

**ST MARTIN'S PARISH CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – SUNDAY, 19th May 2024**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of meeting held on 21st May 2023
4. Matters Arising
5. Notification of Any Other Business
6. Chairman's Report – given during Sermon
7. Electoral Roll Report
8. Music and Worship Co-ordinator's Report
9. Children and Families Worker's Report
10. Treasurer's Report
11. Elections:
  - a) Parish Church Wardens
  - b) Deputy Church Wardens
  - c) St Martin's PCC
  - d) Electoral Roll Officer
  - e) Stewardship Secretary
  - f) Independent Examiner
  - g) Safeguarding Officer
12. Any Other Business
13. Date of next APCM

**After the meeting the new St Martin's PCC meet to elect:**

- a) Treasurer
- b) Secretary to PCC
- c) Sidespersons
  - a. Set a date for the net PCC

## ST MARTIN'S PARISH CHURCH

### Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

**Chair: Revd Jenny Mayo (JM)**

**Present: Members of St Martin's Parish Church in Church**

1. The Revd Jenny Mayo welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Sue Davidson, Sue Cooper, Liz Askey, John & Chris Proctor, Dan Townsend, Jane Quinn & Margaret Law
3. **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022:** One point was raised by Richard Brinck-Johnsen to have the spelling mistake in his name altered. This was completed. The minutes which have previously been circulated via the Church website, were unanimously accepted & signed by JM as a true & proper record.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** There were no notifications of any other business.
6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** JM had delivered the Chairman's Report as part of this morning's service in which she thanked everyone for contributing to maintaining the life of St Martin's over the past year.
7. **ELECTORIAL ROLL REPORT:** JM advised that there had been no new applicants in the past year and a full list had already been prepared.
8. **MUSIC & WORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:** This report is included in the paperwork.
9. **CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER'S REPORT:** This report is included in the paperwork.

10. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The report was presented by Chris Davidson (CD) and is included in the paperwork.

11. **ELECTIONS:**

- a. Parish Church Wardens: David Sharpe has agreed to continue to serve for another year and is joined by Dorothy Doody. They were elected unanimously.
- b. Deputy Church Wardens: Julie Bradshaw & Lesley Bates agreed to continue to serve for another year and were elected unanimously. There is still one vacancy for a Deputy Church Warden.
- c. Deanery Synod Representatives: Colin Townsend, Colin and Susan McIlwaine were unanimously elected to serve as Deanery Synod Representatives.
- d. St Martin's PCC: Susan McIlwaine, Colin McIlwaine, Peter Wheble, Richard Brink-Johnson, Chris Davidson, Diane Sainsbury, Phil Hodgkinson, Jackie King & Jenny Paxton were unanimously elected.
- e. Sidespersons: Judith Matthews, Yvonne Kent, Jen Whitfield, Norman Lockett, Peter Rigby, Liz Dunthorne, Margaret Jones, Jackie Lynam & Chris Rowe.
- f. Electoral Roll Officer: Phil Hodgkinson was elected unanimously.
- g. Stewardship Secretary: Sue Cooper was elected unanimously.
- h. Independent Examiner: Lichfield Diocese was elected unanimously.
- i. Safeguarding Officer: Susan McIlwaine was elected unanimously.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** none

13. **DATE OF NEXT APCM:** TBA in May 2024

JM closed the meeting at 11.40am with the Grace.

PPC Elected members agreed the following posts immediately following the meeting:

**Treasurer:** Chris Davidson

**Secretary:** Jenny Paxton

**Standing Committee:** To be confirmed

**Church Bank Account Signatories:** no change from 2022.

The dates for the next meetings 2023/24 are as follows:

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023



# **Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

## **The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Jennifer Mayo, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Walsall St Martin. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

#### **Public Benefit**

The trustees of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Walsall St Martin it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

### **Achievements and Performance**

See Review of the Year

### **Financial Review**

#### **Summary**

It is very pleasing to report that in 2023 St Martin's had a surplus of **£4,023**. Although this was significantly less than 2022 (£18,062), this is still a good result for us.

The table below shows the result for the last five years. We are now on a par with where we were in 2019 before the COVID pandemic of 2020/21.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Income</b>	£117,034	£115,320	£87,857	£72,468	£117,022
<b>Expenditure</b>	£113,012	£97,258	£87,010	£85,523	£110,434
<b>Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>£4,023</b>	<b>£18,062</b>	<b>£847</b>	<b>-£13,055</b>	<b>£6,588</b>

Throughout 2023 we have been striving to minimise costs and raise funds prior to any planned expenditure.

The major items of income and expenditure were:

## Income

- Regular giving by bank, envelopes and plate collections rose from **£50,923** in 2022 to **£53,361** in 2023.
- Hall hire income dropped from **£26,059** in 2022 to **£24,449** in 2023.
- Donations and Legacies dropped from **£14,138** in 2022 to **£11,595** in 2023.
- Tax recoverable on Gift Aid rose from **£13,172** in 2022 to **£16,051** in 2023.
- Interest on savings rose from **£981** in 2022 to **£4,146** in 2023.

## Expenditure

- Common Fund payment rose from **£56,833** in 2022 to **£59,847** in 2023.
- The cost of gas rose from **£4,286** in 2022 to **£8,489** in 2023.
- Children & Families Worker Salary rose from **£5,929** in 2022 to **£6,807** in 2023.
- Tithe rose from **£6,395** in 2022 to **£6,692** in 2023.
- Church Repair & Maintenance rose from **£2,316** in 2022 to **£5,832** in 2023.

## Detailed Review by Fund

St Martin's accounts are divided into a number of Funds.

### **General Fund**

This represents the day to day running costs and income of the church.

#### **Income**

Income for the year was £100,992, which was very close to that in 2022. Of this £67,054 was from church giving including gift aid and £24,449 was from hall lettings. Church giving rose by 5% in 2023 and there has been a corresponding increase in the tax we can claim back on Gift Aid. Hall hire income was down by 6%. The anticipated income from the church being used as a COVID vaccination centre in 2023 did not materialize but we have new regular hirers that make up for the difference in part.

We did not receive any legacies or grants for the General Fund in 2023.

Income from Wedding & Funerals was £826 in 2023 compared to £2,433 in 2022 – significantly lower.

Interest on savings was significantly higher than 2022 due to high interest rates and having more savings on which to earn interest. Interest is normally allocated to the General Fund, but for 2023 the PCC decided to re-allocate across the funds to reflect where the interest had been earned. £1,399 was allocated to the General Fund.

## **Expenditure**

Expenditure was £101,700 – significantly higher than 2022 (£89,290). The bulk of this was Common Fund at £59,847 and this was paid in full.

The cost of Gas in 2023 was £8,489 – an increase of 98% over 2022 due to price rises. We actually used less gas than 2022. Our Gas and electricity supply contract was renewed in October with a three year fixed price contract with Scottish Power now that prices have passed their peak

St. Martin's has continued its policy to tithe 10% of its giving to various charities through Mission Giving, and the total for this was £6,692.

Other significant items of expenditure were Co-ordinator of Music & Worship salary (£2,695), Church Insurance (£1,625), Church Repair & Maintenance (£5,832), Church Cleaning & Materials (£3,444), Church Furniture/Equipment (£1,389).

## ***Designated Funds***

Designated funds are funds where money is set aside by the PCC for a specific purpose.

**Baby & Toddler Group** – The income generated from this group is set aside and used to fund its costs. Just before the end of the year the balance of this fund was over £500, so in accordance with a rule previously agreed by the PCC, £1000 was transferred into the Children & Family Worker fund. The Baby & Toddler Group is flourishing and generated net income of £750 in 2023.

**Major Maintenance** – This is a fund set aside for large projects that arise, for example roof repairs. There was no requirement to use this fund in 2023. £1,518 interest was allocated to the fund and the balance is now £36,518.

