

**2021 Report and Accounts
for the Parochial Church Council
of St Martin's, Hereford
Part of the Benefice of
South Wye, Hereford**



2021 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Martin's Hereford

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Parish Information

St. Martin's Church is situated in Ross Road, Hereford. It is part of the Diocese of Hereford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Team Office 89 Ross Road, Hereford, HR2 7RJ

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission. St. Martin's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Anne Dowdeswell, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex of St. Martin's, Ross Road, Hereford, and our investment properties.

St Martin's PCC

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Martin's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. In particular, we try to enable the people of South Wye to live out their faith as part of our parish community through: Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus; Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; Missionary and outreach work. To facilitate this it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Martin's and the Church Centre.

Membership

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Ex Officio:</i>	Reverend Anne Dowdeswell <i>Team Rector</i>	
	Reverend Lauren Bell <i>Curate (July 2021 - present)</i>	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Julia Ware	
	Irene Goodman	
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	Bev Merrett	
<i>Secretary</i>	John Eden	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Farlow	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Bev Merrett	Irene Goodman
	John Eden	Geoff Rawcliffe
	Gillian Farlow	Julia Ware
<i>Co-opted Member</i>	Clive Wilce	

The PCC meet bi-monthly.

The Standing Committee has authority to transact business between meetings.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to hold a minimum of £10,000 as a General Reserve to cover running costs in the event of a major problem, another £10,000 in a Restricted Building Fund to meet anticipated building maintenance costs and unforeseen repairs, and yet another £8,600 (3 months staff pay) to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and meet emergencies.

Church Workers Pension Fund

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pension costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable by and on behalf of the only eligible member of staff (2020: £1,410).

Electoral Roll

There are 69 members of the Electoral Roll

AUER	Frances Alexandria Ruth	HUGHES	Valerie Mary
BAYLISS	Brenda Rosemary	HYDE	Leslie Martin
BELL	Daphne N	JONES	Dafydd John
BISHOP	Ann	JOSEPH	Joan
CLARKE	Elizabeth	KENNETT-WISE	John Duncan
COCKROFT	Susan Catherine	KENNETT-WISE	Pamela Jean
DAVIES	Gwendoline May (Jean)	LEESON	Nora Betty
DITCHFIELD	Margaret Rose	LEWIS	Sarah Louise
EDEN	John	LIBBY	Ann Josephine
EDWARDS	Geoffrey Charles	MARSHALL	Paul
ENGLISH	Marion Rose	MASON	Doris Jean
EVANS	Shirley Jane	MC.CARTHY	Claire Deanne
EVANS	Geoffrey William	MERRELL	Michelle Lynne
FARLOW	Gillian Elizabeth	MERRITT	Beverly Anne
GILBERT	Dorothy Zoela	MORRIS	Ann Elizabeth
GITTENS	Catherine Grace Elizabeth	MUSSELL	Irene Christabel
GITTENS	Sarah Joan	NEVILL	Jackie
GOODMAN	Susan	PEMBRIDGE	Elizabeth Mary
GOODMAN	Irene Elizabeth	PRICE	Marlene Mary
GWYNNE	Caroline Ellen	RANYARD	Susan
HAMMETT	Sarah Jane	RAWCLIFFE	Deanne Elizabeth
HARDING	June Dawn	RAWCLIFFE	Geoffrey Norman
HARWOOD	Pauline Heather	RICKERS	Barbara Joan
HARWOOD	Victor	RICKERS	William Kendall
HEALEY	Irene Dorothy	ROGERS	Margaret Doreen

SAUNDERS	Beris Pamela
SEYMOUR	Janet Ethel
SHARLAND	Joan Margaret
SHARPE	Pamela
SPICER SCOFIELD	Andrea Joy
SPICER SCOFIELD	Marie Louise
TALBOYS	Margaret Edith
TREHERNE	Dianne Margaret
WALKINGTON	Claire
WARD	Gillian Mary
WARE	Julia Dawn
WATKINS	Debra Georgina
WIGGINS	Gaye Clare
WILCE	Clive Anthony
WILCE	Marion Elsie Jean
WILCE	Susan Caroline
WILCOX	Sarah
WILLIAMS	Heather Elizabeth
WOODCOCK	Alison

Churchwardens' Annual Report for 2021

Our report begins on January when Sunday services, Morning Prayer and Night Prayer were online. We are grateful to Rev'd Anne and the Missioners for keeping us in contact with one another during the Pandemic.

