

**The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin, Windermere**  
**Charity Number 1161992**



**ST MARTIN'S**  
*You're always welcome*

**Annual Report & Financial Statement  
of the  
Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
and  
Minutes of the Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**"We aim to respond to God's love, enjoying it together in worship  
and mutual care, and sharing it with everyone."**

**Incumbent:**

The Revd. James Richards BA MA  
The Rectory,  
Longlands Road,  
Bowness-on-Windermere,  
LA23 3AS.

**Parish Office:**

St. Martin's Parish Church,  
Lake Road,  
Bowness-on-Windermere,  
LA23 3DE

**Bank:**

Nat West, Windermere  
Barclays Bank plc, Kendal

**Independent Examiner:**

Jackson and Graham,  
Chartered Accountants,  
Lake Road,  
Bowness-on-Windermere,  
LA23 2JJ

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARTIN, WINDERMERE  
AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024 IN CHURCH  
AT 11.30AM**

PRAYER

APOLOGIES

EASTER VESTRY

ELECTION OF WARDENS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

APCM MINUTES OF 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023

REPORT OF PCC FOR 2023 *(Not available at time of printing these papers)*

ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2023

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

CHURCH FABRIC & TERRIER REPORT

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

SUNDAY CLUB AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP REPORT

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

ELECTION TO PCC

ELECTION OF SIDESMEN

RECTOR'S CLOSING REMARKS and PRAYER

\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*

**There will be a short meeting of the new PCC immediately following the APCM  
specifically to elect the officers of the PCC:**

Lay Chairman; Secretary; Joint Treasurers; Electoral Roll Officer.

# **THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN, WINDERMERE.**

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL MEETING for the year 2023, held in the Church at 11.30am on SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

### **1 OPENING PRAYER and ATTENDANCE**

The Rector, the Revd. James Richards opened the meeting with prayer.  
There were about 23 parishioners present.

### **2 APOLOGIES**

Jill butler, Clarence and Susan Hendrickse, Andrew and Ali Jarvis, Christine and John Parker, Jamie Hamilton.

### **3 ELECTION OF WARDENS (3 vacancies; Wardens are ex-officio members of PCC)**

Mike Fletcher is willing to stand again. Ros. Rooke was proposed as warden. Elected unanimously.

### **4 APCM MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2022**

These were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

### **5 ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Pat Baldwin reported that there are 96 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 24 of whom are not resident in the parish. This is a reduction of one from last year, one name has been added, but sadly two parishioners have died. The average weekly attendance, counted in October 2022, was 67. However, if we include a wedding and the St. Martin and St. Mary School Harvest Festival, this number increases to 154.

The report was accepted unanimously, with thanks to Pat.

### **6 REPORT OF PCC FOR 2022**

This document had been approved by the PCC and circulated prior to the meeting. It was approved unanimously. James reminded us that the PCC are trustees of the church.

### **7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

Ian Durrell reports for the whole Benefice. His report was included in the APCM bundle.

### **8 ACCOUNTS & FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2022**

Mike Baldwin spoke first on the reports which had been prepared jointly with Ted Cook and distributed previously.

He said we had started the year in a much better position, with thanks to all the ladies who organise and run the various fairs, Easter, Jubilee, Martinmas, lunches and teas throughout the year. He also thanked the welcomers for keeping the church open. He noted that the gift stall is doing well too. It meant that we could pay our Parish Offer in full and make a donation of £2500 to our Mission partners CMS. We were also able to make donations to The Children's Society from a share in the Martinmas fair and a very successful Christingle service. Both the Children's Society home boxes and the Christian Aid house collections were very good thanks to Janet, Clarence and Susan. Mike also thanked the bell ringers and musicians who waive their fees. Planned giving is still looking good, but any increases would be appreciated. He mentioned that legacies help the church funds greatly and hoped that people would give thought to leaving a legacy.

Ted Cook then took over and explained the papers already distributed with the APCM bundle. He said that, in spite of the pandemic, planned giving continued to come in and form on average 60% of contributions to the church. All the events added £12000 to our funds and he also thanked all the ladies, especially Ann Wanska for their work. The sumup machine is working well without any negative effect

on ordinary donations. James mentioned that the detailed breakdown that is produced is very helpful, especially during special services.

The accounts were received unanimously.

James expressed great appreciation from himself and the PCC to both Mike and Ted for all their work and for keeping the PCC up to date on a regular basis.

Jackson and Graham were proposed and agreed as our continued independent examiner.

