

St Martin of Tours Parish Church, West Coker

Registered Charity Number: 1185493

Annual Report

Year ending 31st December 2024

Administrative Information

St Martin of Tours Parish Church is situated in Church St, West Coker. It is part of the Benefice of Coker Ridge, the Diocese of Bath & Wells, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 82 High St, West Coker, BA22 9AT

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members who have served since 17th April 2024 until the date this report was approved are:-

Incumbent & Chairperson Rev Philip Macaulay (since October 2024)

Vice Chair Mrs Valerie Barker

Wardens Mrs Susan Bonning
Mr Michael Collins

Representatives on the Yeovil Deanery Synod

Mrs Valerie Barker – Deanery Lay Chair
Mrs Jacqueline Gormer

Elected Members

Mrs Judy Beattie
Mrs Lotty Boersma (Foundation Governor)
Mrs Caroline Collins (Electoral Roll Officer)
Mrs Barbara Hampshire (Treasurer)
Mrs Rita Coward
Mrs Sylvia Bruce

Mr Chris Varley (Reader-in-Training at the time of the APCM, but licensed ^{October} ~~June~~ 2024) is invited to attend PCC meetings.

Secretary

Mrs Stella Davis

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 and stand for election to the PCC.

Rector's Report

Thank you all again for the kind welcome I've received since beginning this role. I've enjoyed so much of the responsibilities especially leading worship with you in the beautiful church buildings and building friendships with so many of you - sorry that I still struggle with names!

I will add to this report in person with highlights. Challenges for me revolve around adapting to the governance element of this role; Finance and Safeguarding will remain my focus for the coming months. Later I will develop vision with the PCCs for each of the Churches for future life-giving ministry.

Thank to so much to all who serve in so many ways (especially Barbs and Chris), all who help with worship both by setting up Communion tables and those setting up coffee tables, and all of you who show God's love to one another in big or small ways, and especially for all those who pray.
God bless you all,
Reverend Phil Macaulay

Report on Fabric of the Parish Church and Review of the Year .

January:	Chris Barker put together a detailed faculty application for the proposed Church heating system. Concern was raised about two trees in the lower church yard overlapping neighbours' gardens. Advert inserted in The Church Times seeking a new Rector for the Coker Ridge Benefice (CRB).
February	A relocation of one of the two trial nave heaters installed in December 2023 proved successful and provided useful evidence for the final system. The church organ was tuned / checked. No applications had been received by the closing date of Feb 14th for the post of Rector for the CRB. Neil Lovell, from Audiovisual Direct visited the church to check the PA system. A new lapel microphone and amplifier for the audio/hearing system were purchased and installed.
March	The first of the visiting teams of Bell Ringers arrived - their skills and interest keep our bells in good working order throughout the year, under the effective management of David Neal. Brynley Andrews (tree surgeon) presented a signed, detailed report outlining the condition of the trees in the churchyard.
April	A second advert for a Rector of the CRB appeared in The Church Times. Light bulbs in the church porch area were replaced and two lights over the organ keyboard were installed.
May	The Church Heating System Project was approved by the PCC as part of the faculty process, and public notices outlining the system were on display in the church porch and notice board for a calendar month. May 17th, The Phoenix Brass Band [Crewkerne] performed in the church - a super, well attended event. Wednesday May 22nd, one candidate, Rev Phil Macaulay, had applied for the post of Rector for the CRB.
June	On Wed. June 12th and Thur. June 13th, Phil Macaulay, having visited the benefice, was interviewed and appointed. By June 14th, the closing date, there had been no appeals against the proposed church heating system. The Diocese issued the Faculty allowing us to proceed to install the new heating system Ref: 2024 - 093310.
July	Work and decorating was undertaken at The Rectory in Cedarfields, ready for Phil to move in.
September	11th – 17th Church Heating System completely installed by Spectrum Electrical Services, taking notice of wiring routing guidance from Daniel Cantrell, architect.

28th, The Sherborne Singers presented a very pleasant evening of music in the church.