On 27th April, Tuesday afternoon coffee began again at De Koffee Pot and continued there, the Wye Inn or outside St Martin's Hall. This group now meets in the Narthex each Tuesday from 2-3:30pm. Messy Church began again on 17th September and it was lovely to see familiar families again. Our thanks to all who run this group. Pre-School Praise resumed on 4th October but as the children who had come before were now at school or nursery, those who came were new faces.

The Easter draw was successful and the day we gathered in the hall for afternoon tea was enjoyed not only for the lovely food but also the company. Once again thanks to all who made this possible and worked hard on the day and before.

Reverend Lauren was ordained on 4th July and joined us on the next Sunday. She has been a great help to Revd. Anne and has been a friend to us all and a very valuable and popular member of the team.

The Christmas Draw was a successful fundraiser and the hall was packed for the Christmas Fair.

The FoodShare has carried on as usual and is appreciated by many people.

In April we attended a Churchwardens' course on looking after the church building. With regard to the fabric of the church, the porch has been prepared and we are waiting for quotes to finish the work. The roof and gutters have been inspected by drone. The pump in the crypt has been replaced and is working well. The ground drains around the church which receive the water from the downpipes as well as the pump have been jetted. All the missing and faulty lightbulbs in the hall and the choir vestry have been replaced. The mouse man is still in attendance as part of a continuing contract.

In January 2022 there was a fire in the church hall which caused a lot of smoke damage. Although a lot is covered by insurance, some of the infrastructure was not up to current fire regulations and this has resulted in us having to foot a

large bill. This was one of the reasons for the Spring Draw to raise as much money as possible. There will be a need for more fundraising in the future.

Meals on Monday has had to be suspended and now soup and snacks are served at the door of the Narthex alongside FoodShare. In October Michael Ranyard retired from running Meals at St Martin's and David Bland took over. We would like to thank Michael and Sue for all they have done over the years.

In conclusion we are sure that you would like to join us in thanking Reverend Anne, Lauren, David and all who help in any way at St Martin's.

Irene Goodman & Julia Ware
Churchwardens

Treasurer's Report on 2021 Accounts

Even though the pandemic disruptions continued to overshadow much of 2021, by the end of the year restrictions had eased enough for us to enjoy Christmas with our loved ones. Church services had returned to a "new normal" and our church community could look forward to our group activities starting up again in the new year. Continuing with these positive thoughts, we ended the year with a substantial surplus of more than £43,000, largely due to several generous legacies and a number of Grants.

A "Restart" grant of £4,668 from Herefordshire Council was to compensate for the loss of hall lettings during the various lockdowns. In light of the building deficiencies uncovered after the January fire this money will be invaluable.

A £10,000 grant paid for the purchase costs of a refrigerated van for our busy FoodShare project. Several smaller grants are ringfenced for particular FoodShare schemes of which about £3,000 must be spent before this June. The FoodShare part of our activities is going from strength to strength.

Another factor contributing to our year end surplus was that our "Offer" to the Diocese in 2021 was £7,000 less than the previous year. They had required this "Offer" figure in June 2020 just as we were gradually easing out of our first brutal lockdown. Having no idea of the ongoing financial impact we, the PCC, took the conservative decision to reduce our "Offer".

When I compared our 2021 year end surplus and adjusted for legacies, grants and “Offer” reductions, the 2021 Surplus is £2,200 more than 2020 and £1,120 less than 2019 (pre-pandemic). So not a vast difference.

