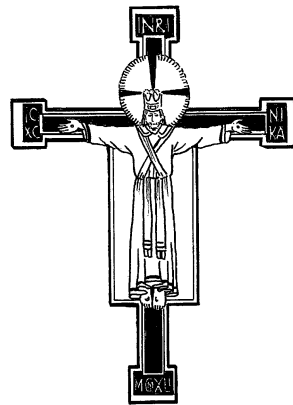


# All Saints' Martock

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025 with Financial Review & Statements

*Placing Christ at the Centre of All We Do*



Registered Charity No: 1160333



## INTRODUCTION

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building of All Saints', Martock.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion, in particular:-

- Worship and prayer
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Ensuring that the church building is both an accessible and welcoming environment.

### ***Placing Christ at the Centre of All We Do***

*– a celebration of all our Church Activities over the past year*

With our sister parishes of the benefice, we share FIVE Mission Objectives.

- 1) *We aspire to be a growing church, increasing in faith and number*
- 2) *We are collectively a 'both... and' church, offering the comfort of traditional worship and seeking God's will for 'fresh expressions' in the community*
- 3) *We show the love of Christ as individuals by word and action*
- 4) *We offer our church building as a place of hospitality and welcome*
- 5) *We strive to meet our financial obligations towards the mission of the church locally, across the diocese and worldwide*

### Music

The Music Group has continued to lead worship at both the first Sunday Communion and the second Sunday Morning Worship as well as the Christmas Eve Crib service. The acquisition of the Mission Praise hymn books has allowed the gradual introduction of a few more contemporary worship songs alongside more traditional hymns.

by Andy Handcock

Our Director of Music, Steve Salisbury, continues to play the organ for the majority of our Sunday morning services and other occasions as required.

### Bell Ringers

Celebrating the band's second birthday as the year began gave us all a little January boost and we made the most of our January Saturday Farmers' Market 'ring for joy' with a well-attended, reflective celebratory event.

2025 continued to be a year of advancing learning, which also includes learning how to maintain and nurture the bell chamber. A professional inspection highlighted some short-term maintenance and longer-term work. Some tasks have been completed and the longer term need further thought.

The water intake from the tower roof became quite excessive, making its way into the ringing room with genuine concern for the damage caused to the wet Sally ropes which includes personal safety. It was helpful to liaise with Rev Paul to discuss updates and we are aware that the roof may need replacing with fund raising on the horizon.

As previously mentioned, we are indebted to the continued support of David Hammonds, Ilchester Branch Educator. Without him achievements would not be possible. He is frequently joined by Annette Organ from St John's Yeovil.

There are generally 8-16 attendees from Martock, Yeovil and the Langport area at practice nights on a Tuesday. The ethos of ringing is to learn in all towers and to support each other's services when possible. There is no doubt that all Towers need to focus on recruitment to keep bells ringing in decades to come.

We have a 6.30pm silent session for all learners. Currently, three primary age girls are making great progress. Martock's bells are large and heavy, meaning two of the girls cannot even reach the Sallies! We manage - again with David and Annette's guidance.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers, (CCCB) held the South West Area Course at Millfield in October, which only 2 of us were lucky to attend. Three nights and 2 1/2 days of

condensed ringing takes learning into another zone!

2025 ended with managing to cover for all Festive services. We had a visiting band from Devon on 30th December, who invited us to join their ongoing journey to Imber Church which is only open to public a few days a year. Great fun.

Thank you to Rev Paul, Sally and Sarah for always being available and supportive, which is extended to the PCC. The band is driven by the enthusiasm and feedback from locals which is always so positive, especially on the Saturday Market.

Fiona Cozens, Tower Contact

## **Children & Young Families**

*Tiddlers*, our toddler and baby group, continues to thrive under the leadership of our Toddler Group Leader, Hannah Page. A variety of bible-themed and seasonal activities are planned each week for the children to enjoy, along with play, snack, singing, and bubbles to end the session. Numbers continue to grow which is very encouraging, with between 15 and 20 families, sometimes more, attending each week. Many thanks to all the volunteers who faithfully help to set up and support *Tiddlers* every week. Special thanks must go to Eddie Ansell who diligently helped to set up every week until his sad passing.