- October After two years of dedicated hard work of study, essays and regular group discussions, Chris Varley was licensed as a Lay Reader in Wells Cathedral. Chris now regularly leads services and supports Rev. Phil.
Monday 7th, Phil's Licensing Service at St Martin's Church, led by Rt. Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells, with newly-licensed Reader Chris Varley acting as Bishop's Chaplain.
Safeguarding regulations changing - see Safeguarding Yearly report.
4 new LED lights were installed in the chancel, and the entry heater was wired into the main electric box.
- December People joining us for Christmas services welcomed the new heating system.
New cushion seats for 10 pews were in the process of being measured and ordered.
Sadly, organist, Rita Coward was ill, and unable to play for Christmas services. She was much missed. (She resumed her seat at the organ in February 2025.)

A growing team of volunteer grass cutters, trimmers and gardeners keeps the churchyard and outside areas in good order.

The Church log reflects 4 funerals, 5 burials of ashes, no baptisms and 2 weddings conducted in St. Martin's Church during 2024.

Rev. Phil has settled into church and village life - he is very positive, caring and understanding.

Here's to 2025!

Sue Bonning and Mick Collins - Churchwardens.

Report on the Proceedings of the Church Council

The PCC met for routine meetings in February, May, July, and November. The atmosphere is relaxed but purposeful, and we discuss and make decisions on topics as varied as fundraising, trees, re-ordering and safeguarding. There were two extra, brief meetings in May and October to ratify decisions relating to the Heating Project.

We would like to thank Sue Bonning for offering us Teal House for our meetings. And thank you too to Stella Davis who has rapidly become a very efficient and reliable PCC Secretary.

Finance Report

2024 ticked over financially without any great surprises for St Martin of Tours.

Our Parish Share was £18,502, which is a 15 % increase from 2023- this was paid in full to the diocese.

The final repayment of £12,000 of the £60,000 loan made to us by East Coker PCC for the Roof was made at the end of 2023, but the cheque was not cashed until Spring 2024.

The Roof Fund turned into the Wall Fund – for funds raised to pay off the loan on works carried out to reinstate part of the churchyard boundary wall that collapsed in 2023. During the course of 2024 we paid off the outstanding balance to Mrs Hampshire of £7,332.36. This was achieved by some fundraising and donations.

This year we raised £1,853 from holding events such as Winter Warmer and Summer Lunches, Quiz Night and Brass Band and Sherborne Singers Concerts; donations to the church totalled £2,491.39.

We put a new heating system in the church, 6 new infrared heaters, at a cost of £8,760.14; the cost of this was paid as a loan from a parishioner/PCC member. At an extraordinary meeting in the autumn the PCC agreed to pay off this loan by drawing down accrued interest (and some capital) from the OSR restricted

fund, totalling £9,542.00. Part of this interest £5,500.00 was received and then paid to the parishioner/PCC member in December 2024, with the balance of £3,260.14 to be paid once received from the Diocese in January 2025.

Our total received income, through tax efficient and plate giving and donations fundraising, interest and statutory fees our income was £32,630. Our total spend (Parish Share, altar supplies, utilities, giving, repairs) for the year was £46,781.00 so a shortfall of around £13,000. On a monthly basis we are short of an average of £1000 regarding receipts and expenses.

At the end of the year (2024) the balance in our general bank account was £5,011.77 and in our Wall Fund bank account £6,403.76 (£5,500 (paid by cheque as mentioned above) cashed in 2025.

I would like to record huge thanks to PCC members for their support over the last year.

Barbs Hampshire

Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in the course of the year, with the Rev David Keen bringing much vision and energy to his new role as Area Dean. With the introduction of the new methodology for the calculation of Parish Share, there has been much engagement with parish treasurers and others in explaining and supporting. In November a half-day Deanery Development Day was held, when colleagues from the Diocesan Parish Support Team led workshops on Finance, Mission, Communication and Discipleship. This was well-received and will be repeated in some form in the future.

Val Barker

Report on the list of Church Members

There are currently 42 on the Electoral Roll. A new roll will be prepared for the APCM in 2025, and we wait to see what the new number will be.

Caroline Collins – Electoral Roll Officer

Report on Safeguarding

High profile Safeguarding related stories are regularly dominating our media, highlighted this year when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby resigned. The Church of England is currently in the process of requiring each diocese, benefice and parish to restructure safeguarding procedures.