Because of the continuing restrictions in 2021 the only “in person” fund raising event we were able to enjoy together was the Christmas Fair. Thank you to Jackie Nevill and her team for all of their hard work. Everybody had a wonderful time and we raised £1,500.

The Gift Day in the summer raised £2,300. The regular raffles during the year also helped with our fundraising efforts. Thank you Pam Sharpe and Heather Williams for organising and distributing the tickets.

A Bonus Ball surplus of £1,500 went into PCC funds during 2021 thanks to Sue Cockcroft and her tireless record keeping all through the year.

Looking at the Statement of Assets and Liabilities the £3,829 under Liabilities/ Agency Accounts is all Wedding Deposits in the Fees Account and therefore not our money to spend.

In line with PCC policy we have increased our Reserves to £43,832 from £9,829. We have transferred most of the money from the CCLA Property Savings Account to our NatWest Property Current Account due to the danger of falling into “negative equity”.

We have also moved all of our Reserves into Restricted Reserve Funds (see page #2 of the Assets & Liabilities Statement).

Rounding up all of the above, I am hoping that the fact that we were able to build up our Reserves in 2021 means that we should now be in a position to pay for all of the associated expenses incurred after the fire in January. Several issues were raised by the Fire Inspectors after the incident and these must be rectified before we can reopen.

Finally, thank you for your patience, understanding and support during another challenging year.

Gillian Farlow
PCC Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

Report to the trustees of:

ST. MARTINS

Parochial Church Council

On accounts for the year ended:

2021

Charity Number (if applicable):

1179658

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 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 independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (*other than that disclosed below* *)

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

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

Signed:

DHicks

Date:

6/3/22

Name:

DEBORAH JANE HICKS

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

C P F A (CHARTERED) INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE
ACCOUNTANTS

Address:

ORCHARD END
WATERY LANE
LOWER BULLINGHAM
HEREFORD HR2 6ER

Return of Parish Finance

January to December 2021

Parish ref :

180075

Parish :

Hereford: St Martin

INCOMING RESOURCES

		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
Voluntary income / receipts		(nearest £)	(nearest £)
01	Tax efficient planned giving	18799	—
03	Collections at services	2553	—
04	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off)	2090	2560
06	Gift Aid recovered	6308	—
07	Legacies received (capital value)	12500	—
08	Grants (include recurring and one-off)	5408	14598
TOTAL Voluntary income		47657	17158
Activities for generating funds			
09	Gross income from fundraising activities	7892	7
Income from investments			
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc	34554	—
Church activities			
11	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	19187	—
12	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	9837	—
Other incoming resources			
13	Other incoming resources / receipts not already listed	—	—
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (from Financial Statements)			
A	Unrestricted	119127	
B	Restricted	17164	
C	TOTAL	136291	
Planned givers and legacies			
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers	31	
16	Number of new legacies received	3	

Your diocese can supply notes to explain what each section is. These are consistent with the guidance provided in PCC accountability, 2017.

P.
Contact (Phone or E

Looking back across 2021, were there any exceptional circumstances or significant change

We are continuing to feel the financial impact of the COVID 19 pandemic which has been partially offset by 3 ki
We have increased our Reserves in line with PCC policy and national guidelines.
A sole eligible member of staff is enrolled in the CWPF Pension Builder Scheme with pension costs of £1,410 ch
Our Charity Commission Registration Number is .1179658.

If this form is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish,
please list below the churches included.