Please email Hannah at [tiddlers.martock@gmail.com](mailto:tiddlers.martock@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the team of volunteers, you will be very welcome.

*Stompers*, the outdoor activity time for all ages to enjoy nature activities and a bible theme around the local area has continued to be run by Mandy Starmer during the school holidays. A number of families have been attending and have enjoyed a walk and activities (whatever the weather!), followed by refreshments in church. Thanks must go to Mandy for her time and enthusiasm and to her helpers for supporting this important outreach.

Finally, our Crib Service on Christmas Eve was well attended by the community once again and very much enjoyed by children and adults alike!

Sally Howells

## **Church Flowers**

In 2025 All Saints' church was decorated with a beautiful pedestal arrangement of flowers at the altar each week (except during Lent and Advent) by a team of 10 flower arrangers, made up of members of the congregation and local villagers, on a fortnightly rotation. The arrangements were appreciated by visitors to All Saints' and were often commented on. At the Festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas, the altar arrangement was supplemented by a friendly team who joined together to add more arrangements, enjoying each other's company and being creative.

We were so grateful to and wish to thank all our arrangers and also our supporters who donate foliage and flowers for festivals from their gardens. Thank you! We also wish to thank all those who donated a white lily at Eastertime in memory of a loved one, which enabled us to create two special memorial arrangements.

If you would like to join in with flower arranging, either with or without previous experience, you would be most welcome to join us and a good way to try it out is to join the team decorating at Harvest festival, who meet the day before we celebrate Harvest, at 10am. We promise you a warm welcome.

Jane Cockerham

## Discipleship

For various reasons, we were only able to hold one homegroup course this year, at Lent, and one Quiet Day to start the season of Advent.

**Lent Course - "Living Hope"** was the Church of England's Lent Course for 2025. You can look at the course material for yourself online

at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/livingbooklet5-new.pdf>

As for previous years we met in small groups in people's homes with over 30 people taking part. The readings and reflections explored how we can have hope in times of frustration or uncertainty; the hope found in joining with others; the invitation to notice signs of hope around us; the courage to face reality and pursue a hopeful future; and how God transforms death into life at Easter.

**Start of Lent** – Hope In a world where it can sometimes feel hard to be optimistic, God offers us something deeper – hope. This course gives an opportunity to put down deep roots of hope, discovering God's promises for the future and his presence with us now. Suggested Bible reading: Romans 5.1-8

**Week One – Imperfect** Our lives are complex and we live in an imperfect world. Our daily frustrations and limitations are no surprise to God and he can fill us with hope through these very situations. Suggested Bible reading: Romans 7.15-19,24-25

**Week Two – Trusting** In this second week of Lent, we thought through how much trust it takes to have hope. How can we have hope, even when it's tough? Even when we can't make sense of what God is up to? Suggested Bible reading: John 11.17-27

**Week Three – Together** We are designed for community – to build one another up and to allow ourselves to be built up by others. In this way, God enables us to remain rooted in hope and to become a hopeful presence in our communities. Suggested Bible reading: Matthew 5.13-16

**Week Four – Noticing** As we moved into the fourth week of Lent, we were tasked with the art of noticing. Noticing what God is doing in our lives, our communities, our world.  
Suggested Bible reading: Genesis 28.10-17

**Week Five – Courage** When we know that we can trust God and put our hope in him, this can give us the courage to seek change where it is needed. Rooted in the hopeful future God offers us, we dare to reimagine the present. Suggested Bible reading: Luke 9.23-27

**Holy Week – Transformed** Holy Week holds both tragedy and triumph. Our reflections focused on the theme of how the hope God gives us can transform any situation.  
Suggested Bible reading: John 16.7-13

### **Advent Quiet Day - Saturday, 29 November**

Just over 20 people started Advent with a quiet day led by Rev Paul Fillery in All Saints' Church. The session started with a short form of Morning Prayer.

