

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN'S SHERWOOD

England & Wales · Charity number 1153828

Details

Other names ST MARTIN'S SHERWOOD PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2013-09-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address c/o St Martins Church
Trevose Gardens
Sherwood
Nottingham
NG5 3FU

Phone 0115 6487789

Email stmsherwood@gmail.com

Website www.stmartinsherwood.org

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Providing a place of worship where Christians can meet and share their faith, increase knowledge and broaden their commitment, The holding of Christian religious service and related activities each week for the benefit of Sherwood and the surrounding area. The PCC is dependent upon offerings received from the congregation and also donations made by individuals and charitable trusts.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Nottingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£157,720	£137,191	-	-
2023-12-31	£112,304	£117,300	-	-
2022-12-31	£93,972	£115,158	-	-
2021-12-31	£95,986	£116,659	-	-
2020-12-31	£97,741	£127,602	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Rogers		2023-04-23
Beryl Morgan		2024-04-14
Christiane Maria Morris		2019-04-01
Christopher John Budd		2024-04-14
Christopher John Morris		2019-04-01
David Milbourn		2026-03-22
Elaine Barnabas		2023-04-23
Glenn Hickson		2023-04-23
Glenys Hepworth		2020-10-18
Ian Gordon		2019-01-01
JULIE DAY		2024-04-14
John Hepworth		2020-10-18
Katharine Ann Shepherd		2025-05-11
LESLEY COHEN		2013-04-28
Rachel King		2024-04-14
Rev Sue Pendenque		2019-07-01
Susan Morley		2026-03-22
Susannah Mary Estella		2022-04-03
Valerie Airey		2024-04-14

Accounts



St Martin's Church Sherwood

**Annual report and financial
statements of the Parochial Church
Council for the year ended
31st December 2024**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Church wardens

Vicar

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

Financial statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended

31st December 2024

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1153828																										
Address:	Trevose Gardens Sherwood Nottingham																										
Trustees serving during the year were:																											
Vicar:	Rev S Pendenque																										
Licensed Lay Ministers:	Mrs L Cohen Mr G Hickson																										
Church Wardens:	Mr C Morris Mrs S Estella																										
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Mrs V Airey Mrs L Cohen																										
Elected Members:	<table><tr><td>Mrs C Morris</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs H Shipston</td><td>until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mr J Hepworth</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs G Hepworth</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Ms P Breakwell</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs A Rogers</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs J Milbourn</td><td>until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mr C Budd</td><td>until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs E Barnabas</td><td>until 2027</td></tr><tr><td>Mr R Kitson</td><td>co-opted until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs J Day</td><td>until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Ms R King.</td><td>until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs B Morgan</td><td>until 2027</td></tr></table>	Mrs C Morris	until 2026	Mrs H Shipston	until 2025	Mr J Hepworth	until 2026	Mrs G Hepworth	until 2026	Ms P Breakwell	until 2026	Mrs A Rogers	until 2026	Mrs J Milbourn	until 2025	Mr C Budd	until 2025	Mrs E Barnabas	until 2027	Mr R Kitson	co-opted until 2025	Mrs J Day	until 2025	Ms R King.	until 2025	Mrs B Morgan	until 2027
Mrs C Morris	until 2026																										
Mrs H Shipston	until 2025																										
Mr J Hepworth	until 2026																										
Mrs G Hepworth	until 2026																										
Ms P Breakwell	until 2026																										
Mrs A Rogers	until 2026																										
Mrs J Milbourn	until 2025																										
Mr C Budd	until 2025																										
Mrs E Barnabas	until 2027																										
Mr R Kitson	co-opted until 2025																										
Mrs J Day	until 2025																										
Ms R King.	until 2025																										
Mrs B Morgan	until 2027																										
PCC Secretary:	Mrs J Day																										
Treasurer:	Mr I Gordon																										
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank Plc 536 Valley Road Nottingham NG5 1JD																										
Independent Examiner:	RWB CA Limited Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ																										

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Aims and Purpose

St Martin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the financial affairs of the church, and provision and maintenance of the fabric of the Church building for worship and other activities for the benefit of the local community in and around Sherwood. The PCC complies with its duties under section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act with regard to Public Benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a statutory body and is governed by the regulations as set out in the official Church of England Church Representation Rules. This is supplemented by the Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors (revised edition 2010).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the clergy, church wardens, those elected to Deanery Synod, and other elected representatives. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 5 times during the year. The PCC operates through a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

Fabric and Finance Committee oversees the right management of those two areas, and oversees works to be done on the building. The treasurer is not a member of the PCC, but is a member of the committee.

The Worship and Discipleship Committee plans and oversees the church's worship, small groups and discipleship programmes.

The Community and Justice Committee led on social action, partnering with other agencies for mission, and shapes our financial contributions to charities – this committee was disbanded following the APCM and a new committee initiated to cover wider aspects of strategy and mission.

The Strategic Development and Mission Committee – this was formed in September 2023 and met 3 times in 2024. This committee seeks to look strategically and missionally at what we do as a church and how this aligns with our church vision, what God is calling us to in terms of growing disciples and the wider mission of the church. To listen to God and ask, what is God calling us to at this time?

The Children and Young People's Committee develops the growth of young people, and oversees Sunday children's ministry, the Sunday evening youth group, Jolly Tots, Bumps and Babies, ministry in schools, and special children's services/events.

The leadership team consists of the Vicar, Church Wardens, LLMs, Children/Families Minister, and Administrator. They meet weekly (or as in the case of the Vicar & Church Wardens whenever they can) to review and plan church activities, and to pray for the church.

The APCM for 2023 was held in church on May 12, 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The diocesan vision was *Growing Disciples younger, wider and deeper*. In 2024 the diocese launched its renewed vision to 2030 as *Growing Disciples of Christ with Compassion, Confidence and Courage with focus on developing Inspiring Worship, Reaching Younger, Enabling Commitment, Growing Leaders, Enhancing Diversity, Encouraging Generosity and Nurturing Prayer*.

Through prayer and consultation as a church, we renewed our St Martin's Vision to *Rooted in Christ, Reaching out in love*

We intend to be: a welcoming God centred church, where people are transformed by the love of Christ, a church of all ages, transformed by the love of Christ, to nurture God's love, hope and justice, for the flourishing of our Sherwood, our City and World.

Our purpose:

As followers of Jesus Christ we will:

worship God, build a community where people belong, live generously, make a difference, care for God's creation.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Objectives and Activities *continued*

The PCC is therefore committed to enabling people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, to grow as disciples, and to become active participants in the church family. We aim to equip ordinary people to live out their faith in everyday life, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning and worshipping together in a variety of settings, that we may grow together in Christ, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral care for those living in the parish, or otherwise connected to the church body: including occasional offices.
- Growing together as a community through welcome and hospitality, in small “Life Groups” and informal gatherings
- Mission and community engagement: including social groups, action with other charities and organisations working for the common good (including considerations around the environment), and hiring of the church building for community use.

Achievements and performances

Overview 2024

Following a period of a year’s vacancy, Revd. Sue Pendenque was licensed as Vicar on January 14th 2024. We settled into a time of stability following our difficult years of sadness and loss. It’s fair to say that despite our joy at this new stability and a renewed sense of hopefulness, many who had worked hard in the previous years were tired. Despite this, ministries continued, people continued to serve, and the church has seen some growth as well as some members moving on. Sue is immensely proud of the way this church seeks to serve its community of Sherwood with love, commitment and compassion in many ways – please see sections below. This commitment to share the good news of Jesus and to be a blessing within our community is expressed in our renewed vision - and particularly our strapline statement - *Rooted in Christ, Reaching out in Love*.

In January Freddie Kofi joined us as our new Youth Minister, his employment being funded by SDF4 funding granted to us from the diocese. Freddie made a great start, the youth group grew regularly seeing up to 18 young people attending on Sunday evenings. However after a period of 6 months Freddie felt we weren’t quite the right fit for him. We are grateful for his contribution to our youth ministry for the time he spent with us.

During Lent as a church we focused on praying together, meeting weekly over 5 weeks to pray for different aspects of our church and community life. This has launched our monthly *Call to Prayer* evenings, attended faithfully by several church members. We shared a meal together for Maundy Thursday which was both joyous and solemn, remembered Christ’s sacrifice for us on Good Friday with 3 hours at the cross, and celebrated the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning with a misty sunrise service, a quiet 8.30 said communion and an all age service which focused on stories of the resurrection from the New Testament and from our own lives – it was powerful.

Thy Kingdom Come was led this year by Sue Estella, it was a quieter week but of great value none the less.

The PCC grew along with the church Electoral Roll. Sue P continues to proudly boast of the best PCC in the diocese and again expresses gratitude for all of their hard work with particular mention to Russell Kitson, Paul Swift and Chris Budd for their care for the church premises and grounds.

The newly reformed PCC met for an ‘away at home day’ in June which was led by Josh Smith of One Church Leicester (part of their senior leadership team), with a proven track record of growing church, also Sue Pendenque’s son. Josh came to help us think through calling, vision, and the beginnings of strategy. He helped us name what was important for us as a church here in Sherwood, and to listen for what God might be calling us into. Our renewed vision was begun here, we then moved into a process of wider church discernment before it being agreed upon later in the year. We thank Josh for his contribution on our away day.

Change happened in committees; with the Community and Justice Committee becoming the *Strategic Development and Mission Committee* which seeks to help guide the church strategically into missional growth. Sue thanks Liz Cordle and Nicky Brooks for their contributions to the Community and Justice Committee in the past, particularly for their passion in keeping matters of justice and climate change at the heart of our church.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Our Eco Church group – including church and wider community members have worked hard to keep us informed about matters of climate change and successfully guided us into changes which have resulted in us achieving an *Eco Church* Bronze accreditation. Thank you!

During Sherwood Arts Week we were pleased to host a small exhibition in our lobby – partnering with Refugee Roots, and also to once again host Elevation Dance for a wonderful display from their dancers.

We entered into a quieter period for the school summer holidays then to a busy autumn term, concluding with well attended Christmas services.

Hiring of the church building has continued throughout 2024. We are grateful to be able to partner with those who regularly use our building and to have the church used for various choir concerts over the year again.

There is much more not covered here, and so many people to be thanked; we rejoice to have seen God at work in us and through us in 2024.

Growing disciples: With Compassion - Meeting the world's deepest needs with Jesus' love

Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies continue to be known as a safe place, where support can be found and where people are welcomed. Attendance grew during 2024 thanks to Gill and a team of dedicated volunteers.

Nourish and Nourish Café continued throughout the year, friendships continued to grow, care was shared and we saw two Nourish members baptized in November.

The Chaplaincy team visited Mansfield Road businesses and shops roughly monthly, continuing to show the love of Christ in care, listening and prayer.

The Knit and Natterer's have knitted and nattered, welcoming all who come for gentle friendship regardless of skill level.

Toast club has welcomed regular families during school holidays, toast, play, chat, gently sharing the love of Jesus.

A Start course was successfully run in February, though Alpha failed to attract attendees in September and so didn't run.

During advent we welcomed Seely School again, this time Key Stage 1 for a retelling of the nativity story with Christingle making. We welcomed 130+ people across two reflective services with Baguley Brothers Funeral Directors. We had a fun and imaginative retelling of the nativity through a "search for a missing Santa" at our December all age Café Church (thanks to Penny Breakwell and Chrissie Morris), a full carol service on December 22nd and a joyful Christmas morning celebration with a retelling of the Nativity story - through chocolate!

Thanks to our tech team, we also continue to stream Sunday services weekly enabling us to reach people who are exploring faith quietly.

For more details on "With Compassion" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples with Confidence – Rooting our life and faith in Jesus

Sunday children's attendance continues to be low, largely due to children getting older and moving on to the evening youth group. We have seen some new families settle with us and become regular with young children, however it's clear that we need to expand again in this area of our church life.

The youth ministry grew, with up to 18 regulars by the end of the year (new year 6 members having joined in September). Many of these young people are not children of church members, but wider contacts. It is a group which continues to feel safe, allowing the young people to be themselves and is a credit to the volunteer leaders who have worked hard to grow this ministry coordinated by Sue Estella (thank you Sue) following Freddie's end with us in August.

Facebook continued to stream 5 mornings a week, thanks to a small but dedicated team - offering connectedness and discipleship for a regular community, as well as for those simply 'having a look'.

Corporate prayer is a growing priority with weekly Wednesday prayer meetings and a once a month Call to Prayer meeting.

We continued to meet for worship, prayer and study in various ways. As with previous years, that meant two morning services, regular Life Groups and a monthly *Unplugged* (informal contemporary worship - always lay-led). We settled into a service pattern that works well for us at our 10.30 service, with 1st and 2nd

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Growing disciples with Confidence – Rooting our life and faith in Jesus continued

Sundays having a mix of more contemporary worship and hymns, 3rd Sunday an All Age Café style church and the 4th Sunday being a more traditional style service with hymns and the organ.

For more details on “With Confidence” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

To grow in Courage – Sharing Jesus with all our hearts

(learning how to become confident communicators of the Gospel, growing leaders, enabling our young people and children to be courageous followers of Christ.)

Life Group leaders met termly for support, inspiration and prayer.

The Strategic Development and Mission Committee met to look at how we grow our church, considering areas such as how we become confident communicators of the Gospel and how we intentionally make room for Jesus in all of our outward facing ministries.

We explored two key sermon series last year: *Rich in Christ* - considering the riches we have to share, and *Holy, Holy, Holy* – the holiness of God and our response to this.

The children and youth explored different themes across the year, all to enable them to be courageous followers of Christ. A few of the young people also took steps forward in leading aspects of the youth meetings under Freddie’s leadership. One young person - Alice, courageously volunteered to be an intern with us this year.

For more details on “With Courage” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Safeguarding

St Martin's continues to be mindful of its Safeguarding responsibilities to its congregation and the wider area of Sherwood, and there appears to be an increased awareness of issues that need reporting. Any matters that have arisen have been forwarded to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for advice. There have been no major Safeguarding issues within the church during this reporting year. Encouraging appropriate training among the serving congregation continues to be an issue which is being addressed, and which has been noted by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Janet Kitson

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) checks for the first part of 2024 were carried out by Gill James. During the year the responsibility for checking passed across to Judith Walker with support from and Lesley Cohen. Both took the appropriate introductory training and a number of updates were processed towards the end of the year. We continue to prioritize this as an important part of our safeguarding procedures

Financial Review

General Funds

The Church is dependent financially on offerings received from the congregation, donations from individuals and grants from charitable trusts.

In 2024 our income and expenditure were managed by the Fabric and Finance Committee by regular monitoring against our forecasts. Regular giving rose by 18% to just under £73K which, of course led to a consequential uplift in Gift Aid to £16.3K. By the grace of God we were a beneficiary under the Will of one of our stalwart members to the tune of £40,000. Other income remained stable so our overall income totalled c£143K.

Our expenditure rose by about £20K to £137K. This was anticipated, the increase being attributed to the salary costs of the Youth Minister for part of the year, an increase in Parish Share of £7K and the upgrade to the lighting (which was flagged in last year’s report). Energy costs fell by just under £3K to £8.9K

Restricted Funds

These are sums of money that are held on trust for a specific purpose and can only be spent for that. On 31st December 2024 we were holding £1,650 in the Nourish fund, £183 given for Families in need, and £4,739 in total for children and youth work.

Designated Funds

Other monies that have been set aside for an individual project are shown as designated under the heading of unrestricted funds. On 31 December 2024 £18,388 was held for the ongoing (until 31.12.2025) children

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

and families ministry, £9,000 for the Youth Worker staff costs, £477 was held to be used towards the next parish weekend and there is a further £1,000 put aside for Nourish.

Policy on Reserves

The policy of the Parochial Church Council is to hold a sufficient sum in reserves to cover six months of normal expenditure. On 31 December 2024 £45,000 was held in an interest bearing account to satisfy this policy

.Ian Gordon

Thanks

The PCC would like to thank all those who participate in so many ways to make our church a welcoming, gracious, and transformative community. The strength of our pastoral care for each other and love for Sherwood continues to be a strength. The church community have been unfailingly supportive of the leadership team and PCC in all of our decisions as always. Our particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and all the PCC, who have continued to lead us prayerfully and faithfully.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by: -

..... Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

..... Mr Chris Morris - Church Warden

..... Mrs Sue Estella – Church Warden

..... Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted funds				
	General	Designated	Restricted	2024	2023
	Fund	Funds	Funds		
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
Regular Giving	47,473	25,500	-	72,973	61,929
Gift Aid	16,307	-	-	16,307	14,998
Projects	-	-	11,823	11,823	7,755
Church Hire	7,726	-	-	7,726	8,280
Fees	1,922	-	-	1,922	1,858
Maintenance	1,219	-	-	1,219	3,785
Other	42,153	200	440	42,793	12,062
Interest on deposit funds	2,957	-	-	2,957	1,637
Total Receipts	<u>119,757</u>	<u>25,700</u>	<u>12,263</u>	<u>157,720</u>	<u>112,304</u>
PAYMENTS					
Parish Share	56,988	-	-	56,988	50,676
Staff Costs	8,478	-	-	8,478	7,721
Maintenance	16,423	6,669	-	23,092	21,307
Finance	4,905	-	-	4,905	4,419
Worship/ Discipleship	3,920	-	-	3,920	2,581
CYP	2,304	19,234	4,542	26,080	16,418
Mission	7,307	-	5,875	13,182	13,167
Projects	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral	88	-	458	546	1,011
Total Payments	<u>100,413</u>	<u>25,903</u>	<u>10,875</u>	<u>137,191</u>	<u>117,300</u>
Net of receipts/(payments)	19,344	(203)	1,388	20,529	(4,996)
Transfers between funds	(278)	278	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 01.01.24	<u>36,315</u>	<u>33,990</u>	<u>5,184</u>	<u>75,489</u>	<u>80,485</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31.12.24	<u>55,381</u>	<u>34,065</u>	<u>6,572</u>	<u>96,018</u>	<u>75,489</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 01/01/2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31/12/2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Building fund	6,641	-	(6,669)	28	-
Building for Growth	-	-	-	-	-
Children's Ministry Salary	16,872	18,000	(16,484)	-	18,388
Families in Need	-	200	-	-	200
Nourish	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Youth Worker Staff Costs	9,000	-	-	-	9,000
Parish Weekend	477	-	-	-	477
Intern fund	-	2,500	(2,750)	250	-
Chairs Fund	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
	33,990	25,700	(25,903)	278	34,065
General Funds	36,315	119,757	(100,413)	(278)	55,381
	70,305	145,457	(126,316)	-	89,446
Restricted Funds					
Appeals	-	-	-	-	-
Families in Need	201	440	(458)	-	183
Nourish	2,702	4,823	(5,875)	-	1,650
Oaks - Youth Worker	-	7,000	(4,482)	-	2,518
Rose Window	-	-	-	-	-
Oakes Trip	881	-	(60)	-	821
Childrens' Ministry Salary	1,400	-	-	-	1,400
	5,184	12,263	(10,875)	-	6,572
TOTAL FUNDS	75,489	157,720	(137,191)	-	96,018

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on and signed on its behalf by: -

..... Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

..... Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Church of England Deposit Fund				
- PCC Building Funds	1,854	-	1,760	-
- Reserves Account	65,448	-	52,585	-
PCC Current Account	14,148	5,568	14,793	4,102
No 2 Current Account	7,996	1,004	1,167	1,082
	<u>89,446</u>	<u>6,572</u>	<u>70,305</u>	<u>5,184</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				
	<u>89,446</u>	<u>6,572</u>	<u>70,305</u>	<u>5,184</u>
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Income tax on deeds of covenant gift aid due	2,482	-	3,060	-
PAYE and NI	1,276		898	
	<u>3,758</u>		<u>3,958</u>	
	<u>3,758</u>		<u>3,958</u>	
LIABILITIES				
Independent Examiner fees	816	-	768	-
	<u>816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>-</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin 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 Parochial Church Council of St. Martin's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Qualified Statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

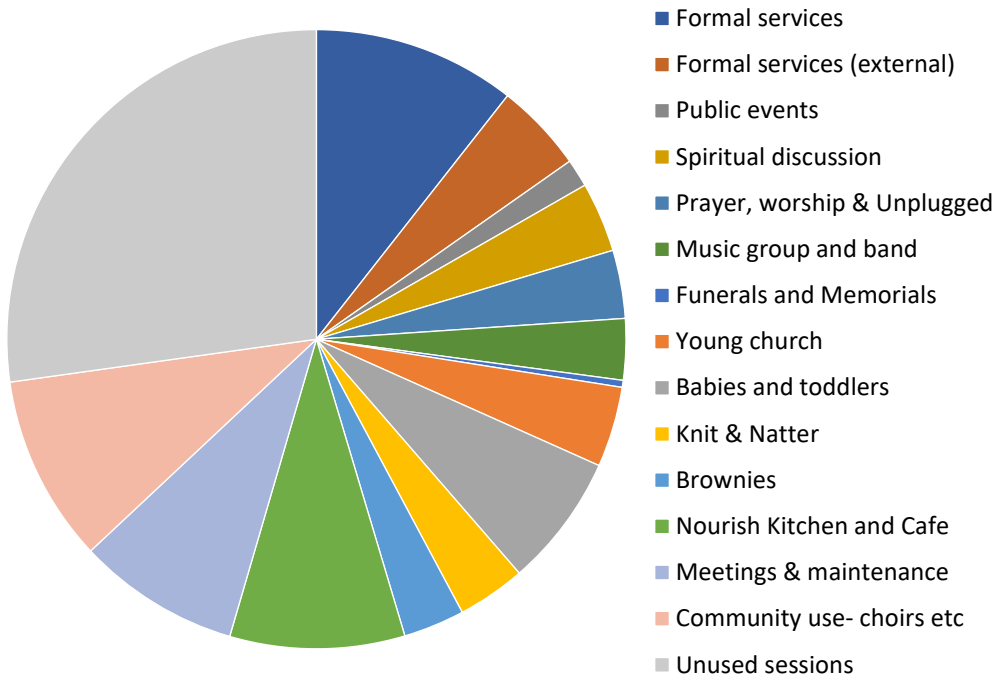
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Neil Coupland FCA DChA

Dated:

**RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ**

Use of the Church Building 2024



Baptisms 2024
12

Funerals 2024
5

Weddings 2024
2

Usual Sunday Attendance
75

Sunday Ministry teams
37

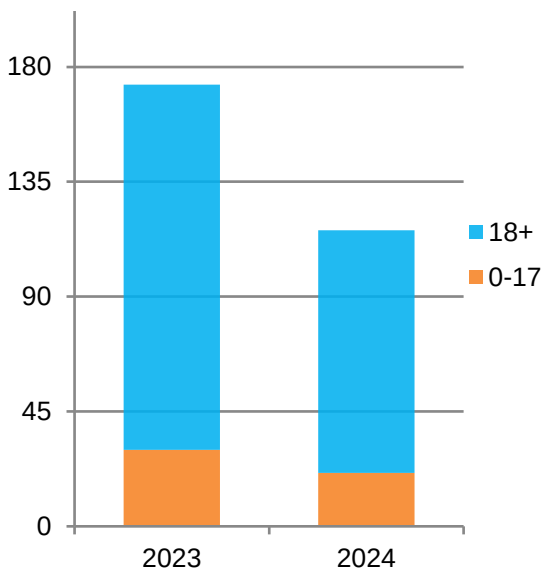
Life Group members
45

Christmas attendance

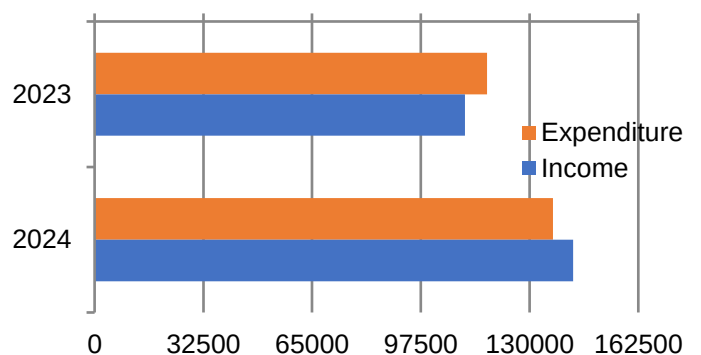
119

Easter attendance

Worshipping Community



Church Finances



The Electoral Roll

As at 31st December 2024 St Martin's Electoral Roll stands at 109.

At the end of December 2023 our roll stood at 102. During the revision of the roll 9 people were added and 2 removed, giving 109 at our APCM. Since then, 1 person has been added and 1 removed therefore St Martin's Electoral Roll as at the end of December 2024 remains at 109.

Julie Day

Nottingham North Deanery APCM Report for Jan – Dec 2024

During 2024 we held three Synods, two in person and one remotely:

20 February 2024: Chaplaincy

Our first Synod was held at St Leonard's, Wollaton and we were joined by David McCoulough (Diocesan Chaplaincy Lead), Victoria Mullen (Archway Learning Trust) and Jonah Gorst (Woven Youth Worker). David and Victoria shared about their experiences as Chaplains in different arenas and Jonah shared about opportunities for the Deanery to join with the youth work at Woven.

13 August 2024: Elections to Diocesan Synod

We cancelled our July Synod as the key speaker was not able to attend. The sole agenda item of our August Synod was the voting in of Diocesan Synod Representatives. The following people were appointed: Diocesan Synod House of Laity: Lee Duffield-Simms, Joanna Smith, Pauline Thomas, Paul Ward and James Willis

Diocesan Synod House of Clergy: Nikki Bates, Tim Pullen and Sue Pendenque

13 November 2024: AGM and General Synod Report

The meeting took place at St Mary the Virgin in Bulwell. Lydia Corbett brought a report from General Synod, concentrating particularly on the prayers of love and faith.

This was also our AGM and following this meeting the Deanery Leadership Team consisted of:

Ex-officio members: Tim Pullen (Area Dean), Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator)

Lay: John Cartwright (Lay Chair), Joanna Smith (Lay Chair), Greg Cowley (Deanery Treasurer)

Ordained: Nikki Bates, Paul Savage

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have also continued on the first Tuesday of each at Christ Church, Cinderhill.

This year we have had a number of changes in the leadership of parishes within the Deanery. Rev'd Sue Pendenque was licensed as vicar of Sherwood St Martin, Rev'd Lizzie Osborne was licensed as a mission associate at St John's in Bilborough. Rev'd Emma Rolls began her curacy at Stapleford and Rev'd Jamie Price began her curacy with Woven.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2024. We managed to pay 94% of our share allocation!

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen
Area Dean

John Cartwright
Lay Chair

Joanna Smith
Lay Chair

Worship and Discipleship committee

We have maintained in person and online Sunday worship throughout 2023 this being two Sunday services weekly, plus monthly Unplugged (a contemporary worship evening). The 8.30 said Eucharist service remains consistent in form; the 10.30 service pattern has settled into pattern of more contemporary worship for the first and second Sundays, an All-Age Café service on the third week and a more traditional service (music and liturgy) for the fourth Sunday. Any Fifth Sunday is a service of the word at 10.30. In our meetings we have discussed service patterns, the different preferred styles of musical worship of the congregation, how we can make each service 'more distinct' in flavour – particularly the traditional service. Our main concern is not to please people, but to make it easier in each service to meet with Jesus, to encounter him. We also recognise and discuss the need to be accessible to people coming in and seeking Jesus and to people of all ages. We have discussed possible changes to communion, to Christmas services so as to reach our community wider and so on. We hold both worship and discipleship along with mission in mind as we consider these things.

During the year we have maintained effective teams for sound and visuals, music, Bible readings, intercessions, preaching and leading. Sunday attendance is averaging 68 adults across both services, but our numbers of children have fallen. Communion is not yet back to pre-covid, we infuse bread with wine and offer uninfused bread and the chalice. People still do not feel confident about taking communion as we would have done pre-covid. We are discussing how to move this forward.

Discipleship happens in a number of settings: life groups, chaplaincy, Nourish, Unplugged, Alpha and Start courses, as well as the Lent course, and ad hoc conversations.

Sue Pendenque

Strategic Development and Mission Committee

The group consist of PCC members and co-opted members.
Our big question is 'how do we grow disciples?'

We held our first meeting in September, exploring the question around our newly agreed vision and how we use this as a starting point for growth. We reviewed all that St Martin's does, every activity from services, to mission activities asking how will this grow disciples (new and old). We have approached all that we have done with prayerful listening to God and to the church.

We plotted all that happens from St Martin's onto a line – a discipleship continuum – from first contacts with people to fully integrated discipleship, we found that much of what we 'do' falls at the end of first contacts/fringe contacts, we asked what pathways do we have in place to help people move along this continuum and where are there points where people can fall off.

