



St Martin's Church Sherwood

**Annual report and financial
statements of the Parochial Church
Council for the year ended 31st
December 2025**

Signed on behalf of the PCC

Church wardens

Vicar

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

Financial statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended

31st December 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

Reference and administrative details

Charity number:	1153828	
Address:	Trevose Gardens Sherwood Nottingham	
Trustees serving during the year were:		
Vicar:	Rev S Pendenque	
Licensed Lay Ministers:	Mrs L Cohen Mr G Hickson Mr C Morris	
Church Wardens:	Mr C Morris	
Representatives on The Deanery Synod:	Mrs V Airey Mrs L Cohen	until 2027
Elected Members:	Mrs C Morris Mrs H Shipston Mr J Hepworth Mrs G Hepworth Ms P Breakwell Mrs A Rogers Mrs J Milbourn Mr C Budd Mrs E Barnabas Mr R Kitson Mrs J Day Ms R King. Mrs B Morgan Mrs K Sheperd Mrs S Estella	until 2026 until April 2025 until 2026 until 2026 until 2026 until 2026 until 2028 until 2027 until 2027 co-opted until 2025 until 2025 until 2028 until 2027 until 2028 until 2028
PCC Secretary:	Mrs J Day	co-opted until 2026
Treasurer:	Mr I Gordon	
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank Plc 536 Valley Road Nottingham NG5 1JD	
Independent Examiner:	Nicholas Bonnelo FCA RWB CA Limited Northgate House North Gate New Basford Nottingham NG7 7BQ	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

St Martin's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes responsibility for the financial affairs of the church, and provision and maintenance of the fabric of the Church building for worship and other activities for the benefit of the local community in and around Sherwood. The PCC complies with its duties under section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act with regard to Public Benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a statutory body and is governed by the regulations as set out in the official Church of England Church Representation Rules. This is supplemented by the Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors (revised edition 2010).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the clergy, church wardens, those elected to Deanery Synod, and other elected representatives. Members of the congregation are encouraged 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 full PCC met 5 times during the year. The PCC operates through a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

Fabric and Finance Committee oversees the right management of those two areas and oversees works to be done on the building. The treasurer is not a member of the PCC but is a member of the committee. The Worship and Discipleship Committee plans and oversees the church's worship, small groups and discipleship programmes.

The Strategic Development and Mission Committee seeks to look strategically and missionally at what we do as a church and how this aligns with our church vision, what God is calling us to in terms of growing disciples and the wider mission of the church. To listen to God and ask, what is God calling us to at this time?

The Children and Young People's Committee develops the growth of young people, and oversees Sunday children's ministry, the Sunday evening youth group, Jolly Tots, Bumps and Babies, ministry in schools, and special children's services/events.

The leadership team consists of the Vicar, Church Wardens, LLMs, Retired ministers with PTO (if they so choose), the administrator and until August 2025 when she moved on from us, the Children/Families Minister. They meet weekly (or as in the case of the Vicar & Church Wardens whenever they can) to review and plan church activities, and to pray for the church.

The APCM for 2024 was held in church on May 11, 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The diocesan vision is Growing Disciples of Christ with Compassion, Confidence and Courage with focus on developing Inspiring Worship, Reaching Younger, Enabling Commitment, Growing Leaders, Enhancing Diversity, Encouraging Generosity and Nurturing Prayer.

Our particular St Martin's Vision is: *Rooted in Christ, Reaching out in love*

We intend to be a welcoming God centered church, where people are transformed by the love of Christ, a church of all ages, transformed by the love of Christ, to nurture God's love, hope and justice, for the flourishing of our Sherwood, our City and World.

Our purpose:

As followers of Jesus Christ we will:

Worship God, build a community where people belong, live generously, make a difference, care for God's creation.

The PCC is therefore committed to enabling people of all ages to become followers of Jesus Christ, to grow as disciples, and to become active participants in the church family. We aim to equip ordinary people to live out their faith in everyday life, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning and worshipping together in a variety of settings, that we may grow together in Christ, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastoral care for those living in the parish, or otherwise connected to the church body: including occasional offices.
- Growing together as a community through welcome and hospitality, in small "Life Groups" and informal gatherings
- Mission and community engagement: including social groups, action with other charities and organisations working for the common good (including considerations around the environment), and hiring of the church building for community use.

Achievements and performances

Overview 2025

2025 was a gently fruitful year for us. We have stabilized after our years of loss and uncertainty. Sunday services have settled into a distinctly St Martin's pattern and flavour. We have seen new people join us, and the heart to serve and pray for our community grow. We are rumoured to be a 'warm' church by visitors as we extend welcome and seek to share the good news of Jesus.

At the start of the year Rev Sue Pendenque shared the focus for the year, which was to put Jesus firmly first in all we do, seeking him above all. As part of this we dug into teaching around knowing and sharing the good news we have in Jesus – 'Have You Heard the News?' - seeking to become confident communicators of our faith in word as well as action, exploring encounters with God through a sermon series called 'Wells, Water and Encounters with God', as well as a mini-series on Generosity.

During Lent as a church we focused on exploring our sermon series 'Have You Heard the News' in practical small group settings, continuing to meet in our life-groups as well as enjoying a Lent Film and Soup course too. We shared a meal together for Maundy Thursday which was both joyous and solemn, remembered Christ's sacrifice for us on Good Friday with an hour out on Mansfield Road with chocolates and Easter service invitations to bless our community followed by 2 hours at the cross. We celebrated the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning with a misty sunrise service, a quiet 8.30 said communion and a glorious service where we baptized two young woman who shared powerful testimonies of how God had been at work in their lives.