## **9 THE FOLLOWING REPORTS HAD BEEN CIRCULATED PRIOR TO APCM**

Church Fabric & Terrier Report, with thanks to Mike Fletcher

Deanery Synod, James had prepared this as we have no Deanery Synod representative.

Safeguarding report

Sunday Youth Club and Sunday Club reports, Home group report – with thanks to Miriam Rayner and Ali Jarvis.

All reports were accepted.

## **10 ELECTIONS**

### **a) PCC**

1 year term - Janet Rudd.

Elected unanimously.

### **b) SIDESMEN**

The current sidesmen, David & Carol Brooks, Hilary Sharpe, Ann Wanska, Barbara Fletcher, Liz Howarth, Mary Fenna and Janet Rudd agreed to stand again.

Val Garvey also volunteered to be sidesman.

All were elected unanimously.

## **11 RECTOR'S CLOSING REMARKS FOR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 2023**

James had already distributed his report which was included within the APCM bundle.

James had included a paper showing the income and expenditure of the Diocese, and where the Parish Offer monies are allocated. He explained that every penny of the offer comes back to support local ministry. He said the diocese is well and economically run.

He thanked everyone for their help and support in maintaining the life of the church, he is extremely grateful.

Mike Fletcher mentioned that he would like to thank Liz Haworth who is trying to repair some of the hymn books which have become tatty.

Ted Cook asked about the Bishop vacancy. James said that, as in the previous vacancy for a team leader vicar, consultation will take place and profiles will be produced. There will be more information in the KIT booklet.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm with the Grace.

M.F.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Martin, Windermere  
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2022.**

**Administrative Information**

St. Martin's Church is situated close to Lake Windermere at Bowness. It is part of the South Lakes Team of parishes within the Diocese of Carlisle within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Church of St. Martin, Lake Road, Bowness on Windermere, LA23 3DE. On 3rd June 2015, the PCC became a Registered Charity with the title of 'The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Martin, Windermere' with the Charity Number 1161992. our Charity details can be accessed by all on the Charity Commission Register.

PCC members elected at the APCM of 16th April 2023 until the date this report was accepted are:

Ex Officio members: James Richards, Team Rector (Chair); Lawrence Basham, Team Vicar

Wardens: Mike Fletcher and Rosemary Rooke

Electoral Roll Officer Pat Baldwin

Deanery Synod: Vacancy

Elected members: Mike Baldwin (Joint-treasurer), Jill Butler, Jennie Cartwright, Ted Cook (Joint-treasurer), Diana Dodd, Mary Fenna (Secretary), Martin Rayner (Lay chair), Janet Rudd, Ann Wanska.

**Mary Fenna**

This report has been prepared by the Chair of the PCC, which has not had the opportunity to approve it. We note with sadness the loss of our valued friend and PCC Secretary, Mary Fenna who is much missed as part of our church family, and for her commitment to the life of St. Martin's and the work of the PCC over many years.

**Structure, governance and management:**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll so as to be eligible to vote for and/or stand for election to the PCC.

**Objectives and activities:**

The primary objective of St. Martin's is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. St Martin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. James Richards, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC has the maintenance responsibility for St. Martin's Church building.

**Church attendance**

There were 96 members on the Church Electoral Roll at 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 24 of whom resided outside the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted at all services during October 2023 (when national attendance count is done), was 49. At festivals and special occasions the weekly attendance number may exceed 500. Notice of closure of the Electoral Roll for revision will be posted 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and displayed for 14 days. The revision date for the Roll is end March 2024 and the new revised Roll displayed in Church at the beginning of April 2023. Details of the updated Electoral Roll are reported to the APCM.

**Thanks**

The PCC thanks all musicians, singers, organists, and instrumentalists, for their contribution to the Sunday services, and to lay leaders and intercessors for the Morning Praise services which alternate with Holy Communion services led by the Team Rector or other clergy  
Also remembered with thanks are those who work to keep the church clean, arrange flowers and open the church during the summer months again to welcome visitors.

### **Mission and Evangelism:**

- Part of the ministry of the church, beyond that to regular attenders, was to the 8 couples who were married at St. Martin's and to their families and friends in 2023. Also the families and friends of the people whose funeral/memorial services were held here and to the 7 children baptised at St. Martin's and their parents, families and friends during the year.
- Youth work in the church is on Sunday mornings, for children between 3 – 11 years; thanks go to Miriam Rayner for running the Sunday Club, and Ali Jarvis, who holds a Youth Club meeting for older children in her home, plus all those who are involved. As always, more helpers would be appreciated.
- In conjunction with St. Mary's Church in Windermere, Sunday services have been live-streamed via Facebook each Sunday, to reach out to those who felt unable to attend personally. The Christmas Carol service was held in church, as was Christingle and the Christmas Eve service; the Christmas Day service was also held in church. All were well attended.
- Home groups met for fellowship, prayer and discussion. All meetings are held at member's homes.

