

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN, NORRIS BANK

England & Wales - Charity number 1196002

## Details

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**Other names** ST MARTIN'S PCC, NORRIS BANK

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2021-09-30

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

## Contact

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## Activities

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

**Activities:** St Martin's Church has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical and social. The PCC also has specific responsibility for maintenance of the church buildings.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Stockport

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£392,936	£148,822	-	-
2023-12-31	£321,941	£148,872	-	-
2022-12-31	£212,764	£195,385	-	-

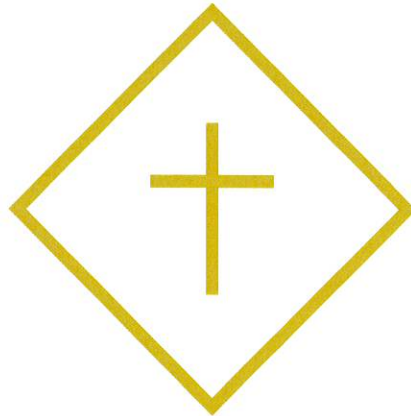
## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anna Margaret Rose Sant		2022-05-04
David Warburton		2023-05-17
James Barrow		2024-04-24
Jessica Bradshaw		2023-05-17
Joseph Peter Richard Hobbs		2025-05-21
KATE HEATHER BUTT		2020-10-14
Marion Baird		2024-04-24
Oliver James Hatley		2021-04-28
Rev Richard Benjamin Criddle		2022-08-01
Rev William Edward Rubie		2019-06-30
Sarah Eleanor Prescott		2020-10-14
Susan Helen Carpentier Alting		2023-05-17
Thomas James Shepherd		2019-04-24
Timothy Matthew Bull		2018-04-15

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# Accounts

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**ST MARTIN'S  
STOCKPORT**

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**HEATON NORRIS**

**The Parish of St Martin,  
Norris Bank**

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

*The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Martin, Norris Bank  
is a charity registered in England and Wales (1196002).*

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## Reference & Administrative Details

### Bank

The Co-operative Bank PLC,  
Central Commercial Bank, P.O. Box 250,  
Skelmersdale,  
WN8 6WT

### Independent Examiner

Paul Roper, McKellens Limited  
11 Riverview, The Embankment Business  
Park, Heaton Mersey, Stockport,  
SK4 3GN

### Principal Address

112 Crescent Park, Heaton Norris,  
Stockport, SK4 2JE

### Charity Number

1196002

### P.C.C. Membership.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) is a body corporate (P.C.C. Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and registered with the Charity Commission. PCC members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church representation Rules 2020 and during the year.

There are a number of officers who are Ex-Officio: clergy, churchwardens & Deanery Synod representatives.

During 2024, the following served as members of the PCC:

Ministers	<i>Reverend William Rubie*</i> (Ex-officio) <i>Reverend Richard Criddle*</i> (Ex-officio)	
Churchwardens	<i>Tom Shepherd*</i> <i>Oli Hatley*</i>	(Elected 2021) (Ex-officio) (Elected 2023) (Ex-officio)
Deanery & Diocesan Synod	Tim Bull Anna Sant	(Term of Office Expires 2026) (Ex-officio) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Ex-officio)
Elected Members	Sue Alting Jamie Barrow <i>Ruth Gaskins*</i> Sarah Prescott <i>Jess Bradshaw*</i> David Warburton Kate Butt Marion Baird Chris Summerton	(Term of Office Expires 2025) (Term of Office Expires 2025) (Term of Office Expires 2025) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Term of Office Expires 2027) (Term of Office Expires 2027) (Term of Office Expires 2027)

PCC Secretary                      Bethan Wilson (until maternity leave in Sept 2024)  
   Anna Sant (from Sept 2024)

*\*Names in italic denote members of the Standing Committee*

## **Trustees' Report**

### **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.

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year.

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. It also meets to discuss other matters to be put before the PCC.

### **Matters discussed by the PCC**

The full PCC and the Standing Committee have met during the year. They have discussed a range of issues, including the *Build to Bless* project; our parish share; donations to mission partners; and staffing (including the hire of a new Youth & Children's worker and maternity cover administrator).

*Bethan Wilson, 2024 PCC Secretary*

### **Electoral Roll**

By the end of 2024, we had a total of 109 Members on the Electoral Roll: The same number as reported in 2023.

*Jo Bull, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Public Benefit**

The Church of St Martin, Norris Bank is a public benefit entity. St Martin's promotes public services, in dedicated buildings and elsewhere, in accordance with the practices and teachings of the Church of England, for hearing and appropriating the word of God and for the worship of God both generally and at significant points in people's lives. It provides

religious and moral parameters by which individual members of the public may live fulfilled lives and act in a way which is socially beneficial, and influence wider society for the better.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities' Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

## Review of the Year

### Ministers Report

In the autumn of 2024 we spent time as a church reflecting on the book of Ecclesiastes. Sometimes frustrating and perplexing, often surprisingly comforting and even joyful. Our lives are like the morning mist – so beautiful and yet so fleeting, a gift to receive rather than grasping hold of for gain. Time and again we found ourselves smiling at God's kindness to us and worshiping him for his enduring love and presence in our ever-changing life.

As the seasons came and went the Lord continued to make everything beautiful in His time. He granted planning permission for the Build to Bless project quicker than we expected. In His time, He provided a fully licensed incumbent for St Martin's. In His time, he gave us the gift of Rev'd Lydia Taylor as curate for a year. In His time, he provided Gail Byrne as youth and children's worker to start after Christmas. In His time, the Christians Against Poverty group was much harder to establish than we had anticipated. In His time we were thankful when newcomers joined us and sad when others left. In His time, we were unsettled by discussions in the national church and comforted by continued evidence of His kingdom coming. In His time, we were overwhelmed by visitors at our outreach events, and quietly encouraged by a few individuals at our evangelistic group.

From a personal point of view, I benefited hugely from time and space in June for a month's retreat. It was a precious time of slowing down, being present with family and friends and spending extended time walking with the Lord (literally).

Looking ahead, we would love to have certainty of what lies before us; how will *Build to Bless* progress? What direction will the Church of England move in? Will we see more fruit in reaching the parish for Christ? What will it look like to encounter the Lord week by week in worship and where will Jesus take us? As questions mount and answers seem absent, we can do no better than humble ourselves before the Lord and seek His kingdom – knowing that He will provide all these things in His time.

We pray that the Lord will strengthen us for another year of "spreading the praise of Jesus as we grow in Him together."

Reverend Will Rubie

## **'Build to Bless' Project Report**

*The Build to Bless project seeks to transform our church building so that it might bless our community and our church family for years to come. The project stems from a requirement to catch up with our current needs for more space and better facilities, as well as an aspiration to provide a building better equipped to bless our community and future growth. The Building Team has been progressing the Build to Bless Project.*

Over the last year we have made some significant progress in the project, whilst also not progressing as far as we'd have liked in other areas.

In March 2024 we submitted the planning application for the scheme to the Local Council, as well as submitting a more detailed application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to secure their approval. In July 2024 we secured Planning Permission for the project, granted at the Area Planning Committee. This is a major milestone in any capital project, and it was pleasing to secure approval whilst receiving positive comments from local councillors in the process.

Progress with the DAC process remains on-going. We have had positive meetings with the DAC, and other key stakeholders within the Diocese, and the DAC has appointed a sub-committee to review and make a recommendation on the application. We continue to engage with the Diocese, albeit timescales for determining the process remain unknown.

In November 2024 we asked the congregation to review and renew their financial support for the project. At the time we had c.£400k in the bank for the project, with a further £400k pledged, and a shortfall of £400k to reach the initial project goal. Following the giving review, the vast majority of pledges were renewed, or extended, and with a continued need to fundraise to bridge that gap.

The fundraising team of Jen Pullan, Chris Summerton and Daniel Forshaw have identified and spoken with key charities and trusts to whom we will be making applications for funding. Unfortunately, many of them require DAC approval to make an approach so in the meantime the team are drafting applications and pursuing other potential sources of income.

Any capital project takes time, particularly with multi-layered approval processes and fundraising requirements. Please pray for patience and wisdom for both the Building Team and wider congregation as we seek to move the project forward and for a deep trust in the Lord and that we continue to submit to His will and timings.

*'Build to Bless' Project Team: Joe Hobbs, Tom Shepherd*

### **Fabric Report**

The hut door has been replaced and the second toilet and kitchen tap reinstated to restore the facilities.

The current gas boiler is at the end of its life and its distribution to the current heaters in the main body of the church is unbalanced and ineffective. A cost-effective attempt to replace the pump in November was unsuccessful, so we will be aiming to install a new boiler ahead of winter 2025 based on recommendations from the diocese.

*Churchwardens: Oli Hatley & Tom Shepherd*

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2024, and discussed various topics including; outreach and evangelism to children and young people, engaging with mental health in congregations and growing focal leaders in churches. Bishop Mark spoke at an Extraordinary meeting of the Deanery Synod in December on the Diocesan Transformation Project.

We were elected to Diocesan Synod in October 2024 and attended the most recent meeting in March 2025. There were presentations from the Diocesan finance team, as well as reports on the Diocese's Emerging Strategy for Mission and their Racial Justice Strategy.

Nationally, Living in Love and Faith (LLF) continues to cause divisions within the Church of England. There is continued pressure and resistance to LLF from The Alliance - a coalition of networks and leaders that support an orthodox view of marriage. There have also been significant delays in General Synod in finalising the prayers agreed in July 2022, as well as promised resources and provision for those who oppose the use of prayers theologically. One significant reason for these delays was the publication of the Makin report into the abuses of John Smyth. This led to the resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby, and the Church of England continues to grapple with the Safeguarding issues the report raised. The process of selecting a new Archbishop is ongoing. We continue to pray for Archbishop Justin's successor and for the Church of England in the present uncertainty over the future. We continue to engage with our Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) and the Church of Evangelical Council (CEEC) through this challenging time.

*Deanery Synod Representatives: Anna Sant & Tim Bull*

## **Mission Team**

The Mission Team (Sue Alting, Carol Hill, Kerry Laffey and James Taylor) was set up in 2024 to make recommendations to the PCC on the use of the Mission Fund.

Our Aim was to choose a range of causes to support, including global, local and individual, covering a range of purposes, notably spreading the Gospel, supporting and defending the faith, humanitarian promoting human dignity and wellbeing. Causes for consideration were assessed against agreed criteria, including for example, governance and statement of faith to give assurance that any cause chosen was well run and aligned with St Martin's beliefs and Christian ethos.

Following this process of due diligence, St Martin's has 'adopted' five Mission Partners for ongoing support. They are Pete Rogers, James Taylor, Christians in Schools Trust, The Rock Church in Denton and Open Doors. In addition we made one-off donations to Tearfund, Renewal North West, Wellspring, REACH Stockport and Fountain of Peace Children's Foundation.

Our focus going into 2025 is to promote interest in and regular prayer for our Mission Partners.

*Sue Alting*

## **Children's Groups on Sunday Mornings**

### ***Scramblers (2-4 year olds)***

It's been another good year for the Scramblers - our numbers are still increasing with several younger children joining us and settling in, as well as a few older ones moving up into the next group. We still just manage to fit in the porch area, though with the current number of regular attenders plus the occasional visitor, we do struggle for space.

Over the past year, we finished looking at New Testament stories and then completed a 'Thank you God for....' series, concluding with thanking God for Jesus at Christmas. The Scramblers enjoy singing action songs and listening to story time, before getting creative with craft and themed play. It's always really encouraging to see the Scramblers run back to their parents at the end of the session to show them their craft and what they've learnt, as well as hearing back from parents how they really are taking on-board what they're hearing

Our current leaders are Daniel Forshaw, Hannah Surguy, Jess Bradshaw, Katy Shepherd, Laurence Pullan, Cheryl Howard, Alma Hatley, Sean Wilson, Jo Bull and Pam Corbishley.

*Hannah Surguy*

### ***Climbers (5-7s) and Explorers (8-11s)***

Our Climbers and Explorers groups have continued to grow this year. With 21 children on our register as well as visitors, the hall often feels full on a Sunday morning! The children enjoy coming out to the groups and engage well in the sessions. We start the time with both groups together, often playing a game and singing. The children then split into the two groups where they have age-appropriate teaching on the Bible passage we are studying, usually followed by a craft activity linked to what they have learnt. Generally we look at the same Bible passage as the sermon series, though occasionally the children do something different. During December we used the time to rehearse for the Christmas Nativity play. The children worked hard learning their lines and the performance of the play was well received by the church family.

We are grateful for the hard work and service of our team of leaders. For the first half of the year the groups were led by Jess Bradshaw. Jess stepped down to take on Safeguarding responsibilities in September and Abi Limbach guided us through to October half term, when responsibility was passed onto Gail Byrne. This year we said thank you to a number of people who stepped off the team: Faye and Paul Briffa, Pam Corbishley and Bethan Wilson as well as Jess. We are thankful God provided others to serve and by the end of the year the leadership team consisted of: Jamie Barrow, Gail Byrne, Richard Criddle, Gemma Gooderson, Meirion Hoad, Lucy Kallender, Abi Limbach, Ben Marsden, Sarah Prescott, Rachael Rubie, Tim Smith, Chris Stevens and Lydia Taylor.