A brand-new Café Church was launched in the Summer Term, led by a non-clergy / LLM team who have made the service truly interactive, all-age and welcoming. Rev Sue regularly boasts with all sincerity that it is the best all age service format she has ever encountered. Many, many thanks to the dedicated and imaginative Café Church team. Attendance at the service has grown and we now have people who make this their one service and count St Martin's their home because of it.

Thy Kingdom Come was led again by Sue Estella, who together with Charlotte Higgins designed a TKC prayer diary which invited us to pray specifically for Sherwood. We combined this with a Sherwood Parish History walk led by Paul Swift – inviting our community to join in with us, pausing to pray along the way if they so desired.

TKC jump-started our new weekly prayer focus – whereby the whole church is invited to pray for a theme each week – we long to see God move across our parish and so we pray.

We also continue to pray weekly and monthly (most months) at corporate prayer meetings.

This year saw the 6 yearly clearing and reforming of the Electoral Roll – many thanks to Julie Day for her hard work on this. The PCC said goodbye to some and welcomed new members. Rev Sue P offers her very grateful thanks for the hard work of each PCC and co-opted PCC member with particular mention to Russell Kitson, Paul Swift and Chris Budd for their care for the church premises and grounds.

Our Eco Church group – including church and wider community members have worked hard to keep us informed about matters of climate change and our responsibility to create a more sustainable environment. Thank you!

During Sherwood Arts Week we were pleased to host a small exhibition in our lobby, the youth group submitted artwork for display in one of the shops along the Mansfield Rd and we were also able to once again host Elevation Dance for a wonderful display from their dancers.

Hiring of the church building has continued throughout 2025. We are grateful to be able to partner with those who regularly use our building and to have the church used for various choir concerts over the year again.

In late August we said a sad farewell to Gillian James who had served the church for over 5 years as Children and Families Minister. Her contribution to the life of St Martin's has been considerable, particularly in growing such caring teams for Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies. We thank Gill for her work in her time with

us and all she achieved. Thanks also to Lesley Cohen who took over leading the Children's Ministry and toddler teams and to Sue Estella for leading our youth work.

There is much more not covered here, and so many people to be thanked; we rejoice to have seen God at work in us and through us in 2025.

Growing disciples: With Compassion - Meeting the world's deepest needs with Jesus' love

Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies continue to be known as a safe place, where support can be found and where people are welcomed. Attendance continued to be steady during 2025, thanks to Gill, Lesley and a team of dedicated volunteers.

Nourish and Nourish Café continued throughout the year, friendships continued to grow, care was shared particularly through the sad deaths of two regular café guests. Thanks are due to the Nourish team who cook, shop, clean and provide wonderful meals for all who want one, and to Helena Shipston and the Nourish Café team for providing this very warm and loving space.

The Chaplaincy team visited Mansfield Road businesses and shops as often as they could, continuing to show the love of Christ in care, listening and prayer; however, it became clear that it was time to bring this aspect of the chaplaincy team to a halt due to volunteer commitments and energy. We have instead moved to an irregular visit to Mansfield Road model – choosing key times such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday etc to give out invitations to people we meet.

The Knit and Natterers have knitted and nattered, welcoming all who come for gentle friendship regardless of skill level. Thanks again to Christine Baldwin for her faithfulness in leading this group.

Toast club was able to welcome families during some of the school holidays, breakfast, play and chat, gently sharing the love of Jesus.

We tried twice to run an Alpha course but had little to no interest from our wider community.

During advent we welcomed Seely Primary School again – years 5 and 6 joined us for an opportunity to engage with the Christmas story from different perspectives. Rev Sue also went into the school to do a Christingle assemble for Key Stage 1.

We welcomed 167 people at our Time to Remember services with Baguley Brothers Funeral Directors.

We had a fun and interactive look at the real meaning of Christmas at December all age Café Church, a full carol service on December 21st and a joyful Christmas morning celebration at two services on Christmas Day.

Thanks to our tech team, we also continue to stream Sunday services weekly enabling us to reach people who are exploring faith quietly.

For more details on "With Compassion" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Growing disciples with Confidence – Rooting our life and faith in Jesus

Sunday children's attendance is gradually growing; we have welcomed some new families although attendance can be spasmodic.

The youth group numbers have fluctuated, but we have a settled core of around 11 young people who come most weeks. It is a group which continues to feel safe, allowing the young people to be themselves and is a credit to the volunteer leaders who have worked hard to grow this ministry coordinated by Sue Estella. Laura Cuthill and Chrissie Morris have launched an older youth bi-weekly life-group which is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Facebook morning prayer dropped down to streaming for 3 mornings a week, thanks to a small but dedicated team - offering connectedness and discipleship for a regular community, as well as for those simply 'having a look'.

Prayer is growing amongst us with our weekly prayer focus, with weekly Wednesday prayer meetings and a monthly Call to Prayer meeting. It feels more connected and purposeful as we bring our community to God and ask for an outpouring of His Spirit upon Sherwood.

We continued to meet for worship, prayer and study in various ways. As with previous years, that meant two morning services, regular Life Groups and a monthly Unplugged (informal contemporary worship - always lay-led). We settled into a service pattern that works well for us at our 10.30 service, with 1st and 2nd Sundays having a mix of more contemporary worship and hymns, 3rd Sunday an All Age Café style church and the 4th Sunday being a more traditional style service with hymns and the organ.