618075Hereford: St Martin

Deanery :
Hereford

Diocese :
Hereford

RESOURCES EXPENDED

UNRESTRICTED RESTRICTED

Costs of generating income		
17	Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)	1048 —
Church activities		
18	Mission giving and donations	430 545
19	Diocesan parish share contribution	16000 —
20	Salaries, wages and honoraria	16826 8574
21	Clergy and staff expenses	— —
Church expenses		
22	Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	— 4266
23	Church running expenses	27120 —
24	Church utility bills	1411 —
25	Costs of trading	16663 —
Major capital expenditure		
27	Major repairs to the church building	— —
28	Major repairs to the church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	— —
29	New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or any other PCC property	— —
SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses		79498 13385
99	Other outgoing resources / payments	— —

TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (from Financial Statements)		
D	Unrestricted	79498
E	Restricted	13385
F	TOTAL	92883

Cash and investment balances		
31	Cash and deposit balance as at 31st December	28904 51912
32	Investments as at 31st December	— —

Account basis: On which basis are your accounts prepared? (indicate ONE)		
30	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y
	ACCRUALS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date 14 Mar 2022

Name GILLIAN FARLOW

Position HON TREASURER

E-mail)

es that may have led to unusual figures? Please provide details in the box below.

kind legacies and several council grants.

charged to the SOFA in 2021.

St Martin with St Francis PCC
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2021

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
2931 : 27 Web Tree Avenue	242,298.00	—	—	—	242,298.00	242,298.00
2932 : 211 Ross Road	137,518.00	—	—	—	137,518.00	137,518.00
2933 : Parish Centre plus 3 flats	300,000.00	—	—	—	300,000.00	300,000.00
2935 : BU15 UHT FoodShare Van	—	—	7,490.00	—	7,490.00	—
Total	679,816.00	—	7,490.00	—	687,306.00	679,816.00
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : Lloyds Bank PCC current account	11,619.11	—	489.21	—	12,108.32	7,078.88
6502 : Lloyds Bank Roof current account	482.00	—	—	—	482.00	523.00
6503 : Nat West Bank properties current account	—	10,182.00	20,300.00	—	30,482.00	17,193.76
6504 : Nat West Bank WBN current account	294.56	168.93	7,290.20	—	7,753.69	2,975.33
6510 : CCLA (CBF) PCC Gen deposit account	—	—	15,080.86	—	15,080.86	78.54
6512 : CCLA (CBF) Properties deposit Account	—	—	83.09	—	83.09	9,082.80
6520 : Santander HSWTM Team Council Account	—	6,177.49	—	—	6,177.49	7,298.05
6525 : CCLA HSWTM Savings Account	—	—	8,668.30	—	8,668.30	666.64

6530 : Santander HSWTM Fees Account	—	(20.00)	3,829.00	—	3,809.00	5,049.00
Total	12,395.67	16,508.42	55,740.66	—	84,644.75	49,946.00
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	3,829.00	—	3,829.00	5,049.00
Total	—	—	3,829.00	—	3,829.00	5,049.00
Net total assets	692,211.67	16,508.42	59,401.66	—	768,121.75	724,713.00
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	692,211.67	—	—	—	692,211.67	686,508.61
Designated - Fees	—	(20.00)	—	—	(20.00)	—
Designated - WBN	—	168.93	—	—	168.93	172.88
Designated - office	—	6,177.49	—	—	6,177.49	7,964.69
Designated - prop	—	10,182.00	—	—	10,182.00	25,976.56
Restricted - Deposit	—	—	300.00	—	300.00	300.00
Restricted - FoodShare	—	—	13,088.41	—	13,088.41	—
Restricted - HSWTMRve	—	—	8,668.30	—	8,668.30	—
Restricted - Missioner	—	—	1,691.79	—	1,691.79	2,762.45
Restricted - PCCRve	—	—	15,080.86	—	15,080.86	—
Restricted - PropRve	—	—	20,083.09	—	20,083.09	—
Restricted - meals	—	—	489.21	—	489.21	1,027.81
Total	692,211.67	16,508.42	59,401.66	—	768,121.75	724,713.00