We discussed how we might better use Café Church, Unplugged, exploring faith type courses, Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies and how we might make them more effective in enabling people to move along on a discipleship journey.

From this I (Sue) developed our growing disciples plan which the committee have fed back into. I feel hopeful for our future and our capacity to grow disciples and am very grateful for this group of innovative, reflective dreamers and strategists.

Sue Pendenque

Community and Justice Committee

Saint Martin's engages with community and justice issues both locally and globally in a variety of ways and this is reflected in our worship, prayers, giving and practical action. Our involvement during 2024 included the following:

Charity Giving

St Martin's continues to give 10% of its income to charity, shared between 4 "major" charities usually nominated on a 4-year cycle, and up to 4 minor charities. The major charities for 2024 were as follows: Emmanuel House receiving £1000, and Refugee Roots, Water Works and Children in Distress each receiving £1250. The "minor" charities were Sharewear, Jericho Road, Bags of Blessing and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (whose youth team manage Woodthorpe Meadow opposite Trevoze Gardens). The minor charities shared gifts totalling £1250. We had speakers from Emmanuel House and Bags of Blessing at two of our morning services.

Christian Aid

St Martin's hosted another successful Christian Aid fund raising afternoon in early October including tea and cake, games and stalls. This social event was enjoyed by many and raised over £1000 for Christian Aid.

Environment/ Climate change

A small "eco church" group has been meeting since June 2023. The church was recently awarded a Bronze A Rocha Eco Church Award. This award recognises the wider efforts of many people in St Martin's, often amidst the busyness of other activities, including in recycling, installation of new LED lighting, managing our energy usage and applying for funding to support some of these activities. The church also took part in the RSPB bird count and plastic count and one of our café church services focused on the environment. Thank you to St Martin's for your commitment to caring for our creation.

Amnesty International

Members of the congregation signed around 40 physical "solidarity" cards to prisoners/ activists for justice as part of Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign during Advent 2024.

Food Bank

St Martin's members continue to make donations which are much appreciated. Donations are taken to Daybrook Baptist Church, the base for Arnold Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust network.

Sherwood Art Week

St Martin's hosted an exhibition by Refugee Roots and served refreshments during Sherwood Art Week

Liz Cordle

PCC committee for children and young people (PCC CYP)

This group takes a strategic overview of our ministry with children and young people at St Martin's. This year we have set the following priorities:

Engaging with the community

Our community groups (Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies) are well attended and very much appreciated. Toast club in the school holidays has also done well. We are developing a very positive connection with Seely Primary School with events at school and at St Martin's being well received.

Nurturing next steps

With relationships being well developed some community group members are asking for prayer. Some families have come for Baptism and some now attend Sunday services. We continue to work to provide services which are more accessible. This has some success, especially at Christmas.

Growing discipleship in children and young people

Our main work is in children's group on Sunday mornings and youth group on Sunday evenings. These are tailored to the children's and young people's needs. The youth group have also enjoyed residential weekends at a Christian activity centre and social contacts with other local youth groups. Our aim for all children and young people is to foster a deepening in faith both in understanding and living their lives.

Overall

Much is being achieved in our children, families and youth ministry, given current resources – mainly people to lead and/or help our activities. If we are to grow and develop the work we need to build our capacity.

Lesley Cohen

The Fabric and Ornaments of the church

The fabric and ornaments of the church continue to be in good order, although our chairs are continuing to show their age. Also we are having some boiler issues which affect the warmth of the building - we are working with our boiler support company in an attempt to rectify this.

A number of pieces of work have been completed, co-ordinated by Russell Kitson, Paul Swift and Chris Budd, including

- Replacement of a major portion of the building lighting
- A thorough clean and polish of our flooring
- Electrical safety tests
- On-going maintenance of the building and grounds
- Finding "new homes" for unused items accumulated over the lifetime of our church!

Projects for 2025 being considered include

- Replacement of more lighting
- A new "deeper" sink in the flower room
- On-going maintenance of the flooring
- Recovering or replacement of our chairs
- On-going maintenance of the building and grounds

Chris Morris and Sue Estella

Compassion

Children's and Youth Ministry

The children's ministry at St Martin's is providing a children's group for primary school age children, providing a service for our existing families and working to reach the wider community of Sherwood. Our three goals for this area of ministry are still *growing discipleship*, *engaging with the community*, and *nurturing next steps*.

Growing Discipleship

The children's ministry is run on Sunday mornings at our 10.30 service. We provide a crèche for children aged 0-4 years and a group for primary school aged children. Many of our children have moved up to the youth group and are thriving under the care of the youth team. Children's ministry is available every week except the third Sunday of the month, when we are all together in the All Age service.

The children and young people had another successful trip to The Oakes, with children from a number of local churches. They had a weekend of fantastic gospel teaching, bible study, outdoor activities - muddy assault course, high ropes and zorbing balls amongst other activities and worship. The weekend grew friendships and faith and the next weekend is planned for November 2025. We are very grateful to the team of leaders who supported the children and young people on this weekend and those who supported this venture in prayer and finances.

We also supported faith development through our collaboration with St Nic's church again, for a holiday club held over Easter in April 2024. This was an engaging three days of science, stories, cooking, physical activity, craft, film and song. A number of team members and children were part of this.

We celebrated a number of Baptisms this year from amongst our families and the toddler group community. We celebrated the major festivals as a church community including Easter, Advent and Christmas events.

Engaging with the community

Our toddler group on Tuesday mornings is still very popular and I am very thankful to the committed team, who reach out to our community with love. We are building strong community connections and the group is well attended by parents and toddlers. We provide opportunity to play, have stories, snacks, make a craft and sing.

We also run a successful Bumps to Babies group on Wednesdays aimed at pre-walking children aged 0-18 months. This group forms a vibrant community supporting the needs of parents and their babies and providing much needed community.

"Toast club" has run successfully through a number of the school holidays, this is capably led by Charlotte H and Hope W and provides support and community to families through the school holidays.

We hosted the local Seely Primary and Nursery school for a number of events; including an "Experience Easter" event, where a team dressed up and explored the Easter Story with 300 children. They investigated the story at a number of stations, where they were taken through the Easter events and invited to reflect, through a number of activities.

We also hosted a Christingle Event at Christmas for several year groups at Seely school. The children made their own Christingle, explored the Nativity story and enjoyed a craft activity. We have strengthened our relationship with Seely school and very much enjoyed our time with the pupils and staff.

Nurturing next steps.

Throughout all of our groups, including Sunday children's ministry, weekday toddler and baby groups, holiday club, Oakes, celebration of festivals and our work with Seely School we provide opportunities for faith development.

Within our interaction with the community we explore ways of supporting members to make their next steps in faith. We invite families to All Age services, Celebration of Festivals and any other events that are accessible for all ages. Our team are building relationships at all our groups and we are ready to have conversations regarding faith, support families through any difficulties and when asked discuss next steps such as Baptism. We have had a number of families bring their children for Baptism, attend Sunday worship and we aim to support the faith of group members and provide stepping stones to faith

Gill James

Youth Group

Our Sunday night youth group continues to be popular. There are approximately 14 regular members with others attending from time to time. The group is a mix of children whose parents attend St Martin's and friends from elsewhere.

A typical evening includes chat, tuck shop and games, followed by Bible focused activities, discussion and prayers. We also celebrate birthdays throughout the year, and have outings together. This year those included ice skating, laser tag and McDonalds, and some of the young people took part in the Bow Down prayer event in the Market Square.

We joined with youth members and leaders from other local churches for our now annual weekend away at the Oakes Christian Centre in November. We learned more about how Jesus is for everyone, and took part in activities from archery to climbing and the muddy assault course. We are looking forward to a reunion with our friends from other churches in March. We also plan to re-advertise for a new youth minister to join us at St Martin's in 2025.

Sue Estella

Nourish

Nourish Meals

Nourish has now been running since November 2020. Last year, we continued providing wholesome meals for any who asked. We give out an average of 70 meals a week. Some of the people coming for meals are not in great need, for others it is so needed. Many are lonely and benefit from the friendships made. Nourish Café is a wonderful time for many and it is great to see people thriving there. A lot of love and care is shown among volunteers and the people who come for meals.

Everything is done by volunteers, of course, although we have fewer available in the afternoon, which makes cleaning and tidying harder. Shopping and cooking is shared between some of the volunteers. People keep funding Nourish in a variety of ways and we are thankful for this and the generous provision of the St Martin's building and resources. We continue into 2025 with a heart to love and serve our community, always praying that many will find joy in a relationship with God and peace in a world full of trouble for some.

Nourish Café

Our Mission Statement is to minister to each one showing the love of Jesus with compassion, without prejudice, with respect, dignity and to give hope. (23.07.2024)

Nourish Café is open every Monday 1.45 pm – 4pm. (Last orders 3.45pm, new times). It continues to flourish and provide a warm, welcoming and safe place. There are our regulars and many pop-ins, of who some have become our regulars.

We continue to be recommended by other organizations/agencies.

To our delight in 2024, 2 people from Nourish Café were baptised, have completed an introduction to faith course and have now joined one of our Life Groups. Some have joined us at our *Unplugged* service.

On 16th December we had our first Christmas Party; with piano played so skilfully by Judith (trying to keep up with Helena and John's sing-along). Something not to be missed next year!

A BIG thank you to all our volunteers - they are fantastic, and committed- enabling Helena to have one Monday off a month! We can always do with more helpers if you feel this is where God wants you - let's celebrate what God is doing through Nourish and Nourish Café. It is hard work but worth it. Praise the Lord. Pop in any Monday and meet us. You are very welcome.

Chrissie Morris & Helena Shipston

Chaplaincy

We have continued to head out in twos onto Mansfield Rd, popping into the businesses, saying 'Hi!', asking how people are and offering to pray, we have done this around 10 out of 12 months. We continue to be warmly welcomed and are building good relationships. We regularly hear about genuine concerns from the people we talk to and it is an honour to be asked to pray for them.

In addition to this, Monday's Nourish community café continues to flourish, see section above for more information.

Sue Pendenque

Pastoral Outreach

We are a small team of five church members who are happy to visit anyone of our Church Family who are struggling to get to church on a regular basis. We also visit those who are unwell, either at home or in hospital. Two of us are licensed of to offer communion at home where it is required.

We try to visit every four to six weeks so that we can build up a relationship through prayer, friendship and love.

Please contact me if you know of anyone who is in need and we shall do our best to make a visit as soon as we possibly can.

Penny Breakwell

Services at Abbeyfield

It is a joy to hold our monthly services at Sandwood residential home. The residents who attend are committed Christians who cannot come to the church building because of physical limitations. Services are broadly based on the Morning Prayer liturgy and include lively Biblical exploration and discussion and well known hymns/songs. We also visit and pray with residents who are unable to leave their rooms. Services were led by Lesley, Brenda Charles, Sue (White) and Beryl (Clough). Towards the end of the year Sue was unable to continue and a new person joined the team. We are looking to build up the team in the year to come.

Diane, who works in the bungalows and flats, keeps us informed of any pastoral concerns with residents. As in previous years, a large and enthusiastic group of singers from St Martin's came to Larch House to celebrate Christmas with carols and readings.

We are thankful for the warm welcome we receive at Abbeyfield and the invaluable support given by Emma at Sandwood and Diane in the supported housing.

Lesley Cohen

Buildings, and hiring out of church premises

Presently the church has regular weekday external bookings for two choirs and an orchestra. We have continued to offer a discounted supplementary use of the church where previously some groups had used the chapel. There were several evening concerts during 2024, the 53rd Nottm Brownies continued to meet

each Friday night, and the Church of Pentecost UK services on Sunday afternoons continued to be well attended by their congregation.

Judith Walker

Knit & Natter

We continue to meet on Monday afternoons between 2pm-4pm for fellowship & craft.

I am pleased to report that our number has grown in the past year & we have supported several local & international charities with our donations including Shareware, Hayward House, Maggie's Cancer Research, Christian Aid & the City Hospital. We also work on our own individual projects.

It has been a very productive year & I am amazed & thankful to each & every member who contribute to the vision of our church to cultivate community, live generously & make a difference.

Christine Baldwin

Confidence and Courage

Media

Website Team During 2024

The website has been maintained without significant changes during 2024. Regular updates to information on the website are handled by Judith in the church office, with other team members making changes if required. We are now able to embed most of the recordings of our services on the website but there are also clickable links that redirect to the videos on Facebook. We plan to do a full review of the website content in 2025.

Tech Team During 2024

The Tech Team provided projection (to church monitor screens) and live streaming video (to Facebook) for the main service each Sunday and for the occasional services plus, weddings, and funerals. Live streaming via Zoom was also provided when requested.

We met with the Worship Group and liaised with the music leaders to optimise our procedures while retaining flexibility.

The loading of services remotely continues to work well although the 250MB file size limit on our free cloud services account is occasionally problematic.

We lost one of our team to university in 2024 and so we now have a team of five – three who load the services and four operators.

Chris Hellen

Cursillo

Cursillo is an International movement of the Anglican Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through Prayer, Study and Action, enabling us to share God's love with everyone.

We have met monthly at each other's Churches completing a short service called Ultreya.

After our *Pilgrims Weekend* last year was cancelled due to not enough pilgrims, the Cursillo family here in Nottingham were offered the booking and had a great meditative weekend on Christian paintings, painted by various well known artists. This was led successfully by our spiritual director Father Matthew.

Our next weekend is 1st -3rd August 2025 at Launde Abbey. Please talk to Helena Shipston if you are interested in joining us this year.

Helena Shipston

Thy Kingdom Come

We invited everyone to join in with TKC week in a number of ways. Some of us took part in the Bow Down prayer event at Old Market Square, whilst others joined in the evening of worship, testimonies and prayer at the Vineyard. We encouraged St Martin's members to make use of the daily prayer notes. At café church one group constructed a prayer tent to tie in with the church's vision from Isaiah 54, and during the week we also had our monthly Wednesday evening prayer gathering as well as a refreshing morning of worship and reflection for those in busy roles at St Martin's.

Sue Estella

St. Martin's Men's Group

We are pleased to report that The Men's Group has really taken off in 2024, having been restarted at the end of the previous year following a long hiatus. We meet every two or three months on a weekday evening at a local pub to share a meal and plan events linked to our faith and shared interests. The focus is on developing fellowship, supporting one another and is very informal. We vary the evenings to take into account other regular commitments some may have. The Men's Group has expanded from 13 to 21

members and includes a wider age-range with some younger fathers of families in our congregation. Our WhatsApp group has been a very useful platform for organising events and drumming up volunteers among us to help the church in practical ways. In June, we had a successful historic country walk at Cromford in the Peak District, led by Barry Ford, and we look forward to organising other trips and visits together in 2025.

Glenn Hickson & Tony Rayment

Unplugged

We continue meeting most months to worship, pray and seek our God. It is a space to dwell in worship, and we are open to God speaking to us through prophecy and scripture. It is also a place where the use of God's spiritual gifts are openly encouraged. We had the delight to see two people express faith in Jesus in August and celebrated together in their baptism in November. We enter 2025 in expectation that we will continue to see His blessing and more people come to faith as we continue together.

Chrissie Morris

Facebook Morning Prayer

We are still meeting and sharing God's word via Facebook - live streaming at 9am. Through 2024 we streamed Monday to Friday for almost every week of the year.

There continues to be 6-10 people join us and according to Facebook numbers, many more join in during the day. The 'streaming' is kept on for 30 days giving time for those who miss 9am to catch up. Many people continue to tell us it is a valuable service and they appreciate it

Sue Pendenque, John Hepworth and Helena Shipston

Burlington Life Group

About ten of us continue to meet together most weeks, for fellowship and fun. We worship together, pray together, study God's word. On occasions we get together with others from St Martins, and the food and fun continues! There is room for more – in 2025 we expect to meet mostly on Thursday evenings.

Chrissie and Chris Morris

Seekers Life Group

Due to ongoing health issues, Sue White stepped down from leadership of the Group before Christmas.

The Group continued to meet up socially and it was eventually agreed that Rachel King and Catherine Lowe would lead the group together.

We have been meeting once a fortnight on Tuesday mornings and are currently looking at a book that Sue Pendenque suggested called "16 Bible Studies for your small group".

Some of our group have unfortunately quite challenging health problems but we are hoping these will improve and we can keep meeting as planned.

Rachel has been unwell for several weeks but has been supporting me by making suggestions by email, one of which is that we should keep a "Prayer Journal" for our Group.

Rachel King & Catherine Lowe

Acorn Life group

We continue to meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Until the end of last year we met at Brenda Charles' home, but have changed to meeting at the home of Janet and Russell. We felt that Brenda deserved a break after 20 years of faithful hospitality! We thanked her for her commitment to the group, and hope that she will continue to provide us with her delicious cakes. We are still watching The Chosen series, which we have enjoyed and which has shone a very realistic light into the life of Jesus and his disciples. In the summer we shared a meal in the garden with the Burlington Group. We support one another in love, friendship and prayer.

Russell and Janet Kitson

Sanctuary Life Group

We continued to meet every other Wednesday at 5pm – 6.30pm in the side chapel. We have a mix of personal support and prayer, friendship and fellowship and study/discussion to help us in our growth as disciples. We draw on materials (Bible study; books or videos) suggested by our members or St Martin's as a whole.

We are very thankful to Sue Bellamy who faithfully provides refreshments on our arrival most weeks. We all enjoy sharing food and fun. We had a lovely summer visit to Rufford where we had a picnic.

Members said these things about what the group means to them: “friendship, fellowship and the opportunity to contribute”; “listening to others’ ideas and gaining a deeper understanding of faith”. “It’s a place where we can share our personal concerns as well as studying and discussing our faith”.
For me, I am so joyful to have the companionship in this group as we walk together through our lives.
In 2025 we are moving the group to every other Tuesday at 3pm to 5pm.

Lesley Cohen

Orchard Life Group

The Orchard Life Group meets on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. We take turns in hosting and leading sessions in our homes with a focus on facilitating discussions on various aspects of the Bible in an informal way. We encourage everyone to share their thoughts on passages they have chosen and that are meaningful to them. We have begun communicating the themes for discussion a week ahead with questions to consider, so there is plenty of time to prepare. This has led to some very fruitful conversations about our faith journeys in following Jesus and our responses to scripture. Over the past year, the Orchard Life Group has had some changes in membership so now there are six of us. This means we have room for two or three more for anyone who would like to join us.

Glenn Hickson and Helena Shipston

Elect Life Group.

Elect is a new group that first met on 07/06/2024. There were 5 members. We decided to call ourselves ELECT. Elect is Greek for CHOSEN. We meet 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings in the month 10.30am – 12.00 in St Martin’s Side Chapel. In October the cold weather and illness caused one member to leave. (another has since joined returning our number to 5.) I took the decision to postpone our meetings until the warmer weather. It is a lovely group and gelled instantly.

We decided to look at our favourite verses in the Bible, followed by studying the book of Colossians; which we are presently halfway through.

If you are not in a Life Group and would like to join us, please come and chat with me; Helena.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry is a very important part of St. Martin’s Church and it has been an honour to pray and know that God has helped and comforted many with his love and healing. The aim is to provide a ministry of prayer for individuals, which is approved and overseen by the church. This is additional to the personal prayer for one another within the fellowship. In the last year we have been able to continue offering prayer after the 10.30 am service and when requested for other services. This has been a very successful part of St Martin’s Ministry. Beryl Clough has joined the team and Helena continues to be responsible for the rota. All seems to be working well.

Helena Shipston

Lunchtime Prayer

The Wednesday prayer group continues to meet in church at lunchtime at 12 noon. There have been times during the winter months when we have met together away from church. There are a number of church members who attend to pray regularly for our church, its members and our community of Sherwood and for our City. Its focus is mainly on St. Martins. These times together have been a wonderful experience of God’s love in action. There is always a warm welcome for anyone coming along. We often share lunch together.

Judith Milbourn

Accounts



St Martin's Church Sherwood

**Annual report and financial
statements of the Parochial Church
Council for the year ended
31st December 2023**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Church wardens *G. H. H. H.* *S. H. H.*

Vicar *Sue Pendergue*

**ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

Reference and administrative details

Charity number:	1153828																						
Address:	Trevose Gardens Sherwood Nottingham																						
Trustees serving during the year were:																							
Associate Minister:	Rev S Pendenque																						
Licensed Lay Ministers:	Mrs L Cohen Mr G Hickson																						
Church Wardens:	Mr C Morris Mrs S Estella																						
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Rev Sue Pendenque Mrs L Cohen																						
Elected Members:	<table><tr><td>Mrs C Morris</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs H Shipston</td><td>until 2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mr J Hepworth</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs G Hepworth</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Ms P Breakwell</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs A Rogers</td><td>until 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs J Milbourn</td><td>until 2024</td></tr><tr><td>Mr C Budd</td><td>until 2024</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs E Barnabas</td><td>until 2024</td></tr><tr><td>Mr R Kitson</td><td>until 2024</td></tr><tr><td>Mrs J Day</td><td>until 2025</td></tr></table>	Mrs C Morris	until 2026	Mrs H Shipston	until 2025	Mr J Hepworth	until 2026	Mrs G Hepworth	until 2026	Ms P Breakwell	until 2026	Mrs A Rogers	until 2026	Mrs J Milbourn	until 2024	Mr C Budd	until 2024	Mrs E Barnabas	until 2024	Mr R Kitson	until 2024	Mrs J Day	until 2025
Mrs C Morris	until 2026																						
Mrs H Shipston	until 2025																						
Mr J Hepworth	until 2026																						
Mrs G Hepworth	until 2026																						
Ms P Breakwell	until 2026																						
Mrs A Rogers	until 2026																						
Mrs J Milbourn	until 2024																						
Mr C Budd	until 2024																						
Mrs E Barnabas	until 2024																						
Mr R Kitson	until 2024																						
Mrs J Day	until 2025																						
PCC Secretary:	Mrs R Fisher-Redel																						
Treasurer:	Mr I Gordon																						
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank Plc 536 Valley Road Nottingham NG5 1JD																						
Independent Examiner:	RWB CA Limited Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ																						

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Aims and Purpose

St Martin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the financial affairs of the church, and provision and maintenance of the fabric of the Church building for worship and other activities for the benefit of the local community in and around Sherwood. The PCC complies with its duties under section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act with regard to Public Benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a statutory body and is governed by the regulations as set out in the official Church of England Church Representation Rules. This is supplemented by the Handbook for Churchwardens and parochial church councillors (revised edition 2010).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the clergy, church wardens, those elected to Deanery Synod, and other elected representatives. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 6 times during the year. The PCC operates through a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

The Standing Committee meets only when necessary - none this year.

Fabric and Finance Committee oversees the right management of those two areas, and oversees works to be done on the building. The treasurer is not a member of the PCC, but is a member of the committee.

The Worship and Discipleship Committee plans and oversees the church's worship, small groups and discipleship programmes.

The Community and Justice Committee leads on social action, partnering with other agencies for mission, and shapes our financial contributions to charities.

The Children and Young People's Committee develops the growth of young people, and oversees Sunday children's ministry, the Sunday evening youth group, Jolly Tots, Bumps to Babies, ministry in schools, and special children's services/events.

The leadership team consists of the Associate Minister (Vicar Designate from Oct 31st 2023), Church Wardens, LLMS, Children/Families Minister, and Administrator. They meet weekly (or as in the case of the Associate Minister & Church Wardens each month) to review and plan church activities, and to pray for the church.

The APCM for 2022 was held in church on April 23, 2023.

It should be noted that our Vicar Revd Bridget Baguley died on Jan 10th 2023. Consequently the church entered an interregnum period and was led collaboratively by Revd Sue Pendenque Associate Minister and Church Wardens Sue Estella & Chris Morris until Revd Sue Pendenque was appointed Vicar designate; effective from 31st October 2023 until her licensing Jan 14th 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The diocesan vision is *Growing Disciples younger, wider and deeper.*

The St Martin's Vision is *Growing and Going in the love of God.*

We intend to be: a church of all ages, transformed by the love of Christ: partnering with our local community to nurture God's kingdom of welcome, hope, and social justice, for the flourishing of our community, city and world.

Our purpose:

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to:

worship God

cultivate community

live generously

make a difference

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Objectives and Activities *continued*

The PCC is therefore committed to enabling people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, to grow as disciples, and to become active participants in the church family. We aim to equip ordinary people to live out their faith in everyday life, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning and worshipping together in a variety of settings, that we may grow together in Christ, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral care for those living in the parish, or otherwise connected to the church body: including occasional offices.
- Growing together as a community through welcome and hospitality, in small “Life Groups” and informal gatherings
- Mission and community engagement: including social groups, action with other charities and organisations working for the common good, and hiring of the church building for community use.

Achievements and performances

Overview 2023

In January 2023 our Vicar Revd. Bridget Baguley died after a period where her health declined due to secondary breast cancer. The church entered a wholly supportive period of mourning and sadness following this – we made room for our sadness, our lament through our Lent Course ‘Journey to Hope’ and through times of open church for prayer and our conversations. We continued to hold to hope even in our sadness, believing firmly in the hope of the resurrection for Bridget. Revd. Sue Pendenque together with the Church Wardens took responsibility for the overall leadership of the church as supported by the Arch Deacon for Nottingham Revd. Phil Williams. The church navigated its grief well and continued to more than function and grow. People pulled together, supported each other and worked hard to allow ministries to function and flourish. The Revd. Sue wishes to express her deep thanks for all who call St Martin’s their home and lovingly supported each other and the wider community throughout this last year, who worked so hard to keep us moving forward and to navigate through the vacancy process. She particularly thanks Chris Morris and Sue Estella, Church wardens for their unwavering care for her personally and the church and its wider community along with Lesley Cohen and Glenn Hickson (LLMs) and Revd. Alan Hargrave (retired minister) for their incredible support.

The church entered vacancy with the death of Bridget and made a decision early on to begin the process of recruiting a new Vicar as soon as was reasonable. The church and a designated team worked incredibly hard to produce a Parish Profile which was published when the advert went live in Sept 2023. Two applicants were shortlisted, however one applicant pulled out of interview with only Sue Pendenque remaining as the active candidate. Sue was interviewed and appointed as Vicar Designate Oct 31st 2023.

The church serves its community of Sherwood with love, commitment and compassion in many ways – please see sections below – younger, wider, deeper.

Easter saw many of the leadership and worship teams go down with Covid. Yet, the church continued to function. The remaining leadership team and our wonderful retired minister faithfully making it still a great occasion of joy. This year also saw us resume our Maundy Thursday fellowship meal.

TKC was led this year by Sue Estella, it was a quieter week due but of great value none the less.

The PCC grew along with the church electoral roll. Sue proudly boasts of the best PCC in the diocese and again expresses gratitude for all of their hard work with particular mention to Russell Kitson for his care for the church premises and grounds.

Building for growth was halted as Sunday morning needs are now not as pressing – many of the children have got older and are now part of the Sunday evening youth group.

Hiring of the church building has resumed during 2023 returning to pre-Covid use. Our income from this has caught up with pre-paid fees and has become a helpful source of income. We were pleased to have the church used for various choir concerts over the year again.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The PCC remains committed to our church vision “Growing and Going in the love of God” as our particular local outworking of the diocesan vision. It informs all our activities and priorities.

Growing disciples: Younger

Sunday children’s attendance is down on last year, largely due to children getting older and moving on to the evening youth group. We have seen some new families settle with us and become regular with young children.

Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies continues to grow and is known as a safe place, where support can be found and where people are welcomed.

Our Children and Families Minister worked hard to create positive contact with our local primary school – Seely. A successful Advent assembly took place in school, which was then followed by two successful *Experience Christmas* days where 4 school year-groups visited the church across the days. This led to very positive feedback from the school and new opportunities for 2024.

The youth ministry has grown, with up to 17 regulars by the end of the year. Many of these young people are not children of church members but wider contacts. It is a group which feels safe, allows the young people to be themselves and is a credit to the volunteer leaders who have worked hard to grow this ministry. And SDF4 funding has been granted for the appointment of a youth minister – who was interviewed and appointed in November 2023 with a view to starting in January 2024.

For more details on “Younger” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Wider

Our engagement with the local community has continued through social media for daily Morning Prayer, Sunday services, and children’s ministry.

We continue to stream services through Facebook (Sunday services and Morning Prayer) daily, 6 days of the week. We are grateful to the Morning Prayer team for continuing what began in lockdown and is now a daily feature for up to 10 people daily. Thanks are also due to the tech team for their continued hard work to keep the Sunday technology in all its varieties working so well.