Each of the seven parishes in the Coker Ridge Benefice is now required to have its own safeguarding officer. Sue Phillips and I have stood down as benefice safeguarding officers, but I will continue to represent West Coker

The Rev. Phil Macaulay was appointed Rector of the Coker Ridge Benefice in October 2024. He will operate and manage safeguarding in the benefice using DASHBOARD technology, which is an integral part of current monitoring and communication technology across the Diocese. Each step of the change will have to be managed carefully. Two posters will now be displayed outside each church, one displaying safeguarding contacts, and one bullet-pointing the policy

West Coker C. of E. V.C. Primary School continues to use St. Martin's Church for a monthly assembly, during term time. The school has undertaken safeguarding and risk assessment measures to visit the church. The Acorns group for babies, toddlers and grown-ups meets in the school on a weekly, term time basis. All leaders hold up to date Safeguarding Foundation Certificates. The school is a safe environment under the leadership and governance of the school. [Ofsted 2024 – A 'GOOD' School]

Sue Phillips and I have received no phone calls / emails / messages related to any safeguarding issues or concerns during 2024.

Mick Collins

Zambia Companion Link

We celebrated Zambia Sunday on 7th July 2024 with Zambia themed intercessions and a talk about David Livingstone and his activities in Zambia.

In September, Jacqueline Clough, Alan Gormer and Jacky Gormer attended a lunchtime gathering of Zambia Link representatives, to share news and views and also to hear from Bishop Michael. We heard from several people who had recently visited Zambia about the current conditions there, particularly about the poor state of the economy and unemployment. We also learned about Bishop Michael's past experience of working in Zambia on the link between improving nutrition for children and the positive result on their educational achievements.

Before attending this meeting, the PCC had been asked how they viewed our link with St Peter and what comments or questions they might wish to be communicated to the Zambia Link Co-ordinator. Generally the feeling was that we wished to continue with our link, even if all we could do would be to pray for the church at Twapia during times when there might be little news.

The most recent news from St Peter is that they are planning to build a bigger church because the current one is too small and dilapidated. They have involved all the families and the community at large in this venture by giving out building support forms. There are frequent power cuts in Zambia due to low water in the hydro dam. This is affecting many aspects of daily life. We have been asked to pray for good timely rain to bring renewal and hope.

Jacky Gormer

West Coker Church of England VC Primary School

The year 2024 was an important year for our village school. It started with the Ofsted Inspection in May 2024. We previously had an inspection in 2023 with a provisional 'Good', but the inspectors planned to come back within a year for a definite inspection. The result was, again, GOOD. This was a delight for everyone involved.

At the same time, we have been focusing on the preparation for a SIAMS inspection. During the year, we agreed to change the school's vision, which was a bit difficult for the children to understand. So, we replaced "All life's threads entwined" by: "Working together to grow and flourish". Our old vision was based on the bible story of the four friends lowering their friend on a bed held with four ropes through the roof of a building to Jesus, to be cured of his affliction. We still use this bible story, but also other bible stories to support our new vision. Our Christian values continue to be the same: Community, Wisdom, Hope, Respect and Kindness.

In preparing for SIAMS we formed an Ethos Committee in May 2024. In addition to the Foundation Governor, our Churchwarden Mick Collins, is a member of this Committee. The Ethos Committee makes recommendations regarding the Christian character of the school to the Board of Governors.

After a three-year vacancy period for an incumbent on the Board of Governors, we were very fortunate when Rev. Philip Macaulay was appointed Rector of the Coker Ridge Benefice. Rev. Phil has joined the Board of Governors as well as the Ethos Committee.

Further to that, Rev. Phil leads a monthly Collective Worship within the school. And we celebrate Collective Worship in our church once per month. This Collective Worship is usually led by Simon Ellis, who started to help during our vacancy period.

The number of pupils in school has stayed stable in the range of 28 – 30 children.

Old School Room

CAN WE CLOSE THE OLD SCHOOL ROOM CHARITY?

In the course of 2024, we investigated whether we could close the Old School Room charity and, as a result, get immediate access to the funds available.