For more details on "With Confidence" see attached reports from church groups and committees.

To grow in Courage – Sharing Jesus with all our hearts

(Learning how to become confident communicators of the Gospel, growing leaders, enabling our young people and children to be courageous followers of Christ.)

Life Group leaders met termly for support, inspiration and prayer.

The Strategic Development and Mission Committee met to look at how we grow our church, considering areas such as how we become confident communicators of the Gospel and how we intentionally make room for Jesus in all of our outward facing ministries.

We explored two key sermon series last year – *Have you Heard the News* and *Wells, Water and Encounters with God* – see above in achievements and performances for details.

The children and youth explored different themes across the year, all to enable them to be courageous followers of Christ.

For more details on “With Courage” see attached reports from church groups and committees.

Rev Sue Pendenque

Safeguarding

St Martin's continues to be mindful of its Safeguarding responsibilities to its congregation and the wider area of Sherwood, and there appears to be an increased awareness of issues that need reporting. Any matters that have arisen have been forwarded to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for advice. There have been no major Safeguarding issues within the church during this reporting year.

I am happy to report that Alison Rogers has agreed to take over as Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Martin's Church from mid January 2026. I hope that you will all give her the necessary support required for this very responsible role.

Janet Kitson

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) checks for 2025 were carried out by Judith Walker and Lesley Cohen. At the beginning of the year, it emerged that a serious data breach had occurred involving data processed by the DBS issuing company APCS. The breach did not arise from a Cyber Attack against their system but through a 3rd party developer working for them. The affected data included the applicants' associated names, dates of birth, email addresses, house addresses (for the last five years), place of birth, gender, National Insurance numbers, passport details and driving licence details.

The data stolen was text form and did not include images or documents. APCS believe the data compromised involved applications from 1 December 2024 to May 2025.

As many DBS certificates had been submitted by St Martin's during this time this had an impact on us and the 14 affected were offered free access to credit security checking services with Experian for a period of time by Southwell Diocese and APCS.

Our DBS register is presently up to date and all members of the church who have been recommended to be checked by St Martin's Safeguarding Officers have been processed.

Judith Walker

Financial Review

General Funds

The Church is dependent financially on offerings received from the congregation, donations from individuals and grants from charitable trusts.

In 2025 our income and expenditure were managed by the Fabric and Finance Committee by regular monitoring against our forecasts. Regular giving fell by about 7% to just under £68K although our income from Gift Aid remained solid at £16.3K. The reduction in our regular giving was offset by an increase of over £5K in the hire of our precious building to just under £13K. Other income remained stable so our overall income totalled c£107K.

Our expenditure fell by about £11K to £126K. This was anticipated, the decrease being attributed to a reduction in the salary costs of both the Youth Minister and Children and Families Minister. Our Parish Share remained steady at £60K and we completed the upgrade to the lighting and replaced one of the gas boilers at a combined cost of £6K. Energy costs fell by £1.5K to £7.5K

Restricted Funds

These are sums of money that are held on trust for a specific purpose and can only be spent for that. On 31 December 2025 we were holding £1,789 in the Nourish fund and £2.5K for children and youth work. £370 had also been donated towards the new chairs fund.

Designated Funds

Other monies that have been set aside for an individual project are shown as designated under the heading of unrestricted funds. On 31 December 2025 £11,700 was held for the chairs fund and there is a further £1,000 put aside for Nourish.

Policy on Reserves

The policy of the Parochial Church Council is to hold a sufficient sum in reserves to cover six months of normal expenditure. On 31 December 2025 £45,000 was held in an interest-bearing account to satisfy this policy.

.Ian Gordon

Thanks

The PCC would like to thank all those who participate in so many ways to make our church a welcoming, gracious, and transformative community. The strength of our pastoral care for each other and love for Sherwood continues to be a strength. The church community have been unfailingly supportive of the leadership team and PCC in all of our decisions as always. Our particular thanks go to the Church Wardens and all the PCC, who have continued to lead us prayerfully and faithfully.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 08/03/2026 and signed on its behalf by: -

Sue Pendenque Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

Chris Morris Mr Chris Morris - Church Warden

Ian Gordon Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN, SHERWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity trustees of Parochial Church Council of St. Martin Charity, 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 Parochial Church Council of St. Martin 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 Parochial Church Council of St. Martin 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



Nicholas William Bonnello FCA
RWB Chartered Accountants
Northgate House
North Gate
New Basford
Nottingham
NG7 7BQ

Dated: 08 March 2026

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted funds			2025	2024
	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
RECEIPTS					
Regular Giving	61,061	-	-	61,061	72,973
Gift Aid	16,361	-	-	16,361	16,307
Projects	-	-	5,572	5,572	11,823
Church Hire	12,825	-	-	12,825	7,726
Fees	1,667	-	-	1,667	1,922
Maintenance	432	-	-	432	1,219
Other	9,025	-	-	9,025	42,793
Interest on deposit funds	2,949	-	-	2,949	2,957
Total Receipts	104,320	-	5,572	109,892	157,720
PAYMENTS					
Parish Share	59,928	-	-	59,928	56,988
Staff Costs	8,912	-	-	8,912	8,478
Maintenance	23,023	-	-	23,023	23,092
Finance	4,360	-	-	4,360	4,905
Worship/ Discipleship	2,586	-	-	2,586	3,920
CYP	441	11,594	2,484	14,519	26,080
Mission	7,085	-	5,062	12,147	13,182
Projects	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral	171	200	203	574	546
Total Payments	106,506	11,794	7,749	126,049	137,191
Net of receipts/(payments)	(2,186)	(11,794)	(2,177)	(16,157)	20,529
Transfers between funds	9,288	(9,571)	283	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 01.01.25	55,381	34,065	6,572	96,018	75,489
Cash at bank and in hand at 31.12.25	62,483	12,700	4,678	79,861	96,018

