so much for all your help i don't no what I'd done without you and your team you have all been amazing'

"Good morning

I'm sending this email to express my sincere gratitude for your service.

My daughter has been supported by a wonderful lady named (...). She has been working with (my daughter) to help her sort her finances, address her many debts and how to manage her money for the future.

When the country went into lockdown, (...) continued to contact (my daughter) via the telephone. During this time, (my daughter) was experiencing some terrible mental health issues and, as a key worker in a residential home, struggling with PPE supplies and the responsibility of keeping service users safe, the stress became almost too much. (My daughter) had to access medical support and medication.

Throughout this time, (...) has been a vital source of strength for (my daughter), reassuring her that her finances will eventually get sorted and constantly reminding her that she's doing a wonderful job working in such an important role. A truly holistic approach to supporting people. I truly believe that (...) has helped to keep (my daughter) working*

I am so very grateful to (...) and your service. A very big well done Money Matters Leicester.

Many, many thanks"

** This email arrived just as we were processing her daughter's Debt Relief Order. She is now debt free, loving her job, and free of the crushing burden of debt.*

Nina de Salis Young, Centre Manager, Money Matters Leicester

BABY BASICS REPORT

The last year has kept us very busy at Baby Basics with a huge demand for our help. In 2020 we gave out 452 referrals. This often included items for siblings as well as we saw the request for toys, books and clothes increase as families were not able to shop in charity shops or cheaper clothes shops for their essentials. The pandemic meant that we had to adapt the way we worked having less volunteers in at a time, changing the way we took donations and apply for emergency grants to enable us to buy new bigger equipment when we were short. We have been very successful over the last year applying for grants for buggies, cots and highchairs which has enabled us to get the items out quickly to families who were waiting for them. This funding means we no longer (whilst we have funding) have a waiting list for cots so we can give a baby a safe place to sleep as soon as they need it.

Laura has now increased her paid hours from 7 hours to 12 hours a week to keep up with the demand of leading Baby Basics and the team of 10 volunteers. The 50th Baby Basics centre has just opened in the UK, Baby Basics Leicester being the 2nd busiest centre.

Being part of Baby Basics UK during the pandemic has pulled all the centres together. HRH Duchess of Cambridge launched a new initiative last summer in support of all Baby Basic centres. 19 British brands donated new items to the centres providing wonderful items to give out as well as raising our profile nationally. More recently, Dunelm also donated 8,000 items to Baby Basics UK as they recently stopped doing baby equipment and had a warehouse full of items. These we then sorted and redistributed to all the centres.

Even before the pandemic we were quite tight for space, we are now desperate for new premises for us to work from as we need to expand. A larger space will allow us to have more volunteers in at a time, have guaranteed parking space available for volunteers and collections, as well as more room to sort and pack referrals or donations. We are currently going through the application process with the National Lottery Fund, asking them for funding for the next 5 years for rent of new premises. Although we have seen some possible places to move to, we are now waiting to see if we have been successful with the next phase of the application. Whilst we would love to stay near the Westcotes area it seems that we may need to move further away from the city if we can afford something suitable.

We look forward to developing our team further in 2021 and seeing where the year may take us.

Laura Hutchinson

INTERCULTURAL WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY (IWC)

In 2020 Church of the Martyrs IWC steering group (constituting of six people) continued in efforts to drive and grow the vision of Intercultural Worshipping Community. The IWC project is about the renewal of Anglican Church life across our diocese, communities where people from different cultural and ethnic heritage deliberately interact with one another in order to deepen their understanding and experience of God and of each other.

Despite what has been a tough 2020-2021 for the church and the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IWC steering group was able to engage in several internal meetings and workshops on and offline to share ideas on what could be done to intentionally encourage different cultures and ethnicities to worship and interact together. For example, there were different people who participated in the Sunday services, Bible Readings, Intercessions, the Vicars door-step interviews etc.

So far, the IWC has been a success having only being launched in 2019 considering the undeniable lockdown challenges in our region. We have been able to cover a lot of ground when it comes to talking and learning about race and ethnicity, and we have been able to bring along the congregation with us. For example, we ran a review of the BBC Small Axe films with the intention that it would encourage our church to learn and understand our diversity. We continue to encourage people with questions or queries regarding enabling diversity in our church to come forward.