### **PCC Business**

The PCC held full meetings in February, May, July, September and November 2023, and a short formal meeting in April immediately after the APCM for the appointment of officers.

PCC business has included:

- Regular review of parish finances ably assisted by the reports and information provided by our treasurers.
- Work to the fabric of the building flowing from the 2022 Quinquennial Inspection
- Barton memorial
- New boilers
- Painting and plasterwork in the St. John's Room
- Equipping the church for regular live-streaming of services ("Hybrid church")
- Sharing our faith and growing the church

This is only a list of the major items.

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN, WINDERMERE**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

The Annual Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and PCC Accountability (5<sup>th</sup> edition) using the accruals accounting basis.

Prior to the start of the year PCC had approved a budget with a deficit of £4474 on unrestricted funds in anticipation of an increase in Parish Offer and a further reduction in planned giving. We can report that, in spite of the cost of living crisis continuing to bite, we did meet budget expectations on all headings except repairs and maintenance and paid our increased Parish Offer in full and the year ended with an increase in unrestricted reserves of £66149. Of course, unrestricted reserves benefitted hugely from a very generous legacy of £75000 from the Estate of the late Susan Thornely for which the PCC are very grateful. This enabled us to carry out some outstanding repairs highlighted by the church architect in his latest quinquennial inspection report hence the over spend against budget on this heading. However, we were able to offset these costs a little by claiming grants of £1040 under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. On the other hand, we saw restricted reserves decrease by £8410 in the year, again, as a consequence of, more than expected, exceptional repairs.

It was once again possible to hold fundraising events, which this year included a Summer Fair, our group of St Martin's ladies serving cream teas during August and a Martinmas fair in early November. These were all very successful events and thanks are due to all those who worked so hard to make them so.

We were able to welcome our usual steady flow of visitors throughout the year (approx. 25000) with their valued donations, contactless and in boxes and steady gift stall sales. PCC fees and occasional retiring collections were received from weddings and funeral services during the year and in the case of the former, the bellringers generously waived their fees in favour of the Church. At the close of the year unrestricted reserves stood at £106,181 and restricted reserves at £16,130, together comfortably in excess of the minimum our reserves policy says is needed.

Planned giving, including gift-aid tax, at £40089 showed a 10% decrease on the previous year (£44668) with the number of regular subscribers decreasing from 50 to 45. This continuing decline is of real concern to the PCC. We are thankful for the regular gifts from our parishioners throughout the year and trust you will be able to continue your valued support in 2024.

As in previous years, we are grateful to our Musicians who waive their fees in favour of the Church. As already stated, the gift stall provided the usual valuable source of income, after purchases. We are also thankful for the income we received from Jenny's book sales, the flower fund and refreshments which all made good contributions. Thank you to everybody concerned.

Our Parish Offer to the Diocese, which provides the stipends, pensions and housing for clergy, was £43074, (£37504, 2022), and took 55% (45% 2022) of unrestricted incoming resources, (excluding legacies). Accruals have been included for any expenditure incurred but not paid for at year-end. Exceptional repairs, appear as restricted expenditure and more routine maintenance appears as unrestricted expenditure.

PCC were able to continue their financial support for Church Mission Society, our mission partners and have sent a cheque for £2500. We had a very successful Christingle service with more than 500 adults and children present and raised £508 for the Children's Society. As usual, people worked hard to ensure that gifts from Children's Society boxes and from the Christian Aid door to door collection were maximised but, as these are sent direct, they are not included in these Accounts.

St Martins is part of the United Benefice of South Lakes and the Team Ministry is made up of our Rector Revd James Richards and Team vicar Revd Lawrence Basham. We look forward to continuing to work with the other five Parishes as we move closer together and gain more of the potential cost benefits of scale.