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN - SHERWOOD

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	At 01/01/2025 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	At 31/12/2025 £
Unrestricted Funds					
Designated Funds					
Children's Ministry Salary	18,388	-	(11,594)	(6,794)	-
Families in Need	200	-	(200)	-	-
Nourish	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Youth Worker Staff Costs	9,000	-	-	(9,000)	-
Parish Weekend	477	-	-	(477)	-
Chairs Fund	5,000	-	-	6,700	11,700
	<u>34,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,794)</u>	<u>(9,571)</u>	<u>12,700</u>
General Funds	<u>55,381</u>	<u>104,320</u>	<u>(106,506)</u>	<u>9,288</u>	<u>62,483</u>
	<u>89,446</u>	<u>104,320</u>	<u>(118,300)</u>	<u>(283)</u>	<u>75,183</u>
Restricted Funds					
Families in Need	182	-	(202)	20	-
Nourish	1,651	5,202	(5,063)	-	1,790
Oaks - Youth Worker	2,518	-	-	-	2,518
Chairs Fund	-	370	-	-	370
Oakes Trip	821	-	(1,084)	263	-
Children's Ministry Salary	1,400	-	(1,400)	-	-
	<u>6,572</u>	<u>5,572</u>	<u>(7,749)</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>4,678</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>96,018</u>	<u>109,892</u>	<u>(126,049)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,861</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8/3/26 and signed on its behalf by: -

Snow Pendenque Rev. Sue Pendenque - Chair

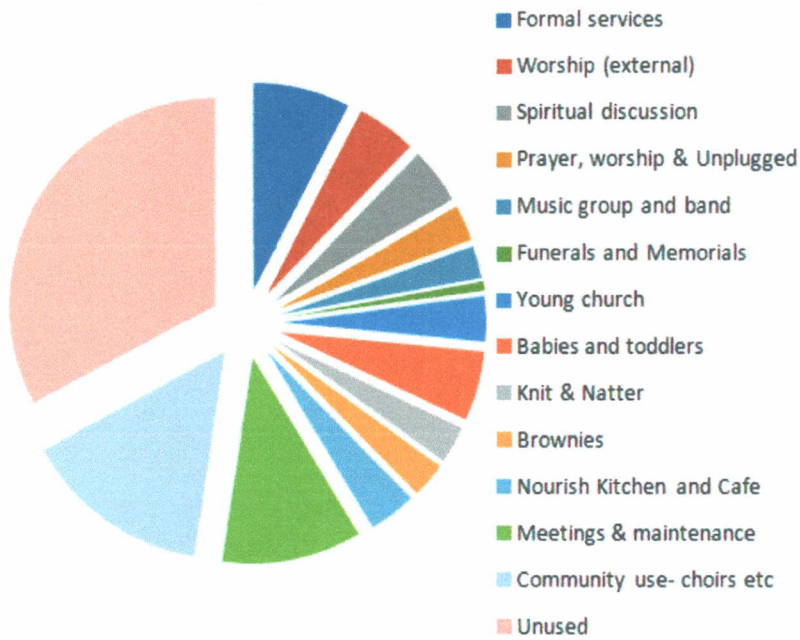
Ian Gordon Mr Ian Gordon - Treasurer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN – SHERWOOD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2025		2024	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
ASSETS				
Church of England Deposit Fund				
- PCC Building Funds	1,938	-	1,854	-
- Reserves Account	58,304	-	65,448	-
PCC Current Account	14,837	4,678	14,148	5,568
No 2 Current Account	104	-	7,996	1,004
	<u>75,183</u>	<u>4,678</u>	<u>89,446</u>	<u>6,572</u>
TOTAL ASSETS				
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Income tax on deeds of covenant gift aid due	-	-	2,482	-
PAYE and NI	2,650		1,276	
Pension contributions	385		105	
	<u>3,035</u>		<u>3,863</u>	
LIABILITIES				
Independent Examiner fees	900	-	768	-
	<u>900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>-</u>