*Gail Byrne*

### **Youth Group**

The candle has continued to burn for St Martin's Youth over the past 12 months and it has been a privilege to meet alongside a special group of young people. We have a faithful core of members who meet each Sunday night to study the Bible, share snacks and play games together and we have seen growth and great encouragement.

During 2024, we did a series on identity, looking at who God made us to be and who we are in Christ. Over summer, we studied and acted out different meals and encounters with Jesus in the Gospels, learning how he met people where they were and turned their lives around. This academic year, we investigated what the Bible says about our emotions and learned how to understand them to better serve Jesus.

There has been a bit of change among the leadership this year as well and we have been thrilled to add Lydia, Ben and Heather into the team, who have all been outstanding assets with their godliness and knowledge! Please pray for our Explorers who are moving up to Youth in 2025.

*Youth Team: Joe Bradshaw, Joe and Alice Hobbs, Ben and Heather Marsden, and Lydia Taylor*

### **Wednesday Morning Community Hub**

Wednesday Morning Community Hub continues with its well-established and popular format of a short service followed by 'coffee, cake and company'. Numbers have remained steady at around 20 each week with most being regular attendees, together with those who join us from time to time. At the time of writing (March 2025) we have been pleased to welcome some new faces as well.

During the year our reflections in the service have included completing Mark's Gospel, Philippians, names God uses of Himself, the life of Abraham, Jesus' female ancestors and finally passages from Isaiah for Advent. We celebrate the Lord's Supper once a month.

As in previous years, Community Hub relocated in August to the Blue Corn café. Each week saw a good attendance and lots of chat and laughter. The toasties were a real draw!

Community Hub is much more than a weekly event at church. It is a valuable network of support and friendship, upholding one another in prayer. The reality of this has been especially clear in recent times as the group has faced illness, accident and bereavement.

Our thanks to the Church family for your continued prayers and interest. Together we pray that Community Hub will attract more newcomers and that they will find friendship, fellowship and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Henk & Sue Alting, Marion Baird, Trevor & Cheryl Howard, Steve & Linda Wilson*

### **Little Lights**

Little Lights is our baby and toddler group. We meet on Monday mornings during term time in the church building where we welcome preschool children and their grown-ups from both the church family and the local community. The group is well attended and on average we have just under 50 children join us each week. This usually includes people new to the group as well as a core of regulars. The team have built up good relationships with those who come regularly, particularly with a group of childminders who have been bringing along the children in their care over a number of years. We have seen a good number of families connected with Little Lights come to our Summer and Christmas Fairs and a few to our Christmas services.

During the first hour of the session children play with a variety of toys that we rotate each week and there is always a craft activity on offer. There is a chance for grown-ups to chat and enjoy a hot drink and piece of cake, and there are biscuits for the children. After tidying away the toys, the children sit on the mat for our story, song and snack time. Our sock puppet, Geoffrey, continues to be popular. The children enjoy shouting loudly to wake him up, then coming up to say hello, and putting their fingers out for a nibble! While the

children eat their snack, we tell them a story from the Bible. This year we looked at Old Testament stories that tell us about God promising to send his King, and then New Testament stories about God's King Jesus having arrived. We now use a microphone for this time, which has really helped us to be heard over the noise of so many little ones! We then sing a Bible song, followed by a selection of nursery rhymes from our song bag.

We are very grateful for the hard work, care and commitment of our team of leaders, without whom the group would not run: Pam Corbishley, Alice Chiu, Lilian Dunlop and Sue Maguire.

*Gail Byrne*

### **LEGO Club (from September 2024)**

St Martin's LEGO club continues to be an effective and encouraging ministry at reaching children and local families. We continue to see regular numbers of 10-15 children attending with their parents or grandparents. We have been able to connect with families who have come from the Craig Road estate as well as other areas of our parish, and also families who travel to us. Those attending are a mixture of children who are part of our church family and children who, to our knowledge, have very little contact with the gospel of Jesus. LEGO Club has also served to be another good continuing point of contact for families who have come to our outreach events at Christmas, or for children who attend our local primary schools.

Each week our time is spent playing with LEGO, doing 'show and tell' and then having a short talk from the Bible. At the end of 2024, we looked at the book of Acts and the book of Exodus where we have been able to share with the children and families the good news about the God who loves to rescue and forgives us through Jesus.

Thanks to Sean Wilson for his involvement in Lego Club from its beginning: he has recently had to step down from LEGO Club due to work changes. Thanks also to Dan Smith & Nathan Limbach for being great LEGO Club leaders. We are looking for more people to help this club run: please do pray for God to provide people to come and serve in this important ministry that reaches and serves families in our community.

*Rev'd Lydia Taylor*

### **Music**

The music ministry has remained an important element of our services, leading the congregation in praise of the Lord. Our continuing mission is to provide inspiration and space in which to freely worship God through a variety of music - to facilitate this best, we have introduced a number of new songs that we feel are theologically and musically rich. We have also diversified our collection of 'all together' songs, using action songs as an

opportunity to engage everyone and use our whole bodies in worship. The team is currently made up of 17 volunteers, forming 3 bands serving on a regular basis. A highlight of the year was our annual carol service, in which many members of the congregation sang in the choir at a service that saw the church full to bursting. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Seb Gooderson and Anna Sant for facilitating the ministry whilst we take a sabbatical following Louis' birth - as a church family, we appreciate your efforts in maintaining the wonderful work done each Sunday morning.

*Toby & Kate Butt*

### **'Creation: The Cosmic Temple' Seminar**

St Martin's held a seminar entitled Creation: The Cosmic Temple in October 2024 led by Henk Alting with the assistance of James Taylor. In these seminars the aim is to help church members apply their faith to issues which are not so easily addressed in the regular teaching ministry. The seminar was attended by members of other churches and friends as well as people from St Martin's.

The aim in this seminar was to look again at the Genesis creation account, from the cultural background of the ancient Near East. We tried to avoid reading Genesis through the lens of our scientifically informed culture unknown in ancient times. The result is a vision that does not come so readily to us, which is to see creation as a Cosmic Temple. A temple is an earthly divine residence linked to the heavenly realm where people meet with their god, though the surrounding polytheistic gods was very different from the God of the Hebrews!

We went on to see our own role in creation through the lens of this cosmic temple. We finished with potential objections by noting that God can accommodate revelation to the understanding of ancient peoples. In doing so it might be easier to convey some eternal truths than it is through our own cultural assumptions.

*Henk Alting*

### **'Under the Sun' Seminar**

I feel moved by the challenge of how, as God's holy people, we care for His world and in doing so, witness to the wider community. In November I gave a presentation titled Under The Sun, providing the basic facts of climate change and a biblical viewpoint on the environment informed by the work of Dave Gobbett, Lead Minister at Highfields Cardiff. I wanted to start by having a conversation with the St Martin's congregation to see what the appetite was for the topic. It was an encouraging turnout, and I would be interested to repeat this for those who couldn't make the first session, and hopefully inspire more people to take action.

Action at an individual level is down to people's own consciences, but in terms of a corporate response I'd like to understand the PCC's position on the idea of future activity that we own as a church. These could fall into two broad categories - firstly, I suspect the *Build to Bless* project may provide a number of opportunities to mitigate our impact on the environment. Secondly, there are likely to be actions that we could implement already, completely separate from the building project. If helpful I could run a bespoke session for PCC members to consider some of these and help inform the direction we might take as a church.

*Seb Gooderson*

### **Hall**

This year we continued to rent the hall out, and now have three regular hirers: a Flamenco class on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons; The WI Heaton's Choir on alternate Saturday mornings and a Pilates class on Wednesday evenings. We have also had one-off rentals for birthday parties. Due to reduced administrator time, we have not been able to set up further regular bookings, though enquiries have been made.

*Bethan Wilson and Gemma Gooderson*

### **Data Protection**

St Martin's is committed to having safe and secure Data Protection practices in place.

We have continued to use ChurchSuite as our secure online database. This allows us to keep records of church members' contact details securely, and aids church communication through its Address Book module. Each church member also has access to a personal ChurchSuite account, where they can manage their own data and regulate what personal information they would like to share with church family. Certain congregation members also have additional permissions to enable them to carry out their roles, including church staff and children's leaders. By the end of 2024, we had 124 adults registered on ChurchSuite. We previously recorded 121 adults on ChurchSuite in 2023.

*Bethan Wilson and Gemma Gooderson*

### **Safeguarding Report**

As ever, safeguarding continues to be a priority in our life together at St Martins. We are working hard to continue to ensure that the vulnerable among us are safeguarded and that we can care for and protect each other well. As a church we continue to adopt, and are compliant with, the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy & Practice Guidance. These are advertised in the church and we have created bespoke posters for the toilet areas.

I want to thank the church family for their ongoing support with the Safer Recruitment practices as well as highlighting and raising concerns to love and care for our church family. Our Safer Recruitment process is in place for all our volunteer roles and we have streamlined some of the processes over this year. A key part of this is our Volunteer Agreements which provide clarity about responsibilities for the different roles. Together these add to the building of a culture of safeguarding within the church. I want to thank those church members for their timely completion of necessary requirements and thanks in advance to those to whom this will be asked of in the next year.

As always if you have any questions or concerns about anything relating to safeguarding, please do speak to Jess Bradshaw or email [safeguarding@stms.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stms.org.uk). Alternatively you can speak to Will, or to the diocese team directly via [safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org).

*Jess Bradshaw, Safeguarding Officer*

## **Treasurer's Report**

Thank you to all who are generously and faithfully giving to all areas of St Martin's ministry. Your commitment and generosity is very gratefully recognised.

Our total income in 2024 was £392,936 as compared with £321,941 in 2023. Of this amount, the majority of income was donations with £170,140 donated to general funds; £192,791 donated to our *Build to Bless* project; and £11,334 donated to the Hardship Fund.

Our total expenditure in 2024 was £148,822, as compared to expenditure in 2023 of £148,872.

The surplus of income in excess of expenses in 2024 was £244,114 compared with £173,069 in 2023.

At 31 December 2024, total funds held were £605,437.

As in previous years, we have put aside 10% of our unrestricted donation income in 2024 to give to other charities and this has been transferred to the Mission Fund.

Out of the surplus in 2024, we have designated £95,000 for *Build to Bless* which, when added to the church funds previously designated *Build to Bless*, brings the total to £222,004. On 31st December 2024, the balance on the *Build to Bless* fund (which holds donations made specifically for this project) was £280,232. This money is restricted for use on the *Build to Bless* project.

The total of restricted funds and designated funds for *Build to Bless* on 31st December 2024 was £502,236.

Please pray that the PCC will continue to be guided by the Spirit in deciding how best to use the gifts that God, through His people, has given us.

*Ruth Gaskins, Treasurer*

## **Reserves Policy**

The PCC seeks to ensure that sufficient reserves are held to meet between three to six months' costs. After designating funds for mission and *Build to Bless*, the remaining funds, based on the 2025 budget, are sufficient to meet costs for five months.

## **Financial Instruments**

### *Objectives and policies*

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments.