**Hardship Fund** – There was a payment of £110 from this fund in 2023 and the remaining balance is £46.

**Café Non-Food** – This is a fund from which equipment used by the café can be purchased. It was created following a donation in 2021. £81 was spent in 2023 and the balance is now £163.

**Café Refreshments** – This fund was created following the re-opening of the café in May 2022. This money comes from donations received at our Thursday café, and refreshments are purchased out of it. The net income was £1,152. Excess money is periodically transferred to the Building for the Future fund after agreement by the PCC – there was no transfer in 2023. The balance of the fund is £1,287.

## ***Restricted Funds***

Restricted funds represent money which is given for a specific purpose and can only be used for that purpose.

**Building For The Future** – This is the Repair & Maintenance Fabric Fund which is used for day-to-day expenses over £1,000. In 2023 we purchased the new projector from this fund (£1,914) and after allocating £440 interest the closing balance was £12,993.

**Children & Family** – Funds are spent on the salary and resources used by the Children & Families Worker. Expenditure was £7,621. Income was £13,017, of which £10,171 came from a gift day (including gift aid) and £2,500 from the Cooper & Jordan Trust. £781 interest was allocated to the fund and the closing balance was £19,342. We have sufficient money in the fund to cover costs until December 2025 but will review this towards the end of 2024 to make plans for fund raising in 2025 to cover costs from 2026.

**Defibrillator** – Funds set aside for Defibrillator maintenance. There was no income or expenditure to this fund in 2023 and the balance is £137. This money will fund replacement pads over the next three years.

## **Outlook for 2024**

### **General Outlook**

The budget for 2024 is:

**Income:** £106,115

**Expenditure:** £111,403

**Loss:** £5,288

Although a loss is anticipated, this is largely due to using the Children & Families Worker reserves, with no major plans for raising any more for this fund during the year.

## **Income**

We anticipate that income from our regular sources such as planned giving, Café and Baby & Toddler will continue at its current level. We have increased our hall hire charges by 4.7% for 2024 so anticipate higher income than in 2023. We have budgeted for a gift day in 2024. We will not be applying for any grants for Children & Families work as we have sufficient funds.

## **Expenditure**

### **Common Fund**

The Common Fund request for 2024 is £62,659 - this is 5% more than in 2023. We are part way through a five year escalator that will see the request increase by 5% per year until 2027.

The payment by St Martin's for the following years is forecast to be as follows:

- 2025 £65,792
- 2026 £69,082
- 2027 £71,848

The PCC will continue to regularly review the financial position and ensure that we have a balance on free reserves that will cover several months payments. To this end we are currently paying half the amount of Common Fund due per month and will review this through the year and pay more as and when we feel able.

### **Utilities**

#### **Gas**

We estimate that gas will cost £5,500 in 2024 which is significantly less than 2023. The price will remain fixed until September 2026. We will continue to closely monitor gas usage to ensure that we are only using what is absolutely necessary. Notices are up in the halls reminding our hall users to turn off the heat and light before they leave.

#### **Electricity**

We estimate that electricity will cost £1,700 in 2024 which is twice as much as 2023. We were on a two-year fixed contract until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 so are now no longer benefiting from a relatively low price. We are now on a new fixed price contract until September 2026.

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

The five-yearly buildings inspection is due this year. We have budgeted for the cost of the inspection but will need to use reserves if there is any significant work required.

### **Finance Team**

The Finance team have been hard at work through the year to keep the money flowing. The people involved are:

- Dorothy Doody: Bookkeeping and Payments
- Martin King: Stewardship and Gift Aid management
- Sue Cooper: Payroll
- Chris/Sue Davidson: Management of hall hire payments, management of payments for funerals/weddings, preparation of monthly and year-end accounts, budgeting, fundraising.
- Jenny Paxton: Bank liaison
- David and Jacky Lynam: Banking

The Treasurer would like to thank all the members of the Finance Team for their support in 2023.

[End of Financial Review]



## **Reserves Policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £22,072 (based on 2022 activity). It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the cash free reserves at the year end was £34,575 which is higher than this target. In these turbulent and uncertain times with high increases in costs, then this cushion is prudent.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Susan McIlwaine has continued the role of Safeguarding Officer and has been working worked hard to bring the records up to date and ensure that all necessary training has been received by relevant members of the congregation. We held a Safeguarding service during the year to highlight the role that Safeguarding plays in the church.

## **Reporting Serious Incidents**

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year

## **Fundraising**

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

## **Review of the Year - Minister's Report by Revd Jenny Mayo (Incumbent)**

### **Sunday services**

Our Sunday Services have been generally holding a steady number in attendance, a big thank you is owing to those on the rota for preaching, leading, praying, reading and worship. A massive thank you to Richard who was appointed as our coordinator of music and worship and is making the role his own. Thank you so much to our music group, all those who facilitate worship, and those who are committed to practices and leading us in song. Thank you to everyone who is committed to attending church each week, and a big thank you to those who facilitate and lead, preach and coordinate. Thank you to all those on rotas for serving, sides person, reading and praying. All your efforts are seen and very much appreciated. A particular thank you to Diane who sorts out the rotas, a tricky thing that she does with grace and patience. We're in real need of more people to volunteer for the Sunday rotas, please chat with me or Diane if you can help. Our prayer and praise and BCP services are now both at 11.30am which seems to have been well received and lead to a slight increase in attendance. Our Messy church continues to be enjoyed by families, many of whom do not attend any other worship time. A big thank you to all the volunteers who help.

## **Midweek services**

Our Thursday service is also seeing quiet an upswing of attendance. A massive thank you to all those who preach regularly on a Thursday: Chris, Margaret, Penny, Colin T and Sue P for your midweek ministry. Thank you to Julie who faithfully sets up and tidies away, and to all who help facilitate the worship.

## **Homegroups**

Homegroups continue to meet throughout the week, if you would like to join one, please have a chat with me. We have recently started an Alpha Plus homegroup that meets once a month on a Thursday afternoon to explore more deeply characters from the bible.

## **Children and family's work**

A big thank you and well done is needed for Lindsey our children and families worker, who continues to do an amazing job coordinating our Junior Church, messy church and baby and toddlers. A big thank you to the whole baby and toddler group team and a big thank you to those who volunteer to help in Junior Church and messy church – you're absolute stars, although it's the same faces so we could really do with some new folk to step up and help. We have continued our family film nights, and Lindsey has been running stay and play events during school holidays, all of which are reaching families who have no other contact with church. The big successes of the year were the Halloween alternative Light Party, that was attended by over 150 adults and children, and our Good Friday Messy Church that saw 89 adults and children in church hearing the gospel message. We're currently in contact with three schools, Park Hall Academy, Yew Tree Primary school and Bluecoat academy. We welcomed classes from Park Hall who sang Christmas songs for our community café, and along with Sue P and Colin T, we regularly offer assemblies.

## **Hall hire**

Our halls are very busy and rented regularly, there are many different community groups that use our halls both regularly and for one-off events. We are very fortunate to have Izzy in the role of Hall Hire coordinator, she's been doing an amazing job.

## **Financial**

This year we have just about broken even, and we are facing a deficit in our next year's budget. Later this year we will be holding a gift day, please be prayerfully considering what you might be able to give and keep an eye out for the date. A massive thank you to our financial team, headed up by the Davidsons, who do a wonderful job of fundraising and keeping an eye on the overall financial health of the church.