This Charity was formed in December 1992; it owned the Old School Room. Originally, the Old School Room was built as a CofE primary school in 1858 but when it appeared too small, a new school was built in 1874. From then on, the Old School Room was used as a Church Hall. The building was sold in May 2009. The net proceeds of the sale amounted to £53,348.08. This money is in a special CCLA investment account.

According to the Rules of the Charity Scheme, the income from this CCLA account can only be used "in furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Martin of Tours, West Coker." The annual interest income from this account has been spent on the general purposes of the church.

According to the same rules, the capital resulting from the sale of the Old School Room cannot be expended but must be invested; this is called a permanent endowment. This can only be used to "recreate facilities".

Before closing the Old School Room Charity, the permanent endowment should either be spent according to its purpose, the recreation of facilities, or should be transferred to another charity.

Closing The Old School Room Charity by means of transferring the permanent endowment to another charity, for example St. Martin of Tours PCC, would only create legal and administrative hurdles. The permanent endowment would still have to be separately accounted for and still could only be spent by recreating facilities. Transferring to another charity is therefore not the preferred way.


The conclusion of this investigation was that the best way to close the OSR Charity is by spending the permanent endowment to recreate facilities.

This subject was discussed and agreed upon in our PCC meeting of 19 November 2024.

Lotty Boersma

The West Coker Acorns Stay and Play is a group for babies, toddlers and their carers. It has been operating weekly since March 2022 and is a joint collaboration between the school and the benefice. Volunteers are members of the benefice and village communities. It has been a joy to see babies grow into children, and supportive friendships grow between mothers. 'I could not have coped without it,' one mother said recently.

Approved by the PCC ^{18th March 2025} and signed on their behalf by Rev Phil Macaulay, Rector


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The form below is produced by the Archbishops' Council's Statistics division, and should be submitted us
<http://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>



of Parish Finance January to December

2024

#REF!

Parish code: (6 digits)	510191	If the form
Parish name:	West Coker	

INCOMING RESOURCES		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	
Voluntary income/ receipts				
1	Tax efficient planned giving	£ 8,105	£ 1,200	17
2	Other planned giving	£ 2,443	£ -	
3	Collections at services	£ 4,432		18
4	All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	£ 1,887	£ 1,050	19
6	Gift Aid recovered		£ -	20
7	Legacies received (capital value)		£ -	21
8	Grants [Include recurring and one-off]	£ -	£ -	
TOTAL Voluntary income:		£ 16,867	£ 2,250	22
Activities for generating funds				23
9	Gross income from fundraising activities	£ 462	£ 1,710	24
Income from investments				25
10	Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	£ 917	£ 3,096	
Church activities				27
11	Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	£ 5,206		28
12	Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	£ -	£ -	29
Other incoming resources				
13	Any other income/ receipts not already listed	£ -	£ -	26
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)				99
A	Unrestricted	£ 23,452		
B	Restricted	£ 7,056		D
C	TOTAL	£ 30,508		E
PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES				F
14	Number of tax efficient planned givers	16		
15	Number of other planned givers	5		31
16	Number of new legacies received	0		32
This section needs to be completed manually as the figures are not recorded within the Cashbook				30

Please refer to the notes on the following pages to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in PCC Accountability, 2013.	Date
	Name
	Position
	Telephone or email

ing their webportal at:

is NOT completed on behalf of the entire parish, please list below the churches included:	Deanery:	Yeovil
	Diocese:	Bath&Wells

RESOURCES EXPENDED	UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
Costs of generating income		
Fund-raising activities (costs and payments)	£ -	£ -
Church activities		
Mission giving and donations	£ 795	£ -
Diocesan parish share contribution	£ 18,502	£ -
Salaries, wages and honararia	£ 480	£ -
Clergy and staff expenses	£ 1,304	£ -
Church expenses		
Church expenses: Mission and evangelism costs	£ 280	£ -
Church running expenses	£ 4,174	£ 190
Church utility bills	£ 3,357	£ -
Cost of trading	£ -	£ -
Major capital expenditure		
Major repairs to the church building	£ -	£ -
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, including redecoration	£ -	£ -
New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property	£ -	£ -
SUB-TOTAL for Church activities & expenses	£ 28,892	£ 190
Governance costs		£ -
Other outgoing resources/ payments	£ 3,000	£ 16,332
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED (FROM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)		
Unrestricted	£ 31,892	
Restricted	£ 16,522	
TOTAL	£ 48,414	