The steering group also continues to receive support from the diocese, including the likes of recruitment of a Pioneer Minister who will be joining us some time later in the summer of 2021, and we look forward to when we are all allowed back in the church building for more activities. However, to date, the steering group remains on course to meet its aims and objectives of the IWC project as we continue to meet on a regular basis to share thoughts and ideas. The initial funding for this project runs until 2026.

Lloyd Ganza

FINANCE REPORT

The Martyrs finances are split into a number of different funds which represent different areas or projects relating to church work. These are accounted for separately and each is described here.

In 2020, the **General fund** had a surplus of £9,216 which compares to a budgeted deficit of £2,000.

Despite the church being closed for most of the year, our overall income was very close to budget. Donation income was slightly lower than budgeted, with most people thankfully being able to maintain their regular giving, and the introduction of online and contactless giving using a credit card helping to offset the reduction from normal collections. We also received extra grant funding, including a specific grant for Covid costs and a small amount of furlough grant.

Against this, our expenditure, including transfers to other funds, was around £11,000 under budget. The main reasons for this were significant savings in utilities, service, tomatoes, trips and other costs due to the Covid restrictions.

The surplus has increased our General fund reserves to £52,000, which is very welcome after a large drop in 2019 due to Quinquennial and other works.

The **Hall fund** had a significant deficit in 2020, of £5,500. This was hardly surprising as the rental income was £11,000 lower than the £30,500 budget, with most of the Hall closed for a large part of the year. Hopscotch were able to re-open after the first lockdown and continue with normal rental payments all year, as were Money Matters, which were both much appreciated. Income was also boosted slightly with furlough grants. Hall expenditure was below budget, but only slightly, with most costs unchanged. This deficit has reduced the Hall reserves once again, from £16,700 to £11,250 over the year, and to avoid reserves dropping further we will need to increase rentals and income once again when able to re-open. We have also just received a £5,000 grant from Leicester City Council to help cover Covid-related loss of income, which is very welcome.

The **Buildings fund** is currently dormant, with the side aisle restoration and new chairs purchase completed in 2017. The remaining funds of £1,614 at the end of 2020 are being used to pay the depreciation on the chairs, and this will cover the next 3 years of that cost.

The **Mission Partnership fund** was set up to receive donations from the Mission Partnership churches (including the Martyrs) and fund Mission Partnership events and expenses, primarily those of Helen Hayes in her ministry work. As Helen has now finished, no new donations are being received, however there is still a balance of £2,400 which can be used to fund future Mission Partnership activities.

The **Money Matters fund** covers the Money Matters Leicester debt counselling service. This had a much increased income of £22,800 with several significant grants and other donations, and overall had a surplus of £16,200 leaving reserves of £18,400. This should provide funding for 2021 and beyond.

The **Baby Basics fund** has continued to grow and support an increase in referrals and donations, with income of £28,100 and spend of £20,500, giving a surplus of £7,600. The fund continues to pay the Baby Basics Manager part-time.

The **Children and Families fund** pays for the work of our Children and Families worker, Irene Hart. We started the year with £6,800. Individual donations to the fund increased in 2020, and with the diocese grant and various furlough grants during the year, we were able to fund Irene's work through 2020 and return a small surplus of £1,700. We finished with £8,500 in the fund, and this with the final diocese grant and ongoing donations should cover costs for 2021 and some of 2022. However, we will need additional fundraising to cover future years, as reserves get used and the diocese grant finishes.

The **Organ fund** holds and depreciates the cost of the Organ, current value £4,212.

Finally the **Tithe fund**, which holds our tithe donations prior to paying out as well as the Leadership Group tithe money. The final tithe donations paid out in 2020 were as follows:

- £437 to the Tree of Life project of Leicester Diocese
- £437 to the Diocese of Kiteto eye clinic appeal
- £874 to CMS as a general donation
- £874 to The Children's Society as a general donation
- £874 to the One Roof Project in Leicester
- £1,748 to support the work of Bruce and Louise Nadin in South Africa
- £1,748 transferred to support the Money Matters fund
- £1,748 to increase the Leadership Group tithe

Donations totalling £436 were made from the Leadership Group tithe, leaving £1446 remaining in the Tithe fund which represents the remaining Leadership Group tithe money available to donate.

