

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS,
RUISLIP**

(Registered Charity number 1132848)

known as

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARTIN, RUISLIP



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31 December 2022

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARTIN RUISLIP

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARTIN, RUISLIP

ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31 December 2022

Administrative information

The parish church of St Martin of Tours, Ruislip is situated in Eastcote Road, Ruislip, at the corner of the High Street and Eastcote Road in the London Borough of Hillingdon within the County of Middlesex. St Martin's is part of the Diocese of London, Willesden Area, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Parish Office, Rear of St Martin's Church, Eastcote Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8DG.

The church was in interregnum for the whole of 2022 following the departure of the Revd. Canon Simon Evans on 31st July 2021. Curate Revd. Yaroslav Walker remained in post until 1st May 2022. The following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in 2022 and were in post on 31st December 2022 except where noted otherwise:

<i>Vicar</i>	Vacant
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	The Revd Yaroslav Walker (until 1 st May 2022)
<i>Associate Priest</i>	None
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Jacqueline Alderton, Alan Seymour (until 15 March 2022), Ian Keys (from 15 March 2022)
<i>Deanery Synod Members</i>	Chris Hoppett, Sarah Jacob, Judith Kaplan, Karen Overy (until 21 September 2022), Helen Pye-Beraet, Alison Rollin, Jo Barraclough (Treasurer, until 15 March 2022), Ruth Bitok, Judith Roberts, Bethan Taylor (from 15 th March)
<i>Elected Members</i>	<p><i>The following served as Elected Members until the 2022 APCM on 15 March 2022:</i></p> <p>Ed Stothard (Lay vice chair), Lucia Camilleri, James Green, Melissa Bach, Zoe Lambourne, Jo Leng, Anne Hutchinson (until 23 November 2021), Ian Keys (until 17 November 2021) Clare Zakirov, Mervyn Hogg, Jacqueline Alderton, Gill Dargue, Erica Emms, Linda Gibson (until 29th June 2021), Deirdre Davis, Gina Glossop (co-opted)</p> <p><i>The following served as Elected Members from the 2022 APCM on 15 March 2022:</i></p> <p>Danny Dartnaill, Catherine Tugnait, Chris White, George Sowemimo, Glenn Burchell, Ken Wild, Mark Stimpson, Mary Coulthurst, Mervyn Hogg, Sardinia Ma, Sirmeela McMurdie, Sue Hammond (lay vice Chair), Teresa Watson, Tim Rollin, Vivien Morris.</p> <p><i>The following were co-opted onto the PCC on 23 April 2022:</i> Alan Seymour, Andrew Hutchinson (Treasurer)</p>

The APCM in 2022 was split into two parts. Membership elections were held on 15th March 2022 and the Annual Report for 2021 was presented on 27th April 2022.

PCC Bankers HSBC Bank PLC, Holborn, London

PCC Independent Examiner until 25th March 2022 Mr Ken Wild OBE BA FCA CPFA
from 27th April 2022 Mr P Golby MENG ACA

The PCC does not retain a legal or any other adviser.

The day-to-day management of the affairs of the PCC is delegated to the Churchwardens, who can be contacted through the parish office.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. Following a change to the legislation regarding charities, the PCC was registered as a separate charity in November 2009: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin of Tours, Ruislip, registered number 1132848.

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by, and set out in, the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). The PCC also co-opts members as considered appropriate. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

As far as possible, the PCC appoints suitable members of the congregation, who report back to the PCC, to ensure compliance with legislative matters regarding health and safety, disability discrimination and Safeguarding, which protects vulnerable adults as well as children, and arranges for them to attend appropriate training courses as required.

The PCC operates through several committees which meet as required between full meetings of the PCC. The committees consist of PCC members with the power to co-opt parishioners for specific projects and for longer periods as required. The current committees are:

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any specific directions issued by the PCC.

Fabric Committee

Responsible for the maintenance of the fabric and building of the church and the curate's house.

Hall Management Team

Responsible for the management, maintenance and operation of the church hall.

Discipleship in Action Group

Responsible for overseeing developments in the church's mission and outreach work.

Social Committee

Responsible for organising and co-ordinating social events.