### *Credit risk*

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The Annual Report was adopted by the PCC on 13 May 25 and signed on their behalf by:



**The Reverend William Rubie (P.C.C. Chair)**  
**Minister of St Martin's, Norris Bank**

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 13 May 2015 and signed on their behalf by:



**The Reverend William Rubie (P.C.C. Chair)**  
**Minister of St Martin's, Norris Bank**

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

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

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church of St Martin, Norris Bank's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


#### Independent examiner's statement

Since Church of St Martin, Norris Bank's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountant, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

  
.....  
Paul Roper  
Chartered Accountant  
McKellens Limited  
11 Riverview  
The Embankment Business Park  
Heaton Mersey  
Stockport  
SK4 3GN

Date: 14/5/25

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated Funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		170,140	194,059	-	364,199
Charitable activities		10,058	-	-	10,058
Other trading activities		3,070	-	-	3,070
Investment income	5	<u>5,483</u>	<u>10,126</u>	-	<u>15,609</u>
<b>Total income</b>		<u>188,751</u>	<u>204,185</u>	-	<u>392,936</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities		(88,578)	(7,414)	(18,995)	(114,987)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(12,953)</u>	<u>(20,882)</u>	-	<u>(33,835)</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>(101,531)</u>	<u>(28,296)</u>	<u>(18,995)</u>	<u>(148,822)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		87,220	175,889	(18,995)	244,114
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(112,500)</u>	-	<u>112,500</u>	-
Net movement in funds		(25,280)	175,889	93,505	244,114
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>87,760</u>	<u>111,109</u>	<u>162,454</u>	<u>361,323</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u><u>62,480</u></u>	<u><u>286,998</u></u>	<u><u>255,959</u></u>	<u><u>605,437</u></u>

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

**Prior Year Statement of Financial Activities**

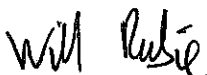
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		174,244	130,731	-	304,975
Charitable activities		11,153	-	-	11,153
Other trading activities		3,282	-	-	3,282
Investment income	5	<u>2,489</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,531</u>
Total income		<u>191,168</u>	<u>130,773</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>321,941</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities		(64,067)	(1,424)	(36,723)	(102,214)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(11,907)</u>	<u>(25,584)</u>	<u>(9,167)</u>	<u>(46,658)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(75,974)</u>	<u>(27,008)</u>	<u>(45,890)</u>	<u>(148,872)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		115,194	103,765	(45,890)	173,069
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(58,405)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,405</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		56,789	103,765	12,515	173,069
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>30,971</u>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>149,939</u>	<u>188,254</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u><u>87,760</u></u>	<u><u>111,109</u></u>	<u><u>162,454</u></u>	<u><u>361,323</u></u>

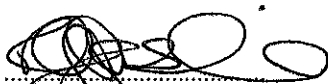
The notes on pages 21 to 33 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**  
**(Registration number: 1196002)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	5,088	6,253
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	36,684	75,955
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>568,437</u>	<u>305,334</u>
		605,121	381,289
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>(4,772)</u>	<u>(26,219)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>600,349</u>	<u>355,070</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>605,437</u>	<u>361,323</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted</b>		<u>286,998</u>	<u>111,109</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Designated funds		255,959	162,454
General funds		<u>62,480</u>	<u>87,760</u>
<b>Total unrestricted</b>		<u>318,439</u>	<u>250,214</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	18	<u>605,437</u>	<u>361,323</u>

The financial statements on pages 18 to 33 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 May 25 and signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
 Rev Will Rubie  
 Minister

  
 .....  
 Ruth Gaskins  
 Treasurer

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

##### **Basis of preparation**

Church of St Martin, Norris Bank meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

##### **Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### **Income and endowments**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### **Donations and legacies**

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### **Grants receivable**

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

##### **Gifts in kind**

Gifts in kind are recognised in different ways dependent on how they are used by the charity:

- (i) Those donated for resale produce income when they are sold. They are valued at the amount actually realised.
- (ii) Those donated for onward transmission to beneficiaries are included in the Statement of Financial Activities as incoming resources and resources expended when they are distributed. They are valued at the amount the charity would have had to pay to acquire them.
- (iii) Those donated for use by the charity itself are included when receivable. They are valued at the amount the charity would have had to pay to acquire them.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

#### Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

#### Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

#### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10% straight line

#### Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

## **Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

#### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### **Trade creditors**

are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

#### **Fund structure**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### **Pensions and other post retirement obligations**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	138,270	173,566	311,836	260,866
Gift aid reclaimed	31,870	20,493	52,363	42,199
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	-	-	-	330
Gifts in kind	-	-	-	1,580
	170,140	194,059	364,199	304,975

Many volunteers freely give their time in serving the church and enabling the church to carry out its charitable objectives, the value of which is unquantifiable. Gifts in kind including refreshments and food for Sunday services, regular weekly meetings as well as for community events are also freely given. The value of these gifts are unquantifiable.

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Church services	2,426	2,426	2,064
Little Lights	1,765	1,765	1,867
Weekend away	5,867	5,867	6,579
Holiday club	-	-	643
	10,058	10,058	11,153

#### 4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £	Total 2023 £
Events income;			
Other events income	-	-	387
Property rental income	3,070	3,070	2,895
	3,070	3,070	3,282

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,751	9,750	12,501	2,531
Other interest receivable	2,732	376	3,108	-
	5,483	10,126	15,609	2,531

#### 6 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	34,868	43,416
Social security costs	(87)	-
Pension costs	3,243	3,039
Other staff costs	1,143	1,029
	39,167	47,484

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Administrative staff	3	1
Ministry staff	1	2
	4	3

4 (2023 - 3) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2024
		Designated £	General £		
Church services		-	10,523	-	10,523
Hub		-	-	-	-
Little Lights		-	850	-	850
Weekend away		-	8,883	-	8,883
Holiday club		-	-	-	-
CAP		-	600	-	600
Hardship fund		-	-	7,354	7,354
Mission fund		18,995	-	-	18,995
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		-	2,789	-	2,789
Staff costs		-	26,214	-	26,214
Allocated support costs		-	35,544	60	35,604
Governance costs		-	3,175	-	3,175
		<u>18,995</u>	<u>88,578</u>	<u>7,414</u>	<u>114,987</u>
					<b>Total 2023</b>
				<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>
Church services					14,086
Hub					27
Little Lights					316
Weekend away					10,178
Holiday club					565
CAP					600
Hardship fund					-
Mission fund					2,175
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs					3,462
Staff costs					35,577
Allocated support costs					34,662
Governance costs					566
					<u>102,214</u>

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

**8 Other expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	12,953	-	12,953	11,907
Build to Bless	-	20,882	20,882	25,584
Roof	-	-	-	9,167
	<u>12,953</u>	<u>20,882</u>	<u>33,835</u>	<u>46,658</u>

**9 Analysis of governance and support costs**

**Governance costs**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>funds</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>General</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent examiner fees				
Examination of the financial statements	541		541	530
Other governance costs	2,634		2,634	36
	<u>3,175</u>		<u>3,175</u>	<u>566</u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### 10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Tim Bull is a director and shareholder of Rocksalt Limited. During the year, technical equipment totalling £1,672 (2023: £2,418) was purchased by Rocksalt Limited on behalf of St Martin's and passed on at cost.

Ruth Gaskins is an employee of McKellens Limited. A director of McKellens Limited is the independent examiner of the charity's accounts. Ruth Gaskins is neither a director nor shareholder of McKellens Limited and does not participate in the independent examination.

A gift was provided to T Butt, the husband of K Butt, a member of the PCC, for his work in respect of the Christmas carol service. This gift was subject to the necessary authorisations in accordance with the church policy.

Trustees generally receive reimbursement for costs paid by them for the purposes of the church. All such expenditure is subject to the necessary authorisations in accordance with the church policy. During the year 13 (2023: 9) trustees received reimbursement for costs paid on behalf of the church. The total of these costs for the year was £4,731 (2023: £3,757).

During 2023 and 2024, R Criddle was employed by the Church of St Martin as an assistant minister. All clergy who are licenced to a church in the Church of England are appointed ex officio as a member of the PCC of that church.

During 2024, A Sant was employed by the Church of St Martin to provide administrative services on a temporary basis. These duties were separate from her role as trustee and no remuneration was paid in respect of her role as trustee.

No other trustees received any remuneration from the charity.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### 11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2024	3,335	10,045	13,380
Additions	-	1,624	1,624
At 31 December 2024	3,335	11,669	15,004
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2024	758	6,368	7,126
Charge for the year	334	2,456	2,790
At 31 December 2024	1,092	8,824	9,916
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2024	2,243	2,845	5,088
At 31 December 2023	2,577	3,677	6,254

#### 13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	11,600	107
Prepayments	2,308	689
Other debtors	658	69
Gift aid receivable	20,077	75,090
PAYE/National Insurance	2,041	-
	36,684	75,955

#### 14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash on hand	436	298
Cash at bank	568,001	305,036
	568,437	305,334

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	326	417
Trade creditors and accruals	4,446	25,802
	<u>4,772</u>	<u>26,219</u>

#### 16 Pension and other schemes

##### Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,244 (2023 - £3,039).

#### 17 Commitments

##### Capital commitments

The charity has undertaken repairs to the roof. The majority of this repair work had been completed by 31 December 2023 and funds sufficient to complete the works were transferred into the capital fund by 31 December 2023. Works to the roof were completed in 2024.

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2023 - £Nil).

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

**18 Funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 January 2024 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 December 2024 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	87,760	188,751	(101,531)	(112,500)	62,480
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Mission Fund	35,450	-	(18,995)	17,500	33,955
Build to Bless Fund	127,004	-	-	95,000	222,004
Designated funds	162,454	-	(18,995)	112,500	255,959
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<u>250,214</u>	<u>188,751</u>	<u>(120,526)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,439</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	326	60	-	-	386
Build to Bless	108,383	192,791	(20,942)	-	280,232
Hardship Fund	2,400	11,334	(7,354)	-	6,380
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>111,109</u>	<u>204,185</u>	<u>(28,296)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>286,998</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>361,323</u></u>	<u><u>392,936</u></u>	<u><u>(148,822)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>605,437</u></u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	30,971	191,168	(75,974)	(58,405)	87,760
<b>Unrestricted designated funds</b>					
Capital Fund	17,171	-	(9,167)	(8,004)	-
Development Fund	113,093	-	(34,548)	(78,545)	-
Mission Fund	19,675	-	(2,175)	17,950	35,450
Build to Bless Fund	-	-	-	127,004	127,004
Designated	149,939	-	(45,890)	58,405	162,454
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<u>180,910</u>	<u>191,168</u>	<u>(121,864)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,214</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	747	958	(1,379)	-	326
Build to Bless	5,297	128,715	(25,629)	-	108,383
Hardship Fund	1,300	1,100	-	-	2,400
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>130,773</u>	<u>(27,008)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,109</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>188,254</u></u>	<u><u>321,941</u></u>	<u><u>(148,872)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>361,323</u></u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

The Build to Bless fund relates to proposed development and repair of the church building.

The Hardship Fund was established during 2022 for the purpose of providing financial funding to individuals in immediate need as well as funding counselling for members of the church family.

Included in the general Restricted Fund are restricted donations and grants not shown in separately identified restricted funds. In 2024, donations were received for childrens work. In 2023, during community events and services, donations were collected to be passed on to other charities. These include the poppy collection paid to the British Legion and donations for the Wellspring which were given during Christmas events and the jubilee fair. Donations for the library are also included in this fund.

At 31 December 2024, the balance held in the Restricted Fund comprised £386 (2023: £326) being donations for children's ministry of £60 in 2024 and £250 plus gift aid in 2023 and £12 given for the St Martin's library.

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

**19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	5,088	-	-	5,088
Current assets	62,164	255,959	286,998	605,121
Current liabilities	(4,772)	-	-	(4,772)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>62,480</b>	<b>255,959</b>	<b>286,998</b>	<b>605,437</b>

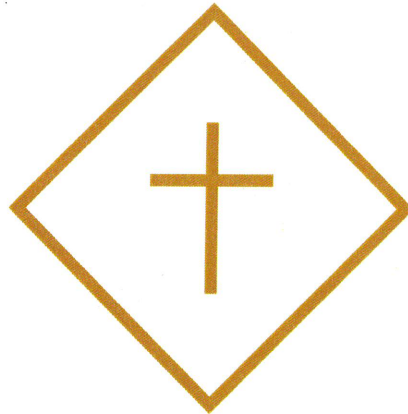
  

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2023
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	6,253	-	-	6,253
Current assets	93,062	162,454	125,773	381,289
Current liabilities	(11,555)	-	(14,664)	(26,219)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>87,760</b>	<b>162,454</b>	<b>111,109</b>	<b>361,323</b>

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# Accounts

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**ST MARTIN'S  
STOCKPORT**

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**HEATON NORRIS**

**The Parish of St Martin,  
Norris Bank**

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

*The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Martin, Norris Bank  
is a charity registered in England and Wales (1196002).*

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## Reference & Administrative Details

### Bank

The Co-operative Bank PLC,  
Central Commercial Bank, P.O. Box 250,  
Skelmersdale,  
WN8 6WT

### Independent Examiner

Paul Roper, McKellens Limited  
11 Riverview, The Embankment Business  
Park, Heaton Mersey, Stockport,  
SK4 3GN

### Principal Address

112 Crescent Park, Heaton Norris,  
Stockport, SK4 2JE

### Charity Number

1196002

### P.C.C. Membership.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) is a body corporate (P.C.C. Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and registered with the Charity Commission. PCC members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church representation Rules 2020 and during the year.

There are a number of officers who are Ex-Officio: clergy, churchwardens & Deanery Synod representatives.

During 2023, the following served as members of the PCC:

Ministers	<i>Reverend William Rubie*</i> (Ex-officio) <i>Reverend Richard Criddle*</i> (Ex-officio)	
Churchwardens	<i>Tom Shepherd*</i> (Elected 2021) (Ex-officio) <i>Oli Hatley*</i> (Elected 2023) (Ex-officio)	
Deanery Synod	Tim Bull (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Ex-officio) Anna Sant (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Ex-officio)	
Elected Members	Kate Butt (Term of Office Expires 2024) Sue Alting (Term of Office Expires 2024) <i>Lucy Davidson*</i> (Term of Office Expires 2025) <i>Ruth Gaskins*</i> (Term of Office Expires 2025) Sarah Prescott (Term of Office Expires 2026) Jess Bradshaw (Term of Office Expires 2026) David Warburton (Term of Office Expires 2026)	

PCC Secretary Bethan Wilson

*\*Names in italic denote members of the Standing Committee*

## **Trustees' Report**

### **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.

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year.

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. It also meets to discuss other matters to be put before the PCC.