Finally I'd like to thank again the Finance team for their continued support: Nina de Salis Young who administers Gift Aid and does most of the data entry; Malcolm Greenwood who runs the envelope scheme; all the collection counters; Noel Smith, our Independent Examiner; Mike Dampier doing the banking; and of course David Hemmings in the Church Office.

Edward de Salis Young, Treasurer

Church

OF THE MARTYRS

Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester
Sunday 16th May 2021 at 11.15hrs in the Church and online

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Appointment of Clerk for Meetings**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Minutes of AMP 2020**
- 5. Election of Church Wardens for 2021-22**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of 2020 APCM**
- 3. PCC Reports**
 - a) PCC Proceedings
 - b) Leadership Group Report
 - c) Electoral Roll and Attendance Report
 - d) Church Fabric and Inventory Report
 - e) Financial Report
 - f) Mission Partnership
 - g) Deanery Synod Report
 - h) Church Hall Report
 - i) Health and Safety Report
 - j) Safeguarding Report
 - k) Pastoral Team report
 - l) Mission and Ministry Reports
 - Family and children's work
 - Money Matters Leicester
 - Baby Basics
 - Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC)
- 4. Elections & Appointments**
 - a) Election of 4 PCC Members to serve for 3 years
 - b) Note Appointment of Deputy/Assistant Wardens
 - c) Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021-22
 - d) Reader representation on PCC for 2021-2022
 - e) Appointment of one representative to the Mission Partnership Action Group
- 5. Open Forum:** an opportunity to ask questions about the life of the church; questions to be submitted by **Wednesday 13th May** to Steve Ardron (07770 852149) (steven.ardron@virginmedia.com)
- 6. Closing Prayer.**

Church

OF THE MARTYRS

Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Martyrs Leicester Sunday 4th October 2020 at 11.45hrs in the Church

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS SUNDAY 4th October 2020

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Present in Church:

Revd. Bertin Hermo, Elizabeth Bamford, Linda Tilley, Eileen Melbourne, Erol Melbourne, Sue Seaman, Shaylesh Raja, Ruth Twaite, Sue Gammon, Les Gammon, Irene Hart, Margaret Wicks, Pete Gilbert, Debra Gilbert, Shayne Ardron, Steve Ardron, Ed de Salis Young, Liz Lawton, Sarah Shepherd, David Shepherd, Judith Edwards, Patricia Woods, Simon Kibanya, John Sinclair, Maureen Pointon, David Woodcock, Robin Pointon, Lorraine Pointon, Julie Shaw, Katherine Hawker, Roz Burch, Pete Coopey, Tony Shelley, Sue Hermo, Wendy Bebbington, Ola, Emmanuel, Chris & Sarah Roe.

Present by Zoom:

Liz Coopey, Malcolm Greenwood, James Hart, Arthur Deegan, Chris Freeman, Rob Freeman, Mavis Mullins, Dave Spence. Trevor Worsfold

Apologies:

Liz Preston, David Gilbert

1. Opening Prayer

Bertin opened the meeting with prayer at 11.50hrs.

2. Appointment of Clerk for the Meetings

Steve Ardron was appointed as Clerk for the meetings.

3. Minutes of the AMP 2019

It was proposed from the chair that the minutes of the AMP held on 7th April 2019 were an accurate record, this was accepted unanimously by the meeting and there were no matters arising.

4. Appointment of Church Wardens for 2020 / 21

The following were proposed for the roles of Church Warden: Pete Coopey was proposed by Pete Gilbert and seconded by John Sinclair, Lorraine Pointon was proposed by Julie Shaw and seconded by Pete Gilbert. Both Pete Coopey and Lorraine Pointon were duly declared elected to serve as Church Wardens for one year with full approval of the meeting. Thanks of the meeting were given to Pete & John for undertaking all of the work throughout the extended period of service, and Pete for being willing to stand as warden again for another year. John had been a warden since 2017. Pete 6 years. Disapply the rules for Pete was passed unanimously. Dave Shepherd proposed and Dave Seaman seconded.