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Responsible for co-ordinating finance matters.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the church might be susceptible are the subject of ongoing review. Our fixed assets are all covered by adequate insurance and other risks are assessed and mitigated as far as is practicable.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has the responsibility for maintaining the ancient church building, for maintaining and operating the hall adjacent to the church and for the upkeep of the clergy house.

ACTIVITIES

The Resolution

2022 opened with St Martin's under the episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Fulham. The PCC had voted on 29th June 2021 to approve a Resolution that transferred oversight from the Bishop of Willesden to the Bishop of Fulham. The principal impact of the change was that a female priest could not celebrate Mass in St Martin's Church, and many felt it did not reflect the majority view. Thus, help and advice were sought from the Bishop of London and the Archdeacon of Northolt.

On 27th January 2022, a Section 12 PCC meeting was held. This meeting seeks to define the needs of the parish for the appointment of a new priest and the content of the Parish Profile and any advertisements. However, the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, the Patron of St Martin's, said that they would not agree to proceed until a further APCM had been held, the first part of which was agreed to be held in March, and the next PCC had been appointed. The Bishops of London and Fulham, and the Archdeacon, accepted this approach.

The vote took place 15th March 2022 and the 15 members elected were those shown on page 3 of this report.

The new PCC decided it needed the views of the whole Electoral Roll before taking a decision on episcopal oversight and an on-line and paper survey was carried out where ER members could express their views privately. Subsequently, two open meetings were held where ER members could hear the views of the PCC, ask questions and provide opinions.

Results from the survey, which closed on 24th April 2022, were as follows:

- Those in favour of returning to the Episcopal Oversight of Willesden – 71%
- Those in favour of remaining under the Episcopal Oversight of Fulham – 27%
- Those with no preference – 2%

At a subsequent meeting of the PCC on 27th April, the following motion was read out by the Lay Vice Chair Sue Hammond and voted upon

The resolution (29th June 2021) is rescinded and arrangements are made for the episcopal oversight of the parish of St Martin's Ruislip to be returned to the Bishop of Willesden

18 PCC members voted to rescind the Resolution, 6 PCC members voted against and 1 member abstained. The motion to rescind the Resolution was therefore carried.

On the next day, 28th April, Lay Vice Chair Sue Hammond notified the Bishops of London, Fulham, and Willesden, the Dean and Chapter of Windsor and the Archdeacon of Northolt of the vote, requesting that arrangements be made for the episcopal oversight of the parish of St Martin's Ruislip be returned to the Bishop of Willesden.

Recruiting a new Vicar

On 19th May, Bishop Lusa, Bishop of Willesden and Catherine Pickford, Archdeacon of Northolt joined a PCC Meeting in church to encourage the process of bringing together the whole congregation. Bishop Lusa made it clear that the Resolution turmoil meant St Martin's was not currently an attractive parish for potential clergy. He suggested that appointing an interim vicar would be a sensible way forward. Churchwarden Jacqueline Alderton opined that St Martin's had a positive history as a training parish with gifted curates undertaking lots of outreach work. Having an interim vicar could affect our ability to attract good quality curates.

It was agreed that St Martin's should seek a new vicar and that an interim would only be considered if the recruitment process failed to find a suitable candidate. Bishop Lusa advised that it was within his gift to identify someone as an interim.

Focus turned to advertising and hopefully getting a new vicar. Jacqueline Alderton, Mervyn Hogg and Alison Rollin finalised the Parish Profile and the Person Specification, documents considered excellent by all who read them. Chris White and Jacqueline Alderton were confirmed as the St Martin's representatives on the interview panel.

An advert in the Church Times seeking applications for the post of vicar of St Martin's went live on 8th and 15th July. Four applicants were shortlisted and interviews were held on 20th September. The two St Martin's representatives joined the Bishop of Willesden Bishop Lusa, the Archdeacon of Northolt Catherine Pickford and the Area Dean Richard Young to form the interview panel.

The panel was unanimous in selecting a preferred candidate and offered Fr Robert Chapman the job. After showing his family round the vicarage on Saturday 24th September, we were delighted to hear that Father Robert had accepted. He would start in January 2023.