### **Matters discussed by the PCC**

The full PCC and the Standing Committee have met during the year. They have discussed a range of issues, including the *Build to Bless* project; launching a CAP Life Skills course; safer recruitment best practice for volunteers; and discussions around Living in Love & Faith in the Church of England nationally.

*Bethan Wilson, PCC Secretary*

### **Electoral Roll**

By the end of 2023, we had a total of 109 Members on the Electoral Roll. This has grown from 92 members as reported in 2022.

*Bethan Wilson, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Public Benefit**

The Church of St Martin, Norris Bank is a public benefit entity. St Martin's promotes public services, in dedicated buildings and elsewhere, in accordance with the practices and teachings of the Church of England, for hearing and appropriating the word of God and for the worship of God both generally and at significant points in people's lives. It provides religious and moral parameters by which individual members of the public may live fulfilled lives and act in a way which is socially beneficial, and influence wider society for the better.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities' Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

## **Review of the Year**

### **Ministers Report**

The apostle Paul characterised his ministry as being “sorrowful yet always rejoicing.”<sup>1</sup> Living for, and loving Jesus brings both joy and sorrow in various and unexpected ways. 2023 at St Martin’s was no different. There were wonderful moments of rejoicing, days and weeks of unwanted sadness all alongside the ordinary rhythm of worship and care for each other.

Two standout “moments” encapsulate who we are as a church.

The first was our church family weekend away at Cloverly Hall in March. It was a precious time to ‘be’ together; eat together, chat, drink cups of tea and build relationships. The theme of the weekend was gazing on the character of Jesus and enjoying him. It was a rich gift and blessing from the Lord.

The second was our week of prayer and fasting. The initial prompt for the week was to pray for wisdom regarding the Build to Bless project. However, as the week went on, the common testimony of those involved was that the Build to Bless project became secondary as people’s primary desire was simply to seek the Lord, to know him deeper and to depend on him in all aspects of life.

2024 has already begun with the same pattern of sorrow and joy. There are many uncertainties ahead and significant challenges both in the local and wider church. In the midst of both sorrow and joy, we continue to pray that the “praise of Jesus would spread as we grow in him together.” This can only happen because the light of God’s face shines upon us and because he loves us.” (Psalm 44:3)

*Reverend Will Rubie*

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Corinthians 6:10

## **'Build to Bless' Project Report**

*The Build to Bless project seeks to transform our church building so that it might bless our community and our church family for years to come. The project stems from a requirement to catch up with our current needs for more space and better facilities, as well as an aspiration to provide a building better equipped to bless our community and future growth.*

Over the last year the project has progressed and been refined. A fruitful season of Prayer and Fasting preceded the PCC's approval to advance with the project in June 2023. In September 2023 we had a meeting with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) who provided feedback on the proposals, specifically focussing on the suggestion of a pitched roof to the side extension, and further justification for the internal layout proposals. Following this, the Buildings Team met in October 2023 with the Church Architect to review and respond to the comments.

In November/December 2023, a cost review was also undertaken, which revealed that projected costs of the project had increased. This is not unexpected, given construction costs globally have increased markedly over the last couple of years. As a result, we have reviewed the project with an experienced Project Manager and identified cost efficiencies in the design and procurement route.

2024 will be an exciting year for the project with a planned submission of the Planning and Faculty Applications in March, which will, God-willing secure approval allowing us to progress towards the construction phase. We are also considering how to expedite elements of the project, including the car park remediation given the issues with drainage currently experienced.

As the project develops this year, we will be guided by three key principles:

### **1. Affordability**

We will prioritise the front and side extensions, and improvements to the car parking, building in a phased way as we can afford.

### **2. Process**

We will ensure continued professional scrutiny of the project through to completion.

### **3. Trust**

We will step out in faith: the Lord knows our needs which haven't changed; we must trust him with the project as the final cost won't be known until completion.

2024 will be a crucial year for the project, and so we remain prayerfully committed to seeing what the Lord will do through our plans.

*'Build to Bless' Project Team: Joe Hobbs, Tom Shepherd, Reverend Will Rubie*

### **Fabric Report**

Repairs were made to the pipes in the Hall at the beginning of the year, after they froze in December 2022. The repair has involved capping off one of the toilets permanently. After further issues with the drains, a drain company unblocked them via the external manhole.

In June 2023, the floor of the main stage was reboarded and strengthened to make it more stable to cope with its increased use by the worship bands and choirs.

At the end of the year, in order to reduce building heat losses an automatic door closer and draft excluders were fitted at the main entrance and hall. Lighting has also been added under the organ to provide a more welcoming atmosphere. Thanks to Ian Miller, some extra stackable chairs were donated and he is in the process of restoring them.

Externally, extra security cameras have been added to the front of the church building. More stones were added to the driveway to ease pedestrian and vehicular access and to raise the road height to mitigate against puddles forming. However after severe wet weather over the winter the state of the driveway and carpark are still in urgent need of attention to improve drainage and provide a more suitable surface given the increased use of the building throughout the week. This has been identified as a priority once building work is approved.

*Churchwardens: Oli Hatley & Tom Shepherd*

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2023, and discussed various topics including: the Deanery Mission Action Plan; moving towards eco-friendly churches; and introducing focal leaders in churches which currently rely on one minister or less.

Tim Bull became a Deanery Synod representative following Henk Alting's resignation from the Deanery and Diocesan synods in February 2023. Henk has had to step down from St Martin's PCC following his resignation. He decided to resign after he posed a written question to the Diocesan Board of Education arising from the Board's report to the Diocesan Synod on CofE schools in the Diocese. Henk noted that incidents had arisen in church schools elsewhere around policies on gender and sexuality, and asked what was happening with CofE schools in our Diocese. The Director of Education responded in writing with permission to circulate her reply to the Deanery Synod. This would be part of routine Deanery feedback from Diocesan business. The Deanery standing committee refused to circulate the Director of Education's response. Henk could not accept the

committee's reason and resigned. He felt he could no longer fulfil his responsibility to provide important Diocesan feedback which Deanery Synod members had a right to know.

Nationally, there is ongoing discussion and division on whether the Church of England will offer services of prayer and blessing for people in same-sex relationships. Votes in the General Synod have been very close: prayers of blessing were narrowly approved in July 2022, with an attached amendment stating that any wording of the prayers must not indicate a change of the Church of England's doctrine on marriage. These prayers have yet to be finalised. Since then, 44 bishops (including Bishop David and Bishop Mark from the Diocese of Manchester) have publicly declared their support for moving towards conducting standalone services for same sex marriages and for those in same sex marriages to be licensed as priests. Another group of 12 bishops have publicly dissented from this direction of travel, stating that permitting prayers of blessings and introducing standalone services for same sex unions is a change in the current doctrine of the Church of England, and goes against the teaching of the Bible. There is much confusion and uncertainty in the months ahead. We continue to pray for the situation, and are engaging with our Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) and the Church of Evangelical Council (CEEC) through this time.

*Deanery Synod Representatives: Anna Sant & Tim Bull*

## **Children's Groups on Sunday Mornings**

### ***Scramblers (2-4 year olds)***

The Scramblers have really thrived having their own little group and space in the porch – though they've almost outgrown the space! Regularly, we have around 8-10 Scramblers but at the peak we have had 14 children! In the past year, they've been looking at stories from the Bible and most recently following the Big Picture Story Bible, learning about God's promises in the Old Testament and their fulfilment in the New Testament. The Scramblers enjoy singing action songs, listening to storytime and then getting messy with craft and themed play. It's been really encouraging to watch them grow from little 2 year olds not wanting their parents to leave, to confident Scramblers excited to tell their parents what they've learnt and show them their craft!

Our current leaders are Gail Byrne, Emma Criddle, Cheryl Howard, Connie James, Kerry Laffey, Alexandra Fenwick.

*Hannah Surguy*

### ***Climbers (Reception - Year 2) and Explorers (Year 3 - Year 6)***

It has been another great year for the Climbers and Explorers. We have a steadily growing number who attend on a regular basis, and have been blessed by a number of visiting children at varying times.

We have generally followed the church family teachings, covering Judges, 2 Timothy and Luke, but have more recently explored some pre-prepared material to cover Advent. Both groups have an all-together time where the overall theme of the session is presented along with some games/songs. Following this, we then split into groups for age-specific teaching and crafts.

Our current leaders are Jamie Barrow, Jess Bradshaw, Faye and Paul Briffa, Pam Corbishley, Meirion Hoad, Abi Limbach, Ben Marsden, Tim Smith & Bethan Wilson.

We have two current challenges. Firstly, space: we can be blessed with up to 20 children per session, so we continue to outgrow our current space in the hall. Secondly, leaders: we are hoping to bring a few new members on board, as ideally it would be great to have four team members per week, but currently we're only able to staff three.

*Jess Bradshaw*

### **Youth Group**

We continue to be blessed by our Youth Group at St Martins. A small group of youth meet every Sunday evening to have food together, play some games, and look at a bible study together. This last year we have had a go at a Bible overview, looked at the Gospel of Mark, and more recently looked at big questions about 'Who am I?'. Our youth are great fun, and keen to learn more about Jesus and understand how his words affect their day-to-day lives. It's been a joy to see them get to know each other better this year, and open up more in our studies. We continue to pray for growth amongst our youth group, and are looking forward to a couple of the oldest Explorers joining us later this year.

*Youth Team: Joe Bradshaw, Livvy Raynes, Alice and Joe Hobbs, Anna Sant*

### **Wednesday Morning Community Hub**

Wednesday Morning Community Hub, offering a short service followed by 'coffee, cake and company' is now a well-established and welcome part of the life of St Martin's. We have a core group of regular attendees, together with those who join us from time to time.

The service includes a short reflection and during the year we have been going through Mark's Gospel, interspersed with Psalms in Lent and passages from Isaiah in Advent. We also celebrate the Lord's Supper once a month.

We were very sad to lose one of our regulars – Paul Perkins – who died in October. However, it was a real privilege for St Martin's to be able to arrange the funeral and welcome his cousin, friends from Marple and others to the service and to share memories of him. Through Paul's death we got to know one of the residents at Russell Gardens and this led to holding an informal carol service there. We pray this will lead to further links with residents.

Community Hub runs throughout the year apart from August. Some expressed concern at losing the support and friendship for a month and so each Wednesday in August we met at the Blue Corn café at the Moor Top. This proved popular – it maintained the links while giving the volunteers a bit of a break.

Our thanks to the Church family for your continued prayers and interest. Together we pray that Community Hub will attract more newcomers and that they will find friendship, fellowship and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Henk & Sue Alting, Marion Baird, Trevor & Cheryl Howard, Jo Lawrinson, Steve & Linda Wilson*

### **Little Lights**

The playgroup has continued to be well attended, and we welcome new children most weeks, alongside a core of regulars both from the church family and the local community. The team have continued to build on some good relationships and have enjoyed being able to provide a listening ear to the adults who come, as well as getting to know their little ones.

During the first hour of each session children are offered free play with a variety of toys to encourage gross and fine motor skill development and imaginative play. We have begun to rotate the toys each week and have seen the children engage better with them. We also provide a quieter corner with toys for younger babies and a good selection of books. We offer an optional craft activity, linked to our Bible story, and around half to two thirds of children engage with this.

This year we have changed the way we arrange the room for our story and song time to help the children engage and have introduced a puppet – the almost-always-sleeping Geoffrey! The children love shouting as loud as they can to try and wake him up! The children's listening during our Bible story has improved overall, though there are some

weeks when being heard above the inevitable noise made by 40+ under-fives (and their grown-ups!) is a struggle. We are looking into using a microphone for next year!

We have been encouraged this year by the number of new parents / carers telling us that Little Lights has been recommended to them by others, and by the attendance of Little Lights families at church events such as the Easter Trail, Summer Fair and Christmas Eve Family Carols. The atmosphere on a Monday morning feels good and we had a lot of fun (along with some chaos!) at our well attended Easter Egg Trail, summer Teddy Bears' Picnic and Christmas Party. The success of the playgroup this year lies in no small part to the hard work, care and generosity of our wonderful team of volunteers – Pam Corbishley, Alice Chiu, Lilian Dunlop and Sue Maguire with her amazing guitar!

*Gail Byrne*

### **Holiday Club**

From Tuesday 29th to Thursday 31st August, we hosted our first holiday club for primary school-aged children. Using resources from Faith In Kids, the sessions were themed around a spy training academy, exploring who Jesus is from Luke's gospel. The church building was transformed into Spy HQ, as a team of 25 volunteers welcomed over 40 children. This was a mix of children from church families, other local Christian families, and those who are new to St Martin's, including invited friends and previous links. The club was very well received by the families in attendance. A highlight was the celebration service on the Sunday, which was attended by a number of visitors, and was a great opportunity to share with the wider church family.

*Toby Butt*

### **Music**

The music ministry has continued to serve the church family through leading worship at Sunday services and other events. The team is currently made up of 15 volunteers, forming 3 bands serving on a regular rota. Further opportunities for the wider church family to be involved in music-making have been offered through choirs at Christmas and Easter; these have been celebrated as a wonderful time to make new connections and worship together.