St Martin with St Francis PCC
Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	18,798	—	—	—	18,798	19,846
Collections and other giving	3,703	—	—	—	3,703	2,231
Other voluntary receipts	12,701	4,668	17,146	—	34,516	7,910
Gift Aid recovered	6,307	—	—	—	6,307	8,238
Other receipts	829	—	11	—	840	1,800
Activities for generating funds	8,537	9,679	6	—	18,223	16,250
Investment Income	2	34,551	—	—	34,554	34,085
Receipts from church activities	116	19,232	—	—	19,348	15,293
Total receipts	50,995	68,131	17,164	—	136,291	105,657

Payments

Cost of generating funds	1,047	—	—	—	1,047	1,157
Missionary and Charitable Giving	429	—	—	545	975	505
Parish Share	15,999	—	—	—	15,999	23,000
Clergy and Staffing costs	—	16,826	8,574	—	25,400	24,106
Church Running Expenses	9,276	18,861	4,265	—	32,403	25,897
Hall Running Costs	5	16,611	—	—	16,616	19,929
Church Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	725
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Building work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Governance Costs	140	300	—	—	440	663
Total payments	26,899	52,598	13,385	—	92,883	95,984
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	24,096	15,532	3,779	—	43,408	9,672

Transfers

Gross transfers between funds - in	17,481	38,848	64,382	—	120,712	52,143
Gross transfers between funds - out	(35,875)	(71,986)	(12,850)	—	(120,712)	(52,143)
Excess of receipts over payments before other...	5,703	(17,605)	55,311	—	43,408	9,672
Net movement in funds	5,703	(17,605)	55,311	—	43,408	689,488

Reconciliation of funds

All assets at 01 January 2021	686,508	34,114	4,090	—	724,713	35,224
All assets at 31 December 2021	692,211	16,508	59,401	—	768,121	724,713

Team Rector's Report on 2021 for the South Wye Benefice

2021 was the second year when our lives, including our church and community lives were affected by the global pandemic of Covid-19. The extent of the impact on our community, especially on young people, will probably not all be clear for years to come, but we can be sure that some aspects of our church life have changed permanently. We entered January with onsite services once again suspended but through the year we have worked to safely (and legally) return to a more familiar pattern of on-site services and events. I've also returned to a more traditional format with this report, focussing a little more on our mission as a church and what we have been able to do, rather than what has been cancelled or postponed.

Mission and Community

Foodshare and Meals The Foodshare programme developed throughout the year and was successful with a number of grant applications to support the work. A regular pattern of weekly sessions has developed and is augmented by the 'as and when' table at St Martin's which is stocked whenever there is produce available. The team of volunteers is growing and right at the end of the year a chiller van was purchased, enabling the safe storage and distribution of more produce. Following Michael Ranyard's retirement from the administration of Monday Meals, David Bland took on this work. The shape of provision evolved through the year as restrictions changed. Many thanks are due to Michael and Sue for their dedication and hard work over the years.

Superstars Up to 70 Superstars monthly packs, themed around the Church year, were distributed during 2021, and when restrictions permitted we were able to fit in some on site events too. The craft packs were particularly welcomed by families with children at home for long periods whilst schools were closed.

Chill'n'Church In July we had a couple of trial sessions of Chill 'n' Church, our new youth group initiative. After a modest start it was decided that we would continue to hold the sessions weekly, during term time from September. Set up to be a space where all feel safe to express their identity and explore their beliefs and faith, it has been lovely to welcome them into the church where they feel comfortable and well-spirited. It has been a great delight to see the group continuing to increase in the number of attendees, with new faces

showing up weekly. Whilst we had a retained 4 or 5 members in the first few weeks as an extension of the Chaplaincy work at The Hereford Academy, we are now regularly seeing 20 plus turning up, from a few different schools. Each week we attempt to do crafts and games based upon the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday; it has shown to be an effective way to get the teenagers to engage with scripture and reflect on it within their own context and we would love to support this further. Within the Chill 'n' Church sessions we also hold our daily compline service live on Facebook. Intriguingly this has been an inspiring tool for the youth to interact with; they seem to particularly enjoy night prayer and it is wonderful to have them joining online whilst on other nights of the week. *(Lauren)*

Chaplaincy at the Academy Provision for Chaplaincy at the Hereford Academy developed through the year, guided by the school as to what they needed from us. Pre-recorded assemblies, online activities and on-site lunchtime sessions were offered at different times. Chill'n'Chat sessions lead to the development of Chill'n'Church. Through the year we worked on a funding proposal and application to be able to continue this Chaplaincy work after the end of the current IM project.