## **Community**

We said goodbye to beloved members of our church family as they took their final journeys into Jesus' kingdom, and we still feel the loss of them here in our family. We've also facilitated funerals for people of our parish, as well as offered a well-attended bereavement group – a big thank you to Gill, Chris and Penny who coordinate and lead it. Thank you to Julie and Diane who have helped us serve our community by gathering food and products for the food bank. Thank you to all those involved in pastoral care (we regularly take home communion to the housebound as well as nursing homes) and to Judith M who remembers when everyone's birthday is. Thank you to Chris R and all those who facilitate and help with outreach and prayer walking. A big thank you to Jane, Helen and the team for organising and running our community café, it's amazing to offer this facility to our community, which is now also known as a Place of Warm Welcome. You're all amazing! It's been wonderful to see the Daffodil's community garden grow and flourish, congratulations to Lesley and the whole team. The King's Coronation celebration was a roaring success and we are really looking forward to the Community Summer Celebration in June. There have been concerts and gigs for fundraising and fun, a massive well done to all!

## **Fabric**

Thank you to all those who help with the maintenance and keeping the church looking lovely, particularly to the Wardens, to Carl P, Jacky and Martin and Sue – you are complete stars!

## **Church Officers**

A very big thank you to Jenny Paxton for doing such an amazing job as PCC Secretary and a big thank you to the outgoing PCC members. Thank you to Chris, Sue D, Dorothy, Sue C and the finance team who work tirelessly to manage our finances. Thank you to Sue Cooper who manages our payroll and also to Martin who has overseen gift aid claims. Thank you to Phil who's done a great job as electoral role and health and safety officer. A big thank you to Dorothy and David our churchwardens, for your faithful service. David steps down this year after serving faithfully and committedly for many years. Thank you so much David for all you've done! Thank you to Susan for her service as safeguarding officer, for getting us up to date with DBS's and training, and for helping us be a safe place for all.

## **Staff, licensed people, and volunteers**

We celebrated with Sue P as she was ordained as a Priest here at St Martin's and she continues to do an awesome job. A particular thank you to Sue as she adeptly covered for me during my sabbatical, thank you so much. We continue to be blessed by the ministry of Lindsey and Richard in their roles, thank you for your faithful hard work. Thank you to all those who creatively and beautifully prepare our flowers, you make such a huge difference to our worship space. Thank you to all those who lead us in worship with such enthusiasm and dedication, and a massive thank you to our lay ministers Margaret, Liz, and Penny for all of their hard work and faithful service, and to Colin M, Susan and everyone who helps lead and shape our worship. A massive thank you to Sue Holmes who prepares our weekly newsletter with real panache, and to Diane who faithfully and committedly prepares our rota each month – you are such a wonderful source of support, thank you. There are so many who do so much, often without notice or praise or reward – without your quiet and committed service St Martin's wouldn't exist. Thank you.

## **Special services**

This year we saw our Carols by candlelight, toy service, Christingle and other Christmas services well attended and worshiped with our community, which was so wonderful. Our All Age services have been shared between those who minister as well as other groups in church, a big thank you to everyone, and to our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides groups, leaders and parents for coming along. We celebrated Safeguarding Sunday again, a great opportunity to take to heart the responsibility we all share for making our church a safe place.

## **Courses**

This year we have studied together using the Chosen bible study, and we run the Alpha course during the daytime.

## **Looking Ahead**

In the coming year we are looking forward to a sermon series as part of the ordinary time worship, helping us to go deeper in our faith and discipleship and we will be celebrating our community at the summer fayre in June.

My prayer for St Martin's in 2024 is that we will find new and imaginative ways to reach out to our neighbours in service and love, whilst speaking about the sure and certain hope we've found in Jesus. I pray that by working together we may see St Martin's grow and flourish and see Jesus' Kingdom come in our corner of Walsall. In the power of the Lord Jesus, I pray that we may all grasp the height and breadth and depth of God's love for us as we continue to minister together in His name and for His glory. May God's blessing be with you all, this year and always.

[End of Review of the Year]

## **Risk Management**

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC meet six times a year.

## **Related Parties**

("Related parties" are members of the PCC their partners, children, siblings, parents, grandparents, business interest/controlling interest).

### **Donations from Related Parties**

Donations from related parties during the year totalled £19,646 (2022 £15,377). All these donations were received without conditions.

### **Remuneration paid to Trustees**

Richard Brinck-Johnsen is employed by the PCC as the Co-ordinator of Music and Worship. The remuneration in 2023 was £2,695.

### **Expenses paid to Trustees**

Various members of the PCC, the vicar, deacon and readers received expenses in carrying out their duties as members of the clergy team 2023 £1,596 (2022 £1,345) . No member of the PCC, or any persons closely connected to them, received any payments or expenses for carrying out their PCC duties.

## **Reference and Administrative details**

The Church is situated two miles from Walsall town centre and is part of the Deanery of Walsall, in the Diocese of Lichfield. The correspondence address is St Martin's House, 17 Daffodil Road, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 3DQ. Our website address is: [www.stmartinswalsall.org](http://www.stmartinswalsall.org)

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 until the date this report was approved were:

### **Ex Officio Members**

<b>The Incumbent</b>	The Reverend Jennifer Mayo (Chairman)
<b>Curate</b>	Sue Phillips
<b>Trainee Lay Minister</b>	Colin Townsend

**Local Lay Ministers  
Churchwardens**

Margaret Carter, Liz Askey, Penny Wheble  
David Sharpe  
Dorothy Doody

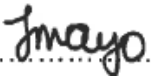
**Deanery Synod Reps**

Colin Townsend  
Colin McIlwaine  
Susan McIlwaine


**Elected Members**

Jenny Paxton (Secretary)  
Chris Davidson (Treasurer)  
Diane Sainsbury  
Richard Brinck-Johnsen  
Phil Hodgkinson  
Christine Rowe (Until 21st May 2023)  
Jackie King (From 21st May 2023)  
Peter Wheble (From 21st May 2023)

Approved by the PCC on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Reverend Jenny Mayo (Chairman)



.....  
Chris Davidson (Treasurer)

# **Independent Examiner's report to the trustees/members of The PCC of Walsall St Martin**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on the following pages.

## **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

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

## **Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

## **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable 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 come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: .....  
Jonathan Hill FCMA CGMA  
Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance  
St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield. WS13 7LD

Date: .....

# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

### Cashflow Statement

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a Cash flow statement on the grounds that the income does not exceed £500,000.

### Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### Accounting Estimates and Prior Year Errors

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period.

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

### Description of Funds

**Unrestricted funds** are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its "free reserves" as disclosed in the trustees' annual report.

**Restricted funds** comprise of two elements:

- a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest
- b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

**Endowment funds** are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details of all their restrictions are shown in the notes to the accounts.

### Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received or when the PCC becomes entitled to the resource and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

### Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan Common Fund is accounted for when due. Amounts

## Accounting Policies continued

received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

### **Governance and Support Costs**

Support costs should be allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources eg by allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.

### **Fixed Assets**

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Currently no depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets exceeds 50 years, but there is historical depreciation that may need to be written back in future years.

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at cost. The depreciation rates and methods used are as follows:

Equipment and furniture is included at a valuation as and is being depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. Individual items with a purchase cost of £5,000 or less are written off when they are acquired.

### **Debtors**

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount. Subsequently they are measured at cash expected to be received.

### **Creditors and Accruals**

Creditors are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts. Accruals are measured on best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.