Throughout the year Nourish has continued to serve meals for takeaway weekly, with a decision taken to stop taking meals to the local Woodthorpe flats and thus scale down and simplify the catering needs. There is now a wider team who make meals. Funding continues to come in and meals are gratefully received by many in Sherwood. Alongside this, Nourish Café has become a ‘home’ for many people who are building support networks and community through it. It is a joy to see this wider ministry which particularly serves the needs of many people who struggle with their mental health. Both Nourish and Nourish Café are a collaborative partnership between church members and people who would not necessarily call themselves Christian.

A new initiative was begun by two church members who recognized the need for space for families to be supported, have family fun and food – *Toast Club* began summer 2023– two mornings a week to come have breakfast and space to play during school holidays, Harv-Fest grew out of this – an alternative harvest celebration for local families, and also a November ‘Glow Party’ which saw upward of 100 children and adults come and enjoy space to be together in a safe environment. These events are aimed at building contacts with our local area, with a view to leading to those all-important conversations about Jesus.

Knit and Natter continues to provide a warm and welcoming space for people to meet, chat, craft together – people who might often be isolated or lonely.

The chaplaincy team continue to visit local businesses although not as regularly as they would like

Many members of the church continue to be involved in mission in various ways throughout and beyond the parish, including collections for Foodbanks.

We were pleased to partner with Sherwood Arts Week (SAW) again this year, hosting a local dance troupe and choir for performances during SAW.

We take seriously our commitment to mission beyond our local area, and are committed to financial giving to other charities. 10% of St Martin’s given income is tithed and the PCC vote on the charities to be supported each year, from nominations from the congregation.

For more details on “Wider” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Growing disciples: Wider

Our engagement with the local community has continued through social media for daily Morning Prayer, Sunday services, and children's ministry.

We continue to stream services through Facebook (Sunday services and Morning Prayer) daily, 6 days of the week. We are grateful to the Morning Prayer team for continuing what began in lockdown and is now a daily feature for up to 10 people daily. Thanks are also due to the tech team for their continued hard work to keep the Sunday technology in all its varieties working so well.

Throughout the year Nourish has continued to serve meals for takeaway weekly, with a decision taken to stop taking meals to the local Woodthorpe flats and thus scale down and simplify the catering needs. There is now a wider team who make meals. Funding continues to come in and meals are gratefully received by many in Sherwood. Alongside this, Nourish Café has become a 'home' for many people who are building support networks and community through it. It is a joy to see this wider ministry which particularly serves the needs of many people who struggle with their mental health. Both Nourish and Nourish Café are a collaborative partnership between church members and people who would not necessarily call themselves Christian.

A new initiative was begun by two church members who recognized the need for space for families to be supported, have family fun and food – *Toast Club* began summer 2023– two mornings a week to come have breakfast and space to play during school holidays, Harv-Fest grew out of this – an alternative harvest celebration for local families, and also a November 'Glow Party' which saw upward of 100 children and adults come and enjoy space to be together in a safe environment. These events are aimed at building contacts with our local area, with a view to leading to those all-important conversations about Jesus.

Knit and Natter continues to provide a warm and welcoming space for people to meet, chat, craft together – people who might often be isolated or lonely.

The chaplaincy team continue to visit local businesses although not as regularly as they would like

Many members of the church continue to be involved in mission in various ways throughout and beyond the parish, including collections for Foodbanks.

We were pleased to partner with Sherwood Arts Week (SAW) again this year, hosting a local dance troupe and choir for performances during SAW.

We take seriously our commitment to mission beyond our local area, and are committed to financial giving to other charities. 10% of St Martin's given income is tithed and the PCC vote on the charities to be supported each year, from nominations from the congregation.

For more details on "Wider" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Deeper

We continue to meet for worship, prayer and study in various ways. As for previous years that meant two morning services and a monthly Unplugged (informal contemporary worship, always lay-led), and most Life Groups. Life Group leaders meet quarterly for support, inspiration and prayer. Some people still join in online and a number of new people have joined the church this year.

The Worship team has met, and a regular pattern of worship leading for Sunday services has emerged and is working well. We remain committed to using a variety of worship styles through the month whenever possible.

St Martin's Life Groups often offer good pastoral support beyond their usual groups. Daily Morning Prayer on Facebook live has continued as a regular community of approximately 12 people, meeting every day except Sundays since the end of March 2020 and a prayer group meets regularly specifically to pray for the church, the local area and other concerns.

For more details on "Deeper" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Safeguarding

St Martin's continues to be mindful of its Safeguarding responsibilities to its congregation and the wider area of Sherwood, and there appears to be an increased awareness of issues that need reporting. Any matters that have arisen have been forwarded to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for advice when that has been necessary. The diocese have regularly supported the Parish Safeguarding Officers with online seminars and updates, and a conference was held locally last summer so that we could meet each other face to face. The Safeguarding officer's role can feel a bit isolated at times, and so it was good to share experiences and ideas. Every attempt has been made to encourage anyone with a role in the church to complete their required training modules, with some moderate success. We have a way to go!

Janet Kitson

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) checks continued to be temporarily carried out by Gill James and Sue Pendenque in 2023. A number of checks have been carried out through the year, with Judith Walker and Lesley Cohen taking over this role on a more permanent basis in the near future.

Financial Review

General Funds

The Church is dependent financially on offerings received from the congregation, donations from individuals and grants from charitable trusts.

In 2023 our income and expenditure were both broadly in line with our forecasts. Regular giving rose by 7% to just under £62K. Other income remained stable with the exception of a one off donation from an ex-parishioner of £10K.

Due to the diligence of the PCC and the Fabric and Finance committee expenditure was controlled to the extent that it was only £2K higher in total than in 2022. This was despite an increase in energy costs of £6.2K. We were able to avoid any costs for major projects in 2023 although we do expect some in 2024, particularly regarding lighting.

Restricted Funds

These are sums of money that are held on trust for a specific purpose and can only be spent for that. On 31 December 2023 we were holding £2,702 in the Nourish fund, £201 given for Families in need, and £2,281 in total for children and youth work.

Designated Funds

Other monies that have been set aside for an individual project are shown as designated under the heading of unrestricted funds. On 31 December 2023 £17,023 was held for the ongoing (until 31.12.2024) children and families ministry, £9,000 for the Youth Worker staff costs we have £6,641 left in the Building Fund, £478 was held to be used towards the next parish weekend and there is a further £1,000 put aside for Nourish.

Policy on Reserves

The policy of the Parochial Church Council is to hold a sufficient sum in reserves to cover six months of normal expenditure. On 31 December 2023 £45,000 was held in an interest bearing account to satisfy this policy.

Ian Gordon

Growing Disciples:

We will be continuing to inhabit our vision of "Growing and Going in the love of God", as we aim to grow connections with Sherwood, to nurture and welcome younger people into our community of faith, and to explore creatively what it means to be church in today's world.

Following the bereavement of Bridget, we have worked hard in connecting with each other and our community, supporting mental health, and recovering our sense of well-being and hope.

We have successfully reopened our relationship with Seely Primary School which we will continue to develop into 2024 through further visits to the school, and from the school to the church.

We will continue to develop the Nourish cafe along, providing friendship and community as much as food. This is also starting to act as a place of faith-exploration; we will continue to offer periodic faith exploration courses such as Alpha or start to enable people to further engage with faith. The Chaplaincy team will

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

continue to visit the shops and businesses on Mansfield Road to continue to spread wider and possibly invite people to join in any Start/Alpha courses.

As the agreed funding for the children / families minister ended at end of 2024 we need to either reallocate funding or source outside funding to continue this employment if we feel it is appropriate.

We look forward to taking up opportunities to engage again with events such as Sherwood Art Week and Sherwood Sponsors Refugees.

Thanks

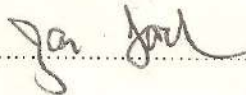
The PCC would like to thank all those who participate in so many ways to make our church a welcoming, gracious, and transformative community. The strength of our pastoral care for each other and neighbours, and our growing passion for evangelism and mission, have been very evident this year. The church community have been unfailingly supportive of the leadership team in all the decisions we have had to make. Our particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and all the PCC, who have led us prayerfully and faithfully through this extremely challenging year.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by: -

 Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

 Mr Chris Morris - Church Warden

 Mrs Sue Estella – Church Warden

 Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted funds				
	General	Designated	Restricted	2023	2022
	Fund	Funds	Funds		
RECEIPTS	£	£	£	£	£
Regular Giving	61,929	-	-	61,929	57,993
Gift Aid	14,998	-	-	14,998	13,872
Projects	-	-	7,755	7,755	9,184
Church Hire	8,280	-	-	8,280	7,685
Fees	1,858	-	-	1,858	3,340
Maintenance	3,785	-	-	3,785	-
Other	2,062	10,000	-	12,062	1,898
Interest on deposit funds	1,637	-	-	1,637	817
Total Receipts	94,549	10,000	7,755	112,304	94,789
PAYMENTS					
Parish Share	50,676	-	-	50,676	50,676
Staff Costs	7,721	-	-	7,721	5,130
Maintenance	20,307	-	1,000	21,307	17,305
Finance	4,419	-	-	4,419	5,653
Worship/ Discipleship	2,581	-	-	2,581	2,989
CYP	1,006	14,868	544	16,418	15,387
Mission	6,966	-	6,201	13,167	13,947
Projects	-	-	-	-	3,987
Pastoral	940	-	71	1,011	236
Total Payments	94,616	14,868	7,816	117,300	115,310
Net of receipts/(payments)	(67)	(4,868)	(61)	(4,996)	(20,521)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 01.01.23	36,382	38,858	5,245	80,485	101,006
Cash at bank and in hand at 31.12.23	36,315	33,990	5,184	75,489	80,485

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 01/01/2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31/12/2023 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Building fund	1,641	-	-	5,000	6,641
Building for Growth	5,000	-	-	(5,000)	-
Children's Ministry Salary	31,740	-	(14,868)	-	16,872
Gravity Course	-	-	-	-	-
Nourish	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Youth Worker Staff Costs	-	9,000	-	-	9,000
Parish Weekend	477	-	-	-	477
	38,858	10,000	(14,868)	-	33,990
General Funds	36,382	94,549	(94,616)	-	36,315
	75,240	104,549	(109,484)	-	70,305
Restricted Funds					
Appeals	-	-	-	-	-
Families in Need	272	-	(71)	-	201
Nourish	4,756	4,147	(6,201)	-	2,702
Diocesan Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Rose Window	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Oakes Trip	217	1,209	(544)	-	882
Childrens' Ministry Salary	-	1,400	-	-	1,400
	5,245	7,755	(7,816)	-	5,184
TOTAL FUNDS	80,485	112,304	(117,300)	-	75,489

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by: -

Sue Pendenque Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

Ian Gordon Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2023		2022	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Church of England Deposit Fund				
- PCC Building Funds	1,760	-	1,705	-
- Reserves Account	52,585	-	61,003	-
PCC Current Account	14,793	4,102	7,981	-
No 2 Current Account	1,167	1,082	4,550	5,246
	<u>70,305</u>	<u>5,184</u>	<u>75,239</u>	<u>5,246</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				
	<u>70,305</u>	<u>5,184</u>	<u>75,239</u>	<u>5,246</u>
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Income tax on deeds of covenant gift aid due	3,060	-	-	-
	<u>3,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
LIABILITIES				
Independent Examiner fees	768	-	744	-
	<u>768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>-</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin 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 Parochial Church Council of St. Martin's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Qualified Statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

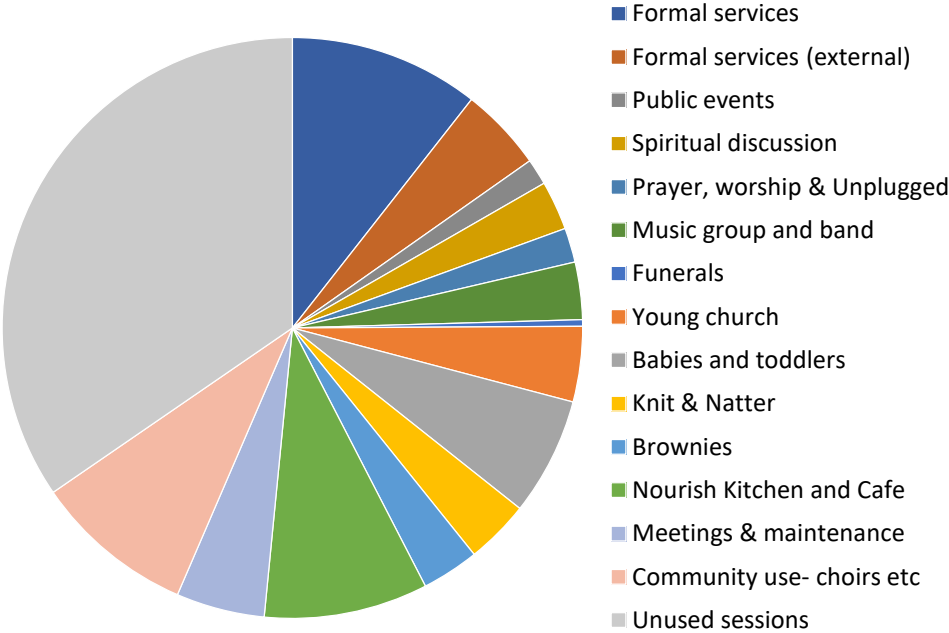
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Neil Coupland FCA DChA

Dated: 14 April 2024

**RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ**

Use of the Church Building 2023



Baptisms 2023
3

Funerals 2023
3

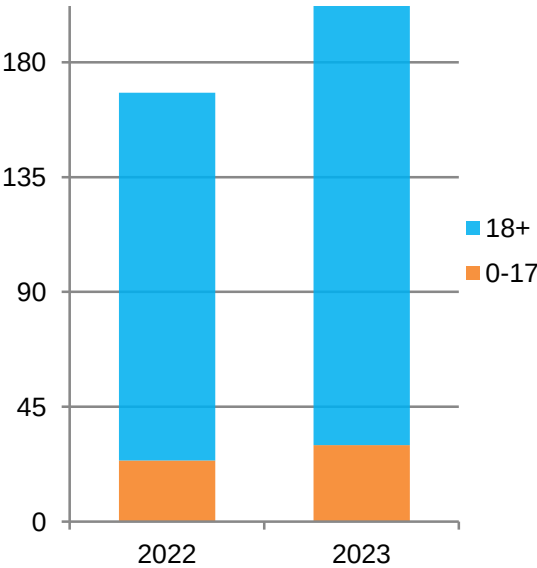
Weddings 2023
0



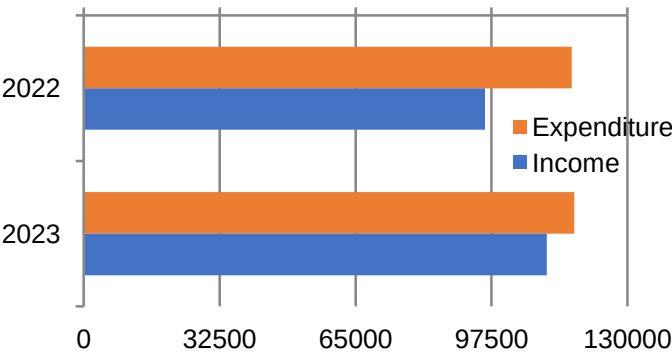
Christmas attendance
153

Easter attendance
97

Worshipping Community



Church Finances



The Electoral Roll

At the end of December 2023 the Electoral Roll stands at 102.

As at December 2022 our roll stood at 100. During the revision of the Roll in 2023, 3 people were removed and 6 added giving 103 at the 2023 APCM. Since then, we have had 2 people leave plus 1 new addition, therefore St Martin's Electoral Roll as at the end of December 2023 is 102.

Julie Day

Nottingham North Deanery APCM Report for Jan – Dec 2023

During 2023 we held three Synods:

- 7 February 2023: Renew and Refresh
Our first Synod was held at Christ Church, Cinderhill and we looked at the Deanery responses to the Diocesan consultation on renewing and refreshing its vision.
- 13 July 2023: Vocations and the Environment
This Synod was held at St Helen's in Stapleford and included the swearing in of some of our churchwardens who were unable to attend the Visitation service in Southwell.
We were joined by Craig Hunt, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations Advisor. He shared about the training pathways available in the Diocese and highlighted the resources available on the Learning Hub.
Robert Cleave, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, spoke to Synod about the diocesan commitment to become net carbon zero by 2030 and the various ways it is doing this. He also encouraged churches to work towards eco church status.
- 15 November 2023: AGM and Renew and Refresh
The meeting took place at St Martin's in Sherwood.
Tim Pullen, our area dean, updated Synod on the renewed diocesan vision that had been shared at the Diocesan conference.
Greg Cowley, the Deanery Treasurer, shared about the change in allocation of parish share in 2024 and the review taking place around allocation from 2025 onwards.
This meeting was also our AGM.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have also continued on the first Tuesday of each at Christ Church, Cinderhill.

This year we have had a number of clergy move within the Deanery and Diocese. Karen Hanford, previously at Stapleford, was licensed as Priest-in-Charge at Awsworth, Cossall and Trowell, Emmie Walford, curate in Woven, was licensed as Mission Associate Aspley St Margaret with Christ Church, Cinderhill and Anna Clarke, curate in Woven, was licensed as Pioneer Minister for Students and Young Adults at Trinity Church, Nottingham.

Peter Shaw moved from St John's Bilborough to be Team Rector at Emmanuel with St Paul Plymouth in the Diocese of Exeter.

Sadly, Bridget Baguley Vicar of Sherwood St Martin, lost her brave fight against cancer.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2023. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but we did manage to pay 85% a real achievement in such challenging times.

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen
Area Dean

John Cartwright
Lay Chair

Worship and Discipleship committee

We have maintained in person and online Sunday worship throughout 2023 this being two Sunday services weekly, plus monthly Unplugged (a contemporary worship evening). The 8.30am said Eucharist service remains consistent in form; the 10.30am service pattern has settled into pattern of more contemporary worship for the first and second Sundays, an All-Age Café service on the third week and a more traditional service (music and liturgy) for the fourth Sunday. Any Fifth Sunday is a service of the word at 10.30am.

This year we explored themes of lament and Hope through our lent course, and Generosity, Deeper Discipleship as themes for Sermon Series.

During the year we have maintained effective teams for sound and visuals, music, Bible readings, intercessions, preaching and leading. Sunday attendance is slowly creeping back up, averaging 68-70 across both services.

Communion is not yet back to pre-covid, we infuse bread with wine and offer uninfused bread and the chalice. People still do not feel confident about taking communion as we would have done pre-covid. We are discussing how to move this forward.

Discipleship happens in a number of settings: life groups, chaplaincy, Nourish, Unplugged, Alpha and Start courses, as well as the Lent course, and ad hoc conversations.

Sue Pendenque

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry is a very important part of St. Martin's Church and it has been an honour to pray and know that God has helped and comforted many with his love and healing. The aim is to provide a ministry of prayer for individuals, which is approved and overseen by the church. This is additional to the personal prayer for one another within the fellowship. A new team of about 10 people has been formed and we have held a training session. There are normally two members of the team ready to pray after the 10.30 service each Sunday. The prayer time is confidential, though if anything arises which gives rise to safeguarding concerns, then this would have to be passed on to those responsible for safeguarding. The team is led by Glenys and John Hepworth and Helena Shipston.

John & Glenys Hepworth and Helena Shipston

Lunchtime Prayer

Church members continue to meet for one hour weekly on a Wednesday morning at 11.30 a.m. Over the winter months it was decided to meet at Chrissie Morris' home where it is warmer and we share lunch. We bring our concerns before God and pray for our Church family, our neighbours, neighbourhood, country and the world. Anyone with a prayer request can contact us, or if anyone wishes to join us, they would be most welcome.

Matthew 18 vs 20

"For where two or three gather in my name there am I with them."

Judith Milbourn

Community and Justice Committee

Saint Martin's engages with community and justice issues both locally and globally in a variety of ways and this is reflected in our worship, prayers, giving and practical action. Our involvement during 2023 included the following:

Charity Giving

St Martin's continues to give 10% of its income to charity, shared between 4 "major" charities usually nominated on a 4-year cycle, and up to 4 minor charities. The major charities for 2023 were as follows: Emmanuel House receiving £1000, and Refugee Roots, Change4Change and Children in Distress each receiving £1250. The "minor" charities were Sharewear, Hope into Action, Bags of Blessing and Arimathea Trust sharing gifts totalling £1250.

Christian Aid

St Martin's hosted a Christian Aid fund raising afternoon in September including tea and cake, musical interludes, and a "mini market" with stalls. This social event was enjoyed by the community and raised over £1000 for Christian Aid.

Environment/ Climate change

A small "eco church" group has been meeting since June 2023 involving members of our congregation and a neighbour from Trevoise Gardens. The group has reviewed St Martin's relationship with our environment using A Rocha's eco church survey as a starting point. Three focus areas were agreed: Church Building and land (especially energy and carbon emissions); Waste and Recycling; and Culture, Lifestyle and Engagement. Activity has included: liaising with the Fabric and Finance Committee regarding actions to optimise our energy use and potential opportunities for grant funding (e.g. for improved cycle parking); reviewing bins and processes to support recycling; and engagement through church noticeboard and notices.

Amnesty International

members of the congregation signed around 50 physical "solidarity" cards to prisoners/ activists for justice as part of Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign during Advent 2023. Links were provided to online materials in newsnotes.

Sherwood Sponsors Refugees

The Syrian family supported by this group has now settled well in our neighbourhood. There are no current plans to sponsor another family.

Food Bank

St Martin's members continue to make donations which are much appreciated. These are usually taken to the Daybrook Trussell Trust Foodbank.

Nourish and Chaplaincy

are also an important and valued part of St Martin's work with the community (see separate reports).

Liz Cordle

PCC committee for children and young people (PCC CYP)

PCC committee for children and young people (PCC CYP)

This group takes a strategic overview of our ministry with children and young people at St Martin's. This year we agreed the following priorities:

Engaging with the community

We continue to do well in engaging with preschool children and their families through Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies, with around 70 children attending with their carers each week. A new initiative, "Toast club" has been offered during school holidays and has been a growing success. This was developed and coordinated by a member of the congregation. Also well attended and received were parties (Harv-fest and glow party), a cafe style improvised nativity, the Carol Service and Christingle'.

Good news this year is that we have renewed links with Seely School. This has included leading assemblies and hosting 300 Seely pupils at St Martin's for "Experience Christmas".

Nurturing next steps

Some of those attending our community groups have made steps in faith, bringing children for baptism and attending Sunday worship. After - group sessions offered to Jolly Tots participants on exploring faith were not taken up. However, there are informal conversations happening, which we pray will sow seeds for people to want to find out more about Jesus.

Growing discipleship

Sunday children's church and youth church are thriving. This has been enhanced by holiday clubs (with St Nic's) and youth weekends away at a Christian residential centre. Good news this year is that our bid for funding from the diocese to develop our youth work has met with success. Freddie Kofi was appointed as Youth Minister at the end of the Year.

Lesley Cohen

The Fabric and Ornaments of the church

The fabric and ornaments of the church continue to be in good order. A number of pieces of work have been completed, co-ordinated by Russell Kitson, including

- Repair of nearly 30 chairs with fraying fabric

- Replacement of part of the chancel carpet

- Electrical safety tests

- On-going maintenance of the building

Projects for 2024 being considered include

- Replacement of the building lighting

- A thorough clean and polish of our flooring

- Repair of more chairs

- Finding "new homes" for unused items accumulated over the lifetime of our church!

Chris Morris and Sue Estella

Younger

Children's and Youth Ministry

The children and youth ministry at St Martin's is going from strength to strength, supporting the faith development of our existing families and exploring ways to reach the wider community of Sherwood. Our three goals for this area of ministry are growing discipleship, engaging with the community, and nurturing next steps.

Growing discipleship

The children and youth ministry has continued to grow from last year. We have maintained our core group of children and young people and increased greatly in our number of youth. Our crèche groups and primary group runs concurrently with the 10.30 service. Our youth group is year 6 and above and it runs on a Sunday evening. We successfully applied to the diocese for funding for a youth minister to carry on the growth and the development of the youth group. The youth minister Freddie Kofi starts in the beginning of January 2024. We have a committed children's ministry and youth team, who have lead the group with great passion and care.

Following the success of our trip to Oakes, we ran an Oakes reunion with St Mark's for those children and young people who attended Oakes the previous November. The activities organised for this were photos of the previous trip, human bingo, food, Lego challenges, games, picture card, worship and Twister.

We were excited to return the Oakes Christian Centre in November 2023 for a weekend of outdoor fun and fantastic Gospel teaching. We managed to fit in *mudder* (muddy assault course) woodland high ropes, cars, crafts, chess, bouncy castle, face painting, archery, wide games, a fire alarm, worship, and teaching. We took children and young people aged 9-15 from St Martin's and a few other local churches as well as some of their school friends. The weekend was a blessing to us all as we saw friendship's grow and young people grasping a bit more of how great God's love is for them, and how they can respond to that. It was great to see so many come out of their comfort zone. Many were impacted by the faith talks, with one of the children saying what they learnt was "I learnt that God loves you no matter what and that he wants to be your friend. The Oakes leadership team encourages us with their testimonies, their joy and their care for everyone. We had loads of fun, energy, laughter and friendship. We are so thankful to everyone who supported this venture in both prayer and finances. We are already looking forward to the Oakes weekend 2024.

We also supported faith development through our collaboration with St Nic's church again, for a continuation of the Powerlab holiday club, which was run for three afternoons in the Easter holidays. The holiday club followed the same format as the last one with the faith message being delivered through science, story, cooking, physical activity, craft, film, and song. We were able to take a few members in teams to join with the St Nic's holiday club team. Several of our youth also joined with the youth team, had fun and developed their leadership skills and are looking forward to being part of the youth team again this year. We took children from our core group, fringe families and siblings of those attending our toddler and baby groups. Those children who participated in the Powerlab really enjoyed the experience and it was significant for their faith journey

Engaging with the community

We continue to run our successful toddler group on Tuesday mornings, *Jolly Tots*. The toddler group is seen as an opportunity to reach out to our community with Jesus' love. We have continued to build on its success. A big thank you to our wonderful, dedicated team for making this group possible. We are building strong community relationships, with attendance at the group remaining at 40-60 children with their parents and carers. The toddler group provides an opportunity for children to play, have a snack, listen to a story, make a craft and have a singing time, and parents/carers are able to have a space to have refreshments, spend some time with their children and get to know other parents.

Research by the Scripture union shows that 95% of under 18's in the UK, are not in church, the task of reaching them with Jesus' love is immense, but it is also an exciting opportunity to reach our community with Jesus' love. The Talking Toddlers report released in May 2020 shows that 74% of parent of all parents with children under the age of five have attended a church-run activity in the past year presenting a huge missional opportunity for the church.

We have also continued to support parents with babies through our *Bumps to Babies* group, which is aimed at 0-1 year olds, their parents and pregnant mums. This group runs on a Wednesday morning 10-11.30. Bumps to Babies continues to support local mums to adapt to their role as parents, creating a calm, safe space where mums can meet other mums and develop a community. This group meets a different need from our more hectic toddler group. We have had a number of Baptisms through the year.

We have started "Toast club" through the school holidays, initiated by Charlotte and Hope. This has been popular and helps to support families with food during school holidays and provide community. This has also led to the development of community events such as *Harv-Fest* and glow parties, which were well attended. These were fun events which allowed us to build relationships with the wider Sherwood community and get to know some families in our area.

We have also had the opportunity to renew links with Seely Primary School and had a wonderful time with our "Experience Christmas" We transformed the church to biblical times and dressed up to take 300 children through the story of Christmas. The event started with an introductory Lego video of the Christmas story after which the children divided up into groups to explore the storytelling stations. There were five story stations starting with the preparation which talked about Advent. The announcement, told the story of Mary, the promises told them about the prophecies that led to the coming of Jesus, the Journey, told the story of the Mary and Joseph's journey, the message talked about the shepherds' experience. They also enjoyed a craft and refreshment station. The focus of the Experience Christmas was to talk about Jesus as a gift to us. The children, parents and teachers enjoyed the experience and we are looking forward to storytelling and Experience Easter events in this coming year.

