

The Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St Martin Maidstone

(Registered charity number 1149349)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2024

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Reverend Joyce Addison

BANKERS

Barclays Bank Plc
Fremlin Walk
Maidstone
ME14 1QG

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Julie Griggs FCA

The Parochial Church Council
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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin Maidstone

(Registered charity number 1149349)

The Parochial Church Council presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Administrative information

St Martin's address is Northumberland Road, Maidstone, ME15 7LP. Our website is www.stmartinsmaidstone.org.uk. Enquiries may be sent to office@stmartinsmaidstone.org.uk.

St Martin's is part of the Diocese of Canterbury within the Church of England. On 17 October 2012 "The Parochial Church Council of "the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin Maidstone" was registered as an individual charity, number 1149349. Trustees' Annual Reports and Accounts are filed with the Charity Commissioners.

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation rules. PCC members who have served during the financial year 2024 are:

Priest in charge:	Reverend Joyce Addison
Assistant Curate:	Reverend Andrew Edwards (to June 2024)
Reader:	Robin Fassenfelt (to June 2024, then Deacon)
Churchwardens:	James Mbalira Linda Williams
Secretary:	Alyne Godfrey
Treasurer:	Andrew Gray (to 14 th March 2024) Marika Tannahill (from March 2024)
Elected:	Gill Bristow Jeremy Ward Janice Cook (to March 2024) Lewis Hadler (to July 2024) Sara Hazlewood (to March 2024) Susan Holmes (to March 2024) Ellen Purvis (to March 2024) Arun Rabbani (to March 2024) Lee-Anne Baker (from March 2024) Ephrun Sardar (from March 2024) Keith Smith (from March 2024) Jonas Yeboah (from March 2024) David Williams (Deanery & Diocesan Synod representative) Sue Yeo (Deanery representative and Anna Chaplain)
Ignite Enabler:	Angie Frost (to July 2024, then Parish-based Pioneer)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin Maidstone

(Registered charity number 1149349)

Aims and Purposes

As a member of the Church of England our general aim is "to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". Within this broad aim our mission is to grow the church numerically and spiritually, to develop ministry and build partnerships that enrich our communities within our Parish and beyond.

St Martin's Parochial Church Council has responsibility with our Priest-in-Charge, Reverend Joyce Addison, in promoting this mission. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of St Martin's church, church hall and the grounds at Northumberland Road, Shepway, Maidstone.

Objectives and Activities

The ongoing commitment of the PCC is to bear witness to the love of God in our communities and to encourage as many people as possible to get to know us, to know God, to worship with us and to become part of our parish community. We also care for God's creation and are an Eco Church (Silver Award).

We, therefore, look for ways to build bridges and create partnerships with our wider community. We look to involve schools, groups, organisations and newcomers to our parish in our services and events. To this end, our services are a mixture of traditional and modern with the celebration of Holy Communion at the centre. We seek to show through our activities that we are an open and welcoming church for the use of those in our parish and the wider community.

Development Plans

In 2022, the PCC reviewed the suitability of the church building to meet our future needs as our congregations continue to grow. The most important issue identified was the lack of facilities for disabled people and the difficulties they have in accessing the church and its amenities. In consultation with our church architect, plans have been drawn up to install a disabled toilet at the rear of the church with a baby change area, and to build a sloped entry path, replacing the current steps, at the entrance of the church (door). In addition, we are planning to further improve access to our peace garden by building a level path around the rear of the church, and install a water feature. The plans have been agreed, discussions have been held with the Diocesan authorities, and faculties have been applied for. We have received the necessary planning permissions and continue to fundraise for this ambitious "Access For All" project. We hope to commence work on these projects in early 2025.

Climate Change and the path to net zero carbon

In July 2022, General Synod endorsed the Government plan to achieve net zero carbon by 2030, and has since published a route map on how churches can play their part in achieving this highly ambitious target. As an Eco Church, St Martins is well placed to play its part in this, and the PCC is working on initiatives to further reduce our carbon footprint and boost our eco credentials. Our development plans include insulating the church roof with sheep's wool which will reduce our heating costs and carbon emissions.

