

Report of the Fabric Goods and Ornaments of St Martin's Church, Ruislip for 2025

During 2025, St Martin's Church continued its ongoing commitment to maintaining and enhancing our church buildings, hall, and associated facilities, ensuring everything remains safe, welcoming, and fit for both our congregation, and the wider community.

"Raising the Roof for the Future" Campaign

Last summer, we formally launched our "Raising the Roof for the Future" campaign, seeking to raise the funds necessary for the full renewal of the roof covering to the north face of the chancel. Thanks to considerable support from parishioners, local fundraising events, and generous donations, we have now raised nearly £50,000 towards our target, in addition to grants from the Diocese Willesden Area Building's Fund and our Restoration Reserve.

We have engaged the project architects and, recognising the requirements associated with our historic building, preliminary bat surveys have already been carried out. However, due to the nature of the church building, further emerging bat surveys are also required and are scheduled to take place imminently. In addition, investigatory work on the underlying structure of the roof is being undertaken to enable detailed plans to be finalised.

As a result of these statutory ecological surveys and the careful planning required, it is now unlikely that work will commence until later in 2026 or early 2027. We hope that by then, we will have achieved our fundraising target, enabling the project to proceed in a timely and fully compliant manner. We remain deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our congregation, and wider community as this important project progresses.

Additionally, we have recently identified that some remedial, though not urgent, stonework is required to several of the church columns. We plan to address this as resources and funding allow, as part of our continued commitment to the care and preservation of our historic building.

Church Clock and Chimes

The church clock continues to keep good time, and its reliability is much appreciated by our congregation, and the community. However, the chimes remain problematic; despite regular attention, their operation has been inconsistent throughout the year. We are actively seeking a specialist firm to investigate and resolve the issue in the coming months, recognising the importance of the chimes to the life of our parish.

Ornaments and Fixtures

This year, John Ormshaw has supported us with various maintenance tasks and has recently refurbished the font cover, restoring it to excellent condition. He is currently in the process of refurbishing the weathervane, which we look forward to seeing reinstated.

The new Book of Gospels

Towards the end of last year, we acquired a beautiful new Book of Gospels, generously donated by a parishioner. This was blessed by Bishop Richard Fenwick during our patronal festival last November.

Church Hall and Grounds

With last year's refurbishment now well established, the Church Hall continues to provide a modern, accessible, and safe space for community and parish activities. Regular

maintenance has ensured that facilities remain in an excellent state of repair and that user feedback is continuously positive. Grounds maintenance and upkeep of pathways remain an ongoing priority.

Curate's House – 5 Wyteleaf Close

In preparation for the arrival of Fr Joe earlier this year, significant efforts were put into readying the Curate's House by several parishioners. Various items were cleaned and repaired, and the dilapidated garage door was replaced, ensuring a safe and pleasant environment for our new curate.

Ongoing Maintenance and Acknowledgements

Julien Chong has taken on a range of maintenance responsibilities during 2025, responding promptly to a variety of routine and ad-hoc issues. Regular checks and minor repairs - such as guttering, lighting, and fire safety have been undertaken to ensure our buildings remain in good working order.

We extend our deepest thanks to all who contribute to the ongoing upkeep of our church. Particular thanks go to Derek Cunliffe for the care of the churchyard, to John Ormshaw for the maintenance of fixtures and fittings, to Julien Chong for general upkeep, and to Alan Seymour and the sacristy team for their diligent work in maintaining our liturgical silver, linen, and supplies.

We are especially grateful to the wonderful team who have come together on a number of occasions during the year to clean the church and help tidy the churchyard, particularly in preparation for our major Christmas and Easter services. We would like to give heartfelt thanks to Ruth Bitok, who has devoted a huge amount of time and energy to these efforts - her commitment is greatly appreciated by all.

The continued commitment from volunteers and parishioners is central to the preservation of our church's heritage and ensures that St Martin's remains a welcoming and beautiful place for worship and community gatherings.

Looking Forward

As we anticipate the commencement of the roof renewal project, our focus remains on stewardship, essential maintenance, and ensuring that St Martin's continues to serve both current and future generations as a place of worship, welcome, and community.