Use of the Church Building 2025




Baptisms 2025
6

Funerals 2025
4

Weddings 2025
0

Usual Sunday Attendance
75



Sunday Ministry teams
37



Life Group members
45

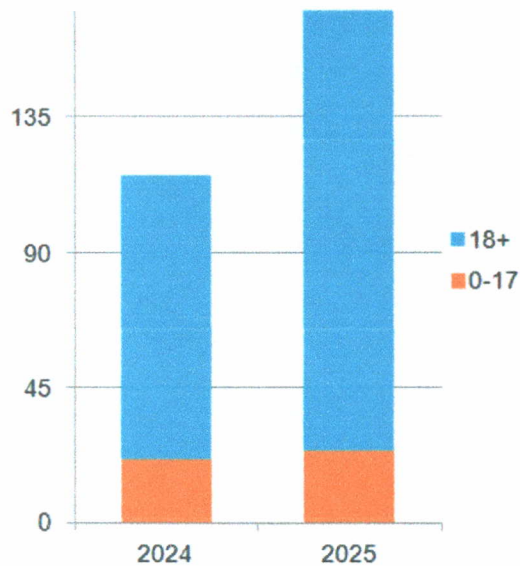
Christmas attendance
139



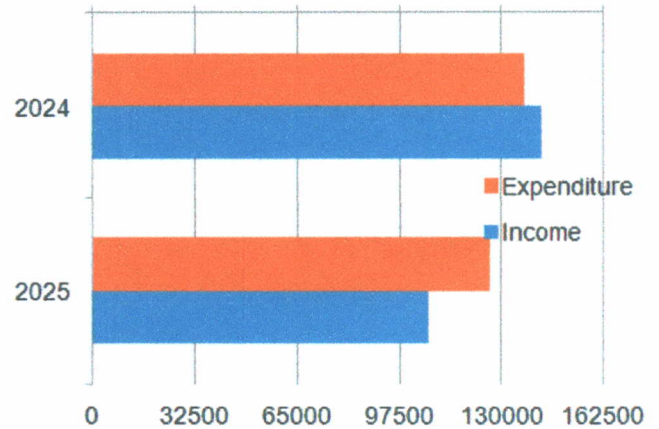
Easter attendance
154



Worshipping Community



Church Finances



The Electoral Roll

As at 31st December 2025 St Martin's Electoral Roll stands at 111

At the end of December 2024 our Electoral Roll stood at 109. Every six years a completely new roll must be compiled, requiring all those wishing to be included to submit a new application form. This six yearly revision took place in 2025 prior to the APCM. During this revision 20 people were added to the roll and 19 people were removed, resulting in a total of 110 at our APCM.

Since then, 1 person has been added to the roll, therefore St Martin's Electoral Roll as at the end of December 2025 stands at 111.

Julie Day

Nottingham North Deanery APCM Report for Jan – Dec 2025

During 2025 we held three Synods:

18 February 2025: Compassion

Our first Synod was held at St Martin's, Sherwood. We watched James' Halstead's talk from Diocesan conference, and discussed in groups what it means to grow disciples with compassion. We said goodbye to both Tim Pullen, Area Dean, and Kirsty Cowley, Deanery Administrator and thanked them for all they have done for the deanery.

10 July 2025: Confidence

Our July Synod was held at St Martha's, Broxtowe. Our Interim Area Dean, Peter Huxtable welcomed all of the parishes and explored how the deanery function has changed. Greg Cowley, Treasurer gave an update as to what parts of his role are being looked after the diocese, and answered questions around finance. We explored our Calling and Mission, and groups had an opportunity to share their personal and parish experiences concerning confidence.

12 November 2025: Courage

Our November Synod was held at St Helen's, Trowell. We explored the theme of growing disciples with Courage. We were guided through the evening by listening to different video's from the diocesan Living Hope series. We had a finance update from Greg Cowley, Treasurer. We also celebrated our joint lay chair, John Cartwright who stepped down after serving the deanery faithfully. We thanked him for all he has contributed.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have continued, and are now on the first Tuesday of every other month at Christ Church, Cinderhill.

Rev'd Canon Tim Pullen retired from his posts of Area Dean and Rector of Wollaton St Leonards. St Leonard's have been in vacancy and are soon to welcome their new Rector, Rev'd Mark Fraser.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2025. We managed to pay 94% of our share allocation!

Rev'd Canon Peter Huxtable
Area Dean

Joanna Smith
Lay Chair

Worship and Discipleship committee

It is a joy and privilege to meet together in worship. Our 8.30 service has become a haven and is growing in number. Our 10.30 services are a mix of more traditional and contemporary sung worship with a distinct St Martin's warmth and flavour. Our new style Café Church was launched this year and is excellent, drawing in new people to St Martin's.

As a committee we review services regularly asking how we can make it easier in each service to meet with Jesus, to encounter him through our worship, our sermon topics and our welcome. We have regular updates from Life-groups and consider how we can encourage more people into life-groups.

We also consider services around our major festivals and seek to be creative in our planning.

During the year we have maintained effective teams for sound and visuals, music, Bible readings, intercessions, preaching and leading. Sunday attendance is averaging 68 adults across both services, and our numbers of children are slowly rising although this isn't always reflected in weekly attendance.

Communion is now back to pre-pandemic methods, offering the bread and wine. Most people take in both kinds.

Discipleship happens in a number of settings: life groups, chaplaincy, Nourish, Unplugged, Seeker courses, as well as the Lent course, and ad hoc conversations.

Sue Pendenque

Strategic Development and Mission Committee

The group consists of PCC members and co-opted members.

Our big questions are 'how do we grow disciples?' and 'how do we turn our contacts with our community into engines for growth?'

This year we have rebirthed our Café Church and are actively promoting this as our main seeker-friendly service to invite people to. We have considered the place of prayer in our church strategy and how we continue to highlight our corporate responsibility to share the good news of Jesus with Compassion, Confidence and Courage, worked on the termly Growing Disciples planning (reviewing and amending plans which the Vicar creates), and sought to constantly ask – what's next in order to bring people to Jesus?

Sue Pendenque

PCC committee for children and young people (PCC CYP)

This group takes a strategic overview of our ministry with children and young people at St Martin's. This year we have continued with the following priorities:

Engaging with the community

Our community groups (Jolly Tots and Bumps to Babies) are highly valued by those who attend. Numbers attending Bumps to Babies were reduced towards the end of the year. We will review this in 2026 to see if there is a need for the different groups. We are developing a very positive connection with Seely Primary School, events at school and at St Martin's are being well received.

Nurturing next steps

With relationships being well developed, some community group members are asking for prayer. Some families have come for Baptism and some now attend Sunday services. We continue to work to provide services which are more accessible. This has some success, especially at Christmas.

