



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 Pendence 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.

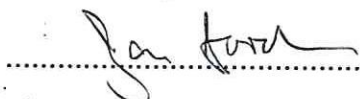
We look forward to taking up opportunities to engage again with events such as Sherwood Art Week and Sherwood Supports Refugees.

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

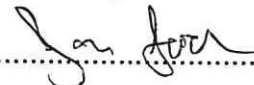
	Unrestricted funds General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Regular Giving	64,157	-	-	64,157	61,884
Gift Aid	14,334	-	-	14,334	11,411
Projects	-	-	6,518	6,518	10,550
Church Hire	2,170	-	-	2,170	3,385
Events	100	-	-	100	6,703
Fees	3,688	-	-	3,688	1,901
Furlough 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

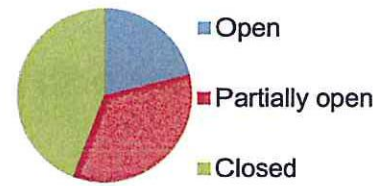
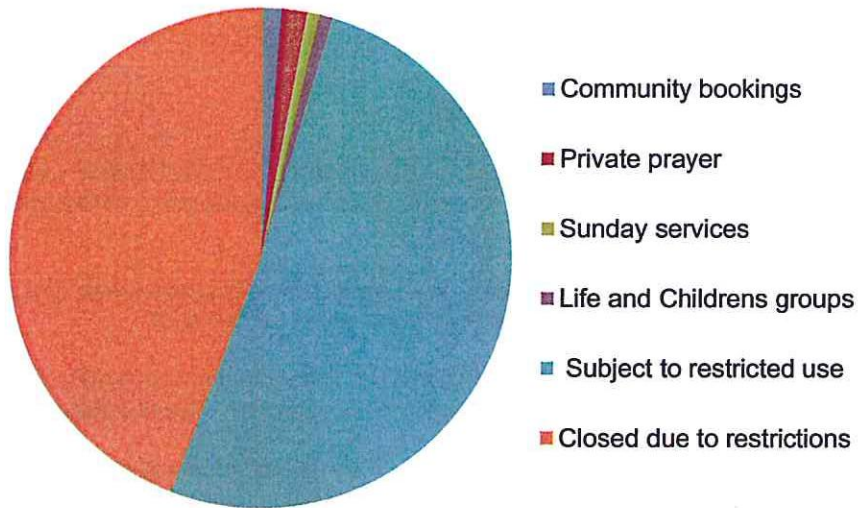
RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ

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

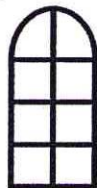
Sunday
Ministry teams

35



Usual Sunday
Attendance

54



Life Group
members

47



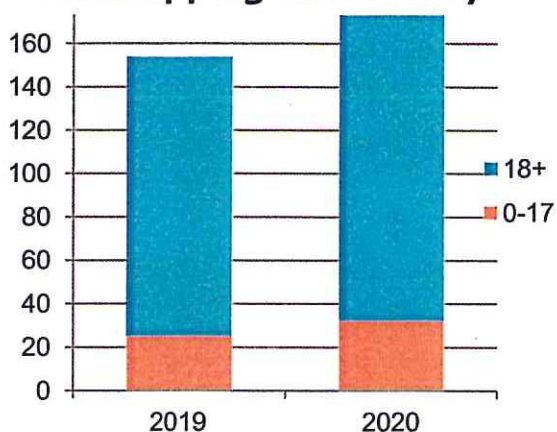
Christmas
Services
attendance

54

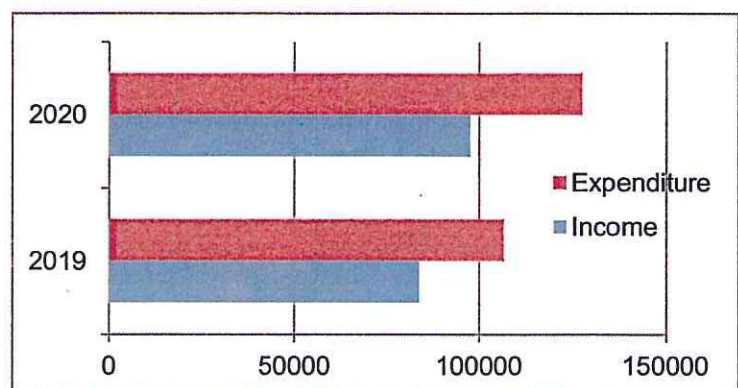
Easter
Services
attendance

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