Cash and Investment Balances	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
#REF!	£ 5,012	£ 68,794
#REF!	£ -	£ -

Account basis: on which basis are your accounts prepared (indicate ONE)
Receipts and payments [X] Accruals []

**produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5*

21st July 2025
Barbs Hampshire
Treasurer - West Coker PCC
Barbsmack@me.com

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST
MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1185493

Acorn Accounting for Business Limited
Suite A
17 The Park
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1DN

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF
TOURS, WEST COKER.**

(Registered Charity No.1185493)

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024		2023
	£	£	£
RECEIPTS			
Planned giving – General Fund			
Planned giving	8,362		7,807
Tax Efficient Planned giving	8,105		8,200
Planned Giving – Restricted Fund			
Planned giving	-		-
Tax Efficient Planned giving	1,200		1,440
Collections, donations and other giving			
Donations – General Fund	400		2,440
Donations – Restricted Fund	1,050		-
Income tax recovered	-		4,838
Annual fete and events			
General Fund	462		1,084
Restricted Fund	1,710		2,206
Parochial fees	5,206		5,065
Other receipts	-		455
Investment income			
Bank interest and dividends received			
General Fund	917		491
Restricted Fund	3,096		2,372
Loan from parishioner (re church wall repairs) – now repaid	(7,332)		7,332
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<hr/>	23,176	<hr/> 43,730
PAYMENTS			
Donations and grants to charities and mission giving	795		1,155
Children/Youth work costs – school leavers books	80		-
Local Mission & Evangelism projects – outside play area (school)	200		-
Parish share	18,502		16,041
Church running expenses			
Light and heat – incl test pew heaters	3,357		1,367
Organ tuning and music costs	1,055		-
Other church expenses	178		145
Repairs and maintenance	418		215
Churchyard maintenance	695		1,198
Support costs – fees to visiting ministers	1,254		-
Administration (incl staff costs)			
Bank charges – restricted fund	22		24
Coker Ridge Benefice – administration costs	-		1,242
Salaries and wages	480		580
Accountancy (2 years)	450		-

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF
TOURS, WEST COKER.

(Registered Charity No.1185493)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Other;				
Insurance	1,596		1,633	
Church wall repairs	-		7,332	
Other expenses	-		80	
Loan repayments	12,000		-	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		41,082		31,012
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(17,906)		12,718
CASH FUNDS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2024		91,712		78,994
CASH FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		73,806		91,712

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST
MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.**

(Registered Charity No. 1185493)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

CASH FUNDS

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Bank Current Account	5,012	10,488
CBF Deposit Account	10,500	10,500
Bank Current Account – roof fund	6,404	13,334
OSR Trust Fund CBF Deposit Account	51,890	57,390
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 DECEMBER 2024	73,806	91,712
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CBF INCOME SHARES DODGE CHURCHYARD

	2024
Balance brought forward	6,804
Investment growth	156
	<hr/>
Balance carried forward	6,960
	<hr/>

LOAN FROM EAST COKER PCC

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Balance carried forward	-	12,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LOAN FROM PARISHIONER (RE CHURCH WALL REPAIRS)

	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£
Balance carried forward	-	7,332
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST
MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities Act 2011 and SORP'S 2008 Regulations.

Certificate of Approval

I approve these accounts and confirm that they include a complete record of all relevant income and associated expenses and that I have made available all records and information for their compilation.

Signed: B Hampshire

Date: 5/6/25

B Hampshire (Mrs)
Treasurer

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF
TOURS, WEST COKER.**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report on the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin of Tours, West Coker, for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on the attached pages.

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 the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to :

- * examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- * follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- * state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity 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 you as 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:

(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 2011 Act; and
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have 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.

HM Lambshead ICPA

ACORN ACCOUNTING FOR BUSINESS LIMITED

Suite A

17 The Park

YEOVIL

Somerset

BA20 1DN

5 June 2025