After School Club When after school activities were possible during the year, this joint programme with Putson Baptist Church at St Martin's School has continued and been very much welcomed by the children and the school.

PreSchool Praise Our group for families with very young children restarted in the Autumn with an entirely new group of children. It has been an especial joy to be able to offer this chance for fellowship to children who have been very isolated from other youngsters for most of their short lives.

Young at Heart Having spent a lot of time on Facebook and Zoom, through a period of 'Rule of 6" coffee meet-ups, as more restrictions began to lift and socialization with others became more appropriate, the friendship group Young at Heart were able to once again start regularly gathering in person together. Due to the effects of the pandemic and many people still feeling uneasy about mixing with others, the number of members has slightly decreased but every get together continues to be filled with such joy, support and laughter.

As a group it was decided that Young at Heart would meet twice monthly whilst it needed to adjust to a new pattern of meeting up. The first meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month and is currently lunch held at The Wye Inn. The second get together is currently held at the church on the third Thursday of the month, where there are opportunities for refreshments, to play games, quizzes and hear from guest speakers. (*Lauren*)

Tuesday Coffee Facebook Coffee and Rule of 6 get togethers also evolved into the new Tuesday afternoon coffee group, which is meeting regularly and providing an important time of fellowship for members.

Newsletter The weekly newsletter is now distributed to over 120 email addresses and 50 copies are delivered by hand or posted. It has proved a surprisingly useful way to keep in touch with 'life events' families as well as more established members of our church family.

Services and Liturgy

As we have moved between online, onsite and blended Sunday, weddings and funeral services in accordance with different levels of regulation, our primary objective has been to maintain the safety of those who attend church. We have worked within specific principles throughout the changes, some of which were nationally mandated by the government or the Church of England, whilst some were local decisions.

Some services were able to take place outside, including a Palm Sunday procession in the Churchyard and post service coffee was offered out of doors for a period. Sunday congregations remained below previous levels, but we have some new attenders on a Sunday and at the online Daily Offices. Families have been slow to return.

A new communion service was established at Belmont Community Centre and Tea Time Praise was re-established at the same venue.

We returned to onsite services in 2021 for Easter Sunday, although singing was not permitted in services for some time. Our online provision continued, evolving into a live streaming of the morning service on Facebook Live. We continue to explore funding opportunities that might allow us to improve the quality and accessibility of what we offer.

Baptisms and weddings were very varied through the year. There were periods when they were not possible and periods when what we could offer was extremely limited. As soon as it was permitted baptism bookings rocketed and we fitted in extra services wherever we could to accommodate the demand. Restrictions meant that we only had one family at each baptism and this has proved very popular and we will continue to do this whilst we can. Postponed weddings took place through the late Summer and Autumn. Funerals continued in Church through this year, although often restricted to 30 mourners, with masks worn in Church and no singing allowed.

Prayer and Spirituality

Morning and Night Prayer online have continued to draw a congregation of more established and newer members of the church. The overlap with Chill'n'Church has been a delightful and unexpected development.

Our 'Wye Lent' course was offered as an online group, as a study booklet and supported by online talks and resources aimed at different groups and individuals. There were reflection activities and questions for each week and crafts to make. Course resources were distributed to Superstars and Messy Church families and congregation members.