**The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin**  
**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	67,781	367	12,947	-	81,095	80,862
Income from charitable activities	25,275	-	-	-	25,275	28,524
Other trading activities	3,790	2,328	400	-	6,518	4,452
Investments	4,146	-	-	-	4,146	981
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	500
<b>Total income</b>	<b>100,992</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>13,347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,034</b>	<b>115,320</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	304	-	-	-	304	82
Expenditure on charitable activities	101,700	985	10,024	-	112,708	97,175
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>102,003</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>113,012</b>	<b>97,258</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>(1,011)</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>3,324</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,023</b>	<b>18,062</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	1,521	2,226	-	3,747	1,000
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,747)	(1,000)	-	-	(3,747)	(1,000)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>						
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(3,758)</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>5,549</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,023</b>	<b>18,062</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>74,684</b>	<b>297,022</b>	<b>26,923</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>398,629</b>	<b>380,567</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>70,926</b>	<b>299,253</b>	<b>32,472</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>402,652</b>	<b>398,629</b>
<b>Represented by</b>						
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General Fund	70,926	-	-	-	70,926	74,684
<b>Designated</b>						
Baby & Toddler Group	-	345	-	-	345	595
Cafe Non-Food	-	163	-	-	163	244
Cafe Refreshments	-	1,287	-	-	1,287	132
Capital Reserve	-	260,895	-	-	260,895	260,895
Hardship Fund	-	46	-	-	46	156
Major Maintenance	-	36,518	-	-	36,518	35,000
<b>Restricted</b>						
Building For The Future	-	-	12,993	-	12,993	14,631
Children And Family Worker	-	-	19,342	-	19,342	12,165
Defibrillator	-	-	137	-	137	127

# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Balance sheet

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Fixed assets	1,955	2,852
Tangible Assets	288,357	288,357
	<b>290,311</b>	<b>291,209</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	11,865	11,439
Cash At Bank And In Hand	104,640	100,210
	<b>116,505</b>	<b>111,649</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	4,165	4,229
	<b>4,165</b>	<b>4,229</b>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>112,340</b>	<b>107,420</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>402,652</b>	<b>398,629</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	-	-
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<b>402,652</b>	<b>398,629</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General Funds	70,926	74,684
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Baby & Toddler Group	345	595
Designated - Cafe Non-Food	163	244
Designated - Cafe Refreshments	1,287	132
Designated - Capital Reserve	260,895	260,895
Designated - Hardship Fund	46	156
Designated - Major Maintenance	36,518	35,000
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - Building For The Future	12,993	14,631
Restricted - Children And Family Worker	19,342	12,165
Restricted - Defibrillator	137	127
<b>Fund Totals</b>	<b>402,652</b>	<b>398,629</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature: J Mayo

Name: JENNIFER MAYO

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

**The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin**  
**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**Fund movement by type**

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
<b>Baby&amp;Toddler</b>							
Designated	595	974	224	(1,000)	-	-	345
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	-	-	<b>345</b>
<b>C&amp;FW</b>							
Restricted	12,165	13,017	7,621	1,781	-	-	19,342
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>12,165</b>	<b>13,017</b>	<b>7,621</b>	<b>1,781</b>	-	-	<b>19,342</b>
<b>Cafe Non-Food</b>							
Designated	244	-	81	-	-	-	163
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>244</b>	-	<b>81</b>	-	-	-	<b>163</b>
<b>Cafe Refreshments</b>							
Designated	132	1,721	569	3	-	-	1,287
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>3</b>	-	-	<b>1,287</b>
<b>Capital Reserve</b>							
Designated	260,895	-	-	-	-	-	260,895
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>260,895</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>260,895</b>
<b>Defibrillator</b>							
Restricted	127	5	-	5	-	-	137
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>5</b>	-	<b>5</b>	-	-	<b>137</b>
<b>Future</b>							
Restricted	14,631	325	2,403	440	-	-	12,993
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>14,631</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>440</b>	-	-	<b>12,993</b>
<b>Hardship</b>							
Designated	156	-	110	-	-	-	46
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>156</b>	-	<b>110</b>	-	-	-	<b>46</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>							
Designated	35,000	-	-	1,518	-	-	36,518
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>35,000</b>	-	-	<b>1,518</b>	-	-	<b>36,518</b>
<b>General</b>							
Unrestricted	74,684	100,992	102,003	(2,747)	-	-	70,926
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>74,684</b>	<b>100,992</b>	<b>102,003</b>	<b>(2,747)</b>	-	-	<b>70,926</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>398,629</b>	<b>117,034</b>	<b>113,012</b>	-	-	-	<b>402,652</b>

# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Analysis of income and expenditure

						Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year	
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>							
<b>Donations and legacies</b>							
0101 - Planned Giving - Envelopes (GA)	5,412	-	-	-	5,412	4,728	
0110 - Planned Giving - Envelopes (GASDS)	1,391	-	-	-	1,391	1,007	
0120 - Planned Giving - Bank (GA)	42,088	-	-	-	42,088	41,553	
0201 - Planned Giving - Envelopes (No GA)	100	-	-	-	100	270	
0210 - Planned Giving - Bank (No GA)	2,270	-	-	-	2,270	1,220	
0301 - Loose plate collections (GASDS)	2,006	-	-	-	2,006	1,929	
0310 - Loose plate collections (No GA)	94	-	-	-	94	30	
0401 - Easy Fundraising	88	-	-	-	88	61	
0410 - Just Giving	-	-	-	-	-	125	
0420 - Gift Day	-	-	8,170	-	8,170	-	
0550 - Donations (GA)	115	-	175	-	290	225	
0552 - Donations (GASDS)	100	-	40	-	140	40	
0554 - Donations (No GA)	398	10	-	-	408	583	
0560 - Donations (GA) (Non Tithe)	15	-	50	-	65	1,100	
0562 - Donations (GASDS) (Non Tithe)	-	-	11	-	11	-	
0564 - Donations (No GA) (Non Tithe)	10	-	-	-	10	5,370	
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	13,693	357	2,001	-	16,051	13,172	
0701 - Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	
0801 - Recurring grants	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	950	
<b>Donations and legacies Totals</b>	<b>67,781</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>12,947</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,094</b>	<b>80,862</b>	
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>							
1101 - Funeral fees	826	-	-	-	826	1,938	
1105 - Wedding and Banns fees	-	-	-	-	-	495	
1110 - Baptism Fees	-	-	-	-	-	32	
1230 - Church & Hall lettings	24,449	-	-	-	24,449	26,059	
<b>Income from charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>25,275</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,275</b>	<b>28,524</b>	
<b>Other trading activities</b>							
0901 - Fayres/Events	2,896	-	375	-	3,271	1,443	
0910 - Photocopying	102	-	-	-	102	-	
0930 - Cafe	-	1,364	-	-	1,364	889	
0932 - Refreshment Donations	417	-	25	-	442	486	
0940 - Baby & Toddler	-	964	-	-	964	1,320	
1201 - Trading/Event Donations (GA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1202 - Trading/Event Donations (GASDS)	375	-	-	-	375	70	
1203 - Trading/Event Donations (No GA)	-	-	-	-	-	115	
1240 - Allotment rent	-	-	-	-	-	130	
<b>Other trading activities Totals</b>	<b>3,790</b>	<b>2,328</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>4,452</b>	
<b>Investments</b>							
1020 - Bank interest	4,146	-	-	-	4,146	981	
<b>Investments Totals</b>	<b>4,146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,146</b>	<b>981</b>	
<b>Other income</b>							
1310 - Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	500	
1320 - Surplus - sales of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Other income Totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>	
<b>Income and endowments Grand totals</b>	<b>100,992</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>13,347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>117,034</b>	<b>115,320</b>	

### EXPENDITURE ON:

**Raising funds**

1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	-	-	-	-	-	-
1710 - Costs of applying for grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
1720 - Costs of stewardship campaign	93	-	-	-	93	77
1730 - Christmas Fayre expenses	175	-	-	-	175	-
1740 - Other event costs	36	-	-	-	36	5

**Raising funds Totals**

<b>304</b>	-	-	-	<b>304</b>	<b>82</b>
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**Expenditure on charitable activities**