Other events which we ran over the Christmas period, were a fun filled Café Style Nativity, our Carol Concert with highlights including a ballet performance by one of our young people Eliana, and a interactive Christingle which involved games, making their own Christingle, an explanation of the meaning behind Christingle and singing away in a manger and Silent night. These were well attended and helped us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Nurturing next steps

Within the children's ministry and youth group we have provided lots of opportunity for faith development through Sunday groups, holiday club, Oakes and opportunities to use their gifts in the wider church. With our interactions with the community we are exploring ways to support members of these groups to make their next steps in faith. A number of the group members already have a faith and we have had informal conversations about this in group. We have found that a number of the families have brought their children for Baptism and have attended Sunday worship, but moving forward into the next year, we would like to find more stepping stones for faith for the children, youth and families we have relationships with within the community. The team is open to talking to the community about faith when the topic arises and are happy to pray with group members on request.

Gill James

Wider

Chaplaincy

We have continued to head out in twos onto Mansfield Road; popping into the businesses, saying "hi", asking how people are and offering to pray - although not as often as we would have liked. Even so, we have been warmly welcomed. We are continuing to establish good relationships. We regularly hear about genuine concerns from the people we talk to and it is an honour to be asked to pray for them.

Monday's Nourish café is flourishing, with regular numbers of around 25-30 people enjoying friendships, a warm space and a 'cuppa'. Regulars are now seeing this as a community that they can contribute to – one man continues to do gardening for us and provide beautiful planters with flowers, a regular now always arrives early to set out the tables, others provide biscuits, bring information that's helpful to our guests and so on and two women in particular have become such welcomers – their table is always full and there is mutual support, laughter and care when there are tears. New members of the Chaplaincy team have been added and are a vital part of the Nourish Café team. Many conversations about faith now take place organically during the café and prayer is asked for and received.

Sue Pendenque

Communication

Website Team During 2023

The website has been maintained without significant changes during 2023. Regular updates to information on the website are ably handled by Judith in the church office, with other team members making changes if required. We are still unable to embed recordings of our services on the website. Instead, there are clickable links that redirect to the videos on Facebook. 2024 may be the time for another full review of the website content.

Tech Team During 2023

The Tech Team provided projection (to church monitor screens) and live streaming video (to Facebook) for the main service each Sunday and for the occasional services, weddings and funerals. Live streaming via Zoom was also provided when requested.

Our new roll-top operators' desk has proved itself fit for purpose. In January 2023, the roll-top was replaced under warranty. However, it is again showing signs of damage. The shorter time required for setting up for a service leaves more time pre-service for last minute checks with musicians, readers and leaders. Operators also have time to adjust and test pre-set scenes on the camera.

The trial of keeping the projection software database and files on Cloud storage has worked well. It allows those who create the files which are needed to project the services to do so remotely from their own computers without having to come into the church.

Towards the end of the year, we gained another operator for the Tech Team. This means in a team of six there are now three who can load services to the system and five who can operate the system for services. More training will follow in 2024.

Chris Hellen

Nourish

Nourish Meals

Nourish has now been running since November 2020. Last year we stopped providing 45 meals for the flats as they decided that there was no longer a huge need, now 9 meals are collected and distributed to those still in need. We now give out an average of 70 meals a week, down from a maximum of 120. Some of the

people coming for meals are not in great need, others it is so needed. Many are lonely and benefit from the friendships made. Nourish Café is a wonderful time for many and it is great to see people thriving there. We are still providing a hot meal, homemade cake and a piece of fruit per person every week. The menu has been cut down to two different meals, Sausage and Mash and Mince Stew, Mash and Mixed Veg, Simple but enjoyable wholesome meals. Preparation, cooking and serving has been so much easier. Everything is done by volunteers, of course, although we have fewer available in the afternoon, which makes cleaning and tidying harder. Shopping and cooking is shared between more volunteers. People keep funding Nourish in a variety of ways and we are thankful for this and the generous provision of the St Martin's building and resources. We continue into 2024 with a heart to love and serve our community, always praying that many will find joy in a relationship with God and peace in a world full of trouble for some.

Nourish Café

Nourish was set up on 20th November 2020 during the Covid Pandemic lockdown.

In the early summer of 2021 we decided to provide hot drinks and biscuits outside in front of the Church for people coming to pick up the hot meals. As winter approached we wanted to serve refreshments inside the Church but we were concerned that the people would not "come in church"

We had nothing to lose and turned the back of the main Church into a 'Cafe style' with tables and comfortable chairs. The rest is history.

Now we have a very successful cafe. Anyone and everyone is welcome at Nourish Café.

Approx 12-15 core people stay until we close at 4pm but we can serve refreshments up to 20 + on any Monday 2pm - 4pm. There are attenders who actually look after one another in their own special way. They all say they love coming and it's a special part of their week and that it is a welcoming, safe, warm place to come to.

Nourish Café continues to flourish and we now are recommended by different organizations / agencies as a warm and welcoming environment. Also, some have expressed an interest in looking at faith and "who is Jesus". So in February 2024 (in line with developments within nurturing and disciplining) we are starting the Start Course.

The Lord is at work through Nourish in many ways and it's a privilege and joy to be part of it.

I am excited to know what the Lord will do next and where Nourish Café will develop from here.

Chrissie Morris & Helena Shipston

Pastoral Outreach

The Pastoral Outreach is, at present, a small team of three people who visit members of our church who are no longer able to come to church on a regular basis. This can be for reasons of ill health, long or short term, or simply because getting to church has become too difficult for them. Sometimes we make visits to church members whom we and the vicar agree are lonely and in need of more connection with St. Martins.

The visits are predominantly for friendship, prayer and occasionally for a short communion service.

We believe that it is important for all members of our congregation to feel connected to and included by their church.

Presently, we visit 5 people but will always welcome being contacted by family or friends where a need arises. Visits take place approximately every four to six weeks. We also try to visit or make contact with people in hospital or who are recuperating after an operation.

We would welcome more volunteers to our team. You may not be asked to make visits straight away but it is useful to know that there are people available to spread the load when and if a need becomes evident.

Penny Breakwell

Services at Abbeyfield

A small team of 4 people continue to enjoy sharing Morning Prayer with residents at Sandwood residential home on a monthly basis. As we meet in the day room, residents who attend have chosen to come. They are Christians who cannot access services at St Martin's without support. Our worship includes singing, prayer and reading and reflecting on God's word.

We also keep in touch with the bungalows and Larch House through Diane, the Support Worker, who lets us know of any pastoral concerns. A big group from St Martin's led a carol service at Larch House which was much appreciated. Residents fully joined in the singing.

Thanks to Sue White, Beryl Clough and Brenda Charles for faithfully leading Sandwood services and to Glenys (who played the keyboard) and all singers for the carol service. Thanks too to Emma (Activities Coordinator at Sandwood) and to Diane who make us really welcome in the Abbeyfield complex.

Lesley Cohen

Buildings, and hiring out of church premises

Presently the church has regular weekday external bookings for two choirs and an orchestra. We have continued to offer a discounted supplementary use of the main church hall where previously some groups had used the chapel. There were several evening concerts during 2023, the 53rd Nottm Brownies continued to meet each Friday night, and the Church of Pentecost UK services on Sunday afternoons continued to be well attended by their congregation.

Judith Walker

Knit & Natter

The knitting group continues to meet weekly on Monday afternoon between 2pm & 4pm. Our numbers fluctuate from week to week due to other commitments like holidays and childcare. Our members produce good quality items for local & national charities as well as working on personal projects.

During the last twelve months we have donated the following items ;

Lap blankets & twiddle muffs for Hayward House

Chocolate orange covers & chicks for Maggie's Christmas & Easter Fairs

Jumpers, hats & scarves for Share wear

Sheep for our church treasure hunt

Baby jackets for Prem babies at City Hospital

Various items for sale at the Christian Aid fundraiser

A tea cosy for the church coffee bar

I am very thankful for the generosity of our group in giving time & expertise for the benefit of the local community & beyond. New members are always welcome

Christine Baldwin

Cursillo

We at Southwell and Nottingham Anglican Cursillo have had the privilege of using St Martin's Church and its facilities for our Cursillo meetings, services, and training over the last few years.

Cursillo is an International -

'movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone.'

We are a family of Christians who love and support one another to grow deeper in our faith and search out our personal mission given by God. We have yearly spiritual pilgrim weekends, where lay people within Cursillo organise and lead pilgrims through a journey to experience the love of Jesus and be empowered in their faith.

Our next pilgrimage is 24-26 May 2024 @ Launde Abbey. We also have open meetings for those searching, as well as past pilgrims, on a regular basis. The next meeting in St Martin's church will be on 4th May 2024 beginning at 2pm until 4pm.

Helena Shipston

Deeper

Thy Kingdom Come

During the 10 days of prayer leading up to Pentecost members of St Martin's enjoyed taking part in various ways. These included an evening of listening prayer at church, the very moving Bow Down event in the Market Square, and a united gathering for worship and prayer at the Vineyard Church. Thanks also go to Liz Cordle for producing our local prayer walk guide, taking in different corners of our Parish where God is at work in nature, businesses and social activities. We look forward to getting involved again in 2024.

Sue Estella

St. Martin's Men's Group

We are pleased to report that the Men's Group is up and running again (from November 2023). There are currently 13 of us involved and who belong to our WhatsApp group. We meet every other month on a weekday evening at a local venue, or at St. Martin's on a Saturday morning, to share a meal and plan events linked to our faith and shared interests.

So far, we have visited a Christmas Tree Festival in December, and we are planning a themed county walk for after Easter. Going forward, we are organising a programme of events throughout the year that will incorporate visits to places of religious, historic, or cultural importance, guest speakers at St. Martin's and community events. One area we are keen to develop in the future is how the Men's Group can reach out into the local community as part of the church's mission to "make a difference".

Glenn Hickson

Unplugged

We continued to meet together most months on the fourth Sunday evening at 6pm to have an extended time of worship, pray and share together in a relaxed atmosphere where the gifts of the spirit are encouraged.

We are thrilled that

we have both continued to worship our Lord and to encourage and bless each other, learning to recognize what Father God has been doing in each of our lives.

Chrissie Morris

Facebook Morning Prayer

Almost 4 years on from the pandemic and we are still 'meeting daily at 9.15' on Facebook for Morning Prayer. We have a team of 6 Facebook Morning Prayer Leaders and a regular 'attendance' of between 6 and 12 people depending on the day of the week. Numbers are down on last year as parents are busier and generally not joining us, however this continues to be a ministry appreciated by those who attend. This year Helena Shipston took over the admin side, organizing the rota and our readings. Thank you Helena and the whole team.

Sue Pendenque

Contemplative Prayer

During the Summer of 2023 at St. Martin's Glenn Hickson, one of our Licenced Lay Ministers, led a short series of contemplative prayer sessions. These were held on Sunday afternoons in the side chapel with a small group of regular attenders looking for a quieter, more meditative approach to worship. Together we explored the office of Celtic Daily Prayer, "Centering" Prayer, Examen Prayer and Lectio Divina. We enjoyed being able to sit in quiet stillness, simply resting in God's presence, away from the "busy-ness" of everyday life.

Glenn Hickson

Burlington Life Group

We continue to meet at Chris and Chrissie's on Wednesdays, just doing life together, sharing, worshipping, praying, bible study, eating, drinking, laughing and crying. We are family! Some have had many challenges this past year and, I hope, have felt the love and support that being in a life group can give. 10 of us call this "our" group – not all can attend every time we meet together, so there is room for more who want to come.

Chrissie and Chris Morris

Seekers Life Group

Throughout the year we have met on a fairly regular basis, albeit it has been more difficult with Sue and Catherine both involved in house moves.

Now that they are both more or less settled we are planning a new series of fortnightly daytime meetings and seeking inspiration for study and discussion topics.

In the lead up to Christmas we looked in detail at The Lord's Prayer and we have encouraged group members to bring and present poems or readings that gave special meaning for them.

Above all we are thankful for the opportunities afforded to grow fellowship and offer support to each other.

Sue White & Catherine Lowe

Acorn Life group

We meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the home of Brenda Charles. Over the last few months we have been watching The Chosen series, which we have enjoyed and which has shone a very realistic light into the life of Jesus and his disciples. In the summer we shared a meal in the garden with the Burlington Group. We support one another in love, friendship and prayer.

Russell and Janet Kitson

Sanctuary Life Group

We meet every other Wednesday at 5pm – 6.30pm in the side chapel. We have a mix of personal support and prayer, friendship and fellowship and study/discussion to help us in our growth as disciples. We draw on materials (Bible study; books or videos) suggested by our members or St Martin's as a whole. Last year this included a sermon collection by John Bell of the Iona Community ("States of bliss and yearning") and reflections on "The art of Advent" by Jane Williams. We are very thankful to Sue Bellamy who faithfully provides refreshments on our arrival. We all enjoy sharing food and fun. We had a lovely summer visit to Newstead Abbey.

Lesley Cohen

Orchard Life Group

The Orchard Life Group continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. Our aim is to grow together as disciples and support one another through our Christian fellowship.

We meet in one another's homes where we enjoy worshipping God, reflective study, and praying together. We take turns in hosting and leading sessions and over the past year we have explored a wide range of themes including contemplative worship, the Book of Proverbs, the Psalms, Celtic Daily Prayer. and Christianity expressed through war poetry.

During Lent each year, we suspend our regular meetings as we gather in Church weekly from Ash Wednesday to Easter. We also break up for the summer at the end of July and resume in early September.

This year, the Orchard Life Group has reduced from 10 to 8 members currently, so we have the capacity to welcome others who would like to join us.

Glenn Hickson and Helena Shipston

Accounts



St Martin's Church Sherwood

**Annual report and financial
statements of the Parochial
Church Council for the year
ended 31st December 2022**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Church wardens

Associate Minister

**ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2022**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1153828
Address:	Trevose Gardens Sherwood Nottingham
Trustees serving during the year were:	
Incumbent:	Rev Bridget Baguley (Chair)
Curate:	Rev S Pendenque Made Associate Minister Aug 2022
Associate Minister:	Rev D Baguley until May 2022 (deceased June 2022)
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mrs L Cohen
Church Wardens:	Mr C Morris Mrs S Estella
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Mrs H Shipston
Elected Members:	
	Mrs C Morris until 2023
	Mrs G Hepworth until 2023
	Mr J Hepworth until 2023
	Ms R Williamson until 2023
	Ms P Breakwell until 2023
	Mrs E Barnabas until 2024
	Mr G Hickson until 2024
	Mr R Kitson until 2024
PCC Secretary:	Mrs R Fisher-Redel
Treasurer:	Mr I Gordon
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank Plc 536 Valley Road Nottingham NG5 1JD
Independent Examiner:	RWB CA Limited Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Aims and Purpose

St Martin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the financial affairs of the church, and provision and maintenance of the fabric of the Church building for worship and other activities for the benefit of the local community in and around Sherwood. The PCC complies with its duties under section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act with regard to Public Benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a statutory body and is governed by the regulations as set out in the official Church of England Church Representation Rules. This is supplemented by the Handbook for Churchwardens and parochial church Councillors (revised edition 2010).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the clergy, church wardens, those elected to Deanery Synod, and other elected representatives. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 6 times during the year. The PCC operates through a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

The Standing Committee meets only when necessary - none this year.

Fabric and Finance Committee oversees the right management of those two areas, and oversees works to be done on the building. The treasurer is not a member of the PCC, but is a member of the committee.

The Worship and Discipleship Committee plans and oversees the church's worship, small groups and discipleship programmes.

The Mission Committee's name was changed to the Community and Justice Committee this year - it leads on social action, partnering with other agencies for mission, and shapes our financial contributions to charities.

The Children and Young People's Committee develops the growth of young people, and oversees Sunday children's ministry, Jolly Tots, Bumps and Babies, ministry in schools, and special children's services/events.

The leadership team consists of the vicar, curate (who was licensed to St Martin's as an associate minister in August 2022), associate minister, church wardens, LLMs, children/families minister, and administrator. They meet weekly (or as in the case of vicar, curate and church wardens each month) to review and plan church activities, and to pray for the church.

The APCM for 2021 was held in church on April 23, 2022.

It should be noted that at the time of compiling this report our Vicar Bridget Baguley has passed away, having died on 10th January 2023. The elements of the report that previously fell to Bridget as vicar have therefore been complied by Rev Sue Pendenque (Associate Minister) and co-signed by Church Wardens Chris Morris and Sue Estella.

Objectives and Activities

The diocesan vision is *Growing Disciples younger, wider and deeper.*

The St Martin's Vision is *Growing and Going in the love of God.*

We intend to be: a church of all ages, transformed by the love of Christ: partnering with our local community to nurture God's kingdom of welcome, hope, and social justice, for the flourishing of our community, city and world.

Our purpose:

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to:
worship God
cultivate community
live generously
make a difference

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Objectives and Activities *continued*

The PCC is therefore committed to enabling people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, to grow as disciples, and to become active participants in the church family. We aim to equip ordinary people to live out their faith in everyday life, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning and worshipping together in a variety of settings, that we may grow together in Christ, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral care for those living in the parish, or otherwise connected to the church body: including occasional offices.
- Growing together as a community through welcome and hospitality, in small “Life Groups” and informal gatherings
- Mission and community engagement: including social groups, action with other charities and organisations working for the common good, and hiring of the church building for community use.

Achievements and performances

Overview 2022

We continued to navigate the uncertainty of life affected by Covid, we have been cautious but over the year have gradually lost masks (they can be worn if people prefer) and people are sitting together again, hugging, shaking hands as we continue to worship together. We have moved forwards in developing as disciples, and seen new people coming to faith in Jesus. There has been strong pastoral care and ongoing mission and evangelism engagement, with many people having mental and physical health challenges over the year.

Bridget (vicar) and Dave (associate minister) have been working at reduced capacity during the year, dealing with the impact of treatment for Bridget's secondary cancer. They have been very well cared-for and prayed-for by the church, and superbly supported by the leadership team and diocesan colleagues. In May Bridget was advised by the diocese to take some time off to recover from cancer treatments, sadly during this time Dave died unexpectedly. This was a shock and great sadness to Bridget their family and the church. Bridget had a period of good health during the summer and into the autumn, but sadly declined in the latter part of the year. The church has continued to care for her and each other through this hard and uncertain period. The diocese licensed Sue the curate as associate minister in August 2022 to enable her to stay on to support both Bridget and the church.

We continue to learn technical skills, with the purchase of live-streaming and liturgy-projection technology (final kit arrived in 2022). We have continued to be active in prayer, worship, and social action. All our Sunday services were either recorded and projected via social media, or live-streamed from a gathered service in the building. Weekly notices have been sent by email or post to all church members (and friends), and the updated website and facebook pages have provided resources and information throughout the year. The new AV system has been invaluable in streaming and recording services and music, as well as for in-person services. The sound system has been markedly better (although a little temperamental at times depending on numbers in church so it seems) since Luke Baguley worked on it with musicians and the sound tech team. We offer him our thanks.

Alpha/explorer groups, Sherwood Chaplains, and Nourish are continuing, with Nourish 'café' becoming a real connection and relationship building point for people who come to Nourish.

Building for Growth has been explored during 2022 with the possibility of purchasing a large purpose-built Garden Room to be placed on the church garden costed out. Our needs are changing in terms of space needs as we have reconfigured our Sunday set up for children and young people with the youth meeting later in the evening and we will continue to review the possibility of new space in 2023. Sherwood House of Prayer has not been further pursued.

We have continued our involvement with TKC, Sherwood Supports Refugees, City Prayer and diocesan prayer monthly prayer days. These have been less of a priority this year. We let our membership of Nottingham Citizens lapse this year but continue to have a light-touch involvement which seems to suit us better.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performances *continued*

Hiring of the church building has resumed during 2022 returning to pre-Covid use. Our income from this has caught up with pre-paid fees and has become a helpful source of income. We were pleased to have the church used for various choir concerts over the year again.

The PCC remains committed to our church vision “Growing and Going in the love of God” as our particular local outworking of the diocesan vision. It informs all our activities and priorities.

Growing disciples: Younger

As confidence grew again following Covid, we have been able to serve the children and families within the church and within the community, whilst continuing to take all appropriate precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

There has been a small growth in the number of children and youth at St Martin's, with consistent engagement in weekly Bible study and Sunday worship. Jolly Tots is very well attended with up to 50 children coming regularly along with parents and carers. Bumps and Babies is likewise thriving. There continues to be a good team for both, although more volunteers are always welcome. Three families brought babies for baptism in 2022 as a direct result of their involvement with both baby and toddler groups.

We continue to engage with Seely School albeit lightly via Nourish. The school had a new headteacher in Sept 2022 and we plan to try to further contacts with the school in 2023.

For more details on “Younger” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Wider

Our engagement with the local community has continued through social media for daily Morning Prayer, Sunday services, and children's ministry. Family and friends from across the city and further afield, and new members, are still joining in with our online events, as well as with other church's online worship and events.

We have had another explorer's course - Start - and a follow-on Christianity Explored course. This has led to several people 'belonging' to St Martin's through Nourish, Unplugged and joining homegroups.

Sherwood Chaplains team has been out regularly along Mansfield Rd visiting shops and businesses. Their visits are welcomed and they were nominated for an award via the Sherwood and Carrington award scheme.

Nourish is flourishing, consistently providing over 130 meals weekly, and growing relationships with the visitors. Our explorers groups are run in response to the growing questions and conversations had here around faith.

Many members of the church continue to be involved in mission in various ways throughout and beyond the parish, including collections for Foodbanks.

We take seriously our commitment to mission beyond our local area, and are committed to financial giving to other charities. 10% of St Martin's given income is tithed and the PCC vote on the charities to be supported each year, from nominations from the congregation.

For more details on “Wider” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Deeper

We continue to meet for worship, prayer and study in various ways. As for previous years that meant two morning services and a monthly Unplugged (informal contemporary worship, always lay-led), and most Life Groups. Some people still join in online and a number of new people have joined the church this year.

The Life Groups often offer good pastoral support beyond their usual groups. Daily Morning Prayer on Facebook live has continued as a regular community of approximately 12 people, meeting every day except Sundays since the end of March 2020. A prayer group meets regularly specifically to pray for the church, the local area and other concerns.

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performances *continued*

During Lent we used the Bible Society Bible course which was attended by around 25 people.

The music team has continued to grow, managing new technology and developing a monthly rhythm of different bands to lead us. We remain committed to using a variety of worship styles through the month whenever possible.

For more details on “Deeper” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duties for safeguarding, and we aim to promote the safety and flourishing of all who participate in our events and activities. We have a policy for safeguarding children and adults. We have a safeguarding officer, and a DBS officer.

Regular training continues to be arranged by the diocese at regular intervals to enable church members to meet the necessary requirements for their safeguarding responsibilities. This has taken place throughout the year, albeit remotely for most of that time due to COVID restrictions.

If there are any concerns regarding safeguarding or the training requirements, please either contact Janet via the information listed on the St Martin's website, or directly with Julian Hodgson Julian.Hodgson@southwell.anglican.org or his assistant Lucy Grimsey lucy.grimsey@southwell.anglican.org. We are looking for a new PSO as Janet steps down in the near future.

Janet Kitson

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) checks were temporarily being carried out by Gill James and Judith Walker, and then transferred to Sue Pendenque. A number of checks have been carried out through the year, and we continue to prioritise this as an important part of our safeguarding procedures. We are looking for someone to take over this role on a more permanent basis and hoping to hand over the overseeing of the DBS in the near future.

Financial Review

General Funds

The Church is dependent financially on offerings received from the congregation, donations from individuals and grants from charitable trusts.

In 2022 our income and expenditure were both broadly in line with our forecasts. Regular giving decreased to £57,993 due to an unavoidable reduction in regular givers. Due to the cost of living situation we took the difficult decision not to seek increases from individuals towards our general funds. We did, however, continue to approach the congregation with specific appeals for funds, in particular for the youth trip to Oakes and also for Nourish. The biggest success story has been the extensive use of our building, the hire of which raised no less than £7,685 in 2022.

Our expenditure was almost the same as in 2021 and was as forecast. This will not be sustainable in 2023 due to the very large increases in energy costs that we are currently experiencing.

Restricted Funds

These are sums of money that are held on trust for a specific purpose and can only be spent for that. On 31 December 2022 we were holding £4,757 in the Nourish fund, £272 given for Families in need, and £217 for childrens' work.

Designated Funds

Other monies that have been set aside for an individual project are shown as designated under the heading of unrestricted funds. On 31 December 2022 £31,891 was held for the ongoing (until 31.12.2024) children and families ministry, £5,000 has been put aside for the preparatory work for Building for Growth, we have £1,641 left in the Building Fund and £478 was held to be used towards the next parish weekend.

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Policy on Reserves

The policy of the Parochial Church Council is to hold a sufficient sum in reserves to cover six months of normal expenditure. On 31 December 2021 £40,000 was held in an interest bearing account to satisfy this policy.

Future Plans

Fabric/ Finance:

The planned improvement of the single-story building in the church garden, to accommodate our growing children/youth ministry, and also to be available as a community-use space (Building for Growth) has been further explored. It is felt that a new build was not viable or needed at this time, but a 'Garden Room' is still being explored as a more financially viable alternative. We will continue to explore this during 2023 and to identify funding streams.

We had quinquennial inspection in July 2021 and have carried out the many of the significant areas of work identified in that. There will be ongoing work on that as needed. We will have completed the work to shore up the rose window in case of further high winds.

To raise up a confident and skilled sound team and consolidate the music worship teams to lead and co-ordinate well together.

We intended to run a campaign to increase regular financial giving in 2022 but held off from this due to the cost of living crises nationally. The church responds generously to occasional funding needs, but regular giving has reduced this year as a few large givers have either died or moved away. We would like to shift the theology and practice from funding to giving as discipleship and will need to address this in 2023.

Growing Disciples:

We will be continuing to inhabit our vision of "Growing and Going in the love of God", as we aim to grow connections with Sherwood, to nurture and welcome younger people into our community of faith, and to explore creatively what it means to be church in today's world.

Coming out of the pandemic and following the bereavement and failing health of Bridget, we need to invest in re-connecting with each other and our community, supporting mental health, and recovering our sense of well-being and hope.

We will pursue developing our relationship with Seely School, which grew through the Nourish venture but then dropped off.

We will develop the Nourish cafe along with the Chaplains team, providing friendship and community as much as food. This is also starting to act as a place of faith-exploration; we will continue to offer periodic faith exploration courses such as Alpha or start to enable people to further engage with faith. The Chaplaincy team will continue to visit the shops and businesses on Mansfield Road to continue to spread wider and possibly invite people to join in any Start/Alpha courses.

We also hope to invite any interested parents and carers from our toddler/baby groups to an Alpha course during the summer term.

We have begun the process of application for SDF4 funding for a youth worker and will proceed with this early 2023 with the hope of recruiting a part-time youth worker later that year.

As the original funding for the children/families minister ended at end of 2022, the PCC have agreed to use some legacy money to employ the CFM until the end of 2024.

To plan for a church weekend in Sept 2023 – at home due to pressure on finances..

We look forward to taking up opportunities to engage again with events such as Sherwood Art Week and Sherwood Supports Refugees.