*Toby & Kate Butt, Music Ministry Leaders*

### **Science and Faith Seminar**

In April 2023, St Martin's held a Science and Faith Seminar led by Henk Alting, Hannah Evans and Dan Smith. We tried to do it a little differently by using interviews where one of the leads interviewed another on their chosen theme. While we had a prepared set of questions to ensure the topic was adequately covered, the interviewer was free to follow

up with further questions on the spur of the moment. This kept everyone on their toes and worked well.

Choosing a time for such an event is a compromise. We went for a Saturday morning which got a good attendance including some visitors not from St Martin's.

*Henk Alting*

### **Hall**

We continue to rent the hall out again, and have three regular hirers: a pilates class on Wednesday evenings, a flamenco class on Thursday nights and the WI choir every other Saturday morning. We have also had one-off rentals for birthday parties.

*Bethan Wilson*

### **Data Protection**

St Martin's is committed to having safe and secure Data Protection practices in place.

We have continued to use ChurchSuite as our secure online database. This allows us to keep records of church members' contact details securely, and aids church communication through its Address Book module. Each church member also has access to a personal ChurchSuite account, where they can manage their own data and regulate what personal information they would like to share with church family. Certain congregation members also have additional permissions to enable them to carry out their roles, including church staff and children's leaders. By the end of 2023, we had 121 adults registered on ChurchSuite. This gives an indication of how many adults have become involved in St Martin's in the past year (we previously recorded 117 adults on ChurchSuite in 2022).

*Bethan Wilson*

### **Safeguarding Report**

As ever, safeguarding continues to be a priority in our life together at St Martins. We are working hard to continue to ensure that the vulnerable among us are safeguarded and that we can care for and protect each other well. As a church, we continue to adopt, and are compliant with, the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy & Practice Guidance.

During this year we have worked hard to ensure that we are implementing the Safer Recruitment practices for all our volunteer roles, in particular by ensuring that Volunteer Agreements are in place across all ministry areas and references are obtained as required. Volunteer Agreements aim to provide clarity about responsibilities and are part of creating a safer culture for all involved. Thank you to the many of you who have put together or signed these. We know that many of you have also completed safeguarding training this

year either for the first time or as a renewal: again, we are grateful for your time & willingness to complete this. We are now up to date with our training across the church family; this wouldn't be possible without Bethan who does an amazing job of tracking this via ChurchSuite.

In addition to ensuring these structural things are in place, the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer is to respond to needs and concerns as and when they arise and to consult with the Diocese Safeguarding team. As 2023 drew to a close, we were pleased to welcome Jess Bradshaw to join the Safeguarding team; in 2024 Jess is taking over as the primary safeguarding officer for St Martins and I am stepping down for the time being. Jess comes with a wealth of experience from her professional life as well as her experience in churches and children's ministry, please do pray for her as she takes on this important role.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything relating to safeguarding, please do speak to Jess or email [safeguarding@stms.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stms.org.uk). Alternatively you can speak to Will, or to the diocese team directly via [safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org).

*Lucy Davidson, Safeguarding Officer*

## **Treasurer's Report**

Thank you to all who are generously and faithfully giving to all areas of St Martin's ministry. Your commitment and generosity is very gratefully recognised.

The total income in 2023 was £321,941 as compared with £212,764 in 2022. Of this amount, the majority of income was donations with £174,244 donated to general funds, £128,715 donated to our Build to Bless project, and £1,100 donated to the Hardship Fund.

The total expenditure in 2023 was £148,872, as compared to expenditure in 2022 of £195,385. The main reason for the reduction is that the majority of work on the roof was carried out in 2021 and 2022 with a much lower amount in 2023.

The surplus of income in excess of expenses in 2023 was £173,069 compared with £17,379 in 2022.

On 31 December 2023, the total funds held were £361,323.

Having established several designated funds in 2019, the PCC has decided to make a number of changes reflecting how the financial position of the church has changed and seeking to keep the accounts as simple as possible.

- A new Build to Bless designated fund has been established to set aside money to fund our plans to develop and repair our church building.
- The Capital Fund had been established to set aside money for urgent repairs to the roof. These have now been completed and the PCC has decided that this fund is no longer required and that the balance of £8,004 be transferred into the Build to Bless Fund.
- The Development Fund was established to set aside money to finance the development of our ministry: by employing members of staff as well as through the development of the church building. Given the developments in St Martin's ministry over the last 5 years and that we now have greater clarity regarding the Build to Bless plans, the PCC agreed it was appropriate to close this fund. £34,000 has been transferred to the Build to Bless Fund and the balance of £44,545 has been transferred to the General Fund to pay staff salaries going forward.

As in previous years, we have put aside 10% of our regular income in 2023 to give to other charities, causes, and individuals, and this has been transferred to the Mission Fund. The PCC is not proposing any changes to this fund. The Hardship Fund has also grown through 2023.

Please pray that the PCC will continue to be guided by the Spirit in deciding how best to use the gifts that God, through His people, has given us.

*Ruth Gaskins, Treasurer*

## **Reserves Policy**

The PCC seeks to ensure that sufficient reserves are held to meet between three to six months' costs. After allocating money to the Mission Fund and the *Build to Bless* Fund, the remaining unrestricted funds based on 2023 expenditure are sufficient to meet costs for just under six months.

## **Financial Instruments**

### ***Objectives and policies***

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments.

### **Credit risk**

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The Annual Report was adopted by the PCC on 14.4.2024 and signed on their behalf by:



**The Reverend William Rubie (P.C.C. Chair)**  
**Minister of St Martin's, Norris Bank**

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities


The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on  and signed on their behalf by:

**The Reverend William Rubie (P.C.C. Chair)**  
**Minister of St Martin's, Norris Bank**

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

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

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church of St Martin, Norris Bank's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since Church of St Martin, Norris Bank's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountant, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

  
.....

Paul Roper  
Chartered Accountant  
McKellens Limited  
11 Riverview  
The Embankment Business Park  
Heaton Mersey  
Stockport  
SK4 3GN

Date: 15/4/24 .....

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated Funds £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		174,244	130,731	-	304,975
Charitable activities		11,153	-	-	11,153
Other trading activities		3,282	-	-	3,282
Investment income	5	<u>2,489</u>	<u>42</u>	-	<u>2,531</u>
<b>Total income</b>		<u>191,168</u>	<u>130,773</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>321,941</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities		(26,330)	(8)	-	(26,338)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(49,644)</u>	<u>(27,000)</u>	<u>(45,890)</u>	<u>(122,534)</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>(75,974)</u>	<u>(27,008)</u>	<u>(45,890)</u>	<u>(148,872)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		115,194	103,765	(45,890)	173,069
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(58,405)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,405</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		56,789	103,765	12,515	173,069
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>30,971</u>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>149,939</u>	<u>188,254</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u>87,760</u>	<u>111,109</u>	<u>162,454</u>	<u>361,323</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 30 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		188,620	8,828	-	197,448
Charitable activities		12,107	-	-	12,107
Other trading activities		2,950	-	-	2,950
Investment income	5	<u>257</u>	<u>2</u>	-	<u>259</u>
Total income		<u>203,934</u>	<u>8,830</u>	-	<u>212,764</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities		(21,175)	(1,000)	-	(22,175)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(43,993)</u>	<u>(2,419)</u>	<u>(126,798)</u>	<u>(173,210)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(65,168)</u>	<u>(3,419)</u>	<u>(126,798)</u>	<u>(195,385)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		138,766	5,411	(126,798)	17,379
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(123,125)</u>	-	<u>123,125</u>	-
Net movement in funds		15,641	5,411	(3,673)	17,379
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>15,330</u>	<u>1,933</u>	<u>153,612</u>	<u>170,875</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u><u>30,971</u></u>	<u><u>7,344</u></u>	<u><u>149,939</u></u>	<u><u>188,254</u></u>

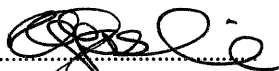
**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**  
**(Registration number: 1196002)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	6,253	8,179
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	75,955	34,016
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>305,334</u>	<u>162,626</u>
		381,289	196,642
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>(26,219)</u>	<u>(16,567)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>355,070</u>	<u>180,075</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>361,323</u>	<u>188,254</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted</b>			
		<u>111,109</u>	<u>7,344</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Designated funds		162,454	149,939
General funds		<u>87,760</u>	<u>30,971</u>
Total unrestricted		<u>250,214</u>	<u>180,910</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	18	<u>361,323</u>	<u>188,254</u>

The financial statements on pages 16 to 30 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~14.4.2024~~ and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
 Rev Will Rubie  
 Minister



.....  
 Ruth Gaskins  
 Treasurer

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

##### **Basis of preparation**

Church of St Martin, Norris Bank meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

##### **Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### **Income and endowments**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### ***Donations and legacies***

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### ***Grants receivable***

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

##### ***Gifts in kind***

Gifts in kind are recognised in different ways dependent on how they are used by the charity:

- (i) Those donated for resale produce income when they are sold. They are valued at the amount actually realised.
- (ii) Those donated for onward transmission to beneficiaries are included in the Statement of Financial Activities as incoming resources and resources expended when they are distributed. They are valued at the amount the charity would have had to pay to acquire them.
- (iii) Those donated for use by the charity itself are included when receivable. They are valued at the amount the charity would have had to pay to acquire them.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### **Charitable activities**

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### **Governance costs**

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

#### **Taxation**

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

#### **Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10% straight line

#### **Trade debtors**

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

#### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### Trade creditors

are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

#### Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

## 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	144,299	116,567	260,866	160,356
Gift aid reclaimed	28,365	13,834	42,199	32,891
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	-	330	330	2,250
Gifts in kind	1,580	-	1,580	1,951
	174,244	130,731	304,975	197,448

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Church services	2,064	2,064	2,885
Little Lights	1,867	1,867	1,222
Weekend away	6,579	6,579	8,000
Holiday club	643	643	-
	<u>11,153</u>	<u>11,153</u>	<u>12,107</u>

#### 4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £	Total 2022 £
Events income;			
Other events income	387	387	-
Property rental income	2,895	2,895	2,950
	<u>3,282</u>	<u>3,282</u>	<u>2,950</u>

#### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,489	42	2,531	259
	<u>2,489</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>2,531</u>	<u>259</u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### 6 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	43,416	35,981
Pension costs	3,039	2,519
Other staff costs	1,029	786
	<u>47,484</u>	<u>39,286</u>
	<u>47,484</u>	<u>39,286</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Administrative staff	1	1
Ministry staff	2	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

3 (2022 - 2) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

#### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Note					
Church services		14,078	8	14,086	12,292
Hub		27	-	27	165
Little Lights		316	-	316	549
Weekend away		10,178	-	10,178	8,669
Holiday club		565	-	565	-
CAP		600	-	600	-
Governance costs		566	-	566	500
		<u>26,330</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>26,338</u>	<u>22,175</u>
		<u>26,330</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>26,338</u>	<u>22,175</u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### 8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted			Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Designated £	General £	Restricted £		
Staff costs	34,548	12,936	-	47,484	39,286
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	-	3,462	-	3,462	2,632
Build to Bless	-	-	25,584	25,584	15,677
Church and grounds costs	-	16,433	-	16,433	17,473
Office expenses	-	9,178	1,416	10,594	5,255
Roof	9,167	-	-	9,167	65,624
Donations paid	2,175	-	-	2,175	20,000
Parish Share	-	7,279	-	7,279	6,486
Marketing and publicity	-	356	-	356	777
	<u>45,890</u>	<u>49,644</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>122,534</u>	<u>173,210</u>

#### 9 Analysis of governance and support costs

##### Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	530	530	500
Other governance costs	<u>36</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>566</u>	<u>566</u>	<u>500</u>

## **Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

#### **10 Trustees remuneration and expenses**

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Tim Bull is a director and shareholder of Rocksalt Limited. During the year, technical equipment totalling £2,418 (2022: £3,683) was purchased by Rocksalt Limited on behalf of St Martin's and passed on at cost.

Ruth Gaskins is an employee of McKellens Limited. A director of McKellens Limited is the independent examiner of the charity's accounts. Ruth Gaskins is neither a director nor shareholder of McKellens Limited and does not participate in the independent examination.

Trustees generally receive reimbursement for expenses incurred by them for the purposes of the church. All such expenditure is subject to the necessary authorisations in accordance with the church policy. During the year 9 (2022: 6) trustees had expenses reimbursed. The total of these expenses for the year was £3,757 (2022: £3,683).

During 2022, R Criddle was employed by the Church of St Martin as an assistant minister. All clergy who are licenced to a church in the Church of England are appointed ex officio as a member of the PCC of that church. No other trustees received any remuneration from the charity.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

#### **11 Taxation**

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2023	3,335	8,508	11,843
Additions	-	1,537	1,537
At 31 December 2023	3,335	10,045	13,380
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	425	3,240	3,665
Charge for the year	333	3,129	3,462
At 31 December 2023	758	6,369	7,127
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2023	2,577	3,676	6,253
At 31 December 2022	2,910	5,268	8,178

#### 13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	107	470
Prepayments	689	521
Other debtors	69	134
Gift aid receivable	75,090	32,891
	75,955	34,016

#### 14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash on hand	298	499
Cash at bank	305,036	162,127
	305,334	162,626

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	417	369
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>25,802</u>	<u>16,198</u>
	<u>26,219</u>	<u>16,567</u>

#### 16 Pension and other schemes

##### Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,039 (2022 - £2,519).