Growing discipleship in children and young people

Our main work is in children's group on Sunday mornings and youth group on Sunday evenings. These are tailored to the children's and young people's needs. The youth group have also enjoyed residential weekends at a Christian activity centre and made social contacts with other local youth groups. A life group for young people of 15 years and up was established in summer and met fortnightly on Monday evenings from September.

Our aim for all children and young people is to foster a deepening in faith; both in understanding and living their lives.

Overall

Much is being achieved in our children, families and youth ministry, given current resources. We have lost our Children and Families Minister and not yet filled a newly established post for under 18s' ministry. This has meant managing the transition to entirely voluntary leadership. We are maintaining what was set up under Gill's leadership. However, if we are to grow and develop the work, we need to build our capacity. This will require more volunteers from our church community.

Lesley Cohen

Youth Group

The group continues to meet on Sunday evenings in term time 6-7.30pm. Numbers remain stable including 4 new members since the beginning of 2025.

Sessions have included learning about being a disciple through the life of Peter in the Gospels and Acts. We also looked at Jesus's parables and discussed what He taught and how these stories are relevant to us.

In addition, Chrissie and Laura have hosted a Monday evening lifegroup "The Next Chapter" open to older youth members in school Year 10+.

In November we returned to the Oakes Christian centre with friends from St Mark's and St Nic's among others. As always we had a (muddy) whale of a time and enjoyed great teaching from Isaiah about God our Creator, Shepherd and Strength! We also had fun at dino-golf, a summer evening water fight and an evening of s'mores and sparklers during the October half term break.

We are praying for someone new to lead our under-18s, and to help our young people know and follow Jesus for themselves.

Sue Estella

The Fabric and Ornaments of the church

The fabric and ornaments of the church continue to be in good order. As our chair coverings have continued to deteriorate - we have decided to replace 120 of them, with our new chairs arriving in February 2026. Our boilers continue to make more noise during "start up" than we like, but other than the coldest days tend to keep the building at a reasonable temperature.

A number of pieces of work have been completed, co-ordinated by Russell Kitson, Paul Swift and Chris Budd, including further replacement of lighting, a new "deeper" sink in the flower room. more polishing of the floor and on-going maintenance of the grounds, supported by some youngsters volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh scheme participation.

Two established cherry trees - growing near the front door - will be removed in early 2026, as their roots are likely to damage the building.

Our electrical equipment has again been checked for safety, our fire extinguishers are still in working order and our organ is well maintained.

Chris Morris

Compassion

Nourish

Nourish Meals

Nourish has now been running since November 2020. We still continued providing wholesome home cooked meals for any who ask, giving out an average of 70 meals a week. Some of the people coming for meals are not in great need financially, but are lonely, suffer with ill health both physically and mentally, and have disabilities. The cafe enables many of these people to form great friendships.

Everything is done by volunteers, of course, although we have fewer available in the afternoon, this does make cleaning and tidying harder. Shopping and cooking is shared between some of the volunteers.

Many individuals and groups keep funding Nourish in a variety of ways; including Sunshine Rotary Sherwood, CT4N Sherwood and In Accord Choir Sherwood. We are thankful for this and the generous provision of the St Martin's building and resources. Sadly two of our people died this year and we have a lovely lady called Gill who has terminal cancer and in her last days. We continue into 2026 with a heart to love and serve our community, always praying that many will find joy in a relationship with God and peace in a world full of trouble for some.

Chrissie Morris

Nourish Café

Our mission statement is "to minister to everyone by showing the love of Jesus with compassion, without prejudice, with respect, dignity and to give hope. Nourish cafe is open every Monday 1:50pm to 4:00pm with last orders at 3:45pm. The Café continues to flourish and provide a warm welcoming and safe place. There are regular visitors and many pop-ins of whom some have become our regulars. We continue to be recommended by other organisations and agencies.

In 2025 we had three deaths, each one very different. One attendee died with liver failure in his 40s; he knew the Lord but did not feel worthy so it was quite a privilege to be with him just before he died in hospital.

One of our members was able to pray with him to be in heaven with Jesus our Lord. A second member was found dead at his home. He was in his 50s, he did not know the Lord. The third was a lovely vibrant lady in her 70s died with pancreatic cancer, she knew the Lord. For each one we offer a small memorial service at

the Nourish Café on a Monday afternoon to celebrate their lives and this has been very welcomed and asked for.

This year we had our second Christmas party - it was a huge success. Nourish was able to send them away with a hot Christmas dinner and Helena and John continue to do a sing along (most of the time out of tune but it was still fantastic).

I want to thank all the volunteers they're just fantastic! - words fail me. I continue to have 1st Monday off a month but we always need more help. We could do with two new cooks, help with refreshments or people to just come and sit and have a chat with our visitors. You are most welcome.

Helena Shipston

Chaplaincy

Our chaplaincy team diminished over this year – largely due to volunteer commitments in other church areas, changing health/mobility needs and energy. We felt that our time of visiting shops and businesses on Mansfield Road had come to an end and that we each have established warm relationships with particular businesses that we will build on. Our strategy now will be to head out with other willing volunteers at key times of the year – so we went out before Easter and Christmas to give out chocolates, wish people a 'happy Easter/Christmas from St Martin's church' and invitations to services. We have had a good response from this, which has led to some significant conversations with people. It is another way of seeking to share God's love and care with our community. We will continue this approach into 2026.

In addition to this, Monday's Nourish community café continues to flourish, see section above for more information.