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Thanks

The PCC would like to thank all those who participate in so many ways to make our church a welcoming, gracious, and transformative community. The strength of our pastoral care for each other and neighbours, and our growing passion for evangelism and mission, have been very evident this year. The church community have been unfailingly supportive of the leadership team in all the decisions we have had to make. Our particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and all the PCC, who have led us prayerfully and faithfully through this extremely challenging year.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by: -

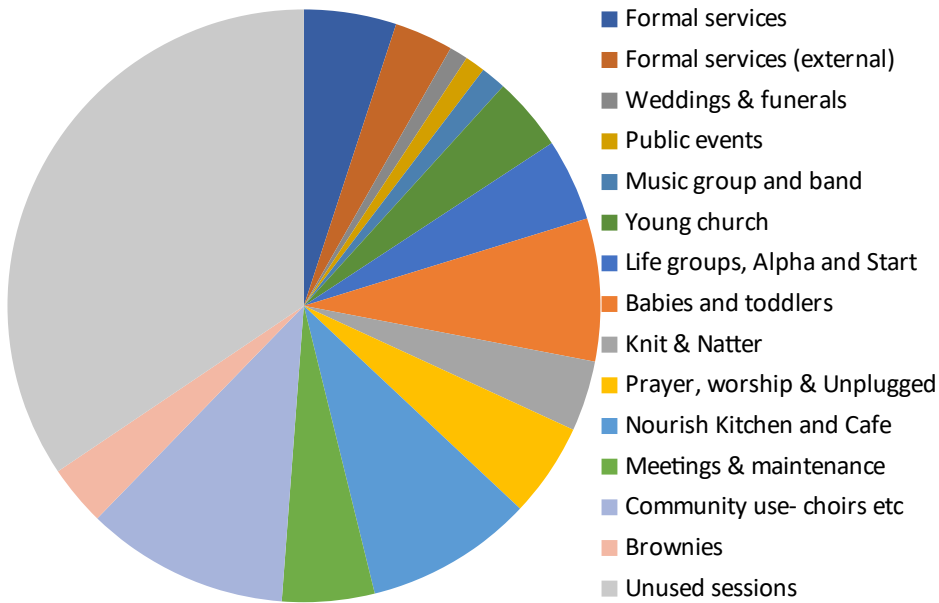
..... Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

..... Mr Chris Morris - Church Warden

..... Mrs Sue Estella – Church Warden

..... Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

Use of the Church Building 2022



Baptisms 2022

5

Funerals 2022

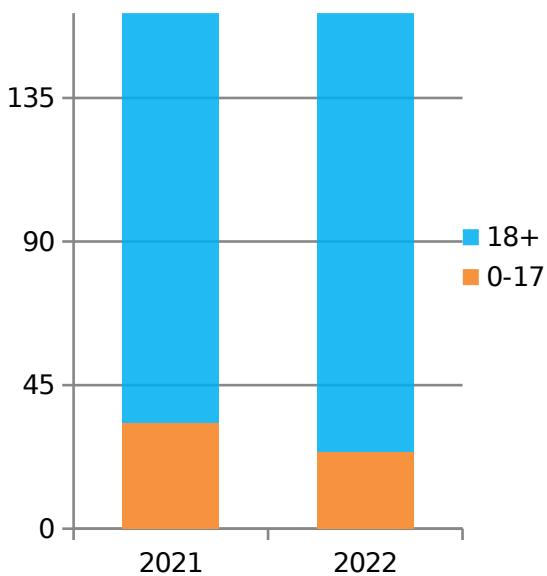
2

Weddings 2022

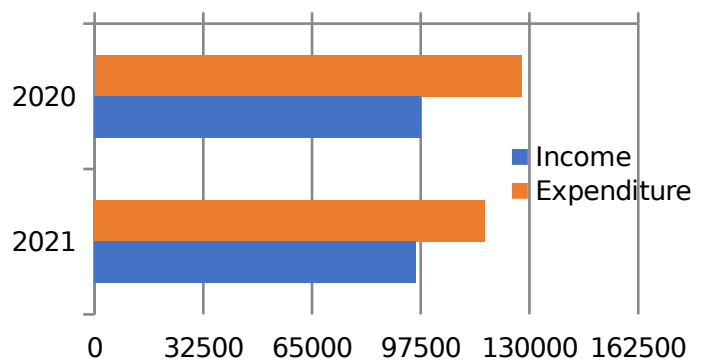
3



Worshipping Community



Church Finances



The Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll at the end of December 2022 stands at 97. Since the last APCM 1 person has been removed as they no longer attend St Martin's. In addition we also have had 3 requests which are currently pending awaiting PCC approval.

Julie Day

Nottingham North Deanery APCM Report for Jan – Dec 2022

During 2022 we held three Synods which were all in person.

- 8 February 2022: Growing Disciples Younger

Our first Synod was held at St Mary's Church, Bulwell. We were joined by Ruth Lee, the Diocesan Lead for Growing Disciples Younger and James Willis the leader of the Eden team based in Bestwood.

- 7 July 2022: Racial Diversity

This Synod was held at Bestwood Emmanuel. We had speakers from St John's Bilborough, Emmanuel and St Nic's in Nottingham who shared their experience of racial diversity in our churches and challenged us to consider the following questions:

- o How has your church performed in relation to racial diversity?
- o What action could your church take to progress the conversation around racial justice?

We also swore in our churchwardens

- 16 November 2022: AGM, Food and Fellowship

Our final Synod of the year was hosted by St John's, Bilborough who provided a delicious meal enabling us to share fellowship and to worship together. This meeting was also our AGM.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have also continued on the first Tuesday of each month initially via Zoom and then from July we were able to return to in person meetings at Christ Church, Cinderhill.

This year we welcomed Paul Savage as the new vicar at Stapleford. We also said goodbye to Jess Savill who moved to Toton, St Peter.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2022. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but we did manage to pay 88%.

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen
Area Dean

John Cartwright
Lay Chair

Worship and Discipleship committee

We have maintained in person and online Sunday worship throughout 2022 this being two Sunday services weekly, plus monthly Unplugged (a contemporary worship evening). The 8.30 said Eucharist service remains consistent in form; the 10.30 service pattern has settled into pattern of more contemporary worship for the first and second Sundays, an All-Age service on the third week and a more traditional service (music and liturgy) for the fourth Sunday with the reintroduction of the organ played by a worship team member who has learned to play this year. Any Fifth Sunday is a service of the word at 10.30. Several people who attend Unplugged have found us through Nourish - many are new enquirers.

During the year we have maintained effective teams for sound and visuals, music, Bible readings, intercessions, preaching and leading. Two trainee-LLM's entered their second year of training and were licensed in October 2022. Sunday attendance remains at about 65. The ability to sing following Covid restrictions has been joyous.

We reintroduced communion in two kinds – but infusing the bread with wine from the common cup. A new life-group was established during the year and existing ones continue. Discipleship happens in a number of settings: life groups, chaplaincy, Nourish, Unplugged, Alpha and Start courses, as well as the Lent course, and ad hoc conversations.

Sue Pendenque

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry is a very important part of St. Martin's Church. Many people have been prayed for over the last year and it has been such a joy and pleasure to be part of such a wonderful team of people. It has been an honour to pray and know that God has helped and comforted many with his love and healing.

Sheila Chiarella

Lunchtime Prayer

Church members continue to meet for one hour weekly on a Wednesday morning at 11.30 a.m. Over the winter months it was decided to meet at Chrissie Morris' home where it is warmer and we share lunch. We bring our concerns before God and pray for our Church family, our neighbours, neighbourhood, country and the world. Anyone with a prayer request can contact us, or if anyone wishes to join us, they would be most welcome.

Matthew 18 vs 20

"For where two or three gather in my name there am I with them."

Judith Milbourn

Community and Justice committee

Saint Martin's engages with community and justice issues both locally and globally in a variety of ways and this is reflected in our worship, prayers and in practical action. Our involvement during 2022 included the following:

Charity Giving – St Martin's continues to give 10% of its income to charity, shared between 4 "major" charities usually nominated on a 4-year cycle, and up to 4 minor charities. The major charities for 2022 were as follows: Framework, Refugee Roots, Change4Change and Children in Distress each receiving £1250. The "minor" charities were Sharewear, Hope into Action and Copthorne Village Community (project supporting refugee & asylum seekers) each receiving a "one off" gift of £400.

Christian Aid – In May for Christian Aid Week (and for the first time since 2019!) we held a Christian Aid service during which a collection was taken and we signed the petition for a "Loss and Damage Fund" whereby richer "polluting" nations would support poorer nations impacted by climate change. This principle was given approval in the international COP 27 Climate Conference in Autumn 2022. We enjoyed a "picnic on the park" after the service. We have not participated in wider community fund raising or found alternative approaches to replace the street collections.

Environment/ Climate change – We included celebrations of creation within our Harvest Service in September, making individual apple and/or blackberry crumbles to cook at home, using blackberries picked locally and *apples from the vicarage garden*. This proved very popular and encouraged discussions about eating local fruit in season. The Community and Justice committee would like to explore ways in which St Martin's may more actively address environmental issues and hope to consider this more in 2023.

Amnesty International – members of the congregation signed around 35- 40 physical "solidarity" cards to prisoners/ activists for justice as part of Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign during Advent 2022. Links were provided to online materials in newsnotes.

Sherwood Sponsors Refugees - In early 2022 the SSR group readied the house for the arrival of a Syrian family in March. They arrived safely, a family of 2 adults and children aged 4, 7 and 10. They were given support with accessing health care, English classes, education, benefits and job seeking. Intensive support by members of the SSR team was gradually reduced as the family settled well, the children established in schools and the family managing their lives with increasing independence. They are a lovely family and they have been grateful for the support they have received. This support will continue at a lesser frequency for another year.

The SSR group have found this a valuable experience but there are no immediate plans to sponsor another family.

Food Bank – St Martin's members continue to make donations which are much appreciated. These are usually taken to the Daybrook Trussell Trust Foodbank. The Church Newsletter regularly lists items which are in particular demand. Recently the Foodbank box has been relocated to the church foyer under the notices table.

Nottingham Citizens – The PCC decided to withdraw St Martin's formal affiliation to Nottingham Citizens after the initial trial period in 2021. Although supportive of Nottingham Citizens' work, this decision reflected St Martin's relatively low engagement with Nottingham Citizens as our resources are focused on other priorities (e.g. Nourish, Chaplaincy, Food Bank, refugees) in our community. In reviewing this decision, the Community and Justice committee reflected that as a church our activities focus on responding to need within our community ("tend"); but this might leave open a question about whether and how we might be more involved in challenging the systemic causes of need in our community and beyond ("transform")?

Nourish and Chaplaincy – are an important and valued part of our work with the community (see separate reports).

Liz Cordle

PCC committee for children and young people (PCC CYP)

This group takes a strategic overview of our ministry with children and young people at St Martin's. This year we have set the following priorities:

- engaging with families in the community;
- developing children's and young people's church on Sundays
- increasing capacity

We have enjoyed success with the first two priorities but increasing our capacity is limited by the availability of leaders and helpers from the church community. We are no longer looking to build an extra facility outside the church building but will work to optimise the space inside. We continue to work with the diocese in order to gain funding for youth ministry from the 'Strategic Development Fund'.

Lesley Cohen

The Fabric and Ornaments of the church

The fabric and ornaments of the church continue to be in good order. A number of pieces of work have been completed, co-ordinated by Russell Kitson, including

The safety work on the Rose Window, completed in December 2022, after many discussions with the diocese architect and specialists.

Normal maintenance has occurred, including the routine (PAT) testing of all electrical items.

A number of electrical improvements and repairs have taken place, including repairs to outside lighting.

The porch carpet has been replaced, following heavy staining occurring.

In 2023, two significant tasks are currently being considered:-

Some of our seating is in need of repair or replacement.

Part of the Chancel Carpet is in need of replacement.

Chris Morris and Sue Estella

Younger

Children's Ministry

We have had a year of continuity and expansion within children's and youth ministry. We maintained our core group of children and young people, within the church family and have had a number of additional families, become part of the church family. We ran a creche group and a group for 6-11 year olds in conjunction with the 10.30 service on Sundays, throughout the year. In addition to this we have continued to run a youth group on a Sunday evening, which is growing in both numbers, relational and spiritual depth. Due to the success of this group we are exploring diocesan funding to enable us to employ a youth leader, to build more capacity to explore ways of expanding our youth ministry wider and deeper.

The children and young people have had a number of opportunities to meet with Christians from other churches, which were:

- Collaboration with St Nic's holiday club Powerlab, which was three afternoons in the Easter holiday. The children enjoyed the activities and were powerfully impacted by the faith message, delivered in a number of different ways, such as through science, story, cooking, physical activity, film and song. A number of the children made a significant step forward in their faith journey through this time. We hope to continue this in the coming year. We also took young people who served on the youth leaders team.
- Trip to Oakes Christian holiday centre, with St Mark's church. We took 50 children and young people between the ages of 8 and 14 away for a weekend in November. This involved staying from Friday to Sunday night, at Oakes which is on the outskirts of Sheffield. The children had the opportunity to do a range of activities such as mudder courses, archery, zorb balls, ropes, dance, art, remote controlled cars, tunnels. The activities were run by the volunteer team of young people at the Oakes. They also had Christian teaching, bible study group, dorm time with the young adult staff team, worship and camp fire activities. We are very appreciative of the financial support given by the St Martin's church family, which allowed sponsored places for anyone needing financial support. We were pleased that all the regular members of the church of the right age group were able to join in and a number of children associated with us, also joined us for a wonderful weekend away. We are exploring future joint events together.
- Alive Night, youth worship evening with Arnold Methodist, The People's Church and the Eagle's Nest Church. We continued to take turns to host worship evenings, which involved, food, friendship, fun, teaching and worship. This was paused by the Youth Leader of the Eagle's nest church moving on from this role, but there may be opportunity to work collaboratively in the future.

We have continued to build on the success of Jolly Tots, our midweek toddler group, which runs on a Tuesday morning. We have redeveloped our amazing, dedicated team and we built strong community relationships, with an attendance of 50 + children with their accompanying parents or carers.

We have had consistent numbers at our Bumps to Babies group, which is aimed at 0-1 year old, their parents and pregnant mothers. This runs on a Wednesday morning 10-11.30. Bumps to Babies group was borne out of our desire to help our local community of mums, as they adapt to life-changing adjustment to parenting. We wanted to create a calm, safe space, where mums could come and relax and meet other mums with babies of similar ages and develop a community. We have had a constant flow of parents, as mums have usually returned to work and are quickly replaced by new people. We have grown mostly through word of mouth with no need to advertise, as numbers have consistently stayed at 15-25 people.

We have had a number of Baptisms throughout the year with a number of our children and young people choosing to have full emersion baptism and several infants being baptized. The Baptisms that we have had came from our church community or from those associated with us through Jolly Tots or baby group. It has been lovely to see those community connections building through the course of the year.

At Easter in addition to the Powerlab collaboration with St Nic's church, we had a number of events that families were invited to participate in such as Maunday Thursday service, Good Friday prayer station and an Easter Sunday All age Service.

We had a number of events available for Thy Kingdom come, which were accessible for families and participation in these was good.

Over the Christmas period, we gathered an all age cast to perform our Extravaganza performance of the Christmas story. We practiced on the Saturday and performed it on the Sunday morning. Grace Burch, wrote a wonderful script and directed the performance for us and lead the music team. We have excellent participation of a mixed age group cast and backstage team and it provided a contemporary retelling of the Christmas story.

We also celebrated Christmas eve with our annual Christingle. For the first time in several years we were able to host this performance in person in person in the church. It was a fun but meaningful event and one of my favourite moments of the entire year, was lighting the christingles and singing away in a manger and Silent night by candle light.

In addition to all the activities and events of the year, we have restyled our All Age service, to a model brought to us by our associate minister Sue Pendenque. This is a more contemporary set up where we join together with worship, start with a table game, bible readings and a short address and then get a range of options from which to choose, to explore this story further. This includes lectio divina, craft, drama, discussion and art. This service structure has been well received and we aim to continue this format on the third Sunday into the new year.

Gill James

Wider

Chaplaincy

We have continued to head out in twos onto Mansfield Rd, popping into the businesses, saying hi, asking how people are and offering to pray. We are continuing to establish good relationships – we surveyed the places we visit in 2022 asking if they wanted us to continue to visit, the response was a resounding yes. The fact that we were nominated for a Sherwood and Carrington community ward spoke volumes about how we are seen as a welcome feature within the community. We regularly hear about genuine concerns from the people we talk to and it is an honour to be asked to pray for them.

Monday's Nourish café is flourishing, with regular numbers of around 25-30 people enjoying friendships, a warm space and a 'cuppa'. Regulars are now seeing this as a community that they can contribute to – one man does gardening for us, providing beautiful planters during the year, others make drinks, provide biscuits, bring information that's helpful to our guests and so on. New members of the Chaplaincy team have been added and are a vital part of the Nourish Café team. Many conversations about faith now take place organically during the café and several people have gone on to explore faith via Start and Exploring Christianity with one man joining a life-group.

Sue Pendenque

Communication

Website Team During 2022

Following the 2021 re-styling, the website has been maintained without significant changes during 2022. Some images were altered but several still need to be updated. Regular updates to information on the website are now mostly handled by Judith in the church office, with other team members making changes if required. Owing to Facebook tightening their copyright checks, we

are no longer able to embed recordings of our services on the website. Instead, there are clickable links that redirect to the videos on Facebook.

Tech Team During 2022

The Tech Team provided projection (to church monitor screens) and live streaming video (to Facebook) for the main service each Sunday and for the occasional services, weddings and funerals. Live streaming via Zoom was also provided when requested.

Early in February we took delivery of a new roll-top operators' desk. We purchased all the remaining equipment, and this has been installed permanently in the desk. Training was provided to the team of operators and the system has been in use with only a few minor problems since then. We produced a comprehensive step-by-step document for operators to follow when setting up.

The time required for setting up for a service has been reduced considerably leaving more time pre-service for last minute checks with musicians, readers and leaders. Operators also have time to adjust and test pre-set scenes on the camera.

Later in the year the database and files used by the projection system software were moved to Cloud storage. This means that those who create the files which are needed to project the services can do so remotely from their own computers without having to come into the church.

In December, the roll-top of the new desk developed a fault. This is due to be replaced in January 2023.

Chris Hellen

Nourish

The Nourish team, a combination of friends from the wider Sherwood community including many from the Sherwood Churches, continued to provide a meal, cake and fruit on Monday afternoons. Most Mondays over 100 meals have been given to those needing a helping hand. We again have been joined by Nottingham bus charity CT4N in delivering meals to people at the flats at Woodthorpe Park and we thank all at CT4N for their help.

We are always looking for volunteers to take on the shopping, cooking and a little more responsibility with the running of Nourish.

The Nourish Café – a mixture of the people from the local community, the St Martin's Chaplaincy team and the Nourish team, continued to spend time together each Monday. Friendships have continued to deepen. My thanks to everyone who has helped prepare or cook food, donated cakes or made financial donations to cover the cost of food.

Chrissie Morris

Pastoral Outreach

Our aim is to offer pastoral care through home visits to our church family members who are unable to attend services.

We have three visitors currently myself, Christine Baldwin and Pauline Hickman. Sadly two of my people have recently died so currently I am only visiting one person. Pauline visits two people and Christine one person. Visits are made every 4 to 6 weeks.,

We all find our visits uplifting and feel that they are very beneficial both to the people we visit and to ourselves. Visiting elderly people can be a real joy and a privilege. Although they are no longer able to come to church, they have so much to offer and it is really important to take time to chat and pray with them.

If you are interested in joining the team or know of anyone who would benefit from a visit, please have a word with me. You can also contact me by phone on 01159603236 or 07734538579 or drop me an email at pennykb46@talktalk.net

Penny Breakwell

Services at Abbeyfield

The Firs Nursing Home has been beautifully re-furnished and is now designated as a residential home, Sandwood. We meet in the day area rather than the residents' lounge, which means those attending have chosen to be there. The residents who attend are committed Christians who cannot come to the church building because of physical limitations.

Services are broadly based on the Morning Prayer liturgy and include lively Biblical exploration and discussion and well known hymns/songs. We also visit and pray with residents who are unable to leave their rooms.

Services are led by Lesley and Brenda (Charles) and by Sue (White) and Beryl (Clough) in alternate months. Diane who works in the bungalows and flats keeps us informed of any pastoral concerns with residents. We were delighted this year to bring a group from St Martin's to celebrate Christmas with carols at Larch House, after two years' break due to Covid 19 risk.

Lesley Cohen

Buildings, and hiring out of church premises

In line with government Covid guidelines and our own caution we gradually relaxed the restrictions on hiring the church during 2022. We continued to offer as a courtesy supplementary use of the main church hall where previously some groups had used the chapel. Presently the church has regular weekday external bookings for two choirs and an orchestra, There were several evening concerts during 2022, the 53rd Nottm Brownies continued to meet each Friday night, and a new long term letting arrangement for Sunday afternoons was agreed with the Church of Pentecost UK - which has been a great success.

Judith Walker

Knit & Natter

It has been another busy year for us & we have knitted or crocheted for several different projects including, blankets & socks for Ukrainian families living in Nottingham, hearts, blankets & twiddle muffs for Haywood House, hats & gloves for Children in Distress Charity & holding crosses for the local care home which we provided at Easter.

We had a stand at the Sherwood Art Week in church to display our work & to encourage new members.

We have also worked on our own projects & have enjoyed sharing ideas & learning from each other.

New members always welcome.

Many thanks to all the crafter's for their contributions & fellowship.

Christine Baldwin

Kaleidoscope

It was with a heavy heart that I felt it was right to stop meeting as Kaleidoscope; our last meeting was in November. Numbers had dwindled due to a variety of reasons and ultimately only the children and one adult were enthusiastic to come. There were many positives in the year; due to the links made at Kaleidoscope, we were able to take 13 children to the holiday club at St Nics in April and then in October we took 7 children to the Oakes residential. I have had deeper conversations with some of the mums who are at various stages of a spiritual journey and I introduced a bake and pray time at my house which has seen 4 of us meet 3 times to cook food together and pray.

However, it has become increasingly clear to me that the darkness is so entrenched and trauma is such a part of people's experience and DNA even, that unless Christians join together we are not going to see real spiritual transformation amongst the marginalised in the community of Hyson Green where I live. People need to know the love of Jesus in their lives and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring true healing, repentance and transformation that will bring about lasting change and connection and so we are calling a few local churches to come together to pray and praise and seek God again for the area.

Rachel Crookston

Deeper

Thy Kingdom Come

For "Thy Kingdom Come" in 2022 we had prayer stations around the church based on different verses of the Lord's Prayer. The church was opened for prayer during several sessions. Those who prayed at the stations found it a good experience. However, few people took part. If we want to follow a similar idea in 2023 we will have to give some thought as to how to promote it better.

Lesley Cohen

Start, Christianity explored

At the beginning of 2022, we ran The Start course.....primarily for people from Nourish. About 4 people attended regularly with one or two dropping in and out. This was followed in the summer with Christianity Explored. Both courses were much appreciated. A couple of people who attended have subsequently joined small groups on a regular basis. We are hoping to start another course exploring faith some time after Easter.

Glenys Hepworth

St. Martin's Men's Company

The men's group has been on a hiatus in 2022, new activities are planned for 2023 and will be led by Glenn Hickson

Unplugged

We continued to meet together most 4th Sunday evenings at 6pm to have an extended time of worship, pray and share together in a relaxed atmosphere where the gifts of the spirit are encouraged. We are thrilled that we have continued to share words of encouragement to each other and to recognize what Father God has been doing in our lives.

Facebook Morning Prayer

During the pandemic in 2020 we moved out in person morning prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays online to streaming live via Facebook. It was quickly perceived that extending this to daily (except Sundays) would be a good idea. Almost 3 years on we are still 'meeting daily at 9.15' on Facebook. We have a team of 7 Facebook Morning Prayer Leaders and a regular 'attendance' of between 6 and 16 people depending on the day of the week. I am deeply grateful to the Facebook live team – thank you for your dedication, your joy in leading us and your faithfulness.

Sue Pendenque

Burlington Life Group

We have continued to meet together on most Wednesdays, usually at Chris and Chrissie's house. On many weeks, we have focused on the TV series "The Chosen", which tries to see how the early followers of Jesus reacted and learnt to follow Him in the time of Jesus ministry on Earth. This has led to many discussions around how we can follow Jesus today. Of course we also worship, pray and share together, supporting each other in all the challenges in our lives.

We do have room for new members.

Chrissie and Chris Morris

Redhill Life group – Now Seekers

After a short rest period, the one time 'Redhill' Group re-formed in October 2022. We are now called 'Seekers' and offer a daytime alternative, meeting at 10.30 am on Tuesdays fortnightly. We number 7 members at the moment but could squeeze in a couple more. We have had an interesting time, looking at references of 'Hope' using the Discovery Bible series recently. Our leaders are Sue White and Catherine Lowe, but each member contributes in some way, to the groups general learning experience and sense of belonging. We have had some really good discussion and value the prayerful, mutual support we find together.

Sue White and Catherine Lowe

The Acorn Life group

The Acorn Homegroup meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the home of Brenda Charles. We study a variety of materials chosen from several study guides. Most recently we discussed how we could re-examine the period of Advent, following a guide loaned to us from Bridget. In the summer we had a joint get together with the Burlington Group, very kindly hosted by Chris and Chrissie Morris, to share food and fellowship on one of the hottest Sundays of the year – great fun! We are a happy group with many years of experience between us, but we like to think that we are still children in God's eyes.

Russell and Janet Kitson

Sanctuary Life Group

We currently meet every other Wednesday at 5pm – 6.30pm in the side chapel.

We have a mix of personal support and prayer, friendship and fellowship and study/discussion to help us in our growth as disciples. We draw on materials (Bible study; books or videos) suggested by our members or St Martin's as a whole. Last year this included reflections on poetry by Christian poets; a study book on "Experiencing God"; Celtic spirituality and "A journey through Advent."

We are very thankful to Sue Bellamy who faithfully provides refreshments on our arrival.

We all enjoy sharing food and fun. We had a lovely summer visit to Attenborough Nature Reserve.

Lesley Cohen

Orchard Life Group

The Orchard Life Group continue to meet fortnightly, but we have changed the evening to Tuesday and we meet in one another's home.

We continue to enjoy worshiping God through singing, listening to music and prayer. It has been a very special addition that we now have a guitar player as a member.

Of course, we cannot forget we start with refreshments and cake.

We now have 10 members and one joined us from Nourish.

We also continue to take it in turns to lead sessions.

At the moment we are focusing our study on the Psalms and when Lent begins on 22nd February with Ash Wednesday, we will be meeting in Church on Wednesdays for a corporate study on HOPE.

With our lovely Vicar Bridget dying in January 2023 we have needed the support of one another even more.

Co-leaders Helena Shipston and Glenn Hickson.

Glenn Hickson and Helena Shipston

Accounts



St Martin's Church Sherwood

**Annual report and financial statements of
the Parochial Church Council for the year
ended 31st December 2021**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Church warden

Incumbent

**ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2021**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1153828
Address:	Trevose Gardens Sherwood Nottingham
Trustees serving during the year were:	
Incumbent:	Rev Bridget Baguley (Chair)
Curate:	Rev S Pendenque
Associate Minister:	Rev D Baguley
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mrs L Cohen
Church Wardens:	Mr C Morris Mr P Swift until Sept 2021
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Mrs H Shipston Mrs G Hepworth
Elected Members:	Mrs P Hickman until April 2021 Mr B Ford until April 2021 Mrs B Morgan until April 2021 Mrs S White until 2022 Mrs C Morris until 2023 Mr J Hepworth until 2023 Ms R Williamson until 2023 Ms P Breakwell until 2023 Mrs E Barnabas until 2024 Mr G Hickson until 2024 Mr R Kitson until 2024
PCC Secretary:	Mrs R Fisher-Redel commenced June 2021
Treasurer:	Mr I Gordon
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank Plc 536 Valley Road Nottingham NG5 1JD
Independent Examiner:	RWB CA Limited Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Aims and Purpose

St Martin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the financial affairs of the church, and provision and maintenance of the fabric of the Church building for worship and other activities for the benefit of the local community in and around Sherwood. The PCC complies with its duties under section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act with regard to Public Benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a statutory body and is governed by the regulations as set out in the official Church of England Church Representation Rules. This is supplemented by the Handbook for Churchwardens and parochial church Councillors (revised edition 2010).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the clergy, church wardens, those elected to Deanery Synod, and other elected representatives. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 6 times during the year, due to Covid, this has been both via Zoom online or in person. The PCC operates through a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life: we have mainly met online.

The Standing Committee and Finance / Fabric Committee have been separated into two. The Standing Committee meets only when necessary - none this year.

Fabric and Finance Committee oversees the right management of those two areas, and oversees works to be done on the building. The treasurer is not a member of the PCC, but is a member of the committee.

The Worship and Discipleship Committee plans and oversees the church's worship, small groups and discipleship programmes.

The Mission Committee leads on social action, partnering with other agencies for mission, and shapes our financial contributions to charities.

The Children and Young People's Committee develops the growth of young people, and oversees Sunday children's ministry, Jolly Tots, Bumps and Babies (new), ministry in schools, and special children's services/events.

The leadership team consists of the vicar, curate, associate minister, church wardens, LLMs, children/families minister, and administrator. They meet weekly to review and plan church activities, and to pray for the church.

The APCM for 2021 was held in church on April 3, 2022.

Objectives and Activities

The diocesan vision is *Growing Disciples younger, wider and deeper*.

The St Martin's Vision is *Growing and Going in the love of God*.

We intend to be: a church of all ages, transformed by the love of Christ: partnering with our local community to nurture God's kingdom of welcome, hope, and social justice, for the flourishing of our community, city and world.

Our purpose:

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to:

- worship God
- cultivate community
- live generously
- make a difference

The PCC is therefore committed to enabling people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, to grow as disciples, and to become active participants in the church family. We aim to equip ordinary people to live out their faith in everyday life, through:

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Objectives and Activities *continued*

- Worship and prayer: learning and worshipping together in a variety of settings, that we may grow together in Christ, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral care for those living in the parish, or otherwise connected to the church body: including occasional offices.
- Growing together as a community through welcome and hospitality, in small “Life Groups” and informal gatherings
- Mission and community engagement: including social groups, action with other charities and organisations working for the common good, and hiring of the church building for community use.