#### 17 Commitments

##### Capital commitments

The charity has undertaken repairs to the roof. The majority of this repair work had been completed by the year end and funds sufficient to complete the works have been transferred into the capital fund.

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2022 - £16,992).

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

**18 Funds**

	<b>Balance at 1 January 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 December 2023 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	<u>30,971</u>	<u>191,168</u>	<u>(75,974)</u>	<u>(58,405)</u>	<u>87,760</u>
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Capital Fund	17,171	-	(9,167)	(8,004)	-
Development Fund	113,093	-	(34,548)	(78,545)	-
Mission Fund	19,675	-	(2,175)	17,950	35,450
Build to Bless Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,004</u>	<u>127,004</u>
Designated funds	<u>149,939</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(45,890)</u>	<u>58,405</u>	<u>162,454</u>
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<u>180,910</u>	<u>191,168</u>	<u>(121,864)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,214</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	747	958	(1,379)	-	326
Build to Bless	5,297	128,715	(25,629)	-	108,383
Hardship Fund	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,400</u>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>130,773</u>	<u>(27,008)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,109</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>188,254</u></u>	<u><u>321,941</u></u>	<u><u>(148,872)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>361,323</u></u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	15,330	203,934	(65,168)	(123,125)	30,971
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Capital Fund	78,795	-	(65,624)	4,000	17,171
Development Fund	54,267	-	(41,174)	100,000	113,093
Mission Fund	20,550	-	(20,000)	19,125	19,675
Designated	153,612	-	(126,798)	123,125	149,939
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<b>168,942</b>	<b>203,934</b>	<b>(191,966)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>180,910</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	58	1,733	(1,044)	-	747
Build to Bless	1,875	5,297	(1,875)	-	5,297
Hardship Fund	-	1,800	(500)	-	1,300
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>8,830</b>	<b>(3,419)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,344</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>170,875</b>	<b>212,764</b>	<b>(195,385)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>188,254</b>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Included in the general Restricted Fund are restricted donations and grants not shown in separately identified restricted funds. In 2022, a grant from the local council was received to fund a jubilee event. In both years, during community events and services, donations were collected to be passed on to other charities. These include the poppy collection paid to the British Legion and donations for the Wellspring which were given during Christmas events and the jubilee fair. Donations for the library are also included in this fund.

At 31 December 2023, the balance held in the Restricted Fund comprised £326 being a donation for children's ministry of £250 plus gift aid and £12 given for the St Martin's library. At 31 December 2022, the balance held in the Restricted Fund comprised £726 donated for Wellspring which was paid on to Wellspring after the year end and £20 given for the St Martin's library.

The Build to Bless fund relates to proposed development and repair of the church building.

The Hardship Fund was established during 2022 for the purpose of providing financial funding to individuals in immediate need as well as funding counselling for members of the church family.

Each year a transfer is made from general funds to the designated mission fund.

In 2023, the PCC decided to establish a designated Build to Bless fund for the proposed development and repair of the church building. The more general designated development fund and separate designated capital fund were transferred into the new Build to Bless fund and general reserves.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

#### 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
	General £	Designated £		
Tangible fixed assets	6,253	-	-	6,253
Current assets	93,062	162,454	125,773	381,289
Current liabilities	(11,555)	-	(14,664)	(26,219)
Total net assets	<u>87,760</u>	<u>162,454</u>	<u>111,109</u>	<u>361,323</u>

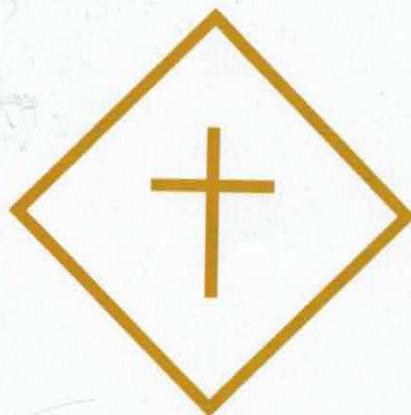
  

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
	General £	Designated £		
Tangible fixed assets	8,179	-	-	8,179
Current assets	25,747	163,551	7,344	196,642
Current liabilities	(2,955)	(13,612)	-	(16,567)
Total net assets	<u>30,971</u>	<u>149,939</u>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>188,254</u>

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# Accounts

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**ST MARTIN'S  
STOCKPORT**

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**HEATON NORRIS**

**The Parish of St Martin,  
Norris Bank**

**Annual Report  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31st December 2022**

*The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Martin, Norris Bank  
is a charity registered in England and Wales (1196002).*

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<b>Trustees' Report</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	<b>16</b>
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## Reference & Administrative Details

### Bank

The Co-operative Bank PLC,  
Central Commercial Bank, P.O. Box 250,  
Skelmersdale,  
WN8 6WT

### Independent Examiner

Paul Roper, McKellens Limited  
11 Riverview, The Embankment Business  
Park, Heaton Mersey, Stockport,  
SK4 3GN

### Principal Address

112 Crescent Park, Heaton Norris,  
Stockport, SK4 2JE

### Charity Number

1196002

### P.C.C. Membership.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) is a body corporate (P.C.C. Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and registered with the Charity Commission. PCC members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church representation Rules 2020 and during the year.

There are a number of officers who are Ex-Officio: clergy, churchwardens & Deanery Synod representatives.

During 2022, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent in Charge	Reverend Paul Jump (Ex-officio)	
Ministers	<i>Reverend William Rubie*</i> (Ex-officio)	
	<i>Reverend Richard Criddle*</i> (From September 2022) (Ex-officio)	
Churchwardens	<i>Tim Bull*</i>	(Elected 2018) (Ex-officio)
	<i>Tom Shepherd*</i>	(Elected 2021) (Ex-officio)
Deanery Synod	Henk Alting	(Term of Office Expires 2023) (Ex-officio)
	Anna Sant	(Term of Office Expires 2023) (Ex-officio)
Elected Members	Kate Butt	(Term of Office Expires 2023)
	Sarah Prescott	(Term of Office Expires 2023)
	Oli Hatley	(Term of Office Expires 2024)
	Frank Palmer	(Term of Office Expires 2024)
	<i>Lucy Davidson*</i>	(Term of Office Expires 2025)
	<i>Ruth Gaskins*</i>	(Term of Office Expires 2025)
PCC Secretary	Bethan Wilson	

\*Names in italic denote members of the Standing Committee

## **Trustees' Report**

### **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.

The PCC held 7 meetings during the year.

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. It also meets to discuss other matters to be put before the PCC.

### **Matters discussed by the PCC**

The full PCC and the Standing Committee have met during the year. They have discussed a range of issues, including: the *Build to Bless* project; the development of a Pastoral Care Team & Hardship Fund; the recruitment of an Assistant Minister; and partnering with CAP.

*Bethan Wilson, PCC Secretary*

### **Electoral Roll**

By the end of 2022, we had a total of 92 Members on the Electoral Roll. This has grown from 78 members as reported in 2021.

*Bethan Wilson, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Public Benefit**

The Church of St Martin, Norris Bank is a public benefit entity. St Martin's promotes public services, in dedicated buildings and elsewhere, in accordance with the practices and teachings of the Church of England, for hearing and appropriating the word of God and for the worship of God both generally and at significant points in people's lives. It provides religious and moral parameters by which individual members of the public may live fulfilled lives and act in a way which is socially beneficial, and influence wider society for the better.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities' Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

## Review of the Year

### Ministers Report

At the end of our recent church family weekend away, the host at the site told us “you have something very special here – we have seen you be the fragrance of Christ.” Week by week at our Lord’s Supper services we say “the Lord is here; his Spirit is with us.” What an incredible privilege we have of experiencing Christ with us, being formed into his likeness by the power of the Spirit and making him known in our community.

It’s not possible to re-tell all the ways Jesus has been present changing lives. No doubt we all have stories of Jesus’ work in our life, stories of rejoicing and stories of weeping. Together we’ve known the presence of the Lord supporting; upholding; forgiving; bearing with; building; comforting; and leading us in his ways. Sometimes this has been dramatic, often it has been his week by week sustenance through the ordinary means of grace – meeting together; worshipping him; hearing his word; and sharing the Lord’s Supper.

Alongside these personal and often hidden stories of grace, we’ve seen the Lord at work in a myriad of other ways at St Martin’s. Here’s a few from 2022 to ignite our praise!

- A Youth Group starting with a great team of leaders and excited (and nervous) youth
- Newcomers joining us gradually throughout the year
- Development of building plans and the launch of “Build to Bless” including significant sums of money pledged for the project
- An incredible Jubilee community celebration and Christmas fair
- Community Hub growing and becoming a spiritual home to many
- Giving thanks for the life of Vera Perkins who went to be with the Lord
- A challenging and stimulating church Prayer Course
- Establishment of a new Hardship Fund to support those in need
- A fantastic weekend away at Quinta hall enjoying fellowship together in the sun
- The arrival of Richard and Emma Criddle and family to join the staff team
- Lego club growing
- New contacts with local schools and school groups visiting church for the first time
- Becky able to visit more schools and do assemblies
- Our largest Christmas services with hundreds joining us from the community
- Initial conversations about establishing a Christians Against Poverty Group

We exist to spread the praise of Jesus as we grow in him together. As we look back at 2022 we can be incredibly grateful to the Lord for how he has grown us together and spread his praise amongst us and through us.

*Reverend Will Rubie*

## **'Build to Bless' Project Report**

The *Build to Bless* project seeks to transform our church building so that it might bless our community and our church family for years to come. The project stems from a requirement to catch up with our current needs for more space and better facilities, as well as an aspiration to provide a building better equipped to bless our community and future growth.

The project began with the appointment of Bate and Taylor architects in January 2021 to draw up designs for a potential scheme. These were presented to the church congregation and community during consultation events in February 2022. The plans were refined in response to the consultation events and final versions were presented to the Church family at the *Build to Bless* Launch Night in October 2022.

Following the Launch Night, the church family were invited to pledge to pray for the project, and also to prayerfully consider giving towards the scheme. The fruit of these prayers was wonderfully realised at a Pledge Service in November 2022 where the church family pledged to give over £600,000 to support the proposals. Along with up to £150,000 proposed from existing church funds based on current giving, we now have a significant fund from which *Build to Bless* can launch.

We are so thankful to God for this incredible response – it is a great encouragement to see the church family's support for the project, not least given the Cost of Living crisis experienced so acutely by us all.

Since the pledge day, we have submitted a formal pre-application document to Stockport Council to get their comments on the plans. The council provided a comprehensive response in February 2023 detailing the information required for an application, as well as expressing their support in principle for the scheme. The current programme is for the Planning application to be submitted Summer 2023 and, subject to funding, a start on site by Summer 2024. The formal DAC process for approval from the Diocese will run concurrently.

*'Build to Bless' Project Team: Joe Hobbs, Tom Shepherd, Reverend Will Rubie*

## **Fabric Report**

In 2022 the roof works were completed. The asbestos downpipes & much of the guttering have been removed and replaced with new cast aluminium ones. The terracotta coping stones have all been repaired or replaced, and much of the brickwork around the roof has been repointed. The flat roof above the Resource Space has been completely replaced; including the timber frame underneath which was rotten.

Internally, Josh Sant built the beautiful shelves for the library, which has hugely improved the look of the wall by the kitchen, and created a much more welcoming space.

As the congregation numbers grew so much in 2022, it has been necessary for more people to sit in the side aisles. Two new amps and speakers were purchased to ensure that everyone could hear the speakers and music clearly. Other expenses this year have included a new heater for the foyer to keep the Scramblers warm in colder months, and paying the council to extend the white lines at the entrance to the grounds from Crescent Park, to ensure that people have a clearer view when exiting the car park.

*Churchwardens: Tom Shepherd & Tim Bull*

## **Deanery and Diocesan Report**

### **1. *The Manchester North and East Deanery and Mission Communities.***

In 2021 there was a major re-organisation of the Deaneries within the Manchester Diocese. We are now a parish church within the Manchester North and East Deanery. Our Deanery parishes met together in their new Deanery Synod three times during 2022. Anna Sant was elected during the 2022 APCM, and joined me as the second representative from St Martin's.

Largely, the Deanery Synod is a venue for updates and discussion. Topics included: updates from the Diocesan Synod representatives; progress on Mission Communities; updates from the wider Deaneries; and continued discussions on Living in Love and Faith. There are occasional presentations by someone from the Diocese, such as progress on 'More than Sunday' and ALM developments.