1801 - Tithe	6,692	-	-	-	6,692	6,395
1810 - Funeral charity donation	-	-	-	-	-	-
1830 - Charitable giving	-	-	-	-	-	157
1910 - Common Fund	59,847	-	-	-	59,847	56,833
2001 - Co-ordinator of Music & Worship salary	2,695	-	-	-	2,695	2,320
2010 - Children & Families Worker salary	-	-	6,807	-	6,807	5,929
2101 - Clergy Exp - travel	286	-	-	-	286	368
2105 - Clergy Exp - phone & broadband	480	-	-	-	480	480
2110 - Clergy Exp - vicarage exp	103	-	-	-	103	42
2115 - Clergy Exp - hospitality	165	-	-	-	165	65
2120 - Clergy Exp - training & conferences	38	-	-	-	38	-
2125 - Clergy Exp - visiting clergy	438	-	-	-	438	22
2130 - Clergy Exp - books & resources	525	-	-	-	525	275
2135 - Clergy Exp - Reader expenses	-	-	-	-	-	93
2140 - Other staff expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
2201 - Parish training and mission	-	-	-	-	-	453
2205 - Baby & Toddler Group	-	224	-	-	224	211
2210 - Messy Church	-	-	81	-	81	29
2215 - Junior Church	-	-	51	-	51	-
2220 - Park Hall outreach	175	-	-	-	175	73
2225 - Events	1,729	-	-	-	1,729	282
2232 - Children & Families Worker Training	-	-	-	-	-	-
2233 - Children & Families Worker Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	56
2234 - Children & Families Worker Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
2235 - Children & Families Worker Materials	-	-	28	-	28	-
2236 - Children & Families Worker Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-
2237 - Children & Families Worker Events	-	-	654	-	654	324
2240 - Promotion & publicity	268	-	-	-	268	309
2301 - Church running - insurance	1,625	-	-	-	1,625	1,431
2310 - Church office - telephone	800	-	-	-	800	716
2315 - Deanery Synod subscription	105	-	-	-	105	105
2325 - Music resources	618	-	-	-	618	576
2330 - Church repair & maintenance	5,832	-	-	-	5,832	2,316
2331 - Quinquennial architect fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
2332 - Cleaning - cleaner costs	2,725	-	-	-	2,725	2,800
2334 - Cleaning - materials	719	-	-	-	719	595
2336 - Trade refuse	660	-	-	-	660	607
2338 - Church furniture/equipment	1,389	30	1,914	-	3,333	1,215
2340 - Service Exp - wine, bread, candles	333	-	-	-	333	522
2342 - Service Exp - flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-
2344 - Service Exp - refreshments	179	620	-	-	799	573
2346 - Memorial Book Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
2347 - Memorials	-	-	-	-	-	539
2350 - Grounds maintenance	981	-	-	-	981	1,313
2360 - Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-
2361 - Copier lease	864	-	-	-	864	899
2362 - Copier charges	564	-	-	-	564	213
2363 - Printing & stationery	187	-	-	-	187	305
2364 - Gifts & cards	41	110	-	-	151	289
2365 - Postage	-	-	-	-	-	-
2366 - PPE etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
2367 - Subscriptions & licences	224	-	-	-	224	158
2368 - Bank Charges	163	-	-	-	163	149
2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	-	-	-	-	-	-

2401 - Church running - electric	937	-	-	-	937	921
2410 - Church running - gas	8,489	-	-	-	8,489	4,286
2420 - Church running - water	200	-	-	-	200	203
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	213	-	-	-	213	203
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	-	-	-	-	-	-
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-
2720 - Church interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-
2801 - Hall + major repairs - structure	-	-	-	-	-	-
2820 - Hall + major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	-	-
2830 - Hall + interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-
2840 - Other PCC property upkeep	-	-	-	-	-	1,120
9901 - Depreciation	409	-	489	-	897	409
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>101,700</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,708</b>	<b>97,175</b>
<b>Other expenditure</b>						
<b>Other expenditure Totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Expenditure Grand totals</b>	<b>102,003</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>113,012</b>	<b>97,258</b>

# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Statement of assets and liabilities

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
<b>Fixed Asset - Fixed assets</b>						
6440: Equipment	-	-	1,955	-	1,955	2,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>2,852</b>
<b>Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets</b>						
6430: Church Halls	27,462	260,895	-	-	288,357	288,357
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,462</b>	<b>260,895</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>288,357</b>	<b>288,357</b>
<b>Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand</b>						
6501: HSBC current account	842	2,015	1,981	-	4,839	24,399
6510: CBF deposit account	33,733	36,518	29,491	-	99,742	75,596
6590: Cash in hand	60	-	-	-	60	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,635</b>	<b>38,533</b>	<b>31,472</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,640</b>	<b>100,210</b>
<b>Current Asset - Debtors</b>						
Z05: Accounts Receivable	11,810	-	55	-	11,865	11,439
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,810</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,865</b>	<b>11,439</b>
<b>Liability - Agency Accounts</b>						
6699: Agency collections	-	-	629	-	629	530
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>530</b>
<b>Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year</b>						
6610: HMRC	167	-	335	-	502	296
Z04: Accounts Payable	2,814	175	45	-	3,034	3,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,536</b>	<b>3,699</b>
<b>Net total assets</b>	<b>70,926</b>	<b>299,253</b>	<b>32,472</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>402,652</b>	<b>398,629</b>
<b>Represented by</b>						
General (Unrestricted)	70,926	-	-	-	70,926	74,684
Designated - Baby&Toddler	-	345	-	-	345	595
Designated - Cafe Non-Food	-	163	-	-	163	244
Designated - Cafe Refreshments	-	1,287	-	-	1,287	132
Designated - Capital Reserve	-	260,895	-	-	260,895	260,895
Designated - Hardship	-	46	-	-	46	156
Designated - Maintenance	-	36,518	-	-	36,518	35,000
Restricted - C&FW	-	-	19,342	-	19,342	12,165
Restricted - Defibrillator	-	-	137	-	137	127
Restricted - Future	-	-	12,993	-	12,993	14,631
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,926</b>	<b>299,253</b>	<b>32,472</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>402,652</b>	<b>398,629</b>

**The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin**  
**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**Fund movement by type (2022)**

	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Incoming</b>	<b>Outgoing</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>Gains/losses</b>	<b>Closing</b>
<b>Baby&amp;Toddl - Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>						
Designated	42	1,320	267	(500)	—	595
<b>Sub-total for Baby&amp;Toddl</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>(500)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>595</b>
<b>C&amp;FW - Children And Family</b>						
Restricted	10,758	7,160	6,253	500	—	12,165
<b>Sub-total for C&amp;FW</b>	<b>10,758</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>6,253</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,165</b>
<b>Cafe Non-F - Cafe Non-Food</b>						
Designated	260	100	116	—	—	244
<b>Sub-total for Cafe Non-F</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Cafe Refre - Cafe Refreshments</b>						
Designated	—	889	257	(500)	—	132
<b>Sub-total for Cafe Refre</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>(500)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Capital Re - Capital Reserve</b>						
Designated	260,895	—	—	—	—	260,895
<b>Sub-total for Capital Re</b>	<b>260,895</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>260,895</b>
<b>Christian - Christian Aid</b>						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sub-total for Christian</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Communion - Communion Cups</b>						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sub-total for Communion</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Defibrilla - Defibrillator</b>						
Restricted	127	—	—	—	—	127
<b>Sub-total for Defibrilla</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Fung - KarFungYip</b>						
Restricted	121	—	121	—	—	—
<b>Sub-total for Fung</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Future - Building For The Fut</b>						
Restricted	9,934	5,000	803	500	—	14,631
<b>Sub-total for Future</b>	<b>9,934</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>14,631</b>
<b>Hardship - Hardship Fund</b>						
Designated	306	—	150	—	—	156
<b>Sub-total for Hardship</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Maintenanc - Major Maintenance</b>						
Designated	35,000	—	—	—	—	35,000
<b>Sub-total for Maintenanc</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>General - General Fund</b>						
Unrestricted	63,123	100,851	89,290	—	—	74,684
<b>Sub-total for General</b>	<b>63,123</b>	<b>100,851</b>	<b>89,290</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>74,684</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>380,567</b>	<b>115,320</b>	<b>97,258</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>398,629</b>



# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Notes to the Accounts

#### Allocation of Support Costs

Support costs comprise Trustee Training and Governance Costs etc. Due to the nature of the financial activities of the PCC, these would be allocated across Charitable Expenditure which comprises the majority of its expenditure and as such are automatically charged there.