Meeting closed 12:00

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Attendance & Apologies

Both as recorded for the AMP.

2. Minutes of the 2019 APCM

The minutes of the 2019 APCM, held on 7th April 2019 were accepted as a true record with no matters arising.

3. Reports

Review of Leadership group names.

Rev. Bertin Hermo, Pete Coopey, Lorraine Pointon, Ed de Salis Young, Liz Bamford, Lloyd Ganza, David Gilbert, Liz Lawton, Sue Seaman

a) Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll Report was presented by Ben Lawton noting that the previous year there had continued to be a total of 141 members on the Electoral Roll, but with 6 added and 6 removed in the last 12 months. The report was received by the meeting and Ben and his wife, Liz, were thanked for all their hard work in managing the Roll as required this year.

b) Proceedings of the PCC Report

The report as printed on page 4 of the Annual Report document was presented to the meeting and members given the opportunity to ask questions. There were no matters arising and no questions asked.

c) Leadership Group Report

The report as printed on page 5 of the Annual Report document was presented to the meeting and members given the opportunity to ask questions. There were no matters arising and no questions asked.

d) Fabric Report & Inventory

The Fabric Report as printed on pages 9-11 of the Annual Report was presented to the meeting noting the high level and roof works on the church undertaken in 2019. Works from the Quinquennial completed in 2019 including Pillar. Dave Woodcock was thanked for organising the works arising from the quinquennial survey. No questions were asked or matters arising.

e) Finance Report

Ed de Salis Young presented the Finance Report and the accounts to the meeting as printed in the Annual Report, both in terms of the Church, Hall, Baby Basics etc. It was noted that the General Fund was likely to show a small surplus.

Ed spoke of the Hall reserves decreasing from £30,000 to £16,700.

The Children's and Families fund reduced from £19,500 to £6,800.

Due to government furlough scheme and some regular giving towards family and children's worker, we are now looking to wait to do major fund raising in 2021.

Church general fund - declined in 2019, but surplus in 2017 & 2018 put it fairly level.

Online giving and online Apps now being used. SUM UP and Give a Little. Over £2000 were raised for Money Matters using Give a Little. Can have pages for different accounts.

Ongoing since April/COVID. Total income is almost the same as 2019. Monthly giving down 7%, No collections taken, but money transfers instead. Appreciation to everyone continuing to give.

Hall more badly effected in income. Expenditure reduced but the hall will make a loss this year. COVID impact has been less than feared. BB & MM have obtained grants during the period along with further donations. Laura continues to lead the BB project and we host the finances.

Ed was thanked from the floor by Wendy Bebbington and the rest of the meeting for his work in managing the budget and presenting such a clear report. He in turn thanked those who contributed to accounts and managing income including Nina De Salis Young, David Hemmings, Malcolm Greenwood, Mike Dampier, and all the weekly collection counters. Ed also thanked Noel Smith our Independent Examiner for his work in auditing the accounts.

It was proposed by Debra Gilbert that Ed's verbal report along with the written report on pages 17-19 of the Annual Report Document and the accounts as stated at the rear of the document be accepted. This was seconded by Robin Pointon and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

f) to k) Other Written Reports

The following reports were received by the meeting -

- f) Mission Partnership
- g) Deanery Synod Report
- h) Church Hall Report
- i) Health & Safety Report
- j) Safeguarding Report
- k) Pastoral Team Report

l) Mission & Ministry Reports (video was played during the service as well)

- Young Children's and Families' Work Report. Thanks to Irene for her work during 2019.
- Money Matters Leicester. Appreciate work done by Nina and other team members.
- Baby Basics: Just sent out 1000th referral.
- Intercultural Worshipping Community (IWC). Celebrating diversity. Martyrs is one of 5 churches in the Diocese involved in the project. A Martyrs Steering Group, headed up by Lloyd Ganza, is helping to move the vision forward.

4. Elections and Appointments

a) Parochial Church Council

Thanks to those due to retire this year from PCC. They are:

Lloyd Ganza
Freya Gilbert
Julie Shaw
Steve Ardron

James Gould also resigned during Lockdown as he and Gail were moving away to Sheffield, thereby giving a place for 1 year, albeit this will in reality be until April/ May 2021. The available posts this year are shortened by the late AGM. Using the time period from April 2020, there are 4 posts available for 3 years and one for 1 year.