Clergy Support

With St Martin's church in interregnum, the churchwardens had the responsibility of keeping the church functioning for the whole of 2022. Until 1st May, Fr Yaro Walker continued to take on much of the pastoral work of the church and he presided at the majority of Masses and at Eastertide. He arranged cover when he was not available. Fr Yaro made many friends during his three year spell as curate and we are extremely grateful for all his hard work, especially when he was the only Clergy for almost a whole year after Fr Simon Evans departed.

Following Fr Yaro's departure on 1st May 2022, the church relied on visiting clergy to lead Mass services. The 09.15 and the 11.15 Masses were combined so that cover had to be found for just the 08.00 and the 10.00 Masses on Sunday mornings.

Churchwarden Jacqueline Alderton worked tirelessly over the next eight months, with the help and support of Area Dean Richard Young, to ensure that not only the two Sunday and festival Masses were covered but also that almost every weekday Mass and Morning and Evening Prayer were covered as well.

Out thanks in particular go to Fr Bruce Rickards, Chaplain at Heathrow airport, Bishop Pete Broadbent and Fr Matthew Cashmore, vicar at St Anselm's Hayes for the enormous help they provided in leading our principal Masses following Fr. Yaro's departure. Fr Bruce drove from Wimbledon and back, 90 minutes each way, on very many Sundays. Fr Matthew took many of the 8.00am services and then had to hurry back to Hayes to lead Mass in his own church. And Bishop Pete, a long term friend of Ruislip and St Martin's, was always his enthusiastic self in his preaching and his engagement with the congregation.

Other clergy who helped ensure cover for weekday masses, weddings, funerals, sometimes the 08.00 Sunday Mass and school services are:

Fr Desmond Banister, Fr Josiah Abadoo, Fr Michael Selby, Fr Peter Mackenzie, Fr David Green, Fr Paul Reece and Fr Nick Wheeler.

We are very grateful to the above for the support they provided.

5, Wyteleaf Close

Father Yaro, his wife and young child vacated the Curate's House at 5, Wyteleaf Close on 5th May 2022 and, as there would be no curate until the new vicar had been in post for at least a year, it was decided to let the property. Some £3,500 had to be spent getting gas and electricity safety certificates, re-wiring the garage, installing a new water pump and header tank, giving the house a professional clean and getting a new insurance policy. By the end of June the house was ready and tenants moved in on 4th July. A net monthly income of £15.6K for an initial 12 months will significantly help the church's finances.

The Vicarage

By the time Fr Robert had been appointed, the vicarage front and back gardens had not received any attention for over a year. A group of parishioners got together over the 10th and 11th September weekend and had a major clear up of the gardens, as well as replacing six back fence panels. A further group, working over a six week period, redecorated, (to the family's colour requirements,) the study, toilets, bathrooms, bedrooms and the hall, stairs and landing of the vicarage. All finished in time for the family to move in on 4th January 2023.

Martinmas Fayre

A newcomer to St Martin's, Gill Collins, asked in late Spring if there was any way she could help and get to know more of the congregation. It was suggested she might consider organising the Martinmas

Fayre. She accepted the challenge and she made it an enormous success. Many in the congregation offered to help to run stalls, High Street businesses were persuaded to provide raffle prizes and the hall store cupboard was transformed into Santa's Grotto once again. From all angles, financial, participation, enjoyment and happy atmosphere, the fayre was a resounding success and our sincere thanks go to Gill.

Gas and Electricity Costs

The rapid increase in utility costs during 2022 has been a major concern for everybody, including St Martin's. Our gas cost with Yorkshire Gas and Power went up from 4.95 pence per kwh in December 2021 to 43.7 pence per kwh in December 2022. We were able to secure a one year contract with British Gas Lite in November 2022 at 22.61 pence per kwh and this was reduced to 15.83 pence per kwh when the government rebate was introduced. But that is still over three times the December 2021 cost. A reduction in the hours the church boiler is on during the winter has brought costs down a little bit further.

We have been fortunate with electricity costs. In July 2021 we entered a three year fixed price contract with British Gas before costs rocketed.