#### Staff Costs

	2023	2022
Salaries	£ 9,502	£ 8,249
Average number of employees	0.75	0.75

During the year the PCC employed a Children's and Families Worker and a Co-ordinator of Music and Worship (both part-time) and no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current year.

#### Trustees' Remuneration & Expenses

Richard Brinck-Johnsen is employed by the PCC as the Co-ordinator of Music and Worship. The remuneration in 2023 was £2,695.

Various members of the PCC, the vicar and readers received expenses in carrying out their duties as members of the clergy team. No member of the PCC, or any persons closely connected to them, received any payments or expenses for carrying out their PCC duties.

#### Related Parties

No other expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Donations from related parties (PCC members) totalled £19,646 (2022 £15,377).

#### Fees for the examination of the accounts

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent Examiner's fees	tba	203
Other fees (eg accountancy services) paid to the Independent Examiner	n/a	n/a

## Analysis of Transfer between Funds

### 2023

- The balance of the Baby & Toddler Designated fund at year end was over £500 so in accordance with previously agreed procedure, £100 was transferred to the Children & Families Worker Restricted fund.
- Interest is normally allocated to the General Fund, but for 2023 the PCC decided to re-allocate across the funds in the CBF Deposit account to reflect where the interest had been earned.

### 2022

- The balance of the Baby & Toddler Designated fund at year end was over £500 so in accordance with previously agreed procedure, £500 was transferred to the Children & Families Worker Restricted fund.
- Following agreement by the PCC, a surplus of £500 from the Café Refreshments Designated fund was transferred into the Building for the Future Restricted fund.

## Fund Descriptions

### *Designated Funds*

**Baby & Toddler Group** – The income generated from this group is set aside and used to fund its costs. If the balance at the end of a year is over £500, £500 is transferred into the Children & Family Worker restricted fund.

**Café Non-Food** – This is to hold money donated specifically to be spent on Café equipment.

**Café Refreshments** – This money for this fund is from donations received at our Thursday café, and refreshments are purchased out of it. Excess money is periodically transferred to the Building for the Future fund after agreement by the PCC.

**Capital Reserve** – This is a fund that represents the re-valuation of the church halls complex in 1997.

**Major Maintenance** – This is a fund set aside for large projects that arise, for example roof repairs.

**Hardship Fund** – This is money set aside by the PCC to be used at the discretion of the incumbent.

### *Restricted Funds*

**Building For The Future** – This is the Repair & Maintenance Fabric Fund which is used for day-to-day expenses over £1,000.

**Children & Family** – Funds are spent on the salary and resources used by the Children & Families Worker.

**Defibrillator** – Funds set aside for Defibrillator maintenance.

## Fixed Assets

### a. Tangible Fixed Assets

The freehold buildings comprise the Church halls complex, and were valued by the Council as at 1 January 1997, based on the approximate rebuilding cost of the premises, as advised by John German, Chartered Surveyors. Additions to buildings since then are the cost of adding an administration office and disabled facilities in 2002, extending and surfacing the car-park and installing new storage in 2012.

The Council prior to 1 January 1997 had valued neither the halls nor the equipment, and the resulting surplus from the valuation has been transferred to unrestricted funds as an unrealised capital gain. The Council has no intention of disposing of any of the fixed assets in the foreseeable future.

The Halls have been depreciated since 1997 on a straight-line basis over an estimated useful life of 100 years. It was brought to our attention in 2021 that since an update to an accounting standard in 2017 (FRS102 - relating to financial reporting of entities including those that are not constituted as companies and those that are not profit-oriented) the church halls should not now be depreciated. The PCC agreed to stop depreciation as from 2021, but decided not to make a one-off re-valuation at the end of 2021 to put back the value that we have depreciated in those four years. This is to take into account the potential loss in value due to the presence of asbestos in one of the halls.

Church Equipment comprises:

- Hall Gas Heaters that are being depreciated over a period of 10 years. The depreciation for these is complete at the end of 2023.
- New lighting was installed in the church halls in 2022. This is being depreciated over 5 years.

	<b>Freehold Buildings £</b>	<b>Church Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>			
As at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	399,782	15,949	415,731
Additions in the year	-	-	-
Disposal in the year	-	-	-
Revaluation (if any)	-	-	-
<b>Value at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>399,782</b>	<b>15,949</b>	<b>415,731</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>			
As at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	111,425	13,097	124,522
Charge for the year	-	897	897
Disposals	-	-	-
<b>Value at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>111,425</b>	<b>13,994</b>	<b>125,419</b>
Net Book Value at 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2023	288,357	2,852	291,209
<b>Net Book Value at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023</b>	<b>288,357</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>290,312</b>

b. Fixed Asset Investments

None

### Current Assets

a. Debtors

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Gift aid recoverable	9,960	9,618
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	1,905	1,821
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,865</b>	<b>11,439</b>

b. Current Asset Investments

None

## Liabilities

### a. Amounts falling due in one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	-	-
HMRC - PAYE	502	296
Other creditors	3,034	3,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,536</b>	<b>3,699</b>

### b. Amounts falling due after more than one year

None

# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Statement of Financial Activities (2022)

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	69,242	100	11,520	—	80,862	72,596
Income from charitable activities	28,524	—	—	—	28,524	14,476
Other trading activities	1,604	2,209	640	—	4,452	747
Investments	981	—	—	—	981	39
Other income	500	—	—	—	500	—
<b>Total income</b>	<b>100,851</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>12,160</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>115,320</b>	<b>87,857</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	77	5	—	—	82	107
Expenditure on charitable activities	89,212	785	7,178	—	97,175	86,903
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>89,290</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>7,178</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>97,258</b>	<b>87,010</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>4,982</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18,062</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	1,000	—	1,000	500
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	(1,000)	—	—	(1,000)	(500)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>5,982</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>18,062</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>63,123</b>	<b>296,504</b>	<b>20,941</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>380,567</b>	<b>379,719</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>74,684</b>	<b>297,022</b>	<b>26,923</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>398,629</b>	<b>380,567</b>
<b>Represented by</b>						
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General Fund	74,684	—	—	—	74,684	63,123
<b>Designated</b>						
Baby & Toddler Group	—	595	—	—	595	42
Cafe Non-Food	—	244	—	—	244	260
Cafe Refreshments	—	132	—	—	132	—
Capital Reserve	—	260,895	—	—	260,895	260,895
Hardship Fund	—	156	—	—	156	306
Major Maintenance	—	35,000	—	—	35,000	35,000
<b>Restricted</b>						
Building For The Future	—	—	14,631	—	14,631	9,934
Children And Family Worker	—	—	12,165	—	12,165	10,758
Christian Aid	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communion Cups	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defibrillator	—	—	127	—	127	127
KarFungYip	—	—	—	—	—	121