Events and Fundraising

During 2021 we evolved our policy of separating fundraising from fun, which started as a response to the restrictions of 2020. Spring and Christmas Draws, the bonus ball and the gift day formed the basis of our fundraising efforts, thanks to Pam and Heather and Sue. The Fun Day and Afternoon Tea in the Summer offered important chances for reconnection. The Christmas Fayre was a glorious combination of fun and fundraising, and huge thanks are due to Jackie for her organizing skills, to everyone who helped and attended, and to the Recycling Group for Santa and his gifts.

Hall Use and Users

Almost all of our hall users, except ECHO fell into categories that could not continue to meet. Echo filled some of these slots as they had to leave some of their other halls and spread out to accommodate social distancing. No bookings for one off events or parties were taken during the year. Plans for the hall have obviously been overtaken by events as we manage the consequences of the fire in early 2022.

Loss

For many of us 2021 started with the news of the tragically early death of Sian Mehlmann. Through the year we also lost several other members of the St Martin's family, including Glenys Hackett , Pat Baulch, Barbara Wiggins, Janet Evans and Yvonne Pegler. We remember them with grateful affection and continue to keep their families in our prayers.

Staffing

The PCC's employees worked in different ways through the different periods of restrictions. Bill's hours in the Churchyard did not change. Sharron was furloughed for a period and worked partly from home at other times. Christine mostly worked from home with some office based time and spent some time on flexi-furlough. Office hours were re-scheduled as restrictions lifted so that for most of the time only one member of staff would be in the office at a time. Huge thanks are due to all our staff for their flexibility and dedication as they bore the administrative workload of the parish under such difficult conditions.

Through the year the ministry of the parish was supported by so many people. Rev John Simpson provided holiday cover. Natalie Jennings joined us for a parish placement in April. Following her ordination as Deacon, Rev Lauren Bell joined us as Curate and has settled into her ministry, and the benefice, very well.

Sadly ill health meant that Rev Penny Littlewood stepped back from her work in South Wye and Jo Child left her role as Intergenerational Missioner. We are very grateful to Penny and Jo for all their work and care for the benefice which was very much valued and made a real difference to us all.

Thanks

Once again, I have so many thanks to give – to Lauren, Jackie, Penny, Jo, David and John for their ministry and support of our onsite and online services. To Gillian, Irene and Julia for their support and help in so many ways. To Christine and Sharron. To the members of this PCC and the congregation for your patience and prayer.

Thank you all, your support makes such a difference.

Anne Dowdeswell
Team Rector

APCM for Calendar Year 2021
St Martin's, Ross Road, Hereford
Sunday 8th May 2022

Vestry Meeting Agenda

Prayers

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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Election of Wardens

APCM Agenda

Minutes of previous meeting

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Treasurer's Report

included in Annual Report

Churchwardens' and Fabric Report

included in Annual Report

Incumbent's Report

included in Annual Report

Electoral Roll

included in Annual Report

Election of PCC members

Sidesmen and Women

Deanery Synod Representation

Child Protection Representation

Appointment of External Examiner

A.O.B

Parish of S Martin, South Wye, Hereford

Minutes of EASTER VESTRY

held on Monday May 10th 2021, 7pm, via Zoom,

Present (in person) The Rev A Dowdeswell and J Eden (Sec)

(Zoom) Irene Goodman, Michael Ranyard, Jo Child, Phil Child, Jackie Nevill, Geoff Rawcliffe, Deanne Rawcliffe, Sue Cockroft, Julia Ware, Sarah Hammett, Gillian Farlow.

The Meeting opened with prayer.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 25th October 2020 at St Martin's Church were approved.

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations - **Irene Goodman** and **Julia Ware**, both consented to their nomination and continuation in office.

The meeting **APPROVED** the election of Irene and Julia.