Bertin declared that nominations had been received as follows:

- Wendy Bebbington proposed by Julie Shaw and seconded by Dave Seaman.
- David Basopo proposed by Pete Coopey and seconded by John Sinclair.
- Cynthia Kupara proposed by Roz Burch and seconded by Sue Hermo.
- Lloyd Ganza proposed by Roz Burch and seconded by Sue Hermo.
- Debra Gilbert proposed by Elliot Lee and seconded by Liz Bamford.

In the absence of any other nominations, there was no requirement for a vote and the abovementioned were duly elected to the PCC. Four of the vacancies are to serve for three years and one for one year. To be decided at the next PCC meeting who would stand for the initial short period. Bertin thanked those who were standing down as well as those named above as newly elected to the PCC.

b) Deanery Synod

There are 3 vacancies for three years on the Deanery Synod. Those willing to stand being -

- Steve Ardron proposed by Pete Coopey and seconded by Maureen Pointon.
- Liz Bamford proposed by Julie Shaw and seconded by Pete Coopey.
- Julie Shaw proposed by Liz Bamford and seconded by John Sinclair.

In the absence of any other nominations, there was no requirement for a vote and the abovementioned were duly elected to the PCC.

c) Deputy / Assistant Wardens

Whilst not being formal church appointments the valuable work of Deputy Wardens was recognised. The Deputy Wardens for this year are Liz Bamford, Katherine Hawker, and Eileen Melbourne.

d) Independent Examiner

Ed de Salis Young proposed that Noel Smith be appointed as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Roz Burch and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

e) PCC Reader Representative

Shayne Ardron was appointed as Reader representative on the PCC.

f) West Leicester Mission Partnership

It was noted and approved that Linda Tilley be appointed as a Lay Representative on the West Leicester Mission Partnership Action Group for a further year.

g) Sides People and Welcomers

No formal appointments required. There are major changes on how we do things as a result of COVID, therefore in no hurry to fill these appointments. A huge thank you to those below who have served.

The names were as follows.

Sides People: - *Barbara Hewitt, Angela Sharp, Muriel Miller, Sue Gammon, Robin Pointon, Margaret Wicks, Rosemary Matley, Mavis Millins, Julie Shaw, James Lynch*

Welcomers: *Trevor Worsfold, Gwyneth Moor, Cynthia Kupara, Pete Gilbert, Olayinka Olatunde, Janet Lenton, Maureen Pointon*

Communion assistants appointed. They are: *Shayne Ardron, Sue Gammon, David Gilbert, Pete Gilbert, Liz Lawton, Shaylesh Raja, John Riley, Angela Gordon, Trevor Worsfold and Janet Lenton*

5. Open Forum

It was noted that no questions had been received prior to the meeting for Open Forum discussion.

Pat Woods asked, "Do we need a proper platform built for the camera, rather than tables"? This can be looked into.

From Bertin. Luke 5 story. Let's go out into deep waters to fish. Tried whole night etc, but because you said, we will go.

Bertin just wanted to add that we do not know what the journey looks like for us, but we are being called to some new things, not necessarily in a safe place. Uncomfortable and choppy waters. We need to hear from Jesus. Because you said so.....We will go....and journey together. Set sail for the choppy waters. It may not make sense, but we need to trust him that he is leading us into a good place.

6. Votes of Thanks

Thanks were expressed to Helen Creigh for pastoral teamwork, all church gardeners and those that clean the cellar steps.

Thanks to Bertin & Sue from Pete Coopey.

7. Meeting Close

Pete Coopey led a short time of prayer before the meeting closed. Bertin closed the meeting 12:48 hrs thanking all those for their attendance.