In the first session "Dwelling in the Word" everyone was invited to find a quiet place and relax, and think about the Bible reading Mark 10:46-52, asking God to speak to them and asking themselves "What struck them from the reading? What emotions, thoughts or desires it addressed in their lives today and how might they respond to it."

After coffee there was a Celtic form of communion.

Following lunch there was a guided meditation on the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42) which was read from both the "New American Standard" translation and "The Message" modern paraphrase.

Rev Richard Caddell

## **Fairtrade**

All Saints' Church is registered with the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade church. This means that we have promised:

- 1) to use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and at all meetings for which we have responsibility.
- 2) to move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits and fruit).
- 3) to promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible. Thanks go to Carol for ensuring that our refreshment supplies include fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar.

We don't have a Fairtrade team so if you would be interested in setting one up and helping to promote Fairtrade, please speak to Sally Howells, PCC Secretary or a member of the PCC.

Please continue to buy Fairtrade items, wherever they are available, rather than a cheaper alternative. By doing so, you will be giving a hand-up to the poorest, weakest producers and making a real difference to their lives.

## Food Bank Donations

Donations continue to come in to church from time to time and are delivered to The Lord's Larder at The Gateway, Yeovil, as necessary. The Gateway are always pleased with our gifts. Donations were also received for the Martock Foodbank at Christmas, Harvest and Easter times.

Grace Dunton

## Martock Educational Foundation

(Trustees Rev Paul Fillery, Marian Singleton, Sally Howells, Kathy Maple)

This is a charity set up in 1888 to initially *'provide houses for the teachers of Martock School or in or towards the maintenance of the school as long as it is maintained by voluntary subscriptions and is used for CofE religious education and for Sunday School prizes, or, if there is no Sunday School, to be applied for instruction and encouragement in religious knowledge'*.

- MEF has continued to support Martock Primary school and All Saints this year.
- Church House Investments (CHI) reported on our investments at our AGM. The portfolio was valued at approx. £330,000 at the end of 2025.
- We are still awaiting audited accounts, this will be followed up shortly,
- Expenditure in 2025 has included:

Ground works for the spiritual garden at the school (work will continue on this in 2026).

Payment of the last instalment of the school's loan from the diocese

*Open the book* memberships

Baptismal bibles

Support for student's theological studies

Support for a Boys Brigade camp, to enable it to go ahead.

- We are in contact with Martock Church School through the Governors and Head Teacher to determine how we can support various initiatives as the school moves to Academy status.
- There is still a vacancy for a trustee.
- If there are any questions, please speak to any of the trustees above.

Marian Singleton, Chair

## **Martock Primary School church team**

The work of the *'Open the Book'* Team continued in 2025 with the preparation and presentation of 6 Bible stories in both Martock and Ash Primary Schools. This was part of our collective worship offering to both schools. Sally and Bridget also visited to present an assembly during each half term.

We continued to work with preferred school materials featuring values and Christian themes, chosen by the Head Teachers.

Both schools continue to come to our churches at the end of each school term for a service. They also mark Harvest and Remembrance by coming to church.

Grateful thanks to all those who are part of our *'Open the Book'* team. They attend rehearsals and contribute to the assemblies to ensure that our children hear and see stories from the Bible on a regular basis.

Bridget Jones

## **Martock School Governors**

What a fantastic year for Martock School as we continue to ensure the best possible education for our children.