AD confirmed the arrangements for swearing in of Churchwardens, which was necessarily different in the current circumstances. The Parish Priests had delegated authority to swear in elected Churchwardens for the new term of office. AD thanked the wardens for the work they had done and continue to maintain parish and church life through the current COVID pandemic. Support regarding the reopening of the church to public worship was particularly appreciated. The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Parish of S Martin, South Wye, Hereford

Minutes of ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

held on Monday May 10th 2021, 7pm

following the Easter Vestry, via Zoom

Present The Rev A Dowdeswell and J Eden (Sec) in person

(Zoom) Irene Goodman, Michael Ranyard, Jo Child, Phil Child, Jackie Nevill, Geoff Rawcliffe, Deanne Rawcliffe, Sue Cockroft, Julia Ware, Sarah Hammett, Gillian Farlow.

1. The Rector opened the APCM, and the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2020 were **APPROVED** and signed.

Proposed: Julia Ware Seconded: Sarah Hammett. All in favour.

The Rector referred to the complete document, circulated in advance of the meeting, containing the Rector's Report, the Financial Report, including the Return of Parish Finance and the Independent Examiner's Report, and the Churchwardens' Report.

2. Treasurer's Report Gillian Farlow referred to her report, which showed St Martin's was in good financial position, having secured a number of grants from Herefordshire Council related to the COVID situation, and securing a number of savings related to ongoing expenditure. There were savings across a number of budget headings, relating to the cessation of 'trading' / operation of the building as a place of worship etc. We have come through COVID with a positive and focussed attitude. Gillian F thanked everyone in the parish for their support, both financial, and practical.

AD thanked Gillian for her hard work and perseverance throughout a very challenging period, and asked that the meeting :

(a) Accept the Accounts (previously approved by the PCC)

(b) Note the Return of Parish Finance, to be submitted to the Diocese

Outcome : **Accepted**, with no objections

3. Churchwardens' Report Julia Ware referred to, and read the report as it appears on page 8 of the reports document.

Outcome: **Accepted**, no objections.

AD thanked the Churchwardens for their help, support and commitment over the last year.

4. Rector's Report AD referred to her report, contained in the document previously circulated, and expressed regret that a number of schemes of work that were developing and embedding in parish life were disrupted and suspended due to the COVID pandemic. It is to be hoped that these activities will resume when restrictions are lifted further. GR thanked the Rector for her hard work during the last year, keeping the 'show on the road' and seemingly working very long hours, often well into the evening!

5. Electoral Roll The latest Electoral Roll is available and data submitted to the Diocese as part of the Annual Return.

6. Election of PCC The following had valid and complete nomination forms submitted prior to the APCM:

John Eden, Gillian Farlow, Irene Goodman, Geoff Rawcliffe, Julia Ware
Bev Merritt was ex-officio by virtue of membership of Deanery Synod.

No nomination had been received for Clive Wilce, however it was agreed that, subject to his willingness to serve, he could be co-opted for the upcoming year and could be nominated in the usual way in 2022.

Outcome: All elected, all agreed, no abstentions.

7. Sidesmen/women : This parish does not elect to this role

8. Deanery Synod Representative : Bev Merritt is content to continue, subject to the consent of the meeting.

Outcome : All in favour/agreed

9. Child Protection Representative (actually Child and Vulnerable Persons Officer) Currently, this role vacant and responsibility falls to Incumbent, however, Bev Merritt has indicated that she would be prepared to explore and take up the role in January 2022, upon retirement from her employment. The meeting agreed that this would be an excellent outcome. The meeting **approved** Bev Merritt as CVPO from January 2022, or as soon a practical thereafter.

10. External Examiner The External Examiner has intimated that she does not wish to continue in this role after this year (ie her Report for this year will be the last). AD asked for suggestions as to who might be approached: Clive Wilce said he could approach a neighbour who is an Accountant. Geoff Rawcliffe also knows an Accountant who may be willing to undertake this work. The issue was referred back to the PCC for resolution and determination.

11. Any other business Michael Ranyard suggested a vote for your favourite hymns Geoff Rawcliffe thanked John Eden and Gaye Wiggins for musical support for services and cheering up the worship at S Martins. Meeting closed with prayer at 7.28pm