In September 2023, we organised the first Canterbury COP (Conference of the Parishes) event at Cathedral Lodge, where speakers and guests discussed what can be done within our Diocese to combat climate change. Our young people co-hosted this event and shared their thoughts on environmental issues. It was a great success with over 100 people in attendance. A second COP conference, Growing Greener, was organized in September 2024. Once again, members of our youth group co-led the conference.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC seeks to provide a range of services throughout the year that are beneficial to our community and spiritually satisfying. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month at 10am, with the service on the first Sunday of each month being intergenerational and particularly accessible to children. A Service of the Word has been held for many years on the second Sunday of the month. However, we have recently started a Holy Communion service which is co-led by our Youth Group. Other services at St Martin's include a said Holy Communion on Thursdays at 10am and, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, prayer for healing and wholeness is included. Occasional evening services are held such as our Advent and Lent reflection worship. Weekday Morning Prayer (Tue and Thu at 8:30am) and Evening Prayer (Mon at 4.30pm) provide an opportunity for quiet reflection. Details of all services can be found on our notice boards, website, in the parish magazine or weekly news sheets.

At the end of 2024 there were 92 members on the Church Electoral Roll. During the year there were 5 weddings, 13 funerals & 2 burial of ashes, and 12 baptisms.

Children, Youth and Schools

Our Primary Age children meet twice a month for Sunday Club, in the hall, during our Sunday service to learn about Jesus in a safe, caring and creative atmosphere. Through bible teaching, worship, games, craft and much more, our aim is for children to have happy memories of church, knowing that they are loved and valued by God. In 2024, we have been pleased to see a number of children attending Church on a Sunday with their families.

Our youth group, Ignite/NextGen Youth, meets once a month for breakfast, bible study, fun worship and prayer in the church hall on the 4th Sunday of the month. On the second Sunday of each month, the youth group co-lead worship followed by a light lunch. They read lessons, lead prayers and participate in the altar party and help with church events, such as food collection and distribution. In the Diocese the youth group are influential on the environment and climate change. Our work with local schools continues to flourish with Revs Joyce and Robin and Angie our Pioneer person taking assemblies. Schools are also keen to use our church building for services and end of year events. In

addition, classes from the schools have visited the church for a variety of workshops to support their curriculum. Rev Joyce continues to be a Governor at Senacre Wood Primary School.

Ignite

Ignite remains a wonderful invitation to people who do not yet know God or are re-acquainting themselves with God, attracting around 25 people to our services and social events. Both adults and youngsters took part in country dancing, beetle drive, bingo, Shrove Monday, Christmas social etc. Attendees of Ignite have said that it really helps them to understand biblical themes and subjects, that they might otherwise struggle to ascertain in a traditional service. We are lucky to have a wonderful, willing and growing team of people who share God's love through Ignite.

On Thursdays, after our mid-week communion service, we hold "Tea and Toast" mornings. This year it has evolved into even more of a community event – with members of the community coming forward to run it. The sixth form of Five Acre Woods also attend weekly as part of their work experience – serving, chatting to the other people who attend, and tidying away.

Likewise, our singing group, "Sounds of Maidstone" has evolved to include assisting Sue Yeo with a carol service at Maplewood retirement home. This has given us the idea of having a more regular sing-along with staff and residents, starting after Easter. We also supported the church's Christmas extravaganza "A Star is Born" as backing singers.

While distributing Christmas food hampers we got to meet the warden and residents of Hardwick House. I now go weekly, and this gives me opportunities for outreach. I am really getting to know the residents and chat about what we do in church and about the Christian faith. I encourage them to come to different events at our church.

Other initiatives include prayer walking, including two people from different churches in the area, where we pray for the community and respond to opportunities for outreach. We plan to start handing out flyers so the community know we are praying, and we can encourage them to join in church events. I assist our Anna Chaplain with services in retirement homes and support her and other members of the pastoral team when they visit people. Reverend Joyce and I regularly lead assemblies at schools and host the schools at the church throughout the year for different services.