Achievements and performances

Overview 2021

As we continue to navigate the uncertainty of life affected by Covid, we have been cautious and continued to wear masks and keep social distance, whilst also continuing to worship together, whenever possible. We have moved forwards in developing as disciples, and seen new people coming to faith in Jesus. There has been strong pastoral care and ongoing mission and evangelism engagement, with many people having mental and physical health challenges over the year.

Bridget (vicar) and Dave have been working at reduced capacity during the year, dealing with the impact of treatment for secondary cancer. She has been very well cared-for and prayed-for by the church, and superbly supported by the leadership team and diocesan colleagues. Bridget was on a (pre-planned) Sabbatical during April/May when Sue Pendenque led the team well.

We continue to learn technical skills, with the purchase of live-streaming and liturgy-projection technology (final kit to arrive in 2022). We have continued to be active in prayer, worship, and social action. All our Sunday services were either recorded and projected via social media, or live-streamed from a gathered service in the building. Weekly notices have been sent by email or post to all church members (and friends), and the updated website and facebook pages have provided resources and information throughout the year. The new AV system has been invaluable in streaming and recording services and music, as well as for in-person services. However, we continue to struggle to find sufficient sound technicians to make best use of the system.

Alpha, Sherwood Chaplains, and Nourish are continuing, with new life groups arising from the Alpha course (see details below).

Building for Growth has been put on hold during the year, and we'll resume looking at it in 2022. Sherwood House of Prayer has been paused currently.

We have continued our involvement with TKC, Sherwood Supports Refugees, and City Prayer. These have been less of a priority this year. We have been members of Nottingham Citizens this year, but with a light-touch involvement - maybe this has not quite matched with our own gifting and passions.

Hiring of the church building was halted in March 2020, resulting in reduced income. We have taken a cautious approach to ensure maximum Coronavirus-safety. Re-hire and use of the building by groups began in the autumn. We were pleased to have one of the choirs back in to do a Christmas concert.

The PCC remains committed to our church vision “Growing and Going in the love of God” as our particular local outworking of the diocesan vision. It informs all our activities and priorities.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Achievements and performances *continued*

Growing disciples: Younger

As is the case with other areas of the church, 2021 has been another unusual year, due to Covid restrictions. We have continued to serve the children and families within the church and within the community, whilst taking all appropriate precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

There has been a small growth in the number of children and youth at St Martin's, with consistent engagement in weekly Bible study and Sunday worship in person and online. In the autumn we restarted Jolly Tots. There is a sufficient team of leaders, and an almost entirely new cohort of children and carers, this group has quickly exceeded numbers attending since before the pandemic. Bumps and Babies is a thriving new venture. Some of the children would like to be baptised, and have had to hold off on that due to Covid - safety. They are booked for early 2022.

We have partnered with Seely School to provide weekly hot meals for about 25 families, administered through the school.

For more details on "Younger" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Wider

Our engagement with the local community has continued through social media for daily Morning Prayer, Sunday services, and children's ministry. Family and friends from across the city and further afield, and new members, are still joining in with our online events, as well as with other church's online worship and events.

We have had another Alpha course, this time in person at the request of the attendees. This has led to a new life group with people deeply exploring the meaning of following Jesus.

Sherwood Chaplains team has been doing less on Mansfield Rd. Instead, they have created the Nourish Cafe, providing conversation and welcome on Mondays. They are hoping to go back to the shopping / businesses in 2022.

Nourish is flourishing, consistently providing over 100 meals weekly, and growing relationships with the visitors. Some of the visitors are joining a small group, asking about baptism, and attending Unplugged.

Through our relationship with Citizens, we have enjoyed working with students from NTU this year.

Many members of the church continue to be involved in mission in various ways throughout and beyond the parish, including collections for Foodbanks.

We take seriously our commitment to mission beyond our local area, and are committed to financial giving to other charities. 10% of St Martin's given income is tithed and the PCC vote on the charities to be supported each year, from nominations from the congregation.

For more details on "Wider" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Deeper

We continue to meet for worship, prayer and study in various ways within Covid-guidelines. By the end of the year that meant two morning services and a monthly Unplugged (informal contemporary worship, always lay-led), and most Life Groups in person. Some people still join in online and a number of new people have joined the church this year.

The Life Groups often offer good pastoral support beyond their usual groups. Daily Morning Prayer on Facebook live has grown a regular community of approximately 25 people, meeting every day except Sundays since the end of March 2020. A prayer group meets regularly specifically to pray for the church, the local area and other concerns.

During the year we invested in three Saturday study days, led by Gravity Leadership, each attended by over 25 people. During Lent Bridget taught us weekly online, on the Gravity Core Discipleship Truths.

We were sad to say goodbye to Richard our organist and previous director of music, as he moved away from Nottingham. We are thankful for his years of faithful service. However, the music team has continued to

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Achievements and performances *continued*

grow, managing new technology and developing a monthly rhythm of different bands to lead us. We remain committed to using a variety of worship styles through the month whenever possible.

For more details on “Deeper” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duties for safeguarding, and we aim to promote the safety and flourishing of all who participate in our events and activities. We have a policy for safeguarding children and adults. We have a safeguarding officer, and a DBS officer. There were two incidents that were formally reported to the diocese in 2021. Both have been resolved.

Regular training continues to be arranged by the diocese at regular intervals to enable church members to meet the necessary requirements for their safeguarding responsibilities. This has taken place throughout the year, albeit remotely for most of that time due to COVID restrictions.

If there are any concerns regarding safeguarding or the training requirements, please either contact Janet via the information listed on the St Martin's website, or directly with Julian Hodgson Julian.Hodgson@southwell.anglican.org or his assistant Lucy Grimsey lucy.grimsey@southwell.anglican.org. We are looking for a new PSO as Janet steps down in the near future.

Janet Kitson

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) checks were temporarily being carried out by Gill James and Judith Walker, and then transferred to Sue Pendenque. A number of checks have been carried out through the year, and we continue to prioritise this as an important part of our safeguarding procedures. We are looking for someone to take over this role on a more permanent basis and hoping to hand over the overseeing of the DBS in the near future.

Financial Review

General Funds

The Church is dependent financially on offerings received from the congregation, donations from individuals and grants from charitable trusts.

In 2021 our income and expenditure were both broadly in line with our forecasts. Regular giving slightly decreased to £62,703 despite an overall reduction in regular givers. The major shortfall in our income was caused by a major overhaul of the administration of our gift aid claims. For reasons outside our control, we did not receive approximately £5,000 of the rebate due to us. This will be corrected in 2022.

Our expenditure ended up at c£4.5k above forecast – all of which is explained by the remedial works carried out to comply with the quinquennial report and by the purchase of a new cooker to facilitate the move of Nourish into the church building.

We are so grateful for the continuing generosity of our Church membership without which it would be impossible to fulfill our mission and ministry. This was amply demonstrated in 2021 by the success of two specific appeals (c£1k for the rose window and c£1.5k for the new IT kit) and also the ongoing need to fund Nourish, which received over £8,000 from public donations.

Restricted Funds

These are sums of money that are held on trust for a specific purpose and can only be spent for that. On 31 December 2021 we were holding £3,822 in the new Nourish fund, £272 given for Families in need, and £1,020 for the Rose Window.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Designated Funds

Other monies that have been set aside for an individual project are shown as designated under the heading of unrestricted funds. During 2021 the PCC added some significant sums to these funds. On 31 December 2021 £45,000 was held for the ongoing (until 31.12.2024) children and families ministry, £5,000 has been put aside for the preparatory work for Building for Growth, we have £1,641 left in the Building Fund and £478 was held to be used towards the next parish weekend.

Policy on Reserves

The policy of the Parochial Church Council is to hold a sufficient sum in reserves to cover six months of normal expenditure. On 31 December 2021 £40,000 was held in an interest bearing account to satisfy this policy.

Future Plans

Fabric/ Finance:

The planned improvement of the single-story building in the church garden, to accommodate our growing children/youth ministry, and also to be available as a community-use space (Building for Growth), remained on hold due to the pandemic. We intend to resume this project during 2022. As yet we have not identified funding streams.

We had quinquennial inspection in July 2021, and have begun the significant works identified in that. There will be ongoing work on that as needed. We will continue to pursue the work to shore up the rose window in case of further high winds- that blew out one quadrant of it early in the year.

To embed the use of the new AV system, raise up a confident and skilled sound team, and consolidate the music worship teams to lead and co-ordinate well together.

We intend to run a campaign to increase regular financial giving in 2022. The church responds generously to occasional funding needs, but regular giving has reduced this year as a few large givers have either died or moved away. We would like to shift the theology and practice from funding to giving as discipleship.

Growing Disciples:

We will be continuing to inhabit our vision of "Growing and Going in the love of God", as we aim to grow connections with Sherwood, to nurture and welcome younger people into our community of faith, and to explore creatively what it means to be church in today's world.

Coming out of the pandemic, we need to invest in re-connecting with each other and our community in person, supporting mental health, and recovering our sense of well-being and hope.

We will pursue developing our relationship with Seely School, which grew through the Nourish venture but then dropped off.

We will develop the Nourish cafe along with the Chaplains team, providing friendship and community as much as food. This is also starting to act as a place of faith-exploration; we hope to grow a small Bible study group for those expressing interest. Chaplains will be evaluated to decide what direction to develop in the year ahead (aiming to engage more fully back onto Mansfield Road businesses).

Kaleidoscope will be encouraged and consolidated.

We will be applying for funding and support for a part-time youth worker to grow the youth ministry.

As the original funding for the children/families minister ends at end of 2022, the PCC have agreed to use some legacy money to employ the CFM for another year.

To plan for a church weekend away in Sept 2023.

We look forward to taking up opportunities to engage again with events such as Sherwood Art Week and Sherwood Supports Refugees.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Thanks

The PCC would like to thank all those who participate in so many ways to make our church a welcoming, gracious, and transformative community. The strength of our pastoral care for each other and neighbours, and our growing passion for evangelism and mission, have been very evident this year. The church community have been unfailingly supportive of the leadership team in all the decisions we have had to make. Our particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and all the PCC, who have led us prayerfully and faithfully through this extremely challenging year.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by: -

..... Rev. Bridget Baguley - Chair

..... Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted funds General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Regular Giving	62,703	-	-	62,703	64,157
Gift Aid	7,070	-	-	7,070	14,334
Projects	3,450	-	15,727	19,177	6,518
Church Hire	25	-	-	25	2,170
Events	-	-	-	-	100
Fees	5,441	-	-	5,441	3,688
Furlough Grant	-	-	-	-	429
Insurance Claim	195	-	-	195	5,434
Other	1,339	-	-	1,339	696
Interest on deposit funds	36	-	-	36	215
Total Receipts	80,259	-	15,727	95,986	97,741
PAYMENTS					
Parish Share	49,380	-	-	49,380	50,004
Staff Costs	6,073	-	-	6,073	6,417
Maintenance	13,679	2,698	-	16,377	18,949
Finance	6,003	-	-	6,003	6,484
Worship/ Discipleship	1,480	1,810	-	3,290	1,441
CYP	13,252	-	-	13,252	12,168
Mission	6,535	-	13,447	19,982	5,680
Projects	-	-	2,082	2,082	25,910
Pastoral	201	-	19	220	549
Total Payments	96,603	4,508	15,548	116,659	127,602
Net of receipts/(payments)	(16,344)	(4,508)	179	(20,673)	(29,861)
Transfers between funds	(957)	1,810	(853)	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 01.01.21	2,296	113,330	6,053	121,679	151,540
Cash at bank and in hand at 31.12.21	(15,005)	110,632	5,379	101,006	121,679

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	2021		2020	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
ASSETS				
Church of England Deposit Fund				
- PCC Building Funds	9,379	-	9,374	-
- Reserves Account	60,211	-	60,179	-
PCC Current Account	8,185	-	15,013	-
No 2 Current Account	17,852	5,379	31,060	6,053
TOTAL ASSETS	95,627	5,379	115,626	6,053
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Income tax on deeds of covenant gift aid due	4,890	-	939	-
LIABILITIES				
Independent Examiner fees	708	-	690	-
	708	-	690	-

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by: -

..... Rev. B Baguley - Chair

..... Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At				At
Unrestricted Funds	01/01/21	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31/12/21
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Funds					
Legacies	103,514	-	-	(45,000)	58,514
Building fund	9,339	-	(2,698)	(5,000)	1,641
Building for Growth	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Children's Ministry Salary	-	-	-	45,000	45,000
Gravity Course	-	-	(1,810)	1,810	-
Parish Weekend	478	-	-	-	478
	113,330	-	(4,508)	1,810	110,632
General Funds					
	2,296	80,259	(96,603)	(957)	(15,005)
	115,626	80,259	(101,111)	853	95,627
Restricted Funds					
Appeals	265	-	-	-	265
Families in Need	291	-	(19)	-	272
Nourish	3,997	13,272	(13,447)	-	3,822
Diocesan Grant	1,500	-	-	(1,500)	-
Rose Window	-	1,020	-	-	1,020
Audio Visual System	-	1,435	(2,082)	647	-
	6,053	15,727	(15,548)	(853)	5,379
TOTAL FUNDS					
	121,679	95,986	(116,659)	-	101,006

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the PCC 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 Parochial Church Council of St. Martin's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Qualified Statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

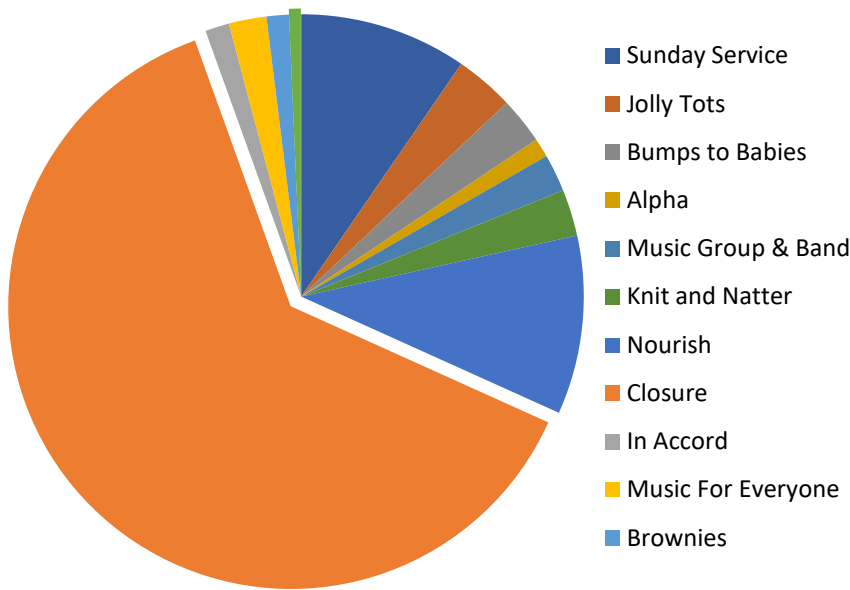
Neil Coupland FCA DChA

Dated: 20 March 2022

**RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ**

Use of the Church Building 2021

- The church was not in use until Easter Sunday -4th April 2021
- The church was not available for outside hire until Monday 6th September 2021



Baptisms 2021

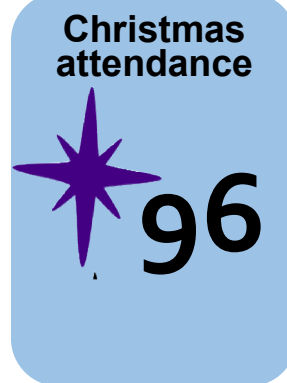
0

Funerals 2021

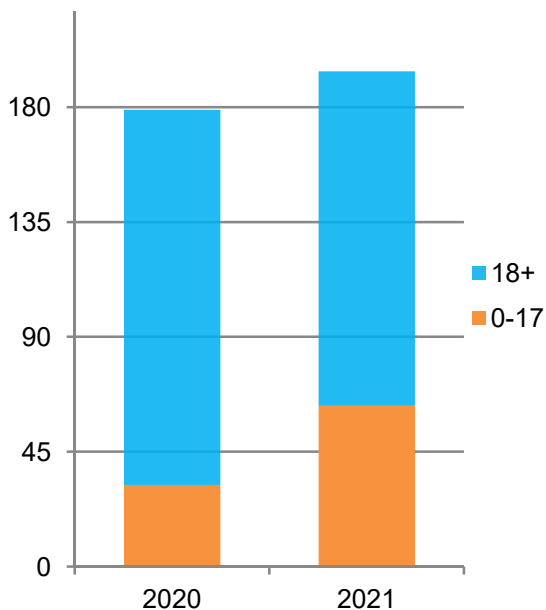
4

Weddings 2021

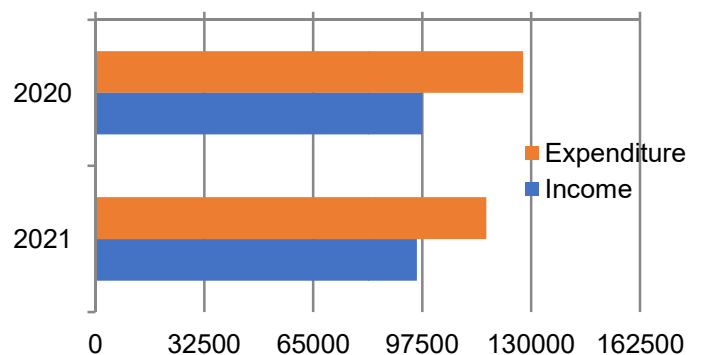
4



Worshipping Community



Church Finances



The Electoral Roll

As at 31st December 2021 St Martin's Electoral Roll stands at 95. During the year our numbers have dropped from 99 due to house moves and bereavements.

Julie Day.

Nottingham North Deanery APCM Report for Jan – Dec 2021

During 2021, as a result of COVID restrictions, we had a mix of in person, online and hybrid Synods.

Our first Synod, the first of this triennium, was online on 21st January. We admitted churchwardens and prayed and worshipped together. It was also Peter Huxtable's last Synod as Area Dean and Anne Walters' last Synod as Lay Chair.

At this Synod we also appointed our Deanery Leadership Team for the triennium:

- Ex-officio: Tim Pullen (Area Dean) and Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator)
- Lay Chairs: Sue Dunster (The Church on Rise Park) and John Cartwright (Woven St Margaret)
- Deanery Treasurer: Greg Cowley (Bestwood St Mark)
- DLT Members: Peter Shaw (Woven St John) and Anne Walters (Wollaton, St Leonard)

We held a hybrid Synod on 21st July with some members meeting at Aspley, St Margaret's and others via YouTube. Our theme was missional opportunities for our parishes and we were joined by the following speakers:

- Chris Easton (Pioneer Minister at Bestwood Park Church – Bestop Kitchen)
- Lyn Kent (Operations Manager Woven Group – Debt advice)
- Simon Gledhill (Licensed Lay Minister Broxtowe, St Martha – Foodbank)
- Sarah Fegredow (Renew Easter Regional Co-ordinator – Wellbeing)

Our final Synod of the year was held on 29th September at Stapleford, St Helen and we met wholly in person. During the evening we spent time sharing the challenges and opportunities in our parishes and praying for each other. We were also able to give Anne Walters a present to thank her for her many years as Lay Chair.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have also continued on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

We also had some other changes in leadership in the Deanery. Whilst Peter Huxtable stood down as Area Dean we were pleased he remained in the Deanery as Mission Associate at St Martha's, Broxtowe and Anne Walters also remained on the DLT after stepping down as Lay Chair. We said a fond farewell to David Gray following his retirement and to Sue Dunster who stepped down as Lay Chair at the end of December. We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2021. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but 95.8% in these difficult circumstances was fantastic! A special thank you to those parishes that paid over their allocation.

In 2022, we are looking forward to meeting and praying together in person!

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen
Area Dean

John Cartwright
Lay Chair

Worship and Discipleship committee

We have maintained online Sunday worship during lockdowns, and returned to two Sunday services weekly, plus monthly Unplugged, by the end of the year. The 8.30 said Eucharist service remains consistent in form; the 10.00 service has moved to 10.30 to allow time for music and sound set-up after the 8.30; and monthly Unplugged (a lay-led contemporary evening service), has re-started. Several people who attend Unplugged have found us through Nourish - many are new enquirers. We continue to have a monthly pattern of an all-age service once a month, a more traditional Eucharist monthly (more traditional music and liturgy), and our regular Eucharist twice monthly. A plan for Wild Church on 5th Sundays didn't happen due to over-commitment of staff team already; they are generally cafe-style and informal.

During the year we have maintained effective teams for sound and visuals, music, Bible readings, intercessions, preaching and leading. Two trainee-LLM's entered their second year of training. Sunday attendance has fallen from about 80 to about 65. For much of the year sung worship has been pre-recorded and streamed in service videos. The ability of the congregation to lift their hearts together in song has been sorely missed. We will continue to adapt in the changing circumstances and look forward to times when we can again sing to God as a whole church community.

We end the year with a new Life Group about to start, and existing ones continuing. Discipleship happens in a number of settings: life groups, chaplaincy, Nourish, Unplugged, Alpha and Start courses, as well as occasional courses like the three Gravity days and Lent course, and ad hoc conversations.

Bridget Baguley

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry was going really well just before Covid-19 happened. We were meeting regularly and about to have teaching days and training. Since then it has been difficult to maintain regular prayer after church. However, things started again regularly a couple of months ago and it has been such a pleasure to be able to offer prayer again. It has been a joy and privilege to pray and see people experience the love and peace of God.

Sheila Chiarella

Noon Prayer

Noon prayer was birthed out of Thy Kingdom Come and carried on twice a week on Zoom for about 18 months. We are now meeting in person every Wednesday morning at 11.30 for an hour in church. We pray for our church family, our country and world, there is always so much to pray for. If you have any prayer requests please let me know or if you would like to join us in prayer you would be very welcome.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Sheila Chiarella

Chaplaincy

We have continued to head out in twos onto Mansfield Rd, popping into the businesses, saying hi, asking how people are and offering to pray. We are slowly establishing good relationships – it takes time and the lockdowns and different Covid restrictions and outbreaks haven't made it easy.

In response to perceived need for people from the community and those who access Nourish, we tentatively opened up and outside 'Cafe' during Nourish on Monday's, moving inside in a Covid safe way as the weather grew colder. New members were added to the Chaplaincy team who have a particular care for those who now come regularly to have a cuppa and some cake with us on Mondays. We are beginning to see a real community grow here, some of those who come have told us, this is a life-line as they often don't see anyone from one week to another.

We will meet in February 2022 to reflect, pray and redefine our boundaries, calling and vision for the year ahead.

Sue Pendenque

Community and Justice committee

Charity Giving – St Martin's continues to give 10% of its income to charity, shared between 4 "major" charities usually nominated on a 4-year cycle, and up to 4 minor charities. The major charities for 2021 were as follows: Framework, Nottingham Citizens (for one year only included affiliation fee and donation to BetterBooks campaign), Change4Change and Children in Distress each receiving £1250. The "minor" charities were Sharewear, Host Nottingham, Broxtowe Youth and Age UK Notts, each receiving a "one off" gift of £375.

Christian Aid – In 2021 we promoted Christian Aid week online. During the year we also joined with Christian Aid campaigns – including sending "prayer boats" ahead of the COP26 conference. We hope to continue support for Christian Aid in 2022 and find alternative approaches to replace the street collections.

Environment/ Climate change – St Martin's held a Creation Day service in October reflecting on the environment. We sent messages to world leaders ahead of the COP26 Climate Change conference and a number of members, including some families, joined in the Nottingham Climate March.

Amnesty International – we sent c 40 physical "solidarity" cards to prisoners/ activists for justice and human rights and provided links for online participation as part of Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign during Advent 2021.

Nottingham Citizens – St Martin's formally affiliated to Nottingham Citizens for an initial period of 1 year in January 2021. St Martin's is supportive of Nottingham Citizens campaigns (current poverty/living wage campaign, mental health and isolation and Racism). However our active engagement is relatively low, as resources are focused on other priorities within our community.

Sherwood Sponsors Refugees - has completed planning and fundraising and have a house in New Basford that has been prepared for a family. The family are expected to arrive in Spring 2022. The group will then coordinate and provide support to the family and help them settle and make their home here. (St Martin's contact: Lesley Cohen).

Food Bank – St Martin's continues to donate generously to local food banks – these donations are very much valued.

Nourish – Nourish has been serving up to c 150 free meals a week to local people in need for over a year now and is very much appreciated. It is well supported by volunteers from St Martin's, Sherwood Methodist and some other members of the local community. It is predominantly funded by donations. The Nourish café, supported particularly by the Chaplaincy team, has been welcomed and is well used.

Chaplaincy – The Chaplaincy have built strong relationships with a number of the businesses in Sherwood. They are aware that some businesses still feel vulnerable as a result of the pandemic and also of loneliness within our community.

Liz Cordle

PCC committee for children and young people (PCC CYP)

This group takes a strategic overview of our ministry with children and young people at St Martin's. This year we have set the following priorities:

- re-engaging with families in the community;
- exploring different formats for children's church
- increasing our capacity including 'Building for growth' and recruiting/supporting leaders and helpers.

Progress has been good in the first two priorities but increasing our capacity is limited by the availability of leaders and helpers from the church community.

Towards the end of the year we have committed to develop our youth ministry with the support of the diocese's investment in children and families and youth ministry, which includes financial support, training and networking.

Lesley Cohen

The Fabric and ornaments of the church

The Fabric and ornaments of the church are in good order. Within the Church of England, there is an inspection which happens every 5 years. An architect does this and provides a report to us. This inspection covered every area of the church including a drone flight to check the condition of the roof and gutters. The subsequent 19 page report listed items to address as urgent (2), necessary (15) and desirable (5) plus maintenance items to check regularly. The architect's summary report was that

"The church is well cared for and its general condition is good with very few items requiring urgent attention."

The PCC have already approved funding to carry out gutter cleaning and re-varnishing of the front door and porch windows, with other items to be addressed in the future as and when funds are made available.

Improvements to the church's external lighting have been carried out to illuminate the rear paths to aid access to the cycle racks. Following the storm damage and subsequent repair of the rose window and due to the generosity of the church members, it is envisaged that strengthening works to the leaded window will be undertaken in the spring / summer of 2022.

All of the above was excellently co-ordinated by Russell Kitson. My great thanks go to him.

Many "in person" services occurred where we separated ourselves physically from each other, but thankfully not spiritually, emotionally or in friendship terms. My hope is that nothing like this ever happens again and that 2022 sees us move forward even more as the close family that we are.

My thanks to Russell Kitson, Tony Chiarella and Paul Swift for all their support during 2021. Paul is no longer able to continue as Church Warden – very best wishes go with him in his efforts at Woodthorpe Park. I would like to thank you all for your love, support and prayers during the year – each is totally appreciated.

Chris Morris

Younger

Children's Ministry

Children's church - At the beginning of 2021 we were back into lockdown and maintained children's group online via zoom. As we emerged from lockdown and the weather improved we held children's church in a marquee in the church garden. In September, we returned to the church building. We were running the group with all ages together, due to restrictions in team and space. The children were very supportive of each other during this time and adaptable to the changing times.

The creche group aged 0-5 meet in the side chapel and the primary age group met in the office. We identified that the youth (Year 6 and above) needed to meet at a different time on a Sunday, because we did not have enough team to lead three groups at the same time, we did not have sufficient space for the groups to be separate from each other, and couldn't have longer with the youth developing them as disciples. The youth now meets on Sundays in the main church building between 6-7.30. The youth group has been a great success with a core membership of 11 young people and a few occasional guests.

Jolly Tots- In 2020, we had stopped Jolly Tots, as a result of Covid restrictions; and started again in June 2021 with a sufficient lifting of lockdown restrictions. We recognized the challenge that this period had been for parents, and stayed open through the summer to continue to provide support for the Jolly Tots community. A number of key members of the team stepped down in this time, so part of the reopening of Jolly Tots has been the rebuilding of the team. We have now established a strong and committed team, who faithfully serve the Jolly Tots community.

Jolly Tots runs on a Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 11.00. We have made certain changes to the group structure to make it safer, in the light of increased risk presented by Covid. We start with Free play with a wide array of toys suitable for all ages, drinks and snacks are available throughout the session to minimize queuing, at the end those who feel comfortable doing so gather round for songs, instruments and story time. The group had a very inclusive and caring culture and is very welcoming for newcomers. There is a strong community feel to it and both team and parents are committed to making others feel welcome and journeying together through this joyful and challenging time of our parents lives. We currently have attendance of 30-40 children.