Ted Cook

Mike Baldwin PCC Treasurers

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN, WINDERMERE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u></b>						
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>	Planned Giving with Gift Aid	2	29965		29965	34304
	Planned Giving without Gift Aid		2633		2633	1788
	Collections with Gift Aid		2140		2140	1849
	Collections without Gift Aid		2426	0	2426	4615
	Gift Aid recovered	2(a)	10097		10097	11570
	Donations with Gift Aid		305		305	1743
	Donations without Gift Aid		4140	0	4140	937
	Boxes		8499		8499	8585
	SUMUP		3053		3053	2707
	Jenny's Books		321		321	137
	Legacies	2(b)	75000		75000	0
	Grants	2(c)	1040		1040	440
			139619	0	139619	68675
<b>Fees:</b>	PCC fees for weddings & funerals		5048		5048	3876
	Bellringers' fees donated	2 )	730		730	667
			5778	0	5778	4543
<b>Church Activities:</b>	Gift Stall		5683		5683	7102
	Concerts & Events	2(e)	3656		3656	5220
			9339	0	9339	12322
<b>Investments:</b>	Dividends and interest	2(f)	2142	488	2630	298
	<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>156878</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>157366</b>	<b>85838</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>						
<b>Ministry:</b>	Diocesan Parish Offering	3	43074		43074	37504
	Clergy, Secretarial and Office Exp.	3(b)	14248		14248	12785
	Altar Supplies		370		370	413
	Organist		740		740	1622
	Parish Magazine		439		439	1004
	Other costs	3(c)	1105	214	1319	2853
			59976	214	60190	56181
<b>Building:</b>	Power & Water		5746		5746	5742
	Insurance	3(d)	4414		4414	4181
	Repairs & Maintenance	3(e)	12620	10644	23264	9591
			22780	10644	33424	19514
<b>Church Activities:</b>	Gift Stall Purchases		3348	0	3348	3728
<b>Missions:</b>	Missionary and Charitable Giving	3(f)	2500	200	2700	5054
	<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>88604</b>	<b>11058</b>	<b>99662</b>	<b>84477</b>
	Net Incoming Resources before Other Gains and Losses.		68274	-10570	57704	1361
	Gains on disposal and revaluation of assets and investments	4	13	22	35	-49
	Net Movement in Funds		68287	-10548	57739	1312
	Transfers between Funds		-2138	2138	0	0
	Balances b/fwd on 1st January 2023		40032	24540	64572	63260
	Balances c/fwd on 31st December 2023		106181	16130	122311	64572

The notes on the following pages form part of these Accounts.

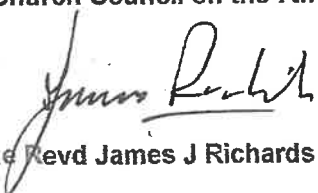


**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN, WINDERMERE**  
**BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>					
Tangible				0	0
Investments	5	75155	17594	92749	17649
		75155	17594	92749	17649
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>	6				
Stock	6(a)	875		875	1580
Debtors	6(b)	6388		6388	3804
Short-term deposits				0	0
Cash at bank and in hand		28252	1800	30052	46110
		35515	1800	37315	51494
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>	7				
Creditors falling due within one year				0	0
Receipts in advance				0	0
Accruals	7(a)	4489	3264	7753	4571
		4489	3264	7753	4571
Net current assets/ (liabilities)		31026	-1464	29562	46923
<b><u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u></b>		<b>106181</b>	<b>16130</b>	<b>122311</b>	<b>64572</b>
<b><u>PARISH FUNDS</u></b>	8				
Unrestricted	8(a)	106181		106181	40032
Restricted	8(b)		16130	16130	24540
<b><u>TOTAL FUNDS</u></b>		<b>106181</b>	<b>16130</b>	<b>122311</b>	<b>64572</b>

The notes on the following pages form part of these Accounts.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the 7th February 2024 and signed on its behalf by

  
 The Revd James J Richards (PCC Chairman)

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the PCC (5<sup>th</sup> edition) including the Church Accounting Regulations 2017 published for the House of Bishops of the General Synod. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**Funds**

*Endowment funds* are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

*Restricted funds* represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. *Unrestricted funds* are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

**Incoming resources**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when they are claimed. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and they are received. Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. All other income is recognized when it is due and/or received. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

**Resources expended**

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish offer is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

**Fixed assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.10 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1000 and these items of equipment, whether used within the church premises or rectory office, are written off when the asset is acquired.

*Investments* are valued at market value at 31 December.