Sue Pendenque

Pastoral Outreach

We are a small team of five church members who are happy to visit anyone of our Church Family who are struggling to get to church on a regular basis. We also visit those who are unwell, either at home or in hospital. Two of us are licensed to offer communion at home where it is required.

We try to visit every four to six weeks so that we can build up a relationship through prayer, friendship and love.

Please contact me if you know of anyone who is in need and we shall do our best to make a visit as soon as we possibly can.

Penny Breakwell

Services at Abbeyfield

It is a joy to hold our monthly services at Sandwood residential home. The residents who attend are committed Christians who cannot come to the church building because of physical limitations. Services are broadly based on the Morning Prayer liturgy and include lively Biblical exploration and discussion and well known hymns/songs. We also visit and pray with residents who are unable to leave their rooms. Services were led by Lesley Cohen, Brenda Charles, Beryl Clough, Judy Hambling, Jenny Willmott and Gil Bonnello. Sue Pendenque will join some of the services next year and will offer Holy Communion.

We celebrated Christmas with carols and readings for Sandwood and Larch House residents. Everyone joined in enthusiastically.

We are grateful for the strong support of Abbeyfield staff, particularly Activity Coordinators Emma (beginning of year) and Mel (end of year).

Lesley Cohen

Buildings, and hiring out of church premises

The church has regular weekday external bookings for two choirs and an orchestra. We continued to offer a discounted supplementary use of the main church hall where previously some groups had used the chapel. There were several evening concerts during 2025, the 53rd Nottm Brownies continued to meet each Friday night, and the Church of Pentecost UK added a bi-weekly youth group to their popular services on Sunday afternoons.

Judith Walker

Knit & Natter

Our knitting group have had another busy year & have enjoyed meeting together for craft & fellowship.

The highlights of the year include ;

Donating hats, gloves & scarves to Sharewear, making chicks for the Toast Club, twiddlemuffs & hearts for Hayward House & chocolate orange covers for Maggie's Christmas fair, in addition to the personal projects we have worked on..

We had a trip to Southwell to view the Longest Yarn Exhibition about WW2, hosted an event in church raising £242 for Maggie's & provided hospitality at the Cleaves Conference Centre for the knitted Bible exhibition.

We are a friendly group who meet on Monday afternoons between 2pm & 4pm & newcomers are very welcome.

Thank you once again to each member of the group who offer their time & talent to make it all possible. What an awesome team!

.Christine Baldwin

Confidence and Courage

Media

Website Team During 2025

The website was maintained without significant changes up until June 2025.

A large hike in hosting charges by WIX prompted a move to the cheaper hosting platform provided by Kualo. They also gave us a significant discount as we are a charity. After thorough testing and some necessary updating, we transferred the website from WIX to Kualo at the beginning of July.

The team then reviewed every page of the website and is gradually working through all the agreed changes. Regular updates to information on the website are handled by Judith in the church office, with other team members making changes as required.

Tech Team During 2025

The Tech Team provided projection (to church monitor screens) and live streaming video (to Facebook as required) for the main service on Sunday and also for other services. Projection and live streaming (including via Zoom) was also provided for weddings, and funerals where requested. In the latter part of the year, we also began providing music to accompany singing in the form of purchased Lyric Videos.

The loading of services remotely continues to work well although the 250MB file size limit on our free cloud services account is still problematically small on occasions.

The variation in service formats and liturgy, especially with Café Church, has created new challenges and extra time commitments for the Tech Team but we have been able, thus far, to cover all requirements or to provide workarounds.

At the end of 2025, Barry, a long-serving operator and service loader, retired from the team. We express our heartfelt thanks to Barry for his expertise and his many years of devotion to the work of the team.

We are now a team of four – three of whom can load the services and three of whom can operate the tech desk. A review of Tech provision will be carried out in 2026.

Chris Hellen

Cursillo

Cursillo is an International movement of the Anglican Church providing a method to encourage Christians to have a relationship with God. This is done through *PRAYER, STUDY and ACTION*-enabling members of Cursillo to share God's love with everyone. We continue to have monthly meetings at churches or by zoom in 2025. We successfully had a weekend at Launde Abbey where four members of Saint Martin's completed the course. After reviewing Cursillo and how to get other Christians to join us, we don't plan to have the Cursillo weekend in 2026.

Due to several factors around her health Helena Shipston resigned from the Secretariat, but is still a full member. If you are interested in Cursillo please contact her.

Helena Shipston

Thy Kingdom Come

Members of St Martin's joined in with the well-established Thy Kingdom Come 10 days of prayer.

This year we chose to develop our own daily prayer notes based on the Lord's Prayer and St Martin's vision statement. These included praying for personal and local needs, and finishing with celebrating Pentecost.

A number of people from St Martin's also enjoyed the annual citywide evening of worship, prayer and testimonies at the Vineyard church. We look forward to taking part again in 2026!

As part of TKC week Paul Swift led a Parish Walk around our boundary, bringing in points of historical interest linked to places to pause and pray.

TKC also kick-started a new prayer initiative for St Martin's, a weekly prayer focus with Bible passages to accompany and help focus our prayers.

Sue Estella

St. Martin's Men's Group

We are pleased to report that the Men's Group is still active. There are currently 13 of us involved and who belong to our WhatsApp group. We meet every other month or so on a weekday evening at a local venue, to share a meal and plan events linked to our faith and shared interests. This year, some members have participated in a historic country walk in the Peak District and in November we contributed to the Remembrance Sunday service, praying for those who have fought and died for our country in the First and Second World War as well as in more recent conflicts. During the year, members of the Men's Group have volunteered to give up their time use their skills (and tools) to help with maintaining the church grounds.