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Begins on the following page

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS LEICESTER

Registered Charity no 1134668

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

CONTENTS

Page 2	Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC
Page 3	Statement of Accounting Policies
Page 5	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 6	Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020
Page 7	Notes to the Accounts

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC for the year ended 31st Dec 2020

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 3 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

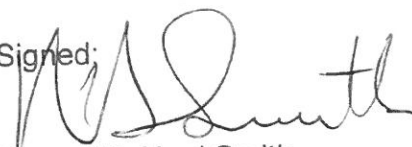
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Mr Noel Smith

Address: Broughton Astley, Leicestershire

Date: 16 Apr 2021

CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020

Note 1:

Accounting Policies

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Scope of the Accounts

The Accounts combine the results of the Church, Hall and associated funds for the year. The Accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Funds

Unrestricted funds [general fund] represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use.

Restricted funds represent income and donations from individuals or groups which may be expended only on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. At the start of 2020 there were 5 active Restricted Funds: Children and Families Worker Fund, Money Matters fund, Baby Basics fund, Organ fund (donations for the church organ), and Mission Partnership fund. This did not change during the year.

Designated Funds have been designated by the PCC and as such could be 'undesignated' in the future. At the start of 2019 there were 3 active Designated Funds: the Hall fund, Buildings Development fund and Tithe fund (to hold unspent tithe monies). This did not change during the year.

The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the Accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- Planned giving received under Gift Aid is recognised only when received
- Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income to which it relates is received
- All funds raised from events are accounted for gross
- Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue
- Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Resources used

Donations are accounted for when paid over. The Parish Share is accounted for when due, although any unpaid amount at 31st December is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not legal) liability and as such is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust of the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Items acquired before 2000 are not included in the accounts either because there is insufficient cost information available or the value is considered too low. The expenditure on individual items and equipment under £1,500 is written off when incurred.

The church does record 5 fixed assets, which are over the £1,500 threshold. Depreciation is applied on a 'straight line' basis over the likely lifespan of each item, based on advice from suppliers. The 5 items are the electronic organ (25 years lifespan), and the main audio visual (AV) projector, sound desk, photocopier and church chairs (all 10 years lifespan).

The church (rather than the Diocese) also owns the Martyrs' Community Hall which was built later than the church and paid for by parishioner fundraising. This is noted here, but not shown as a fixed asset in the accounts as the value is uncertain.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Statement of Financial Activities – Year Ending 31st December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Church	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Hall	MP	Money Matters	Baby Basics			2020 (£)	2019 (£)
	General Fund	Buildings	Tithe	Organ	Ch&Fam								
Incoming Resources													
Voluntary income (note 2a)	114,629	-	-	-	16,597	3,545	160	22,781	27,717	131,226		185,429	142,583
Investment income (note 2b)	131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131		131	239
Income from Charitable Activities (note 2c)	605	-	-	-	-	19,577	-	-	-	605		20,182	30,363
Other Incoming Resources (note 2d)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	361	-		361	2,055
Total Incoming Resources	115,365	-	-	-	16,597	23,122	160	22,781	28,078	131,962		206,103	175,240
Resources Expended													
Cost of Generating Funds (note 3a)	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	27	96		154	613
Grants (note 3b)	184	5,680	-	-	15	-	-	2,089	13,034	5,879		21,002	15,161
Activities directly related to Church Work (3c)	97,504	537	468	468	14,846	30,267	-	4,107	7,399	113,355		155,128	208,151
Total Resources Expended	97,784	6,217	468	468	14,861	30,267	-	6,227	20,460	119,330		176,284	223,925
Net incoming resources	17,581	6,217	468	468	1,736	(7,145)	160	16,554	7,618	12,632		29,819	48,685
Transfers between funds (note 4 below)	-	8,365	6,992	-	-	1,700	-	327	-	-		-	-
Net movement in funds	9,216	775	-	468	1,736	(5,445)	160	16,227	7,618	11,259		29,819	48,685
Total funds brought forward	42,927	2,285	4,680	4,680	6,756	16,708	2,242	2,173	9,655	56,648		87,426	136,111
Total funds carried forward	52,143	3,060	4,212	4,212	8,492	11,263	2,402	18,400	17,273	67,907		117,245	87,426

Note 4: Fund transfers were:

General to Tithe fund (tithes)	8,740.00
Tithe to Money Matters (tithe)	1,748.00
Money Matters to General fund (intern)	375.00
Money Matters to Hall fund (rent)	1,700.00