Within our Deanery, there are four Mission Communities (MCs). These are local groupings of parish churches with a shared leadership team. We are formally part of a MC with ten other local churches, and the intention is that the mission of the Church will be led at a local level within these MCs and by their shared leadership teams. Seven of the churches in our MC have declared an 'inclusive' position, which takes them in a direction contrary to the current teaching of the Church of England on sexuality and marriage. From early on, St Martin's PCC decided it would not be part of a shared leadership with any inclusive churches, though we are open to co-operation on worthwhile joint projects. This position has been maintained during 2022.

### **2. *Exit from the Heatons Team***

By the end of 2022, St Martin's was still part of the Heatons Team Ministry, which is a legal structure of local churches, separate from MCs. We were due to come out of this Team as part of the revitalisation. Covid and legal issues have been part of the delay, and we have been assured by the Diocese that they still intend for us to exit the Team. On a practical day to day level, St Martin's has continued to operate under Reverend William Rubie, with Reverend Richard Criddle joining as Assistant Minister

in September 2022 & Reverend Paul Jump continuing as Incumbent in Charge, and we expect our exit to complete soon.

### **3. *The Diocesan Synod***

The governance body of the Manchester Diocese is the Diocesan Synod. Deaneries send both lay and clergy representatives to the Synod. I am the only Deanery lay representative to the Diocesan Synod, though our Deanery is entitled to two.

The Diocesan Synod met on three occasions in 2022, one of which I missed when recovering from COVID. As with the Deanery Synod, there are many items of update and discussion, but matters also come for decisions. One example was a proposal by the Bolton Deanery to allow individual communion cups for Holy Communion in special circumstances such as the aftermath of COVID. I voted in favour though the motion was lost. While this debate was contested, usually votes are on uncontroversial administrative matters.

Other significant updates were on the Transformation Programme (which includes but is wider than Mission Communities); the Diocesan head office moving from central Manchester to St John's House in Bury in 2023; updates from the General Synod; and the net-zero energy policy.

For me, the most significant event was the Synod on 19th March when there was a major presentation on LLF. I spoke to a number of senior clergy about the incoherence between (i) listening to each other with mutual respect; and (ii) some of us supporting potential government prosecutions on the very matters being discussed, namely, helping those who freely wish to explore the possibility of moving away from an unwanted sexual attraction or gender identity. The responses I got were largely unsatisfactory in my view.

### **4. *The National Picture – Living in Love and Faith (LLF)***

Since 2020 the CofE has conducted internal discussions on sexuality and marriage based on the LLF resources. In April 2022, these discussions came to an end. While St Martin's did not participate in these discussions, the PCC was kept up to date on developments, and I gave formal feedback at the Deanery and Diocesan Synods and through letters published in the Church Times.

On completion of the discussions, the Bishops went through a period of 'discernment', reflecting on the whole LLF process with a view to coming to the General Synod in February 2023 with proposals on a way forward.

The Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) and similar bodies are in discussion about future options for churches like St Martin's, but it is too early to say much about the way forward.

*Deanery Synod Representative: Henk Alting*

### **Children's Groups on Sunday Mornings**

The children's ministry at St Martin's continues to grow, so much so that we now have three Sunday morning children's groups. Children join Scramblers the term after they turn 2, and then join Climbers for Reception to Year 2; and Explorers for Year 3 to Year 6. With growing numbers of children, we have needed to recruit more leaders.

It has been a joy to welcome Meirion Hoad, Carol Hill and Lucy Davidson to the Climbers team and to bring together a new team for Scramblers – Cheryl Howard, Connie James, Daniel Forshaw, Dan Maguire, Gail Byrne, Hannah Surguy and Kerry Laffey. I am so thankful for them and the rest of the leaders – Abi Hayward-Shott, Ben Marsden, Beth Horsfield, Jess Bradshaw, Faye and Paul Briffa, Livvy Raynes, Pam Corbishley and Sarah Prescott. It is a joy to lead teams of people who are so creative, servant-hearted and love Jesus and the children so well.

The Climbers and Explorers continue to meet altogether in the hall. They follow the same teaching programme as the adults in church and so we've enjoyed the challenge of teaching the Old Testament prayers & the theology of John 13-16. The children have an altogether time with games and singing, before splitting into two groups for the Bible story and craft.

The Scramblers briefly joined the Climbers and Explorers in the hall for the summer term – spending some time together before having a Bible story and simple activities in the corner of the hall. However, as Foodbank moved their stock into the resource space, the porch became available and the Scramblers have been meeting as an independent group there since September. They follow a 3 year curriculum which covers a range of Old Testament and New Testament stories as well as basics of the Christian faith – who God is, how God made us, the Bible, prayer and church. They have time together on the mats singing and sharing a Bible story before enjoying craft and other activities related to the teaching.

This porch space remains a challenge, particularly as we have so many young children, but the leaders are brilliant at making the space work for their sessions. Children under 2 still have access to the back carpeted corner of church with some toys available. Whilst not ideal, this does seem the best solution to space issues currently, and has the advantage of parents being able to participate in the service.

*Youth & Children's Worker: Becky Watson Lee*

## **Youth Group**

We've welcomed a few new members into the youth group over the past year, and Sunday evenings have become precious times for the team as we meet with them to share Jesus and our lives with them. We've continued to enjoy a mixture of Bible studies, testimonies and socials – this year we've thought about why church is important and how we listen to sermons, worked through 1 Peter, and thought about what God has to say about our different relationships. Our days away have also been great times of fun and fellowship, and we were very grateful that Sarah Bradley was able to join us this year to speak on relationships with boys and girls.

I continue to be so thankful for the youth team (Anna Sant, Joe and Al Hobbs and Joe Bradshaw) who are so gifted and make the youth group so much fun! We would love to see each of our young people grow in their love for Jesus this year and we'd be grateful for your prayers.

*Becky Watson Lee*

## **Wednesday Morning Community Hub**

Wednesday Morning Community Hub is now well established with a weekly attendance of around 20. The morning is in two parts; a short, simple service and then 'coffee, cake and company'. People are welcome to attend either or both parts.

The service continues to provide a welcome alternative for those who find Sunday services too long or too crowded and noisy. And it's great seeing people gathered round the tables and hear the buzz of so many lively conversations, from the serious debate to the lighthearted chat, or sharing concerns and a listening ear.

Some comments: 'it is an oasis in the week', 'particularly enjoy the fellowship', 'made new friends'

Our thanks to the church family for your prayers and support and also to all those who volunteer – taking the services, setting up and providing the refreshments. Together we pray that Community Hub will attract more newcomers and that they will find friendship, fellowship and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Leadership Team: Trevor and Cheryl Howard, Jo Lawrinson and Sue Alting.*

## **Children's Midweek Groups:**

### ***Little Lights***

We've enjoyed another year of fun at Little Lights. We regularly welcome 30-40 children and their parents or carers every Monday morning. It has been very special to build relationships with a core of regular attendees and to welcome new faces most weeks.

We have expanded some of our provision this year – investing in an easel, new dolls and a tuff spot for sensory play and other activities linked with the Bible story. During each session there is free play and a craft activity linked with the Bible story and we finish with a snack, story and song time. We follow a three year programme that covers a range of Old Testament and New Testament stories.

In the Autumn term, we also put on our first Little Lights evangelistic event – a craft evening making Christmas cards. It was great to see a mix of church and non-church women getting to know one another and hear something of Jesus through Alma's testimony. We are looking forward to our next craft evening this term, and we hope to run an evangelistic event for adults once per term.

I am very thankful for the brilliant team – Alice Chiu, Lilian Dunlop, Pam Corbishley and Sue Maguire, who work so hard and share their gifts and time.

### ***Lego Club***

Lego Club has now been running for a year and it's been so much fun! I am grateful for the support of a great team – Dan Smith, Joe Byrne and Sean Wilson, as well as other church family members who have served refreshments to parents and children. We have seen so many children over the last year; lots have come because they have seen the banner on Didsbury Road – we are very thankful to God for this. It has been a great way of connecting with the community.

*Becky Watson Lee*

### **The Library**

St Martin's started a library with the first entry in the borrowing register dated 27 March 2022. The purpose of the library is to lend good Christian books to St Martin's members and visitors. We look to have books on Christian related themes which sit broadly within the teaching and ethos of the church. This ranges across theology, commentaries, history, biography, personal devotional, mission, apologetics, contemporary issues and children's books. While it is easy to fill the shelves, we aim to have literature of good quality in both content and appearance. There has been a good uptake on library lending, including with the children's section.

We are grateful to everyone who donated books. At the moment we are not looking for more book donations, but there is a library fund which will be used to make targeted purchases; contributions will be gratefully received.

To help stimulate our reading, there has been a book review in the Church news every two months, alternating with the music review.

*Henk Alting*

### **Seminars**

During February/March 2022 we ran three seminars on weekday evenings entitled 'Children of the Creator'. The first seminar related human language back to the ancient context of the Genesis creation and the creative speaking of God. The second dealt with human creativity expressed in music, and the third was on the arts more widely alongside a small exhibition. The first two were led by myself, and the last by Bethan Wilson. We advertised to local churches and on Diocesan channels. Though the attendance was modest, we were pleased with our first attempt.

The purpose of these seminars was to help us understand how the Christian faith relates to wider contemporary and cultural issues. This is not only for our own spiritual growth; many of us need to engage with the secular world on some of these issues, typically in the workplace.

We hope to conduct more seminars next year with an important emphasis on using or developing our congregation's in-house talent rather than calling on external experts, though these are not ruled out.

*Henk Alting*

### **Schools**

During the summer, our three local primary schools (Mersey Vale, Norris Bank and Didsbury Road) were sent our 'Schools Partnership Booklet' outlining the various different ways we could serve their school communities. It has been a huge answer to prayer that I, and others, have had many more opportunities since then to do assemblies, teach RE lessons and welcome classes to the church building for visits. It is also a privilege to work with CIST in their ministry. We pray that the Lord will continue to open doors to share the gospel in our local schools.

We normally have 20-25 children per week. There's a Lego challenge linked to the Bible story, show and tell, game, snack and story, all within an hour. Our Bible themes have included: Jesus' authority, The Sermon on the Mount, and Meals with Jesus.

*Becky Watson Lee*

## **Hall**

This year we began to rent the hall out again, and now have two regular hirers: a flamenco class on Thursday nights and a baby sensory class on Friday mornings. We have also had one-off rentals for birthday parties, and a children's art club in school holidays.

*Bethan Wilson*

## **Data Protection**

St Martin's is committed to having safe and secure Data Protection practices in place.

We have continued to use ChurchSuite as our secure online database. This allows us to keep records of church members' contact details securely, and aids church communication through its Address Book module. Each church member also has access to a personal ChurchSuite account, where they can manage their own data and regulate what personal information they would like to share with church family. Certain congregation members also have additional permissions to enable them to carry out their roles, including church staff and children's leaders. By the end of 2022, we had 117 adults registered on ChurchSuite. This gives an indication of how many adults have become involved in St Martin's in the past year (we previously recorded 104 adults on ChurchSuite in 2021).

*Bethan Wilson*

## **Safeguarding Report**

As ever, safeguarding continues to be a priority in our life together at St Martin's. We are working hard to continue to ensure that the vulnerable among us are safeguarded and that we can care for and protect each other well. In doing this we continue to adopt the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement'. Information about our safeguarding process and contact details are displayed in the church building and on the website.

During this year lots of people have undertaken, or renewed, safeguarding training at levels appropriate to their roles; I'd like to say a huge thankyou to those of you who have given up time to complete this. It is really important that this is in place so that our culture at St Martin's is one that creates a safe space for all. Lots of hard work (particularly by Bethan & Becky) has gone into ensuring that DBS checks, references and volunteer agreements are in place where they need to be. These are requirements of the Safer Recruitment process which we are required to follow, there are a few areas where volunteer agreements are still needed, so this might be discussed with some volunteers in the coming months.

During the year we have shared with you the Pastoral Team policy, which supports our proactive safeguarding and care. We have been delighted to welcome Richard to this group.

If you have any further questions about safeguarding at St Martin's or would like to discuss anything connected to this area please chat to me or email me via: [safeguarding@stms.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stms.org.uk).

*Lucy Davidson, Safeguarding Officer*

## **Treasurer's Report**

As St Martin's has continued to grow as a church in 2022, donations given to our church have also increased. Thank you to all who are generously and faithfully giving: your commitment is very gratefully recognised! Our income in 2022 was £212,764 compared to £165,320 in 2021. Our surplus in 2022 was £17,379 in excess of our expenditure after further work on the roofing project, which was nearing completion by the end of 2022.

On 31st December 2022, total funds held were £188,254 and the PCC has agreed to transfer a further £4,000 to the Capital Fund to fund the final costs to be incurred in 2023. This includes the removal and replacement of the asbestos drain pipes on the lower section of the church building.

The PCC has also designated £100,000 of the funds held to the Development Fund. This fund is set aside to finance members of the staff team employed by St Martin's who are developing our ministry, and also to fund development of the church building. On 31st December 2022, this fund totalled £113,093.