Bumps to Babies group- As a result of conversations a number of church members had with people in the community, it was recognized that first time mums were finding this period particularly challenging. Therefore the Bumps to Babies group was borne out of our desire to help our local community of mums, as they adapt to life changing adjustment to parenting. We wanted to create a calm, safe space, where mums could come and relax and meet other mums with babies of similar ages and develop community. The Bumps to Babies group meets on Wednesdays 10.00-11.30. We regularly have 15-20 mums with their babies attending and mums are recommending the group to other mums.

Tuesday Bible Study Group - We continued our young person's Bible study group for the majority of the year. This ran on a Tuesdays at 4.00 for ages 9-13 and those involved are journeying through the book of Matthew together. This has been in person or via zoom, when regulations have prevented us meeting. The group discontinued In September the Bible study was discontinued, as the time no longer worked for a number of the young people and was replaced by the Sunday evening group.

Unusual Times- Unusual Times was a Newspaper produced by our young people, to maintain contact with the older people in church. The aim was to be a Newspaper written by the children to provide joy and love to those in the wider church community, who were maybe feeling a bit lonely or isolated during the restrictions. The enthusiasm for Unusual Times petered out once restrictions were lifted and we were able to meet more fully as a community. Those involved in the production of UT showed great talent, taking turns at being editor, writing articles, photos, brainteasers, puzzles, stories and tips. Thanks to all our incredibly gifted and thoughtful children for putting this together and living out your faith in such a positive manner. It contributed to the keeping our community spirit up whilst in lockdown.

Worship Alive-After discussion with the Eagle's Nest church, People's church and Arnold Methodist, we have worked collaboratively to put on a bi-monthly Alive night, a worship event aimed at 11-18 age group. These events include food, games, creative activities, worship, talk and opportunity for prayer ministry. We started these nights for the following reasons: to give our young people as many chances as we can to be in the presence of God, to meet other young people on their own journey of faith, to give opportunities to respond to God, to find healing and comfort, to be stirred to be who they were made to be, to find freedom, to sing songs with meaningful words, to hear talks from people other than their usual youth leaders, to worship with a bigger group so they don't feel alone in their faith. Very few of the church youth attended the sessions and we have discontinued our involvement with the project.

Connect@4- Connect@4 is a collaborative group which provided an opportunity for the young people of St Martin's community and Sherwood Methodist to join together for fun, food and faith once a month. It stopped during lockdown and due to staff changes is unlikely to re-emerge in this form. We remain open to a new form of collaborative work for the primary age group emerging in the future.

Light Party - The St Martin's parents organized a light party to give our children and young people an alternative to Halloween. It was a very successful event, with games, food and activities which focused on the light of Jesus shining in our lives.

Christingle- We had scheduled an in-person Christingle event this year, but we had to move this online due to a resurgence of infection rates. Christingle bags were prepared to enable families to join in with the service. This was a lovely time of fellowship and a welcome pause before Christmas.

Gill James

Wider

Communication

Website Team During 2021 -Following up on the decision noted in last year's annual report, a small team engaged in the task of re-styling the church website to make it visually cleaner with a contemporary style and words that tell our current story. The work was completed during the first six months of the year and the new website went live on 14th July. The changes have been well received with many positive comments. Owing to Covid restrictions it was not possible to obtain sufficient new and relevant photographs to use on the website and so this work is ongoing.

Tech Team During 2021 - At the beginning of the year, members of the team were still involved in editing video and audio contributions to provide complete pre-recorded worship services that were then made available on Facebook and the website during times when it was not possible to hold services in church.

Later in 2021, the tech team concentrated on providing projection and live streaming for services. A separate team is now responsible for operating the sound system during services.

During the year it became obvious that the hardware used by the tech team was inadequate to allow for both dependable operation and ease of use. Constant packing and unpacking were contributing to reduced lifespan and reliability of equipment. A small team was formed which engaged in thorough research and then generated proposals for a coherent system that would meet current needs and be expandable to cover any future developments. A proposal, which included a new computer, monitor, camera, peripherals and an operator's desk, was approved by the PCC in November. In the period that this report covers, the new camera has been purchased and installed. At the end of the year, network cables were installed to connect the camera and computer to the broadband hub. These items have hugely improved the quality and reliability of our live streams and have made the set up easier to use. Designs for the operator's desk were finalised and approved in December and delivery is expected early in 2022. At that time, the remainder of the new equipment will also be purchased and commissioned.

Live streaming has brought challenges around copyright of words and music, safeguarding etc. The Ministry team and others worked with the tech team to identify and prevent infringements of our licences and our duty to protect. This work continues.

The tech team began to provide more support for other services such as funerals and weddings. Live streaming has been made available for these and it is now possible to stream via Zoom using the AV system and the new camera. We have also provided some *ad hoc* training for those not on the tech team who wish to use the technical facilities. This we hope to formalise and expand in 2022.

The teething problems with the AV system encountered in 2020 continued into 2021. The company that installed the system returned to thoroughly check it for faults and problems. They also provided additional training on usage. This proved useful with many problems being solved. There is now an established team of operators who control the sound for services.

Chris Hellen

Nourish

Meals were provided every Monday during 2021, with about 130 meals per week given out, prepared by different people each week from the Church and wider Sherwood community. Financial support also came from Church members and wider Sherwood Community, helped by a grant obtained through the local authority. A significant change for Nourish occurred at the start of 2021. It was no longer possible to use the Crimson Tree building to prepare the food, so we were kindly allowed to use the St Martin's kitchen and equipment. Further equipment was obtained as necessary. We were very blessed to meet Nottingham Community Transport (CT4N), who are based in the bus garage next to Wetherspoons on Mansfield Road.

Each week they take over 40 of our meals to elderly people in the flats at Woodthorpe Park. We also partnered for a time with Seely School, who distributed meals to a number of families. Finally we partnered with St Martin's Chaplaincy team in setting up the Nourish Café, where people could stop for refreshments and a chance to build friendships. About 20 people meet up there each week. A wonderful community is developing there.

Chrissie Morris

Pastoral care (previously Cherish)

Cherish changed its name this year and is now called Pastoral Outreach. This seemed to be a clearer way of expressing what we do. Our aim is to offer pastoral care through home visits to our church family members who are unable to attend services.

The pandemic made visits very difficult and contact for a greater part of the year was by telephone. Sadly some of our team no longer felt able to undertake visits due to other commitments or for health reasons. This has meant that the numbers have shrunk to two, myself and Pauline Hickman. Visits are made every 4 to 6 weeks. At present, Pauline visits two people and I visit three. There are several church members who could benefit from visitors and the pastoral team often help out with these for which I am most grateful. We would really appreciate some more willing members to help out so that we could include more people who presently feel unable to attend services. If you could possibly help us please have a chat with either myself or Pauline. You can also contact me via the church office on 0115 6487789

Penny Breakwell

Services at Abbeyfield Residential Home

After a long gap due to COVID 19, in September we were able to start services again in The Firs Nursing Home. There is a group of committed Christians there who cannot attend church because of physical limitations. Services are broadly based on the Morning Prayer liturgy and include lively Biblical exploration and discussion and well known hymns/songs. We also visit and pray with residents who are unable to leave their rooms.

Services are led by Lesley and Brenda Charles and by Sue White and Beryl Clough in alternate months.

We met monthly up to December and hope to re-start in 2022, as soon as the home is clear of COVID 19.

Lesley Cohen

Buildings, and hiring out of church premises

In 2021 and in line with government guidelines and our own caution we gradually welcomed our previous hirers back into the church offering free use of the church garden where we placed a temporary marquee. Risk assessments were conducted and our choirs were in due course given access to the main nave where previously some had used the chapel. We instigated changes to seating to allow for safe singing in services. We welcomed a new circus "Poi" skills group in the autumn.

Knit & Natter

The knitting group has continued to be a place of friendship and mutual support, as well as producing several knitted items. We have been producing garments for Children In Distress (hats, gloves & scarves), donkeys (which we sent to the Donkey Sanctuary in Devon to sell in the shop), teddy bears (which we donated to The Visitor Centre at the Prison), socks & Chocolates for clients using the Emmanuel House Shelter, prayer cloths for Nourish clients, twiddle muffs & blankets for Haywood House (part of Nottingham City Hospital) & finally shawls which we aim to donate to the MU.

We also have a number of knitted items for Africa but we are awaiting news of when the next shipment will be.

As you can see we have been busy & are pleased with what we have achieved since we are a small group..

Christine Baldwin

Kaleidoscope; a fledgling new worshipping community

Conversation: "Rachel, my 10 year old would like to go to church with you." "That's great - why does she want to go?" "It is sad really, but she told me that she had heard that that is where people love you"

It is this conversation that was the final prompt to take action and create a safe space for women and children where we could learn about Jesus, grow in community and help each other to feel loved. There were so many barriers to my friends coming to St Martin's, not least the physical distance and so I prayed for a space in Hyson Green that we could use. The Church of God Universal is opposite my house and they have been courageous and faithful to us in providing a perfect space. St Martin's gave us their blessing and agreed to us being a satellite community. We have had 3 gatherings so far - each with a focus on Jesus, fun activities and we make food and eat together. There is now a core group of 22 local women and children and we are learning together about the power of the presence of Jesus. It is very much an act of

faith, sometimes it is chaos, but we are taking each month at a time. As we build for the Kingdom, please do pray for us.

When first designed, Kaleidoscopes were made with tiny bits of coloured glass. All of us have been broken at some time or another, some of us have even been shattered by things that have happened to us in life but, when we come together in community and focus on Jesus, by His light we are able to form something beautiful, just like a kaleidoscope.

Rachel Crookston

Deeper

Thy Kingdom Come

For Thy Kingdom Come 2021, Helena Shipston and Sue Pendenque planned in 10 days of connecting with God in prayer via a mixture of in-person and online prayer gatherings focusing on praying for our community and our own lists of 5 people who we would love to see come to know the love of Jesus. We were still exercising caution having recently re-emerged from Covid-19 lockdowns and so any in-person meetings were held in the church garden. In addition to the regular Facebook morning prayer, we also added in some live streamed evening prayer slots with a Celtic feel.

Alpha

After attempting to run Alpha online it emerged that the people who wanted to join were far more keen to meet in person which delayed us a little in starting, but we ran from May through till August with a group of 3 people. Glenys and John Hepworth have stepped up to lead our Alpha and future seekers courses and we thank them for their capable leadership here. Lesley and Sue Pendenque assisted.

Following Alpha, John and Glenys invited the Alpha group to join in with Christianity Explored, inviting in new contacts from Nourish Café, and this will run into February 2022.

We are planning to run a START course after Easter for new enquirers as those who attended last year's Alpha found it a little prescriptive and inflexible.

Sue Pendenque

St. Martin's Men's Company.

We met at The Samuel Hall on 16th September 2021 for the first time since the start of Covid 19. Just six of us but we had a short chat about the future of the Men's Company. The next and last meeting for 2021 was in church and seven members were present. We all felt that the Covid virus situation would still mean caution about meetings and decided on just three meeting dates for 2022

Phillip Potter

Unplugged

We started meeting up again in September 2021 and have been so blessed by being able to dwell in sung contemporary worship together, listening to God, prayer and fellowship. This has enabled us to bring our needs and our love to the foot of the Cross in a relaxed and unhurried atmosphere.

Unplugged is a great forum for us to serve one another and enable the team members to grow in their gifting.

We meet every 4th Sunday at 6pm.

Chrissie Morris

Burlington Life Group

Gradually in 2021 we started meeting together in person in the garden, then graduating to the house when able. It was a joy to be together again after such a long time of being physically apart.

One of the many highlights has been watching The Chosen together, a You Tube series looking at the life of some of the disciples first encounters with Jesus. It inspired us to consider and share our own meeting and following Jesus from a fresh viewpoint.

We continue to be community, doing life, praying for, encouraging and supporting one another in both the good and the very difficult times. We are looking ahead to 2022 with anticipation of all that God has for us.

Chris and Chrissie Morris

Redhill Life group

During the second year of pandemic the membership of the Redhill group reduced in numbers and the remaining participants disbanded to join other life groups.

The Acorn Life group

We continued to meet via Zoom on a regular basis during the COVID restrictions. Although this was not ideal, we joined in the Tom Wright studies together. This certainly made us sit up and listen, and captured our attention. Discussion was difficult, but we did our best!

Following the summer break, we were able to meet up in person. We had the joy of being together again, which felt like a real blessing. Although Zoom has been a wonderful way of keeping us together although distant, there is nothing quite like fellowship all in one place. We chose to follow a study series on the book of Philippians, which has so far led to some interesting discussions.

We now meet at 7.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, at the home of Brenda Charles.

Russell and Janet Kitson

Sanctuary Life Group

Our group has continued to meet throughout the year despite all the challenges posed by COVID 19. We have met on Zoom, in the church garden and in the marquee in all weathers. We have now settled to meeting every other Thursday at 5pm – 6.30pm in the side chapel.

We have a mix of personal support and prayer, friendship and fellowship and study/discussion to help us in our growth as disciples. We draw on materials (Bible study; books or videos) suggested by our members or St Martin's as a whole. Last year this included Tom Wright's book "Simply Jesus" and Pete Greig's second prayer course on unanswered prayer "God on Mute".

We also enjoy fun times together, sharing food and drink together and in summer went on a visit to White Post Farm.

Lesley Cohen

Orchard Life Group

The Orchard Life Group has 11 members, and we meet fortnightly on Wednesday evenings. Due to the size of the group, and the emphasis on social distancing during the COVID pandemic, we have decided to hold our life group sessions at St. Martin's church for the time being. We enjoy worshipping God through singing, listening to music and prayer followed by Bible study-plus coffee and cake.

This year we have trialed God's Story, a series of online lectures on the Bible by James Halstead from the Southwell and Nottingham School of Discipleship. However, this had a mixed reception from our members and the consensus was that we would prefer to take turns in leading sessions ourselves based on where we feel God is guiding us. We are looking forward to incorporating live musicianship into future sessions.

All of us in the Orchard Life Group are very much focused on the pastoral needs of its members and we always begin by checking on each other's health and well-being. When we meet, it is a time to offer prayer and support for one another, especially in times of ill health or other personal difficulties. We are a well-established group and have grown together in fellowship since we formed in 2019, so that there is a feeling of mutual trust and support. This has been particularly important in helping those of us who have struggled with the COVID crisis.

Co-leaders, Glenn and Helena are pleased with the way the Orchard Life Group has maintained its membership through this challenging time and continued to grow in discipleship despite various setbacks.

Glenn Hickson and Helena Shipston

Accounts



St Martin's Church Sherwood

**Annual report and financial statements of
the Parochial Church Council for the year
ended 31st December 2020**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Morris'.

Church warden

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon B. Bagg'.

Incumbent

ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2020

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	1153828	
Address:	Trevose Gardens Sherwood Nottingham	
Serving Trustees		
Incumbent:	Rev Bridget Baguley	
Curate:	Rev S Pendenque	
Associate Minister:	Rev D Baguley	
Licensed Lay Minister	Mrs L Cohen	
Church Wardens:	Mr C Morris Mr John Day Mr P Swift	until Oct 2020 from Oct 2020
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Mrs H Shipston Mrs L Cohen Mrs G Hepworth	until Oct 2020 from Oct 2020
Elected Members:	Mrs B Blades Mrs J Day Mrs V Wakefield Mrs P Hickman Mr B Ford Mrs B Morgan Mrs S White Mrs C Morris Mr J Hepworth Ms R Williamson Ms P Breakwell	until Oct 2020 until Oct 2020 until Oct 2020 until April 2021 until April 2021 until April 2021 until April 2022 until 2023 until 2023 until 2023 until 2023
Co-opted members:	Mr R Kitson Mrs C Morris Mr M Higgins	until 2023 until Oct 2020 until Oct 2020
Treasurer:	Mr I Gordon	
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank Plc 536 Valley Road Nottingham NG5 1JD	
Accountant:	RWB CA Limited Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Aims and Purpose

St Martin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the financial affairs of the church, and provision and maintenance of the fabric of the Church building for worship and other activities for the benefit of the local community in and around Sherwood. The PCC complies with its duties under section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act with regard to Public Benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a statutory body and is governed by the regulations as set out in the official Church of England Church Representation Rules. This is supplemented by the Handbook for Churchwardens and parochial church Councillors (revised edition 2010).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the clergy, church wardens, those elected to Deanery Synod, and other elected representatives. Members of the congregation are encouraged to join the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 6 times during the year, mainly via Zoom online. The PCC operates through a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life: again, we have met largely online.

The Standing Committee sets the agenda for PCC meetings, and in addition serves as the fabric and finance committee.

The Worship and Discipleship Committee plans and oversees the church's worship, small groups and discipleship programmes.

The Mission Committee leads on social action, partnering with other agencies for mission, and shapes our financial contributions to charities.

The Children and Young People's Committee develops the growth of young people, and oversees Sunday children's ministry, Jolly Tots, ministry in schools, and special children's services/events.

The leadership team consists of the vicar, curate, associate minister, church wardens, LLM, children/families minister, and administrator. They meet weekly to review and plan church activities, and to pray together for the church.

The APCM was held in church (with an option to join via Zoom also) on October 18th due to restrictions in place earlier in the year.

Objectives and Activities

The diocesan vision is *Growing Disciples younger, wider and deeper.*

The PCC is therefore committed to enabling people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, to grow as disciples, and to become active participants in the church family. We aim to equip ordinary people to live out their faith in practice, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning and worshipping together in a variety of settings, that we may grow together in Christ, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral care for those living in the parish, or otherwise connected to the church body, including occasional offices.
- Growing together as a community through welcome and hospitality, in small "Life Groups" and informal gatherings.
- Mission and community engagement: including social groups, action with other charities and organisations working for the common good, and hiring of the church building for community use.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Achievements and performances

Overview

This has been a year of challenge, with Covid-19 affecting all our lives and our communal activities. With the rest of the nation, we spent much of the year in lockdown, unable to meet together physically for worship, community and discipleship groups, pastoral care, or team meetings. Many of us have been shielding, staying at home most of the time; the families have been managing the rigours of home-schooling and long holidays at home; and we have all faced the mental health challenges and theological questions brought to the fore by the pandemic.

Nevertheless, it has been a year of spiritual growth and strong pastoral care. We have learned new technical skills. We have continued to be active in prayer, worship, and social action. All our Sunday services have been either pre-recorded and streamed online, or live-streamed from a gathered service in the building when possible (following all Covid-Safe guidelines). In response to the leading of the Holy Spirit we have begun new missional activities, both on-line and in person. Weekly notices have been sent by email or post to all church members (and friends), and the website and facebook pages have provided resources and information throughout the year.

New developments include Alpha online, a Sherwood Chaplaincy team, and Nourish (see details below).

A new AV system was installed, funded by donations and grants. It has been invaluable in streaming and recording services and music, as well as for in-person services. However we continue to struggle to find sufficient sound technicians and therefore to make best use of the system.

Two potential projects in the early stages of discussion and envisioning were put on pause due to the pandemic: Building for Growth - a building on the church garden mainly for increased capacity for children's ministry, but also for community use - and Sherwood House of Prayer. It may be that it turns out these work together in a new building in the future.

We have continued our involvement with TKC, Nottingham Citizens, Sherwood Supports Refugees, and City Prayer.

Hiring of the church building halted in March, resulting in reduced income. We hope to resume this as soon as possible in 2021 when restrictions are lifted. We have taken a cautious approach to ensure maximum Coronavirus-safety.

The PCC remains committed to our church vision "Growing and Going in the love of God" as our particular local outworking of the diocesan vision. It informs all our activities and priorities.

St Martin's Vision 2020: "Growing and Going in the love of God"

We intend to be: a church of all ages, transformed by the love of Christ: partnering with our local community to nurture God's kingdom of welcome, hope, and social justice, for the flourishing of our community, city and world.

Our purpose:

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to:

worship God

cultivate community

live generously

make a difference

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Growing disciples: Younger

As is the case with other areas of the church, 2020 has been an unusual year, due to Covid restrictions and lockdown. We have continued to serve the children and families within the church and within the community, whilst abiding by Covid restrictions and taking all appropriate precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone. This has meant that we have not been able to maintain some of our normal activities or have had to find an alternative means of delivery. There has consequently been a shift in how we supported the children and families at the and what we have been able to do during lockdown and the period of restrictions.

We have a relationship with Seely school, which was growing and they were looking forward to their annual church visit, to explore certain aspects of the curriculum. We were also providing school assemblies with Sue Pendenque taking a lead on this aspect of our school relationship.

For more details on “Younger” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Wider

Our engagement with the local community has increased through the use of social media for daily Morning Prayer, Sunday services, and children’s ministry, as well as through new social action ventures.

Several new people have joined our online worship and discipleship gatherings from across the city and further afield. Some friends and family members have been joining in from other countries. We have also promoted and encouraged members to join in with other church’s worship and events, online or on TV/radio.

We ran our first Alpha online, and intend to repeat this in 2021.

Our discipleship in action has led to the development of a Chaplains team. This team offers listening and prayer support to the businesses around Mansfield Rd, Sherwood.

Nourish started in November 2020, in partnership with the Crimson Tree, Sherwood Methodist Church, and other local residents. Funded initially by donations, we cook and serve a free hot meal once a week to anybody who comes. This has continued to grow exponentially into 2021, with new partnerships being developed.

Many members of the church continue to be involved in mission in various ways throughout and beyond the parish, including collections for Foodbanks.

We take seriously our commitment to mission beyond our local area, and are committed to financial giving to other charities. 10% of St Martin’s income is tithed and the PCC vote on the charities to be supported each year, from nominations from the congregation.

For more details on “Wider” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples: Deeper

We continue to meet for worship, prayer and study in various ways within Covid-guidelines. Average in-person Sunday attendance has been limited by social distancing. When able to resume in-person worship we held just one service per Sunday, dropping the 8.30 and 6pm services. However, we know that several join in online and a number of new people have joined the church this year.

Daily Morning Prayer on Facebook live has grown a regular community of approximately 25 people, meeting every day except Sundays since the end of March 2020.

A Zoom prayer group meet twice-weekly to pray for the church, the local area and other concerns.

Most Life groups have continued to meet in some form, often offering good pastoral support beyond their usual groups, and growing in discipleship through study and prayer.

During Lent, The Prayer Course on Zoom, and a film discussion group (The Greatest Showman) were well-attended.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

We see serving as a sign of spiritual growth, and we have approximately 10-15 people involved in creating each Sunday service, whether online or in person. The music team has continued to grow, managing new technology to record and broadcast songs even without congregational singing. We remain committed to using a variety of worship styles through a monthly cycle whenever possible.

For more details on "Deeper" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with its duties for safeguarding, and we aim to promote the safety and flourishing of all who participate in our events and activities. We have a policy for safeguarding children and adults. We have a safeguarding officer, and a DBS officer. There have been no safeguarding issues to report. We have completed our returns for the diocesan PCR2 process.

Safeguarding officer report –

There have been no new safeguarding concerns during this church period. Regular training continues to be arranged by the diocese at regular intervals to enable church clergy and members to meet the necessary requirements for their safeguarding responsibilities. This has taken place throughout the year, albeit remotely for most of that time due to COVID restrictions.

If there are any concerns regarding safeguarding or the training requirements, please either contact me via the information listed on the St Martin's website, or directly with Heather Rolfe, the Diocesan Safeguarding Training officer at heather.rolfe@southwell.anglican.org or 07921387797.

Janet Kitson

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Catherine Lowe has now passed on the processing of DBS checks to Gill James and Judith Walker who continue to ensure all certificates are renewed and applicants issued with necessary paperwork

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Financial Review

General Funds

The Church is dependent financially on offerings received from the congregation, donations from individuals and grants from charitable trusts.

In 2020 we spent significant funds on the installation of a new state of the art audio/visual system. Approximately half of the cost for this was provided by a single large donation from an individual member of the congregation, the remainder from the unused balance of the legacy received in 2018.

We are in our second year (of four) of employing a part-time children and families minister, funded by a very generous legacy gift, for which we are very thankful. We note that this legacy allocation will cease at the end of 2022, when the church will need to find further funds to continue this invaluable ministry.

Storm damage to the large round window in February 2020 incurred significant charges, covered by our insurance. We are awaiting further safety assessment of the other 3 panes of this window.. We continued to pay the full amount of our Parish Share (£50,000).

Despite the unavoidable closure of the Church for large periods of the year the planned giving actually increased from £54,004 in 2019 to £59,188 in 2020 although cash giving was down from £6,887 to £4,440.

Letting income has reduced from £3,385 to £2,170

We are so grateful for the continuing generosity of our Church membership without which it would be impossible to fulfill our mission and ministry.

Restricted Funds

These are sums of money that are held on trust for a specific purpose and can only be spent for that. On 31 December 2020 we were holding £3,997 in the new Nourish fund, £392 given for Families in need and a £1,500 grant from the diocesan GDF for Gravity discipleship days.

Designated Funds

Other monies that have been set aside for an *individual* project are shown as designated under the heading of unrestricted funds. On 31 December 2020 £9,339 was held under the generic Building Fund, some of which will be utilised when we get the quinquennial report in 2021 and £478 was held to be used towards the next parish weekend..

Policy on Reserves

The policy of the Parochial Church Council is to hold a sufficient sum in reserves to cover 6 months of normal expenditure.

Future Plans

Fabric/ Finance:

The idea of building a single-story facility in the church garden, to accommodate our growing children/youth ministry, which would also be available as a community-use space, was put on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Having completed ground surveys and commissioned initial architect's sketches, prior to embarking on community and church research and visioning surveys, we intend to resume this project during 2021.

We anticipate a quinquennial inspection of the building in 2021.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD
Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Growing Disciples:

We will be continuing to inhabit our vision of "Growing and Going in the love of God", as we aim to grow connections with Sherwood, to nurture and welcome younger people into our community of faith, and to explore creatively what it means to be church in today's world.

Coming out of the pandemic, we need to invest in re-connecting with each other and our community in person, supporting mental health, and recovering our sense of well-being and hope.

We will continue to pursue developing our relationship with Seely School, which has grown through the Nourish project. We hope that Nourish will develop into a community eating event, providing friendship and community as much as food.

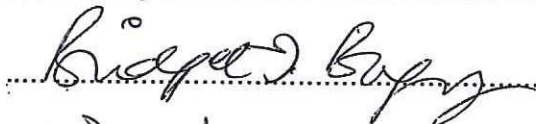
As we continue to strengthen our longstanding ministry of prayer and listening, we will reconsider how to establish a Sherwood House of Prayer.

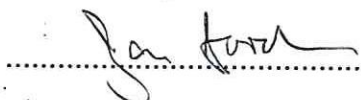
We look forward to taking up opportunities to engage again with events such as Sherwood Art Week and Sherwood Supports Refugees.