Financial Review

We are reporting a large deficit for the year on our unrestricted funds of £41,802 (2023: deficit £22,236). The deficit has arisen largely from the cost of much-needed repairs and maintenance to the church hall, and the replacement of the church sound system. The hire of the church hall provides a significant amount of income for covering church expenses and the hall needed urgent attention. £13,200 was spent on replacing the old boiler and cleaning out the heating system. It is hoped that this will also help to reduce our energy bills in the future. The entrance, hall, radiators and toilets were painted at a cost of £5,035.

The church's failing sound system was over 20 years old and becoming unworkable. A deposit of £18,453 (half the full cost of replacing the system) was paid in 2024, with the remainder due after completion of the work in February 2025. The PCC felt that this would greatly enrich the church services and also encourage greater participation from the community e.g. being able to hold musical events. The costs relating to all these major projects were paid for from the proceeds of the sale of St Hilarys Church that were received in 2022.

Without these exceptional costs, and some preliminary professional costs on the "Access For All" project, we would be reporting a deficit of just under £10,000 for 2024. We also received Gift Aid amounts relating to 2024 of £7,673 in January 2025, and a further estimated £5,000 will be claimed for July to December of 2024. Taking these into account would mean that the actual position is a small surplus for 2024. This is an excellent achievement considering the continuing difficulties posed by the high cost of living and some higher than usual maintenance expenses in 2024. We are truly grateful for the ongoing financial support provided by our congregations through their regular giving and donations. This, together with a high level of hall letting income, tremendous efforts by our fundraising team, and tight control of our expenses has allowed us to meet nearly all our costs, pay our full parish share and maintain the required buffer of distributable reserves.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has agreed to maintain a minimum level of reserves of £20,000, representing approximately two months of expenditure. This level was exceeded throughout 2024.

Church buildings and furnishings

Routine and general maintenance was carried out by our fabric team throughout the year. General servicing of heating, fire, security and other equipment was carried out by specialist contractors. During 2024, as well as routine maintenance, repairs were made to the church clock, LED floodlights were replaced, and an asbestos audit was carried out.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care continues to play an important role at St Martin's. It provides mutual care, prayer and support for all of its members. Pastoral care consists of a number of teams, each with a group leader. All on the electoral roll or regular attendees belong to a group. Arrangements can be made through Group Leaders for post baptism support, hospital and bereavement visiting and home communion.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC consist of the Priest in Charge, church wardens and others elected by members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on the disbursement of funds.

The PCC met nine times in 2024. There are also a number of committees which met during the year and report to the PCC. These committees cover particular aspects of church life including worship, mission, youth and outreach, fabric, and fundraising. A standing committee is able to deal with urgent matters arising between PCC meetings.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Rev Joyce Addison
Priest in Charge/Chair



Marika Tannahill
Treasurer



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, MAIDSTONE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

I report on the accounts of St. Martin's Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities and related notes set out on pages 8 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

The members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members 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 Commissioner. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as members 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 material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement to show a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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


J A GRIGGS FCA
14 Greenfields
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 8ET