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2020

Balance Sheet		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
		Church	Buildings, Hall, Tithe	Organ, MP, MM, BB, CH&Fam	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Fixed Assets - Equipment (note 5)		4,236	3,226	4,212	11,674	13,539
Current Assets						
Cash at bank and hand	42,613		12,643	48,066	104,492	71,059
Debtors - Tax reclaimable (note 6)	5,401		100	1,074	6,475	6,841
Debtors - general (note 6)	520		1,220	582	2,322	1,266
Total	48,534	48,534	13,863	49,722	112,119	79,166
Current Liabilities (note 7)						
Agency collections	-	10			10	268
Creditors - general	-	617	2,766	3,155	6,538	5,011
Total	-	627	2,766	3,155	6,548	5,279
Total Net Assets	52,143	52,143	14,323	50,779	117,245	87,426
Represented by Funds						
Unrestricted						
General fund	52,143				52,143	42,927
Designated						
Hall Fund			11,263		11,263	16,708
Buildings Fund			1,614		1,614	2,151
Tithe Fund			1,446		1,446	134
Restricted						
Baby Basics				17,273	17,273	9,655
Mission Partnership Fund				2,402	2,402	2,242
Money Matters Fund				18,400	18,400	2,173
Organ				4,212	4,212	4,680
Children & Families Worker				8,492	8,492	6,756
Balances at 31 December 2020	52,143	52,143	14,323	50,779	117,245	87,426

Approved on behalf of the PCC *Bertin Hermo* Name: Bertin Hermo, Vicar Date: 05/05/2021
CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS, LEICESTER.

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Note 2:

Incoming Resources Detail		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Designated	Total	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
		Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Money Matters	Baby Basics	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
		General Fund	Buildings	Yth Worker	Ch&Fam	Tithe	Organ		Hall	MP			
2a Voluntary Income													
General donations Gift Aid		31,021.54			3,015.00			34,036.54		2,738.00		36,774.54	36,634
Donations gross via CAF		-			30.00			30.00		400.00	5,000.00	5,430.00	6,047
Donations gross via PGS		58,125.83						58,125.83				58,125.83	53,657
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid		5,980.57			833.75			6,814.32		634.50		7,448.82	10,929
General donations (non Gift Aid)		6,958.25			50.00			7,008.25	1,100.00	160.00	8,040.83	17,620.88	15,912
Cash Collections		1,283.11						1,283.11				1,283.11	3,451
Special Collections Gift Aid		2,063.05			500.00			2,563.05				2,563.05	1,778
Special Collections non Gift Aid		2,478.97						2,478.97				2,478.97	354
Grants & Legacies		6,717.99			12,168.65			18,886.64	2,445.21	17,697.00	14,676.00	53,704.85	13,820
Total		114,629.31	-	-	16,597.40	-	-	131,226.71	3,545.21	160.00	27,716.83	185,430.05	142,583
2b Investment Income													
Bank/CCF Interest		130.50						130.50				130.50	239
Total		130.50	-	-	-	-	-	130.50	-	-	-	130.50	239
2c Income from Charitable Activities													
Tomatoes Donations		438.80						438.80				438.80	805
PCC Fees (Weddings, Baptisms)		166.00						166.00				166.00	610
Hire/Lettings of buildings								-	19,577.30			19,577.30	28,833
Trading Income								-				-	115
Parish Holiday, Soul Survivor								-				-	-
Total		604.80	-	-	-	-	-	604.80	19,577.30	-	-	20,182.10	30,363
2d Other													
Social Events								-				-	-
Miscellaneous Income								-			361.13	361.13	2,055
Insurance Claims								-				-	-
Total		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources		115,364.61	-	-	16,597.40	-	-	131,962.01	23,122.51	160.00	28,077.96	361.13	2,055
												206,103.78	175,240

Church of the Martyrs, Leicester – Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Note 3:

Resources Expended Detail	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Church	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	PCC Total	PCC Total
	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	Church	2019 (£)	2020 (£)
3a Cost of Generating Funds																
Social Events, Envelopes	96.11								96.11						612	154.07
Total	96.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96.11	-	-	-	-	-	612	154.07
3b Grants																
Tithes paid out		5,680.00							5,680.00						6,261	5,680.00
Other Donations	184.04				15.20				199.24						8,899	15,322.64
Total	184.04	5,680.00	-	-	15.20	-	-	-	5,879.24	-	-	-	-	-	15,160	21,002.64
3c Activities directly related to Church Work																
Parish Share	72,812.00								72,812.00						75,205	72,812.00
Remuneration Costs (inc temporary)	3,482.39				14,679.66				18,162.05						39,521	37,188.83
Clergy and Staff Expenses	899.54				55.74				955.28						3,061	955.28
Mission: Children and Youth	297.84				0.13				297.97						2,021	297.97
Mission: Soul Survivor									-						-	-
Mission: Other trips, courses and training	1,648.28								1,648.28						1,241	2,435.88
Mission: Tomatoes	456.06								456.06						1,876	456.06
Mission: Other activities	81.54								81.54						255	81.54
Admin, photocopying, office expenses	1,602.01								1,602.01						3,366	3,046.78
Printing, Publicity, Notice boards	195.47								195.47						676	269.72
Consumables and Cleaning Equipment	339.50								339.50						1,967	1,239.63
Insurance Premiums	3,361.52								3,361.52						6,138	5,862.11
Bank Charges	257.10								257.10						330	257.10
Fees: Subs, Licenses, Membership, PRS	1,006.53								1,102.41						2,993	2,880.01
Equipment: Computers, furniture etc	210.59								210.59						4,877	1,197.93
Equipment: Worship (PA etc)	195.87								195.87						-	195.87
Worship and Service Resources, Manuals	3,575.49				14.39				3,589.88						3,342	3,696.37
Fixed Asset Depreciation	860.15								1,865.15						1,865	1,865.15
General Maintenance	4,633.54								4,633.54						23,086	11,419.01
Premises: Rental, legal and valuations	-								-						700	1,800.00
Utilities	1,588.34								1,588.34						13,201	7,170.95
PCC Expenses and Governance Costs									-						1,438	-
Major or Quinquennial Work									-						20,993	-
Total	97,503.76	537.00	468.00	468.00	14,845.80	-	-	-	113,354.56	30,266.91	-	4,106.73	7,399.99	-	208,153	155,128.19
Total Resources Expended	97,783.91	6,217.00	468.00	468.00	14,861.00	-	-	-	119,329.91	30,266.91	-	6,226.91	20,461.17	-	223,925	176,284.90

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Note 4: For details of Fund transfers, see Note 4 on the summary SOFA page.

Note 5: Fixed Assets

(a) Tangible	Electric Organ	A/V system	Sound Desk	Copier	Church Chairs	Total
Actual Cost						
At 1 January 2020	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Additions						0
Disposals						0
At 31 December 2020	11,700	19,150	3,600	2,907	5,374	42,731
Depreciation						
At 1 January 2020	7,020	17,461	2,520	580	1,611	29,192
Additions	468	210	360	290	537	1,865
Disposals						
At 31 December 2020	7,488	17,671	2,880	870	2,148	31,057
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020	4,212	1,479	720	2,037	3,226	11,674
Net Book Value at 31 December 2019	4,680	1,689	1,080	2,327	3,763	13,539

Note 6:

Debtors consist of Gift Aid tax recoverable and general debtors (for example Hall users). For Baby Basics, they also include pre-payments to a Revolut card account used for purchasing by the Manager. The stated Gift Aid tax owing at the end of 2020 matches the tax claim made in Q1 2020.

Note 7: Liabilities consist of Agency collections (those collected for others but not yet paid over), invoices not yet paid, deposits held, and accruals.

The total Parish Contribution offer the Martyrs made for 2020 was £72,812, which was fully paid during the year.

Note 8:

(a) Salaries

During the year the PCC employed an Administrator, a Premises Officer, a Hall Cleaner, a Children and Families Worker, and a Baby Basics Manager, making a total of 5 employees who were all part-time. The payroll is administered by the Diocese of Leicester, and wages for all employees have had appropriate PAYE and NI deductions made. Pension contributions have been made for the Administrator and the Children and Families Worker; other employees were below the threshold for pension enrolment.

(b) Payments to PCC Members

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services to the PCC. No other payment or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, except for direct reimbursements for items bought for the church.