# The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Statement of assets and liabilities (2022)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>Fixed assets - Investments</b>						
Equipment -	409	—	2,443	—	2,852	818
<b>Totals</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>818</b>
<b>Fixed assets - Tangible assets</b>						
Church Halls -	27,462	260,895	—	—	288,357	288,357
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27,462</b>	<b>260,895</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>288,357</b>	<b>288,357</b>
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>						
HSBC current account -	10,776	1,082	12,541	—	24,399	12,581
CBF deposit account -	27,831	35,000	12,765	—	75,596	74,614
Cash in hand -	170	45	—	—	215	93
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38,778</b>	<b>36,127</b>	<b>25,306</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>100,210</b>	<b>87,288</b>
<b>Current assets - Debtors</b>						
Accounts Receivable -	11,439	—	—	—	11,439	10,839
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,439</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11,439</b>	<b>10,839</b>
<b>Liabilities - Agency accounts</b>						
Agency collections -	—	—	530	—	530	676
<b>Totals</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>676</b>
<b>Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year</b>						
HMRC -	—	—	296	—	296	—
Accounts Payable -	3,403	—	—	—	3,403	6,059
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,699</b>	<b>6,059</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>74,684</b>	<b>297,022</b>	<b>26,923</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>398,629</b>	<b>380,567</b>

## The Parochial Church Council of Walsall St Martin Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### Mission Giving

In 2023 the PCC donated to missions and charities 10% of its income from planned giving, income tax recovered and collections, being the sum of £6,692. The PCC set the monthly amount for nominated charities at £490, and agreed that if the level of giving meant that there was extra to be distributed at the end of the year, this would be split between charities in particular need at the time. The distribution was as follows:

Month	Charity	Amount (£)
Jan	Diabetes UK	490
Feb	Open Doors	490
Mar	Cardiac Risk in the Young	490
Apr	Mouth Cancer Foundation	490
May	The Glebe Centre	490
Jun	The Table	490
Jul	Midland Air Ambulance	490
Aug	Dyspraxia Foundation	490
Sep	BSL Bible Translation Project	490
Oct	Birmingham Children's Hospital	490
Nov	Acorns	490
Dec	Embrace the Middle East	490
Dec	Embrace the Middle East (Christmas Appeal)	406
Dec	Disasters Emergency Committee (Ukraine Appeal)	406

# St Martin's APCM Reports

Church Wardens

Safeguarding

Health and Safety

Children and Family Worker

Music and Worship Coordinator



## **Church Wardens Annual Report 2024**

Our thanks go to everyone who, by giving their time and by sharing their skills ensure that St Martin's remains a special church to both worship and socialise in and where a welcoming face is always present.

It has been another busy but productive year. The wardens team of volunteers have proved invaluable, carrying out the smaller repair and maintenance jobs that do not warrant calling in the expensive professionals. Thank you to those of you involved, particularly for the work you did in Church, Hall kitchens!

On a larger scale, we called in decorators to paint the halls corridors & toilets making the place brighter for church & hall users. Plumbers came in to sort taps & drains needing repairs. We had new eco lights in the corridors. An alarm was fitted in the disabled toilet. Problems with gas boiler required a heating engineer & we now need to look to replacing the boiler.

Due to weather & Illness we had trouble keeping lawns & gardens tidy we intend to pun this right in the new year with a new gardener.

Some of the trees in the at the front of the Church has had a preservation order put on it which means that we can't, at the moment, cut back its branches. We have maintained the lower branches with help from a volunteer to ensure that not growing over the pavement.

Inside the church, the chairs have been moved. This is to allow extra space for all age services movies and for concerts. The small hall next to the kitchen is currently being used as storage space for Toddler Group, Hall Users & Café. We are always short of storage. Thank you to our new Hall Manager Izzy  
Who arranges & manages booking.

The keyboard was serviced. And during this month the Electric safety tests will be carried out.

In May we will meet with the Rural Dean for the annual inspection. They will check the Accounts insurance building & service books. We continue to pay our Common Fund in Full,

We have organised a number of different events, all of which have proved very popular. We give thanks for our Vicar & Lay Preacher who have let us spiritually in worship & prayer.

Finally, and most importantly, we can't forget those who look after the church both inside and out throughout the year the warden team, the gardeners, the cleaners, our Finance team and those of you who contribute so much to the well-being of our church – the servers, the choir, the intercessors and readers, the sound system operators, the flower arrangers etc. Many of you may be unseen but your work does not go un-noticed - our grateful thanks to you all.

And finally thank you to those who pray for the church the encouragers, the leaders, and guiders,

Dorothy and David

## Safeguarding Report APCM May 2024

Another year in the life of St. Martin's has passed and safeguarding training continues on a rolling programme.

We, at St. Martin's, believe that safeguarding is important for everyone and I am pleased to say that we currently have 48 people who have completed their safeguarding. We have a couple still outstanding. I am always available to assist with training. I would like to thank Rev. Jenny for her help and support with the training.

We had our safeguarding Sunday service in November last year. This is an important part of St. Martin's services and we will be having another service later this year.

I was notified of a change in the length of time for DBS renewals. This has gone from 5 years to 3 years so later this year we will have a number of people needing to renew. I will notify everyone concerned before their renewal date.

I want to say a big thankyou to all who continue to give their time and support to ensure safeguarding is integral to all we do at St. Martin's.

Susan McIlwaine

## **Health and Safety report 2023/2024**

Signage...

So new signage has been put

In the entrance corridor of the church through to the rear corridor door exit.

Corridors must be kept clear at all times because they are fire escapes ( not to be blocked by tables as has happened in the past)

Hall no. 1 the larger hall... 2X new first aid boxes fitted to walls at either end of the hall

Security tape marks the way to the fire escape door down steps and grass area...

Some exit signs still need to be ordered (I have been busy due to ill health and my daughters house move in Rugby)

PAT testing was completed on Kitchen appliances and other electrical equipment in main body of church and the church office.

New fire alarm fitted and alarm and cord pull in disabled

Toilet

Fabric of Building

Solar panels

Honestly looking at Solar panels is a broad canvass

Particularly because of new products coming along like roof tiles and driveway tiles that have solar built in

One of the companies I looked at Solar fast are competent.... but would treat us as an Industrial company.....

Haven't heard back from OVO or Octopus...

As such we could look into community funding..

Did suggest to Rev Jenny having a subgroup of say 3 persons (for Solar) might be a more effective way of moving forward.

Thanks

Phil Hodgkinson

## **Children's and Families work – Reflection May 2024**

The role I am privileged to hold as Children's and Families worker has seen so many wonderful things flourish this year. I am happy to share with you what we have been up to.

### **Babies and Toddlers**

B&T is probably one of the main sessions I am thrilled to lead as it takes place every Friday. Term time is aimed at children aged 0-4/school age and during holiday time we extend to older children to include Babies and Toddlers siblings or other family members. This is known as 'Funday Friday'.

Babies and Toddlers are very popular, numbers range between 21 and 27, with 38 in total who regularly attend. Some of our mums are also bringing siblings to Messy Church. Each week is based on a theme, usually a book from the library but often on the time of year or something topical. Over the last few weeks we have enjoyed tasting different types of fruit and making faces with them, symmetrical butterfly paintings. Last week we got out soapy water, towels, babies and nappies and role played looking after the babies, this week we planted seeds and next week we are looking at the book Hamilton's hats and decorating baseball caps to wear in the sun as the weather improves. I am also building up to have a B&T shop with more role play, paper bags, recycled packaging, till and play money.

Each week, children have time to play from 9.15 till 10.40. Officially we open at 9.30 but we do have parents who come from school drop off so are always welcomed early. We then announce tidy up time and make a circle with the chairs. Children really seem to enjoy the 'lift the flap' type books and respond well to story and singing at the end of each session.

During the warmer weather we corner off a part of the car park and get out a range of outdoor toys and blankets and distribute ice-cream or ice lollies in addition to our regular offering of toast and tea.