28 March 2025

PARISH OF ST MARTIN, MAIDSTONE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts:						
Planned giving		24,330	-	-	24,330	21,740
Collections		11,433	-	-	11,433	8,951
Donations		4,058	-	-	4,058	7,633
Gift Aid Tax		4,730	-	-	4,730	4,983
Grants, gifts and legacies	3a	-	6,000	23,790	29,790	7,729
Generated Income						
PCC fees		5,144	-	-	5,144	5,077
Lettings	3b	35,170	-	-	35,170	37,393
Fundraising	3c	7,924	-	-	7,924	9,407
Miscellaneous	3d	188	-	-	188	110
Other receipts						
Missionary grant		16,696	-	-	16,696	20,400
Bank interest		463	-	-	463	149
TOTAL RECEIPTS		110,136	6,000	23,790	139,926	123,572
PAYMENTS						
Ministry:						
Parish share and diocesan fees	3e	71,043	-	-	71,043	69,441
Clergy expenses		2,925	-	-	2,925	2,602
Other		831	-	-	831	786
Church and property maintenance including utilities and insurance	3f	69,186	1,000	8,695	78,881	59,145
Books, printing and stationery		2,967	-	-	2,967	1,982
Music licences and instruments		714	-	-	714	679
Donations to charities	3g	237	-	-	237	425
Organ maintenance		-	-	530	530	252
Evangelism and outreach		-	-	126	126	-
Celebration events Clive's Fund		368	-	-	368	-
Miscellaneous	3h	2,354	-	-	2,354	2,571
Ignite expenses		1,313	-	-	1,313	1,555
Community Fund expenses		-	5,819	-	5,819	6,746
TOTAL PAYMENTS		151,938	6,819	9,351	168,108	146,184
NET RECEIPTS/(-PAYMENTS)		(41,802)	(819)	14,439	(28,182)	(22,612)
Balances brought forward 1st January		87,936	1,025	13,993	102,954	125,566
Balances carried forward 31st December		46,134	206	28,432	74,772	102,954

Note: There were no Endowment Funds held during the year. These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council at their meeting held on 27th February 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Rev Joyce Addison
Priest in Charge/Chair



Marika Tannahill
Treasurer



PARISH OF ST MARTIN, MAIDSTONE **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds					
Barclays Bank current account	22,938	-	-	22,938	24,234
Barclays Bank savings account	23,196	206	28,432	51,834	12,120
Total	46,134	206	28,432	74,772	102,954
Other Monetary Assets					
Tax reclaim outstanding (January to June)	7,673	-	-	7,673	-
Tax reclaim outstanding (est July to Dec)	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
December receipts banked January 2025	1,732	-	-	1,732	-
Total	14,405	-	-	14,405	-

Assets retained for Church use

The following properties are not parish assets but are available for use by the parish:

St Martin's Church, Northumberland Road, Maidstone
St Martin's Church Hall, Northumberland Road, Maidstone
House, 85 Loose Road, Maidstone

The following assets bought by the PCC are in church use. Values are shown at cost and do not necessarily reflect market or insurable values.

	£
Sound and visual system (2010)	9,012
Fitted church carpet (2011)	1,475
Public Notice Board (2011)	1,164
Priests Board (2011)	810
Church chairs (2012)	11,776
Hall chairs (2013)	2,002
Uplighters and 'A' frame (2013)	501
Projector screen and filing cabinet (2017)	1,788
Furniture (2019)	429
Wall lights (2021)	416
Fridge/freezer (2022)	409
Garden benches (2022)	809
Patio table (2023)	858
Deposit on new sound system (2024)	18,453

Other assets not recognised in the above list include moveable church fittings and equipment held by the church wardens on special trust for the parochial church council, and which require a faculty for disposal.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Liabilities					
Expense creditors - utility costs	1,600	-	-	1,600	2,033
Expense creditors - staff expenses	-	-	-	-	189

PARISH OF ST MARTIN, MAIDSTONE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

Expense creditors – Parochial Fees	1,360	-	-	1,360	-
Expense creditors – PEAC	291	-	-	291	-
Expense creditors - cleaning	-	-	-	-	692
Expense creditors – new sound system	18,453	-	-	18,453	-
Total	21,704	-	-	21,704	2,914

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

2. Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Restricted Other Funds	At 01.01.24	Receipts	Payments	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Church projects fund	719	-	-	719
Youth fund	257	-	-	257
Quinquennial restricted fund	3,695	-	3,695	-
Justice appeal grant	231	-	-	231
Maidstone Borough Council	56	-	-	56
Organ maintenance fund	3,306	-	530	2,776
Sound system improvements	1,500	-	-	1,500
Evangelising and outreach	-	4,000	126	3,874
Sound system	-	5,000	5,000	-
Access for All fund	4,229	14,790	-	19,019
Total	13,993	23,790	9,351	28,432