Thanks

The PCC would like to thank all those who contribute so tirelessly to make our church a lively, welcoming and gracious community. The strength of our pastoral care for each other and for neighbours has been very evident this year. The church community have been unfailingly supportive of the leadership team in all the fast-changing decisions we have had to make. Our particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and all the PCC, who have led us prayerfully and faithfully through this extremely challenging year.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by: -

 Rev. B Baguley - Chair

 Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

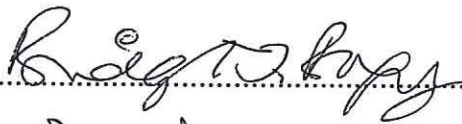
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

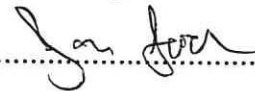
	Unrestricted funds General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Regular Giving	64,157	-	-	64,157	61,884
Gift Aid	14,334	-	-	14,334	11,411
Projects	-	-	6,518	6,518	10,550
Church Hire	2,170	-	-	2,170	3,385
Events	100	-	-	100	6,703
Fees	3,688	-	-	3,688	1,901
Furlough Grant	429	-	-	429	-
Insurance Claim	5,434	-	-	5,434	-
Other	696	-	-	696	-
Interest on deposit funds	215	-	-	215	119
Total Receipts	91,223	-	6,518	97,741	95,953
PAYMENTS					
Parish Share	50,004	-	-	50,004	46,992
Staff Costs	6,417	-	-	6,417	6,212
Maintenance	18,949	-	-	18,949	10,957
Finance	6,484	-	-	6,484	4,589
Worship/ Discipleship	1,441	-	-	1,441	7,788
CYP	12,168	-	-	12,168	12,772
Mission	4,979	-	701	5,680	4,238
Projects	-	15,559	10,351	25,910	13,008
Pastoral	376	-	173	549	106
Total Payments	100,818	15,559	11,225	127,602	106,662
Net of receipts/(payments)	(9,595)	(15,559)	(4,707)	(29,861)	(10,709)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 01.01.20	11,891	128,889	10,760	151,540	162,249
Cash at bank and in hand at 31.12.20	2,296	113,330	6,053	121,679	151,540

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	2020		2019	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £
ASSETS				
Church of England Deposit Fund				
- PCC account	15,013	-	5,153	-
- PCC 2 account	31,060	6,053	9,339	1,481
PCC current account	9,374	-	14,098	-
No 2 current account	60,179	-	121,469	-
TOTAL ASSETS	115,626	6,053	150,059	1,481
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Income tax on deeds of covenant gift aid due	939	-	1,000	-
LIABILITIES				
Independent Examiner fees	690	-	672	-
	690	-	672	-

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by: -

 Rev. B Baguley - Chair

 Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 01/01/20 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31/12/20 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Legacies	119,073	-	(15,559)	-	103,514
Building fund	9,339	-	-	-	9,339
Parish Weekend	478	-	-	-	478
	128,889	-	(15,559)	-	113,330
General Funds	11,891	91,223	(100,818)	-	2,296
	140,780	91,223	(116,377)	-	115,626
Restricted Funds					
Appeals	265	-	-	-	265
Families in Need	344	120	(173)	-	291
Nourish	-	4,698	(701)	-	3,997
Diocesan Grant	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Audio Visual System	10,151	200	(10,351)	-	-
	10,760	6,518	(11,225)	-	6,053
TOTAL FUNDS	151,540	97,741	(127,602)	-	121,679

Audio Visual Fund – The Audio Visual Fund is for installing a new audio visual system in the church.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act 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 Qualified Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Neil Coupland FCA DChA

Dated: 12/4/21

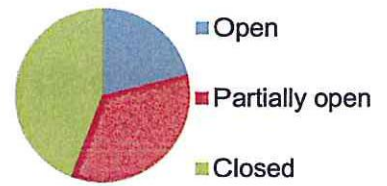
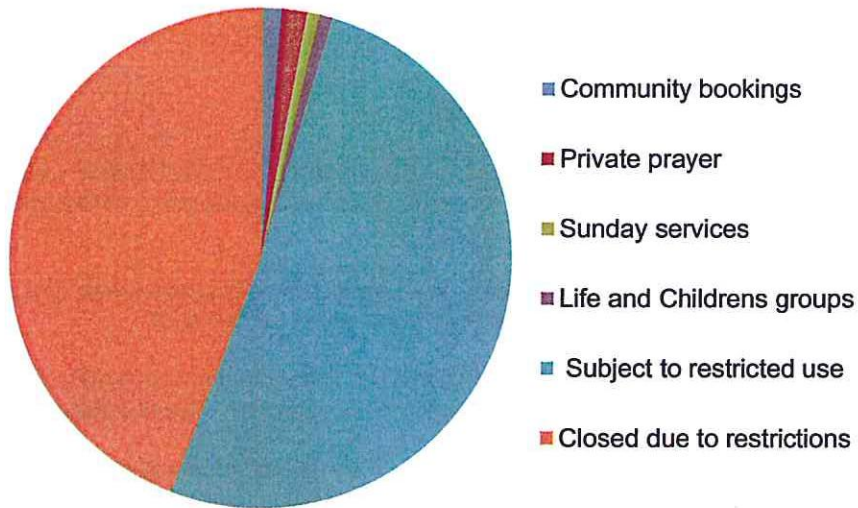
RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ

St Martins Church
Fund Analysis
Year Ended 31/12/2020

	Unrestricted funds			Designated funds			Restricted funds				Audio/ Visual System	
	Total funds	General	Total designated	Legacies	Parish Weekend	Building fund	Total restricted	Direct Appeals	Families in Need	Nourish		Diocesan Grant
Opening funds	151,539.62	11,890.67	128,889.07	119,072.61	477.40	9,339.06	10,759.88	264.90	343.99	-	-	10,150.99
Income	97,740.67	91,222.73	-	-	-	-	6,517.94	-	120.00	4,697.94	1,500.00	200.00
Expenditure	(127,601.04)	(100,817.98)	(15,558.58)	(15,558.58)	0.00	0.00	(11,224.48)	-	(172.99)	(700.50)	0.00	(10,350.99)
Transfers	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing funds	121,679.25	2,295.42	113,330.49	103,514.03	477.40	9,339.06	6,053.34	264.90	291.00	3,997.44	1,500.00	-
Per treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank accounts												
PCC current account	15,012.67	2,295.42	12,717.25	12,239.85	477.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No 2 current account	37,113.13	-	31,059.79	31,059.79	-	9,339.06	6,053.34	264.90	291.00	3,997.44	1,500.00	-
C of E PCC account	9,374.17	-	9,374.17	35.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C of E PCC 2	60,179.28	-	60,179.28	60,179.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	121,679.25	2,295.42	113,330.49	103,514.03	477.40	9,339.06	6,053.34	264.90	291.00	3,997.44	1,500.00	-

diff

Use of the Church Building



Funerals 2020

12

Weddings 2020

1

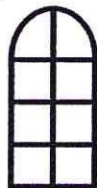
Sunday
Ministry teams

35



Usual Sunday
Attendance

54



Life Group
members

47



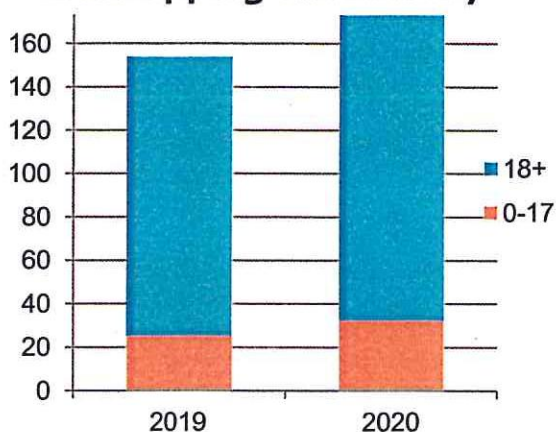
Christmas
Services
attendance

54

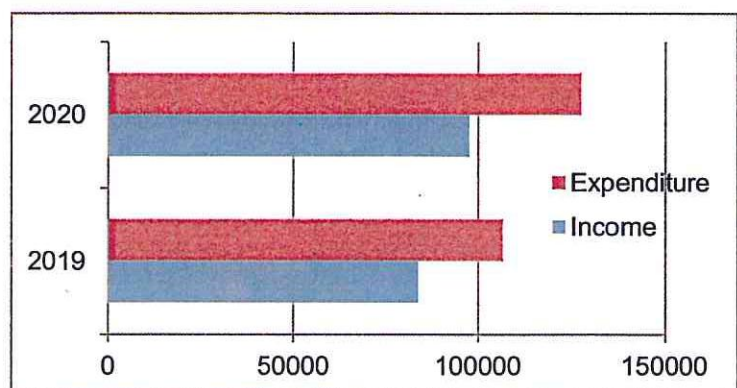
Easter
Services
attendance

n/a

Worshipping Community



Church Finances



The Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll at the end of December 2020 remains at 98 as there have been no additions or removals since the last APCM

Julie Day.

Nottingham North Deanery

Nottingham North Deanery APCM Report for Jan – Dec 2020

Due to the unprecedented year, we only held one Deanery Synod during 2020 and this was on 13th February at St Leonard's in Wollaton. We were joined by Revd James Halstead who shared about "Whole Life Discipleship" and the opportunities for thinking about this further and training in the Diocese. We also gave out a small gift to every parish to thank them for their generous giving in 2019.

As always, we welcomed some new people and said some fond farewells. We said goodbye to Lydia Cartwright at Stapleford and welcomed Jess Savill, Anna Clarke and Lydia Corbett to the Woven group of churches.

Our monthly Deanery Prayer meetings have been thriving. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 1pm, currently on Zoom. All are welcome. Contact Kirsty Cowley for the link, email: kirsty.cowley@southwell.anglican.org

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2020. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but 93.1% in these difficult circumstances was fantastic!

We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to have the opportunity to meet again in person.

At St Martin's our Deanery Synod Representatives are **Helena Shipston** and **Glenys Hepworth**.

Kirsty Cowley and Lesley Cohen

Worship and Discipleship committee

We have overseen the changing pattern of worship services and Life groups necessitated by the Coronavirus, including several periods of lockdown.

We have maintained weekly Sunday worship, developing our online presence and our technical skills. We are immensely grateful to the small and very dedicated tech' team for enabling us to do this, as well as all contributors to music, readings, intercessions, preaching and leading.

We anticipate further growth and development as we come out of the pandemic restrictions, looking forward to being able to gather together again in larger numbers sometime in 2021.

Bridget Baguley

Prayer ministry and Noon Prayer

Prayer ministry within St Martins started out really well at the beginning of 2020. We were meeting as a team regularly and looking forward to gaining new understanding of how we could learn more about the wonderful ministry of praying and ministering to others. We were in the process of arranging for someone to do a days teaching and then as you all know Coronavirus stopped all this. We look forward to the day when prayer ministry in person can begin in church again. In the meantime if anyone would like someone to pray with them on the phone please contact Bridget or Sue Pendenque.

One of the great joys for myself and a few others has been the start of Noon Prayer. This was birthed out of Thy Kingdom Come and has carried on every Monday and Thursday at noon for 30 minutes. We pray for our church, community, nation and the world. There is always so much to pray for! Please feel free to join us anytime, everyone is more than welcome. 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Sheila Chiarella

Chaplaincy:

In February 2020 we invited anyone who might be interested in becoming a Chaplain to Sherwood to come and hear from Jo Tatum – Chaplain to Nottingham City centre. Sherwood Methodist and St John's Carrington were invited to join us, but for the time being this was not something which was taken up. From this, a team of 10 people met over zoom during the spring and early summer to receive training with Jo. Jo enabled us to listen to what God might be saying to us through scripture and prayer, to identify what we were called to and where our boundaries would lie. We felt that we were being called to show care, to listen, to signpost to other agencies where needed and to offer prayer. Our boundaries settled in the main to the shops and businesses on Mansfield Road. We launched in September 2020, going out in pairs, with bright, easily identifiable pink lanyards on saying 'Chaplain'. Thus far we have been made to feel very welcomed by the businesses along Mansfield Rd, some expressing real surprise at being shown care. It has been a particularly tough year for many businesses with closures due to Covid-19 and genuine concern for family and customers. As chaplains, we have felt welcomed and humbled by the hospitality we have received as we seek to care for our community.

Sue Pendenque

The Mission Committee

Christian Aid – we confirmed our intention to support street collections in 2020, although these did not go ahead due to COVID. We will review how we continue to support Christian Aid in 2021.

Charity Giving – St Martin's continues to give 10% of its income to charity, shared between 4 major charities usually nominated on a 4-year cycle (currently Children in Distress, Change4Change, Framework and Nottingham Citizens) and one-off gifts to minor charities nominated annually.

Environment/ Climate change – during Lent 2020 we met with members of Sherwood Methodist and St Andrews churches to read Ruth Valerio's "Saying Yes to Life". In the autumn we co-produced with Sherwood Methodist a self-guided walk around the Forest and Arboretum for the season of creation. We want to explore further how St Martin's may support our city's and global carbon reduction ambitions and environmental issues in 2021

Nottingham Citizens – St Martin's has been exploring affiliation to Nottingham Citizens as an effective way to partner with others across our city to challenge injustice and bring about positive change in society. Members have also participated in activities supporting the living wage campaign, mental health and Black Lives Matter. In January 2021 the PCC agreed to affiliate to Nottingham Citizens for an initial period of one year. Current priority issues for action are Mental Health and Isolation, Poverty and Racism.

Amnesty International – we were unable to send physical cards, but promoted Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign during Advent, sending e-letters of solidarity/ appeal on behalf of prisoners and activists for justice.

Sherwood Sponsors Refugees – This group aims to support a refugee family to live in our area. The resettlement programme was suspended in 2020, but is due to re-start in 2021.

Food Bank – St Martin's continues to donate generously to local food banks – these donations are very much valued.

Liz Cordle

PCC Group for Children and Young People at St Martin's (PCC CYP)

Under the excellent leadership of our Children and Families' Minister, Gill James, CYP work was thriving and developing when the PCC CYP met in February 2020. We had active Sunday children's church and creche; weekly Jolly Tots for families with pre-school children; a Life group for mothers of pre-school children; a group for Christian young people in Sherwood in collaboration with other churches and a Parenting for Faith course. We were looking forward to a whole programme, in conjunction with other churches, leading up to and including Easter. Looking forward, Gill was building school and community links, we were looking to have an intern from the Young Leadership College to extend our work, particularly with teenagers and we were engaging with the plans to build a centre for children and young people on our church lawn, a centre that could also be used by the community. Since the first lockdown in March 2020 our plans for development have had to be put on hold and our CYP work pared down. It has still thrived, however, with Sunday children's church run on Zoom or outside when weather permitted. A Bible study group has been set up at the request of our young people. Another Parenting for Faith course will be offered soon.

We look forward to an easing of restrictions so we may start to expand and realise our visions for children and young people.

Lesley Cohen

The Fabric and ornaments of the church

The Fabric and ornaments of the church are in good order.

During 2020, the major works have been to complete the repair of the quadrant of the window which blew in and to install the new AV system, which is now being well used. Some roofing and electrical repairs and improvements have also been completed. We thank Russell for his skills and efforts in organising these.

In 2021, we have our official building check, called the quinquennial report. As we are a listed building we have a legal requirement to maintain the building to a certain standard. Alongside our own desire to keep it a safe and comfortable environment we anticipate a busy year ahead.

John Day of course has ended his time as Church Warden - we thank him again for all his service.

We would like to thank you all for your love, support and prayers during the year.

Paul Swift and Chris Morris

Wider

Communication

Tech Team & Website Team During 2020.

The Website Team have continued to maintain and update the new St Martin's website that started in 2019. This has involved the creation of a Virtual Church area that has helped church members to stay connected during church closures and other restrictions. The area includes many links to prayer and worship resources both local and national. There is also a page where Sunday worship services can be viewed. At the end of 2020 it was decided to look at restyling the website so that it is visually cleaner, with a more contemporary style and words that tell our current story. This work will get underway in 2021.

The Tech Team provided support for things technical during 2020.

A new Audio-Visual system was installed in June 2020 and has been generally well-received. The provision of six monitor screens has dramatically improved the ability of congregation and worship leaders to view the visual content of services. The new loudspeaker installation has improved the quality of amplified sound throughout the church and this now includes the narthex. Those who provide music for the church now have a unified amplification system which simplifies set-up and use. During the year there have been several teething problems with the new system but these have been quickly remedied by the installers.

In addition to modifying the projection software to use the new monitor screens, the Tech Team have added new software to enable services to be live-streamed via the internet. Live-streams were only available on Facebook. Recordings are available afterwards on both Facebook and our website. Thanks are due to the Tech-Team members for embracing all these innovations which require a considerable amount of multi-tasking by the operators.

When the church cannot be used for public worship, members of the Tech-Team have edited video and audio contributions to provide complete pre-recorded videos of worship services. Again, these are made available on Facebook and the church website.

Chris Hellen

Nourish

Nourish was birthed out of prayer for those struggling to feed their families and themselves in these very challenging times.

We began by giving away 22 meals in partnership with the Crimson Tree. We were helped tremendously by Chris the chef who gave us lots of practical help with ideas for cooking for such large numbers. During January we moved from the Crimson Tree to church with help from other churches and the community of Sherwood.

This has been a steep learning curve as we have cooked hundreds of meals. Our average number of meals collected and delivered is about 130 per week.

We have bought lots of equipment including a new oven, pots, pans, utensils, and just being in church has been such a blessing.

Cooking food for those who need it is an expression of sharing the love of Jesus in a practical way.

We are so grateful to every single person who gives up time, money and prayer to contribute to this venture.

Sheila Chiarella

Cherish Group

The Cherish Team members are:

Brenda Charles, Pauline Hickman, Glenys Lowth, Amanda Roberts, Penny Breakwell

The aims of Cherish are to offer friendship, support and prayer to the church family who are unable to get to church on a regular basis.

We were about to hold our 6 month updating meeting when the first lockdown commenced. Since then we have not been able to function in the usual manner. However members have continued to maintain contact with members either by phone or through the internet. Over the summer some visits were made to people's gardens.

Sadly some of our members have passed away over this year but we still aim to offer friendship wherever possible. I should be grateful if anyone knows of a person who has been unable to access church at all and is in need of support and prayer that they contact me.

I should like to extend my thanks to Cherish members for their outreach activities of friendship over this past year and I look forward to being able to meet with them in person.

Penny Breakwell

Services at Residential Homes

It has not been possible to lead services in our local residential homes since early 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and the particularly high risk posed by the virus to older people and staff in care homes. This is something which is much missed by the residents and by us. We have kept in touch as far as possible by phone. A small group from St Martin's joined with Pete Rogers from Nottingham Citizens in a safe, outside visit to the Abbeyfield homes, to support the campaign for a fair living wage, for care home staff. We also sang carols outside the homes before Christmas. We look forward to rebuilding relationships with the homes when restrictions are lifted.

Lesley Cohen

Buildings, and hiring out of church premises

After March 2020 the church was closed to external bookings. We have kept an ongoing dialogue with our potential hirers and instigated a risk assessment to use when the church fully opens.

We have entered into discussions regarding a new building which is really exciting. Please pray with us as this continues, hopefully in the next year or two.

Coffee Mornings

The monthly Coffee Morning has been unable to meet due to Covid restrictions. We mourn the loss of Joyce West, who led and organised this group so well, along with David, for many years. We are very grateful for all they have contributed to the ministry of welcome and hospitality at St Martin's. We look forward to new forms of table-hospitality developing as we come out of lockdown and restrictions in the year ahead.

Knit & Natter

Whilst our in person meetings ceased last March we have continued to knit for charities both at home and abroad. This has included hats, gloves & scarves for the Children in Distress destined for Romania, twiddle muffs & lap blankets for the QMC, hearts for covid patients, baby clothes for Africa & more recently we have been knitting for the Donkey Sanctuary & for Hayward House.

We continue to keep in touch by email, phone & letter & we are all keen to meet up again in church when restrictions are lifted,

New ideas for knitting projects would be very welcome.

Christine Baldwin

Deeper

Sung worship at St Martin's

In 2020 we have continued to have a diverse range of sung worship, from contemporary to traditional. This has included leading by bands with instruments and singers and by singers accompanied by organ or piano. This has been enhanced by a new audio/visual system. However, we have not yet reaped the full benefits of this system as we have been unable to have live sung worship in church through most of the year and a number of teething problems are yet to be addressed.

For much of the year sung worship has been pre-recorded and streamed in service videos. The ability of the congregation to lift their hearts together in song has been sorely missed. We will continue to provide the best we can in the changing circumstances and look forward to times when we can again sing to God as a whole church community.

Lesley Cohen

Alpha Online

We ran our first online Alpha from just after Easter 2020 – running right into August. 10 sessions plus a 'Holy Spirit' Saturday. Led by an excellent team of 6 (plus others who volunteered and went through the training, and were on standby if our numbers of participants swelled), who adapted to an online platform, led small groups and welcomed our guests. We began with 9 participants signed up, 5 of whom already came to St Martin's and wanted to deepen their faith via Alpha, and 4 who had been invited through personal contacts with St Martin's members. This dropped down to 6 participants from around week 3 who stayed the course with us. We had a great time of exploration and friendship, despite the constraints of zoom. I would say the course deepened the faith of those who would already have called themselves Christians, reopened a door to God for a guest who had been quite hurt by a previous church experience and allowed a further participant to explore faith without fear. All had a significant encounter with God one way or another and especially on our Holy Spirit day as they chose to be prayed for – even via Zoom! We will aim to run again in Spring 2021.

Sue Pendenque

St. Martin's Men's Group

The men's group have not met during this year, due to Covid restrictions, but many of the group have stayed in touch with each other in other ways.

Burlington Life Group

The Burlington Life Group has been meeting every week since Covid began, some on Zoom and others in (socially distanced) person when it hasn't been lockdown. We can't say that this has been an easy time for all, but it has been a time of communication, of sharing and praying with one another, a time of quizzes, Bible studies, laughing together and crying together. We are still being community though distanced and it would be hard to imagine life without one another in these fragile times. Recently Lois's Life Group have joined with ours and it has been an immense blessing to have them with us sharing in all we do. Our hope is that at some point in 2021 we will be able to meet together in person and continue being community.

Chris and Chrissie Morris

Redhill Life group

During this year of Pandemic life has been challenging for us all. It was good during the times we were actually allowed to meet in a garden. Sadly like everyone we had few times to see each other face to face.

Like most other groups we had plans to meet on zoom with Simply Jesus, and have tried to keep on course with it. But there was serious illness, and sadly we lost Joyce. Then David's health deteriorated and Simon had been having health problems too. So the group which was small anyway was much reduced.

As it was beginning to be more difficult to be the group that we once were and cope with technology, part of the group decided not to continue the course Simply Jesus. The rest of us continued for a while, just three of us meeting weekly, but did not feel the commitment eventually to continue with the course, as our experience was so disjointed. Most of us would prefer to be together socially, and praying with a little light input. NT Wright offers an amazing insight into scripture in his talks, and enough material to last much longer than the intended course length.

We have been in regular contact through the Pandemic by various means, and hope and pray that once restrictions are lifted, we shall have quality social contact once more.

Susan White

The Acorn Life group

The end of 2019 started well for our group, and we continued to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. We were able to celebrate Christmas together and follow our usual pattern of Bible studies and shared leading of our sessions. As we all know, 2020 developed into something we had never encountered before as we were plunged into a global pandemic in March, with all the restrictions that ensued. We have stayed together and have met regularly online, only meeting in person on three occasions – one time on a very hot, sunny evening in the church garden, what a joy! Not all of our members have been able to join in the Zoom sessions, but they are not forgotten, and we hope that they will rejoin us when times change. Glenn left us at the end of the summer to meet solely with The Orchard Lifegroup. We have very much enjoyed having him as a member, and his very valuable insight into Christianity as a relatively new Christian; we wish him all the best with his lay readership training. We have continued to study the Tom Wright series 'Simply Jesus' which has given us much to think about throughout this difficult time. We continue to support one another in fellowship and prayer, however remote we may be.

Russell and Janet Kitson

Sanctuary Life group

Our group has kept on going in all ways open to us in this topsy turvy year. After hosting the first session of the Lent course on prayer in church we had to follow it on our computers or read Pete Greig's book. Many of us found the prayer course interesting and helpful. By the summer, we could meet outdoors in the church garden, which was delightful. Mainly we just caught up with each other and supported each other by our friendship. Since then we got into some serious study through reading and discussing Tom Wright's book, "Simply Jesus", mainly on Zoom. We all found it hard going but in many ways enlightening. We ended the year by following an Advent course "Light in the darkness" which focused on living as a disciple of Jesus through the dark times of the pandemic. We have welcomed a new member to our group which is lovely. We have missed getting together as a whole group, as some members can't get on with Zoom or are "Zoomed out" so we have to rely on phone or doorstep contact.

Lesley Cohen

Orchard Life group

We are a new Life Group which came together after the 'Start Course' in November 2019.
Co-leaders are Glenn and Helena.

In November 2019 we started with 7 members in total. After the Alpha online course, one more joined us and during the Pandemic one more joined us from another church. Then after Christmas 2020 due to a group dividing 2 more joined us. At present we have 11 members if they all turn up.

Over a period of time, trying different things we have now settled down to meet weekly on a Tuesday evening. Our format is 1 week 'alternative,' 1 week Bible Study following a guided program.

We tackled Tom Wright and completed up to and including session 10.

We enjoy worship, although limited on Zoom.

During this difficult and challenging COVID time, we have tried to support one another the best we can.

Our 'Alternative' evening program has been very inspirational, ranging from a study of HOPE from John's Gospel, Bible Quiz and discussing, "How is COVID-19 affecting you?" Members take turns in leading sessions and sharing and even performing music

Glenn and Helena 's enjoyment is to see our members grow as disciples.

Like everyone, we are looking forward to meeting in person, having fellowship and a coffee and cake.

Glenn Hickson & Helena Shipston

Mums the Word

Mum's the Word met weekly, as we were able for breakfast, chat and support in the early months of 2020 - led and hosted by Sarah Conteh and we began to explore the prayer course very gently together sparking some good discussion. Sadly Covid-19 saw us unable to meet again in person and the mums preferred not to meet remotely as zoom and young children isn't an easy combination. Sarah has continued to be in regular touch with many who came since March 2020.

Younger

Children's Ministry

Children's church

At the beginning of 2020 we started out with three age-specific thriving children's groups. Each of these groups had a strong regular attendance and the children were growing in their relationships and their discipleship together. A number of additional leaders had joined our team and we were growing and developing together. We began the year with 17 children in our regular worshipping community and a number of children in a less frequent pattern.

During the lockdown we established children's church for families at 11.30 via zoom. This maintained the connection with our children and families throughout lockdown and they have continued to grow in their relationships with each other and their discipleship. During this time one regular family has moved away, but we have gained a number 3 additional children. Some of the families have struggled to meet via zoom and we have tried to keep them connected in other ways and look forward to being able to meet in person again soon.

Summer activities

Over the summer we engaged in a number of different activities, included a charity Walk for Kindness, a chalk walk, a Treasure trail in Woodthorpe Park, a mystery solving activity and a picnic in Wollaton Park. These activities were open for the church families and wider community. On All Saints Day, we had a socially distanced afternoon in church with science, creative and reflective activities based around Jesus as the light of the world.

Thy Kingdom Come

For Thy Kingdom Come children's church had a week of exploration by bringing together science and Biblical lessons. A Thy Kingdom Come family pack was provided including a daily devotional, supplies for the science experiment and access to an online video. When we surveyed the families later in the year, this was one of the highlights to their children's ministry experiences for the year.

Jolly Tots

Jolly Tots runs on a Tuesday morning between 9.15 and 11.00. It started the year off strongly with regular attendance of in excess of 40 children. Each session began with a singing, story and instruments time, this was followed by snack time and then free play with our wide array of toys suitable for all ages. The group had a very inclusive and caring culture and was very welcoming for newcomers. Due to Covid restrictions we were not able to re-open the group for the remainder of 2020. The core team of 5 has reduced to 3 due to some members stepping down. We are thankful for their faithful service.

We have tried to stay in touch with the parents through social media and hope to resume this group as soon as possible.

Connect@4

Connect@4 is a collaborative group which provided an opportunity for the young people of St Martin's community and Sherwood Methodist, to join together for fun, food and faith once a month. It is a group aimed the 8-12 age range, When lockdown came we had to put this on hold. This had not yet recommenced at the end of 2020, but we hope it will re-emerge in some form again in the future.

Tuesday Bible Study Group

In July 2020 we started a young person's Bible study group. After an intermittent start, since October 2020 a regular group was established. This runs on a Tuesdays at 4.00 for ages 9-13 and those involved are journeying through the book of Matthew together. This has been in person or via zoom, when regulations have prevented us meeting. I hope that a second group will emerge in the future with those who have not been able to access this group for a variety of reasons.

Unusual Times

The idea for Unusual Times was initiated by Eliana Crookston, who had a desire to make a Newspaper/Newsletter to maintain contact with the older people in church. The aim of Unusual Times, is to be a Newspaper written by the children to provide joy and love to those in the wider church community, who were maybe feeling a bit lonely or isolated during the restrictions. The idea blossomed and was taken on board by the whole of children's church. For each issue children are taking it in turns to take the role of editor and others are providing articles, photos, brainteasers, puzzles, stories and tips. Thanks to all our incredibly gifted and thoughtful children for putting this together and living out your faith in such a positive manner. We have had six publications of the Unusual times to date.

Powerlab in collaboration with St Nic's

We had started planning for our first collaborative holiday club in conjunction with St Nic's church, due to take place in the Easter Holidays 2020. However due to Covid restrictions we were unable to go ahead with the holiday club. The funding has been secured and we hope to book in another date as soon as we are able to proceed.

Collaborative work with other churches

Through the year we have promoted other opportunities for families to engage in faith, offered by local churches. We have good relationships with the other local churches and hope to resume more collaborative work as soon as current restrictions allow. We have maintained contact with a number of local churches and continue to stay in contact with Children and Family Ministers throughout the diocese, through the Children's Network

Christingle

We held our first Zoom Christingle event this year. Christingle bags were prepared to enable parents to join in with the service and distributed to parents and it was a lovely, meaningful service and a welcome pause before Christmas.

Gill James

53rd Nottingham St Martin's Brownies

Brownies has been an online only provision in 2020 with contact made by post with activities and a badge created especially for lockdown that the girls could work towards