## 2. INCOMING RESOURCES

- 2(a) Includes tax recovered and tax claimed not yet recovered £1883 (£2045) up to 31 December, and tax claimed on loose cash in collections and boxes under the GASD Scheme.
- 2(b) Includes £75000 from the estate of the late Susan Thornely.
- 2(c) These are grants under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme in respect of VAT paid on church repairs..
- 2(d) The bell ringers have generously waived their wedding fees.
- 2(e) These are the proceeds of the Summer fair, cream teas in august and the Martinmas fair.
- 2(f) Dividends and interest received on investments and permanent endowments. The interest on the legacy in 2 (b) has significantly boosted the unrestricted figure.

## 3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

- 3(a) Diocesan Parish Offering paid in twelve equal instalments
- 3(b) Includes £10130 for the Parish Administrator (2022 £9289).
- 3(c) Includes £342 fee for Independent Examination (Unrestricted).
- 3(d) Insurance premium paid by instalments.
- 3(e) Unrestricted costs are routine repairs and maintenance and restricted costs represent exceptional non routine work.
- 3(f) Unrestricted costs represent a donation to our Mission Partners at CMS, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and to the Children's Society from the Christingle service. Restricted donations include donations to Christian Aid and the Windermere and District Food Bank.

## 4. GAINS/LOSSES ON THE DISPOSAL AND REVALUATION OF INVESTMENTS

These can be analysed as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>
	£	£
CBF C of E Income shares	13	
COIF Charities Income units		22

5. At 31 December 2023 Investments were held in the following Funds:

Unrestricted			£
CBF C of E Income Shares	7 shares	market value	155
CBF C of E Deposit fund			75000
Restricted			
CBF C of E Deposit fund			10922
COIF Charities Income Units	13 units	-do-	258
Barclays Base Rate Reward Deposit			6414

The PCC also receive restricted income from three connected Charity endowments (Registered Charities).

6. CURRENT ASSETS

6(a) Gift stall stock held at cost price.

6(b) Includes Gift Aid tax refund for 3 months to 31st December claimed but not received.

7. CURRENT LIABILITIES

7(b) Unrestricted accruals at year-end include clergy and administration costs £262, power and water costs £763 and donation to CMS £2500, £508 from Christingle for Children's society and other items due but not paid at year-end.. Restricted accruals include £3264 for a roof repair completed but not paid at year-end.

8. PARISH FUNDS

8(a) The reserves available are to meet future shortfalls in incoming resources against resources expended. Every effort is made to increase incoming resources and control resources expended. **The PCC has a Reserves Policy which states that we should hold at least 3 month's average running costs in unrestricted reserve together with at least £20,000, for emergency fabric work, in either restricted or unrestricted reserve and, unless better terms can be obtained from our own bankers, fund balances will be invested with the CBF Church of England Funds.** The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

8(b) Funds which have arisen from legacies, fundraising, dividends and asset sales are restricted to the purposes directed i.e. fabric.

PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Other expenses were paid to officers for expenses wholly and exclusively incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

## **Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin, Windermere**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner**

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of the independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act); and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A E LISHMAN, F.M.A.A.T



Jackson & Graham  
Lake Road  
Bowness-on-Windermere  
Cumbria LA23 2JJ

Date 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **Fabric & Terrier**

An audit of the Church inventory had been undertaken and found to be in order. However, the fabric of the building gives concern, and although the major structural and decorative issues highlighted in the last "Quinquennial Report" have been rectified, the roof continues to be a major cause for concern. Water ingress is damaging the murals and interior and limits the seating available to the congregation. I believe that efforts should be made to raise the funds to undertake the repairs as a matter of some urgency.

In addition the heating boiler has a very short life expectancy and should be replaced as soon as possible. Funds are available to cover the cost, but we are awaiting advice from the Diocese as to the energy source.

I have not considered it appropriate to give a detailed report all the relatively minor repairs and maintenance issues which have been undertaken during the year.

Mike Fletcher, Church Warden

### **Deanery Synod Report**

*To be given verbally by James*

### **Safeguarding Report**

Since the last Church APCM's in the spring of 2023 there have been no Safeguarding concerns reported to me, nor any concerns raised by me with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

The main focus for safeguarding this year has been on the training of church volunteers and arranging DBS checks and certification for volunteers who have been identified by the Diocese as working with vulnerable adults or young people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you all know that for personal family reasons I will be stepping back from my roles, including this role during the summer of 2024. Lynda and I will be moving so dates have not yet been set in stone.

I would like to thank you all for your help and co-operation over the years.