Glenn Hickson

Coffee Mornings

The Saturday Coffee Morning has met regularly at various local venues, once a month throughout the year, with an average attendance of between 8 and 18. 22 of us met for afternoon tea at Bestwood Lodge Hotel over the Christmas period, which was very enjoyable. The time together provides fellowship and an opportunity for a general "catch up" and is valued by all who attend.

Judith Milbourn

Unplugged

We met for the first 7 months of the year with the purpose to worship and meet with God and encourage one another to grow in faith and gifts.

Unplugged has an unhurried and intimate setting where we can all dwell in worship and scripture and also spend time listening to what God may want to say to us. It is also a place where we can minister to one another through prayer and encouragement.

Chrissie Morris

Facebook Morning Prayer

We are still meeting and sharing God's word via Facebook - live streaming at 9am 3 days each week. Numbers are slowly decreasing, down to 4-5 most of those days. It is time in 2026 to consider whether this will continue or whether it's time now to end and perhaps reinstate Morning Prayer in person in church once or twice a week.

Sue Pendenque, John Hepworth and Helena Shipston

Lunchtime Prayer

Those who attend this group, though few, are dedicated to regularly meeting together to pray for the Church and its day to day running, services and special meetings, the clergy, its members, the community and for anyone who asks for prayer. We meet off-site but all are welcome to join us, we also share lunch together afterwards.

Judith Milbourn

Burlington Life Group

If anything, this year in particular we have been more and more like family - loving and caring for one another. We are a group who enjoy 'chewing the cud' over scriptures with everyone having something to say. We also love to worship together, have meals together and share fellowship with others in the church.

Chrissie and Chris Morris

Seekers Life Group

Our Group now has a core number of 7:

Beryl Clough, Sheila Elson, Mags Isley, John Saxton, Hope Anne Whitaker, Rachel King and myself.

I still circulate emails to Karine but unfortunately she has not felt able to join us, we live in hope.

During the past year we have tried to meet on Tuesday mornings once every 2 weeks.

We watched a 2 part documentary entitled "In the footsteps of St Paul" presented by David Suchet which everyone enjoyed immensely.

More recently we have chosen interesting characters from the Bible to research and we're really happy that members of the Group have been willing to research and present their findings.

So far we have had presentations on Martha and Mary, Mary, (Jesus's mother), Eve and Creation and Jehosheba.

The next one is about Joseph who became high up in Pharaoh's court.

We pray together during our meetings and it is encouraging that those who were reluctant to pray out loud have now begun to do so.

Rachel King & Catherine Lowe

Acorn Life group

We continued to meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the home of Russell and Janet. We are still following *The Chosen* series and are now on Series 5.

In the summer we shared a meal in the garden with the Burlington Group. We support one another in love, friendship and prayer

.Russell and Janet Kitson

Sanctuary Life Group

We continued to meet every other Tuesday at 3pm – 5pm in the side chapel. We have a mix of personal support and prayer, friendship and fellowship and study/discussion to help us in our growth as disciples. We draw on materials (Bible study; books or videos) suggested by our members or St Martin's as a whole.

This year we explored women of faith, encounters with Jesus between Easter and Pentecost and the 'Fruit of the Spirit'. We also had sessions drawing on individual members' interests e.g. Taize.

We are very thankful to Sue Bellamy who faithfully provides lovely refreshments on our arrival most weeks. We all enjoy sharing food and fun.

Members said these things about what the group means to them: "friendship, fellowship and the opportunity to contribute"; "listening to others' ideas and gaining a deeper understanding of faith". "It's a place where we can share our personal concerns as well as studying and discussing our faith". We find in it a safe place to be ourselves.

We are so joyful to have the companionship in this group as we walk together through our lives.

Sue Bellamy and Lesley Cohen

Orchard Life Group

The Orchard Life Group currently has seven members, and we meet on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. We take turns in hosting and leading sessions in our homes with a focus on facilitating discussions on various aspects of faith in an informal way. We pride ourselves on great hospitality, fellowship and learning from each other. This year, we have studied Rowan Williams' "Being Disciples" and taken turns in sharing our individual testimonies about our Christian lives. We pray together and for one another as needs arise, so we always feel connected together in faith. We are looking forward to digging deeper into the Bible in 2026 as we explore contemporary issues in the light of Scripture.

Glenn Hickson and Helena Shipston

Elect Life Group.

The elect live group is still a relatively new group. We first met in June 2024 and we have 9 members of which five are regular attendees. As you are aware we called the group *Elect* as it is a Greek word meaning 'chosen'. We continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, in the morning 10:30am to 12:00 but we now have the privilege of meeting in a member's home. During 2025 we looked at the Holy Spirit using Cover to Cover Bible study and this year we will be studying Great Prayers of the Bible from Cover to Cover Bible study. We still have vacancies and if you would like to join us please have a chat with me, Helena.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer ministry is a very important part of St. Martin's Church and it has been an honour to pray and know that God has helped and comforted many with his love and healing. The aim is to provide a ministry of prayer for individuals, which is approved and overseen by the church. This is additional to the personal prayer for one another within the fellowship. Though two members; Kate and Judith M have stepped down from the regular rota, the ministry continues as before. The team is presently looking for at least three more members but John Hepworth has stepped successfully into a support role, enabling the team to continue offering prayer after the 10.30 am service and when requested for other services. This has been a very successful part of St Martin's Ministry

Helena Shipston