Bell Ringers

Sadly, bellringer numbers fell to just four ringers in 2022. The team was no longer able to ring for Sunday services and the weekly practice was suspended. The four ringers were still able to hold a once-a-month practice on the fourth Wednesday of the month between 2pm and 4pm, as the ringers from All Saints Harrow Weald continued to support us. With help from St John's Pinner and All Saints Harrow Weald, the bell ringers were able to ring for weddings and festivals during the year.

The remaining ringers hope to recruit additional ringers in 2023 and may then be able to re start regular Wednesday night practice.

Safeguarding

Judith Kaplan continued to drive for better safeguarding practice within the parish, strongly encouraged by the diocese and in particular by the new Head of Safeguarding Martin Goodman. St Martin's signed up to the Parish Safeguarding Dashboards in early May 2022 and achieved Level 1 status very quickly. We are now working hard to achieve Level 2 status. The dashboard has been a really useful tool in helping us simplify safeguarding at St Martin's and to easily track our safeguarding excellence.

During the latter part of 2022 the Diocesan Safeguarding Team established monthly drop in sessions via ZOOM to help parish safeguarding officers understand their role better, to make full use of the dashboards and to answer any questions they may have. They have been very informative and valuable.

Moving forward our aim is to ensure that all members of the new PCC obtain their DBS certificate and complete the basic training course within a month of the APCM.

Every member of St Martin's has a responsibility to ensure that our church community and the wider community see St Martin's as a safe space and to that end we must continue to be a beacon of good practice.

Other Successes

Despite the first part of the year being dominated by the Resolution and recruitment issues, the church continued to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation and provided outreach to those who needed support:

- Excellent support continued for the Hillingdon Foodbank.
- There was growing participation of young people in Children's Church and a big thank you must go to Gina Glossop and Vicky Golby
- The Friday Toddlers group flourished during 2022 and is clearly welcomed by parents and

grandparents, as well as the little ones. Our thanks to Lucy Jeffries who runs the group.

- Our Flower Arrangers have continued to provide delightful displays every week in church
- Our Director of Music James Kellas, ensured that organ music was provided at the Sunday and Festival Services, with a choir at the main Sunday Masses throughout the year.
- Bookings for the Church Hall continued to expand during 2022 and by the end of the year were higher than before the Covid pandemic.
- Organised social events began again towards end of 2022 and the Christmas Dinner at the Barn Hotel was enjoyed by all who attended.

Disappointments

- Covid concerns, the lack of clergy and the turmoil of the Resolution together meant that neither the personnel nor the enthusiasm were there to lead, organise and run the annual children's Holiday Club in 2022

Special Mention

- As described earlier, Fr Yaro Walker continued to work tirelessly until his departure on 1st May. He managed to find clergy cover, from outside the parish and from retired clergy, to support mid week services. He was especially good at relating to and encouraging children. He deserves the thanks of the whole congregation.
- Inspiringly led by Sweelin Cunliffe, the Thursday Lunches team started operations again in 2022. The community spirit that had developed by the end of the year, as well as the good food, was really encouraging. Attendance increased as the weeks went by. Our sincere thanks go to Sweelin, her husband Derek and her dedicated team.
- The church continued to have committed teams of lay people who, albeit in reduced numbers, assisted as choristers, servers, sidepersons, readers, intercessors and at Mass.
- Alan Seymour continued to manage the Sacristy and Serving teams during the year.
- As he has done for so many years, Malcolm Roberts kept the church grounds neat and tidy throughout the year and quietly undertook a plethora of minor repairs.
- Gill Dargue, the Parish Administrator, continued to handle clergy, congregation members, visitors, telephone enquiries, churchwardens, hall hirers, contractors etc. in her positive way as well as producing the bulletin every week. We are very grateful for all the effort she puts in.
- Derek Cunliffe, who continued to effect a range of repairs in the hall throughout the year

Sadnesses

Trevor Mitchell, June McAvilly, George and Shirley Guest and Christina Finlayson all passed away in 2022.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The total number of parishioners recorded on the Electoral Roll at the date of the APCM 23rd May 2023 is 539.

FINANCE REPORT

The Financial Report and the Independent Examiner's Report will not be available at the APCM on 23rd May and will be presented separately later in the year.

Ian Keys



Churchwarden

Jacqueline Alderton



Churchwarden