Ian Durrell  
Safeguarding Officer – South Lakes Team

### **Sunday Youth Club**

Sunday Youth Club regularly has 5 young people who meet fortnightly during term time. The aim is to provide a safe space for youngsters to meet and talk openly about issues relevant to them, also to feel they can ask any questions. Each session has a theme with a Biblical text. Activities are based on the theme including drama, craft and games.

Ali Jarvis

### **Sunday Club**

We continue to follow the Friends and Heroes series. This involves an adventure story which is then linked to a Bible story. We watch the video and then talk about the story and link it to everyday life and the way we relate to people around us. We then do a craft activity to reinforce what we have learnt or play a game.

At Christmas we watched a video called Dougy Doug Doug which involves lots of dancing to songs with a Christian theme and we also watched a film about the nativity.

We only have one regular member but visitors are always welcome to join us.

Miriam Rayner

### **Home Group**

We continue to meet alternate Fridays during term time. This year we are watching "The Chosen" which follows Jesus's life and ministry which we've all found fascinating. All followed by lively discussion.

Miriam Rayner

## **Deanery Synod Report**

All licensed clergy in the Deanery and lay members appointed from every parish in the Deanery make up the Deanery Synod. As well as its routine business it also elects members for Diocesan Synod and for General Synod. The Deanery Synod can ask for a motion to be debated by the Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod motions can even become part of the business of the national church.

We are entitled to have two lay members attending Deanery Synod to keep us up with news from the Synod and to represent our parish in discussions that take place. Currently we do not have a lay representative on Deanery Synod. This report has been prepared by the Team Rector.

The Windermere Deanery Synod met in March, July and November.

Regular reports were received on Finance, including Parish Offer; the development of Mission Communities; and Network Youth Church.

In the area of our Mission Community, Chris Mason's Network Youth Church work has included supporting Experience Easter for our local primary schools at St Marys, Windermere; establishing a prayer breakfast meeting for schools, children and youth work support; establishing a Lunch Club at the Lakes School; supporting the establishing of an after-school drop-in at St. Mary's Church, Windermere.

In February we welcomed Bishop Rob who addressed the meeting about the 'God For All' Agenda; offering elements of the material given at the Bishops' recent Roadshow. Key Themes included

- Ministry Development
- Growing Younger
- Schools
- Church Planting & Pioneering
- Buildings
- Eco Strategy
- Digital.

He answered questions, in particular with regard to the forthcoming process to appoint a new Bishop of Carlisle.

In July Anna Newlove (Net Zero Officer) gave a presentation relating to the 'Tread Gently' part of the Diocesan 'God for All' Vision.

In November Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons) gave a short presentation and offered to visit parishes to share something of their work, and Sophie Hodge (Diocesan Stewardship Enabler) gave a presentation about Stewardship and Legacy Giving.

### **Rector's Remarks**

I want to echo and emphasise the thanks the PCC has given to so many people whose prayer and commitment sustain the life of St. Martin's. Especially I want to thank our two churchwardens who quietly and without fuss shoulder many burdens.

Looking back, as we do at an annual meeting, we have a great deal to be thankful for.

Looking forward, I am often impatient to see things happen. I look for change and growth, but I recognise what is needed and sometimes lacking on my own part to make that happen.

One thing I have been wanting to see for a long time has been a drop-in session for students from the Lakes School on their way home into Windermere. Finally, beginning last summer and carrying on through the autumn while I was on sabbatical leave, this has become established with a small group of volunteers from local churches.

This is not the only change I would like to see, and I am still adapting to being responsible for three

churches rather than just one. This has been quite a learning process for me, and still is. I am grateful for the uncomplaining prayer and support I have received.

In Luke's Gospel (chapter 13) Jesus tells a parable of a vineyard owner who comes to a fig tree in his vineyard and for the third year in a row finds no fruit on it. Frustrated, he tells the vineyard worker or vine-dresser to cut it down because it is just using up the soil and wasting space. The vine-dresser replies, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

It is a parable I go on reflecting on. I think that what is happening is that the vine-dresser is suggesting root-pruning the tree a process which can help to improve their overall health and fruit production. This is what he has in mind when he talks about digging round it. Then he is going to encourage it by feeding it well.

If we apply this parable to a church community what does it mean? To me it suggests two things: one is that we may need to stop some things which may be absorbing our energy but not fruitful for our life and mission as part of the people of God; the other is that there may be things we need to nourish and encourage in order that they can bear fruit. I don't necessarily know what those things are, and it is not a matter for the clergy alone, but for all of us as people of God seeking to discern what he is now calling us to do and to be.