I have made a range of certificates to give out for things like 'being brave' for injections or hospital appointments, becoming an older sibling or wishing them luck as they leave and start school. I have also purchased small items such as hair clips and rubber dinosaurs or books to give as a gift for birthdays alongside the traditional cards. These have been welcomed and appreciated by all who have received so far.

### **Funday Fridays**

As mentioned already mean B&T can carry on throughout the year including school holidays but with the added bonus of siblings attending too. Normal B&T set up is place in the large hall but a range of 3-4 stations are set up in the small hall to include games or crafts. Extra refreshments like biscuits and crisps are offered at £1.00 per child. Numbers range from 30-50 children and due to the popularity of this I aim to offer this 2 days a week or as a summer holiday club this coming Summer.

### **Fund raising**

In December we held a sponsored toddle around church to raise money to buy children who would be spending Christmas in Acorns hospice Christmas presents and items to aid their care. This alongside a Christmas fayre managed to raise over £1200.00. I gave £400 to the church in order to continue the works I do and then used just over £800 to buy colour changing night lights, smart sockets, sensory toys and £150 into the 'last wish' pot for families spending their last moments as a family. This proved really successful and many families joined in to do their bit.

I am currently looking at arranging another sponsored toddle for the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June, this is a popular event hosted at Dudley Zoo, where an adult and child can access the zoo, raise money and spend

time together at a reduced cost. I have requested more details and will see parents view when they come through.

### **Messy Church**

This happens once a month. A bible theme is explored through a short talk, song and various craft activities. The session ends with a team game and Messy Grace. Numbers for this seem to be growing and average 35-50 people.

For our Easter Messy Church, we held it on Good Friday. In total we had 89 children and adults, many of which hadn't been to church on Good Friday before. Children and families enjoyed, making Easter nests, Making sock bunnies, constructing egg/cross cards and decorating bags, then using them in an Easter egg hunt which was held in the community gardens. The weather was kind and everyone had great fun. Lots of positive feedback was received.

Next Messy church is aimed at slightly older children based on a suggestion at aiming some of the sessions to older children and mainly boys. A Star Wars theme has given inspiration for the May Messy church to be called 'May the force (of God) be with you'. It will still having activities suitable for younger children.

### **Junior Church**

Is still working well on a 2 sessions per month basis, although this is having to fit in as and where possible due to nobody else at present coming forward to take the sessions. Last month we welcomed between 6 and 9 children with an age range of 21 months to 15 years.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month is All age which we have begun to take a more active role and in fact Februarys service was led by members of Junior Church. This if anything is something I am keen to work on as the numbers are fairly low. However, if numbers and age ranges were to increase, more help would be needed.

### **Film nights**

have proved successful. We have shown Matilda, Puss in Boots, Wonka and others. Food such as jacket potatoes, fish and chips, pizzas are provided followed by a selection of sweet treats and popcorn while families watch the film. Numbers range from mid 30s to about 60 people. The next Film night is currently being planned. Possibility of being held during Whitsun half term. Details still need to be finalised.

The Light party was a huge success with nearly 180 people in attendance. A D.J. played games and various disco music as an alternative to Halloween antics. A range of craft activities were also available and 'light/glow' accessories were given out. Balloon animals and sweets were given out alongside a list of upcoming vents as they left.

### **Volunteers**

Our volunteer bank is strong with 4-6 people helping out at each event. I cannot do any of these events without the help and support of our regular helpers, and so feel regular check ins, rotas and shows of appreciation are important.

What a wonderful and busy year it has been. I look forward to more of the same and will pursue the ideas of a family prayer breakfast, kids holiday club, litter pick and sensory group for children with additional needs throughout the next few months.

Love and God bless, Lindsey Taylor-Thornley xx

## **Music and Worship Coordinator's Report – May 2024**

It has continued to be my great privilege to serve as Music and Worship Coordinator in this wonderful parish, which I am also lucky enough to live in. Having been in post for the whole of the last calendar year, it has been a great joy to be continuing into a second liturgical year in post and being able to implement learnings and small improvements as we revisit many of the familiar seasons. Before I mention some highlights of the year since the last APCM, I would like to start by once again thanking everyone who has participated in the music group. Especially the faithful few who make up our singers and continue to serve faithfully almost every Sunday without fail, come rain or shine, even whilst enduring difficult personal circumstances. We also thank again those who for various personal reasons have needed to take a step back or only be in the group occasionally, thank you for all that you have done. For anyone in the congregation who thinks they might be interested in giving singing a go or maybe have instrumental talents (especially anyone with keyboard skills) please do let me know as we welcome all ages and ability levels. As I mentioned in last year's report, we have had some difficulties maintaining regular group practices as some of our regular singers are not available on Thursdays. However, following the recent successful run of Prom Praise rehearsals on Monday evenings we will be experimenting with moving our practice session days starting next month.

I would first like to thank our vicar, Rev Jenny for her continued support but also for everything she did whilst Jenny was on sabbatical last year a big thank you must also go to our curate, Rev Sue. Thank you especially for your patience especially when dealing with such unexpected events as the world cup final falling on a Sunday morning and needing to try and finish a service in time for us to show the match in church.

I would like to take this opportunity to single out for thanks our regular sound technician Jon Leloup whose reassuring presence has meant I can focus on leading from the front and not be overly concerned with technical issues. That being said, we can always use more help so if anyone might be willing to sit in at the sound desk on Sundays when Jon is occasionally away please do speak to myself or Rev Jenny.

And lastly, I would like to pay a warm tribute to Peter and Penny Wheble, without whose regular commitment and support I simply would not have been able to continue in this role for as long as I have.

Since my last report, we have had a number of highlights including playing host last summer to the ordination of priests which joyfully included our own curate Rev Sue. Having a significant input into the musical content for that service was an immense privilege. In December, we welcomed the St Matthew's Christmas choir, led by St Matthew's director of music, Andrew Clayton, to our candlelit carol service having lent a few of our own singers to the civic carol service earlier the same day. We hope that this will become an annual tradition and look forward to further collaborations in future. More recently, we were delighted that St Martin's was able to play host to the rehearsals of the Midlands Gathered Choir which formed part of the massed choir at Prom Praise: Chariots of Fire, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall earlier this month. Many of our own regular singers were able to participate in the rehearsals (although sadly a few were forced to drop out of the actual performance due to a recent outbreak of Covid) alongside singers from St Matthew's and other local churches. The musical direction for this event was ably provided by Penny Wheble, with sterling assistance both as rehearsal accompanist and administrator by our good friend Andrew Clayton. This year's concert was movingly themed around the life and legacy of Scots missionary Eric Liddell and the live stream is available to watch on YouTube in which several of our choir members can be spotted. We are excited to announce that we plan to attend next year's event in May 2025, Prom Praise: Wonder which will be themed around space exploration with rehearsals expected to begin in late March due to the later Easter next year. We have also

hosted enjoyable concerts including Colin McIlwaine's annual folk night in February which this year took us on a magical mystery tour of all five Nations of the United Kingdom and the republic of Ireland. We look forward to what he will offer us next year. We also welcomed back Bold'z'brass featuring our own Sue Davidson as well as return visits from the Walsall Symphony Orchestra and the Staffordshire Band, both of whom we hope to have visit us again in future. We are developing plans to expand our range of fundraising concerts over the next year with the first of these being a visit from the St Matthew's community choir lead by Andrew Clayton in July.

Finally, on a personal note, I will be applying to undertake the Chad Foundations programme, a one year course starting in September which acts as a precursor to possibly undertaking Reader training. Managing this alongside my existing responsibilities will be a challenge for which I ask for your continued prayers and support. Thank you all for everything you are doing and will continue to do in the service of our Lord, that makes this church such a special and welcoming community to be a part of.

God bless you all.

Richard Brinck-Johnsen

Coordinator of Music and Worship

May 2024