Two new restricted funds have also been established in 2022. Following the *Build to Bless* project launch, where the building plans were presented to the church family, donations have started to be given to the *Build to Bless* fund. This money is restricted for use on the *Build to Bless* project.

The other restricted fund which started in 2022 was the Hardship Fund. Recognising the financial pressures many are facing in the cost of living crisis, this fund provides grants for the relief of hardship of individuals or families in our church family who have been identified as in need, as well as funding counselling sessions. The Hardship Fund policy can be viewed on the Safeguarding page on our website.

As in previous years, we have put aside 10% of our regular income in 2022 to give to other charities and this has been transferred to the Mission Fund.

Please pray that the PCC will continue to be guided by the Spirit in deciding how best to use the gifts that God, through His people, has given us.

Ruth Gaskins, Treasurer

### **Reserves Policy**

The PCC seeks to ensure that sufficient reserves are held to meet between three to six months' costs. After designating funds for mission, capital and development work, the remaining funds, based on 2022 expenditure, are sufficient to meet costs for around five months.

### **Financial Instruments**

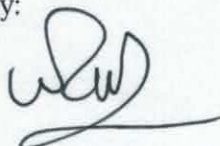
#### ***Objectives and policies***

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments.

#### ***Credit risk***

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The Annual Report was adopted by the PCC on 7.5.2023 and signed on their behalf by:



**The Reverend William Rubie (P.C.C. Chair)**  
**Minister of St Martin's, Norris Bank**

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

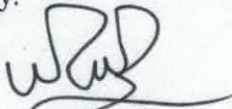
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 7.5.2023 and signed on their behalf by:



**The Reverend William Rubie (P.C.C. Chair)**  
**Minister of St Martin's, Norris Bank**

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

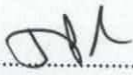
I report in respect of my examination of the Church of St Martin, Norris Bank's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Church of St Martin, Norris Bank as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

  
.....  
Paul Roper  
Chartered Accountant  
McKellens Limited  
11 Riverview  
The Embankment Business Park  
Heaton Mersey  
Stockport  
SK4 3GN

Date: 21/5/23 .....

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated Funds £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies		188,620	8,828	-	197,448
Charitable activities		12,107	-	-	12,107
Other trading activities		2,950	-	-	2,950
Investment income	5	<u>257</u>	<u>2</u>	-	<u>259</u>
Total income		<u>203,934</u>	<u>8,830</u>	-	<u>212,764</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities		(21,175)	(1,000)	-	(22,175)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(43,993)</u>	<u>(2,419)</u>	<u>(126,798)</u>	<u>(173,210)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(65,168)</u>	<u>(3,419)</u>	<u>(126,798)</u>	<u>(195,385)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		138,766	5,411	(126,798)	17,379
Gross transfers between funds		<u>(123,125)</u>	-	<u>123,125</u>	-
Net movement in funds		15,641	5,411	(3,673)	17,379
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>15,330</u>	<u>1,933</u>	<u>153,612</u>	<u>170,875</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u>30,971</u>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>149,939</u>	<u>188,254</u>
			<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies			155,365	5,821	161,186
Charitable activities			2,101	-	2,101
Other trading activities			2,007	-	2,007
Investment income	5		<u>26</u>	-	<u>26</u>
Total income			<u>159,499</u>	<u>5,821</u>	<u>165,320</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities			(5,401)	(260)	(5,661)
Other expenditure	8		<u>(120,494)</u>	<u>(3,628)</u>	<u>(124,122)</u>
Total expenditure			<u>(125,895)</u>	<u>(3,888)</u>	<u>(129,783)</u>
Net income			<u>33,604</u>	<u>1,933</u>	<u>35,537</u>
Net movement in funds			33,604	1,933	35,537
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward			<u>135,338</u>	-	<u>135,338</u>
Total funds carried forward	18		<u>168,942</u>	<u>1,933</u>	<u>170,875</u>


The notes on pages 19 to 30 form an integral part of these financial statements.

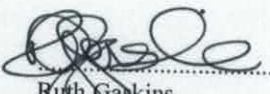
## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

(Registration number: 1196002)  
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	8,179	5,126
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	34,016	29,185
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>162,626</u>	<u>138,255</u>
		196,642	167,440
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>(16,567)</u>	<u>(1,691)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>180,075</u>	<u>165,749</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>188,254</u>	<u>170,875</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted</b>		<u>7,344</u>	<u>1,933</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Designated funds		149,939	153,612
General funds		<u>30,971</u>	<u>15,330</u>
Total unrestricted		<u>180,910</u>	<u>168,942</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	18	<u>188,254</u>	<u>170,875</u>

The financial statements on pages 17 to 30 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

  
 .....  
 Rev Will Rubie  
 Minister

  
 .....  
 Ruth Gaskins  
 Treasurer

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

#### 1 Accounting policies

##### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

##### **Basis of preparation**

Church of St Martin, Norris Bank meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

##### **Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### **Income and endowments**

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### **Donations and legacies**

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

##### **Grants receivable**

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

##### **Gifts in kind**

Gifts in kind are recognised in different ways dependent on how they are used by the charity:

- (i) Those donated for resale produce income when they are sold. They are valued at the amount actually realised.
- (ii) Those donated for onward transmission to beneficiaries are included in the Statement of Financial Activities as incoming resources and resources expended when they are distributed. They are valued at the amount the charity would have had to pay to acquire them.
- (iii) Those donated for use by the charity itself are included when receivable. They are valued at the amount the charity would have had to pay to acquire them.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

#### Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

#### Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

#### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	10% straight line

#### Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### Trade creditors

are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

#### Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

## 2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	153,528	6,828	160,356	130,356
Donations from community groups	-	-	-	98
Gift aid reclaimed	31,891	1,000	32,891	27,132
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from other charities	1,250	1,000	2,250	3,600
Gifts in kind	1,951	-	1,951	-
	188,620	8,828	197,448	161,186

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

Volunteers give their time freely to help the charity achieve its objects. The value of this service is unquantifiable.

In addition, during the year the following gifts in kind were received in respect of the library: shelving at a value of £1,462 which has been included in the accounts as a tangible fixed asset and books at a value of £489 which have been recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Church services	2,885	2,885	1,843
Little Lights	1,222	1,222	258
Away day	8,000	8,000	-
	12,107	12,107	2,101

#### 4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £	Total 2021 £
Property rental income	2,950	2,950	2,007
	2,950	2,950	2,007

#### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	257	2	259	26
	257	2	259	26

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### 6 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	35,981	16,727
Pension costs	2,519	1,159
Other staff costs	786	657
	<u>39,286</u>	<u>18,543</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Administrative staff	1	1
Ministry staff	1	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

3 (2021 - 2) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

At 31 December 2022, the charity employed 3 employees on a part time basis. During 2021, the staff team increased from 1 to 2 with a third member of staff starting employment during 2022. The full time equivalents are disclosed above.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

#### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Church services	Note	11,292	1,000	12,292	5,211
Hub		165	-	165	-
Little Lights		549	-	549	-
Away day		8,669	-	8,669	-
Governance costs		500	-	500	450
		<u>21,175</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>22,175</u>	<u>5,661</u>

**Church of St Martin, Norris Bank**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)**

**8 Other expenditure**

	Unrestricted			Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	Designated £	General £	Restricted £		
Staff costs	27,372	11,914	-	39,286	18,543
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	-	2,632	-	2,632	887
Church Hall costs	-	7	-	7	151
Church and grounds costs	-	17,466	-	17,466	12,214
Office expenses	13,802	4,711	2,419	20,932	5,542
Donations paid	20,000	-	-	20,000	5,000
Parish Share	-	6,486	-	6,486	6,184
Roof	65,624	-	-	65,624	71,205
Roof	-	-	-	-	3,600
Marketing and publicity	-	777	-	777	796
	<u>126,798</u>	<u>43,993</u>	<u>2,419</u>	<u>173,210</u>	<u>124,122</u>

**9 Analysis of governance and support costs**

**Governance costs**

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	500	500	450
	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>450</u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### 10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Tim Bull is a director and shareholder of Rocksalt Limited. During the year, technical equipment totalling £3,683 (2021: £3,636) was purchased by Rocksalt Limited on behalf of St Martin's and passed on at cost.

Ruth Gaskins is an employee of McKellens Limited. A director of McKellens Limited is the independent examiner of the charity's accounts. Ruth Gaskins is neither a director nor shareholder of McKellens Limited and does not participate in the independent examination.

Trustees generally receive reimbursement for expenses incurred by them for the purposes of the church. All such expenditure is subject to the necessary authorisations in accordance with the church policy. During the year 6 (2021: 6) trustees had expenses reimbursed. The total of these expenses for the year was £3,683 (2021: £2,233).

During 2022, R Criddle was employed by the Church of St Martin as an assistant minister. All clergy who are licenced to a church in the Church of England are appointed ex officio as a member of the PCC of that church. No other trustees received any remuneration from the charity.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### 11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

#### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2022	1,059	5,099	6,158
Additions	2,276	3,409	5,685
At 31 December 2022	<u>3,335</u>	<u>8,508</u>	<u>11,843</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2022	141	891	1,032
Charge for the year	283	2,349	2,632
At 31 December 2022	<u>424</u>	<u>3,240</u>	<u>3,664</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,911</u>	<u>5,268</u>	<u>8,179</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>918</u>	<u>4,208</u>	<u>5,126</u>

#### 13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	470	228
Prepayments	521	1,831
Other debtors	134	3
Gift aid receivable	32,891	27,123
	<u>34,016</u>	<u>29,185</u>

#### 14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash on hand	499	58
Cash at bank	162,127	138,197
	<u>162,626</u>	<u>138,255</u>

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	369	206
Trade creditors and accruals	<u>16,198</u>	<u>1,485</u>
	<u>16,567</u>	<u>1,691</u>

#### 16 Pension and other schemes

##### Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,519 (2021 - £1,159).

#### 17 Commitments

##### Capital commitments

The charity has undertaken repairs to the roof. The majority of this repair work had been completed by the year end and funds sufficient to complete the works have been transferred into the capital fund.

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements was £16,992 (2021 - £67,770).

Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	15,330	203,934	(65,168)	(123,125)	30,971
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Capital Fund	78,795	-	(65,624)	4,000	17,171
Development Fund	54,267	-	(41,174)	100,000	113,093
Mission Fund	20,550	-	(20,000)	19,125	19,675
Designated funds	153,612	-	(126,798)	123,125	149,939
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	168,942	203,934	(191,966)	-	180,910
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	58	1,733	(1,044)	-	747
Build to Bless	1,875	5,297	(1,875)	-	5,297
Hardship Fund	-	1,800	(500)	-	1,300
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	1,933	8,830	(3,419)	-	7,344
<b>Total funds</b>	170,875	212,764	(195,385)	-	188,254

## Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General	20,288	159,499	(38,957)	(125,500)	15,330
<i>Unrestricted designated funds</i>					
Capital Fund	75,000	-	(71,205)	75,000	78,795
Development Fund	30,000	-	(10,733)	35,000	54,267
Mission Fund	10,050	-	(5,000)	15,500	20,550
Designated	115,050	-	(86,938)	125,500	153,612
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<u>135,338</u>	<u>159,499</u>	<u>(125,895)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>168,942</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Restricted Fund	-	3,946	(3,888)	-	58
Build to Bless	-	1,875	-	-	1,875
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,821</u>	<u>(3,888)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,933</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>135,338</u></u>	<u><u>165,320</u></u>	<u><u>(129,783)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>170,875</u></u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Included in the general Restricted Fund are restricted donations and grants not shown in separately identified restricted funds. In 2022, a grant from the local council was received to fund a jubilee event. In 2021 a grant was received from All Churches Trust in respect of roof repairs carried out in the year. Additionally in 2021, donations were received in respect of audio equipment which was purchased during the year. In both years, during community events and services, donations were collected to be passed on to other charities. These include the poppy collection paid to the British Legion on December 2021 and donations for the Wellspring which were given during Christmas events and the jubilee fair. Donations for the library are also included in this fund.

At 31 December 2022, the balance held in the Restricted Fund comprised £726 donated for Wellspring which was paid on to Wellspring after the year end and £20 given for the St Martin's library. At 31 December 2021, £58 had been donation for Wellspring which was paid on in January 2022.

The Build to Bless fund relates to proposed development and repair of the church building.

The Hardship Fund was established during 2022 for the purpose of providing financial funding to individuals in immediate need as well as funding counselling for members of the church family.

Church of St Martin, Norris Bank

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (continued)

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
	General £	Designated £		
Tangible fixed assets	8,179	-	-	8,179
Current assets	26,747	162,551	7,344	196,642
Current liabilities	(2,955)	(13,612)	-	(16,567)
Total net assets	<u>31,971</u>	<u>148,939</u>	<u>7,344</u>	<u>188,254</u>

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2021 £
	General £	Designated £		
Tangible fixed assets	5,126	-	-	5,126
Current assets	11,896	153,611	1,933	167,440
Current liabilities	(1,691)	-	-	(1,691)
Total net assets	<u>15,331</u>	<u>153,611</u>	<u>1,933</u>	<u>170,875</u>