Restricted Community Fund	At 01.01.24	Receipts	Payments	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Community fund	1,025	6,000	6,819	206
Total	1,025	6,000	6,819	206

Unrestricted	At 01.01.24	Receipts	Payments	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Clive's fund	1,312	-	368	944
Sound system reserve	3,000	-	-	3,000
Kept aside for grant applications	-	20,000	-	20,000
Revenue reserve	83,624	90,136	151,570	22,190
Total	87,936	110,136	151,938	46,134

PARISH OF ST MARTIN, MAIDSTONE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

3. Receipts and Payments Analysis

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3a. Grants, gifts and legacies					
Maidstone Borough Council –Accessibility	-	-	-	-	2,000
Access For All – gifts and fund raising	-	-	14,790	14,790	4,229
New Sound System - gift	-	-	5,000	5,000	1,500
Maidstone Borough Council – Foor 4U	-	6,000	-	6,000	-
Evangelism & outreach - gift	-	-	4,000	4,000	-
Total	-	6,000	23,790	29,790	7,729

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3b. Lettings					
Hall	22,944	-	-	22,944	24,454
St Martin's Church	2,230	-	-	2,230	2,943
St Hilary's	-	-	-	-	-
St Martins House	9,996	-	-	9,996	9,996
Total	35,170	-	-	35,170	37,393

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3c. Fund raising					
Coffee mornings and mens' breakfast	1,757	-	-	1,757	2,326
Christmas Grand Draw	998	-	-	998	1,278
100 club net contributions	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Summer fair	1,592	-	-	1,592	1,041
Ride and Stride	1,095	-	-	1,095	1,141
Quiz nights	179	-	-	179	499
Tea and Toast	456	-	-	456	322
Knitting and raffle	180	-	-	180	313
Maidstone Market stall and auction	667	-	-	667	-
Other	-	-	-	-	107
Youth Group Lent Challenge	-	-	-	-	180
Virtual Walk	-	-	-	-	1,029
Lent lunch	-	-	-	-	171
Total	7,924	-	-	7,924	9,407

PARISH OF ST MARTIN, MAIDSTONE
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	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
3d. Miscellaneous income					
Bank interest	64	-	-	64	110
Lights of love	124	-	-	124	-
Total	188	-	-	188	110

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3e. Parish Share		
Parish share for the year	48,888	35,230
Parochial fees paid to the Diocese	1,759	3,815
CDBF Missionary Grant	10,400	20,400
CDBF Credits – St Martins House	9,996	9,996
Total	71,043	69,441

3f. Church and property maintenance

	Church £	Hall £	St Hilary's £	Other £	Total £
Utilities	9,100	9,548	-	-	18,648
Maintenance	7,392	20,049	-	-	27,441
Professional fees	4,968	-	-	-	4,968
Deposit on new sound system	18,453	-	-	-	18,453
Insurance	2,045	1,359	-	-	3,404
Cleaning	2,875	2,875	-	-	5,750
Internet	217	-	-	-	217
Total 2024	45,050	33,831	-	-	78,881
Total 2023	43,836	15,129	180	-	59,145

3g. Donations to charities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Children's Society – Christmas collection	27	-	-	27	-
UNICEF – Gaza appeal	200	-	-	200	-
Friends of Kent Churches	10	-	-	10	10
Bible Society	-	-	-	-	50
DEC – Earthquake appeal	-	-	-	-	195
Eco-Church	-	-	-	-	50
Meninadanca	-	-	-	-	120
Total	237	-	-	237	425

PARISH OF ST MARTIN, MAIDSTONE
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3h. Miscellaneous expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Community Fund	Restricted Other Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank charges	534	-	-	534	534
Christmas lights and flowers	-	-	-	-	115
Youth activities	263	-	-	263	198
Garden benches and table	-	-	-	-	858
PCC Awayday costs	250	-	-	250	210
Refreshments	403	-	-	403	287
Kitchen	331	-	-	331	-
Celebration events (covered by donations)	462	-	-	462	-
Other	111	-	-	111	369
Total	2,354	-	-	2,354	2,571