We were inspected by Ofsted in May 2025 which highlighted the many positive things Martock School is doing, and it continues being a 'Good' school. The inspectors made many complementary comments about the school including:

- 1) Martock is a happy place to learn. Pupils are welcoming and inclusive of others. They learn to involve and celebrate everyone, regardless of difference. Pupils know and demonstrate the school values of 'kindness, perseverance, respect and collaboration'. For example, they show kindness when showing visitors around their school.
- 2) The school values make clear how pupils should behave. Pupils live up to the high expectations staff have of them. This means that the school is a calm and orderly place to learn. Staff help pupils to feel safe. Consequently, pupils feel confident to share any concerns.
- 3) Pupils are reaping the benefits of a well-designed curriculum that is supporting them to know more and remember more. They now benefit from a high-quality education, although this is not reflected in historic outcomes. The school is highly ambitious for pupils. As a result of recent improvements, pupils are increasingly able to rise to these expectations.
- 4) Pupils develop their talents through clubs, such as outdoor art, computing and story writing. They feel a strong sense of community spirit. For example, they send Christmas cards to thank community members for being 'neighbours of the school'. Pupils show

initiative. They decided to run a plant sale to purchase plants to increase wildlife at the school.

The school PTA have had another very successful year, raising essential funds for the school through a variety of events. Funding from the PTA provides access to trips by contributing towards coaches, resources and activities that the pupils have loved. The school has benefitted greatly from regular visits from the local churches, providing collective worship which the pupils enjoy.

Kind donations from Martock Education Foundation have allowed us to purchase various resources for the school and start to redevelop the Spiritual Garden.

Like all schools we have been challenged by the lack of funding for education and have been exploring ways in which we can ensure every pupil at Martock School gets the best education possible. Part of this exploration is to look at joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and the school has completed its due diligence on two MATs we would like to join. The final stage of this process took place at the end of 2025 and preparations are in place to join the Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust (BWMAT) early in 2026.

We are continuing to build on our successes and drive the school forward. We appreciate this is a team effort and want to thank everyone who has contributed to supporting Martock Primary School and all our wonderful children.

Andrew Jackson, Chair of Governors

## **Mothers' Union (Martock & Ash)**

During the year, all except four of us joined up as Diocese members. We have held meetings each month, led by different members. New members always welcome. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm in All Saints.

Martin Bailey

# Reports by Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council

## PCC Members and Trustees

Who have served from January to December 2025 are:

Incumbent	Revd Paul Fillery (Chair)	licenced 27 April 2021
Reader	Bridget Jones	

Warden 1	Hilary Bull	elected May 2024
Warden 2	David Bull	elected May 2024
Deputy Wardens	<i>vacant</i>	
Vice Chair	Andrew Howard	elected May 2024

Deanery Synod Rep	Grace Dunton	elected April 2023
Deanery Synod Rep	Sally Howells	elected April 2023
Deanery Synod Rep	<i>vacant</i>	
Diocesan Synod Rep	<i>vacant</i>	

Treasurer	Jeremy Hudson	Jan 2023 to April 2025
	Tim Booth	from April 2025
Secretary	Sally Howells	from August 2019

Elected Members	Carol Ansell	elected April 2023
	Martyn Atkins	elected May 2024
	Timothy Booth	elected April 2025
	Martin Bradbrooke	elected April 2023
	Grace Dunton	elected May 2024
	Alexander Finlayson	elected April 2023
	Ellen Howard	elected April 2025
	Sally Howells	elected April 2023
	Steve Salisbury	elected April 2025

Parish Safeguarding	Carol Ansell	
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## Administrative Information

The church is the second largest parish church in Somerset dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although there has been a church on the site since Anglo-Saxon times. It was enlarged and re-roofed in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of special note is the superb angel roof completed in 1513, the 17<sup>th</sup> century clerestory paintings of the 12 apostles and a magnificent organ.

The church is situated on Church Street, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6JL, and is part of the Diocese of Bath & Wells within the Church of England. The Benefice Office is housed in the

vicarage and the correspondence address is Benefice Office, The Vicarage, 10 Water Street, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6JN.

email: [benefice.martock@gmail.com](mailto:benefice.martock@gmail.com)

webpage: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11008](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11008)

## **Benefice Relationships**

Our Benefice, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells (Wells Archdeaconry) was formed in April 2014 when Kingsbury Episcopi joined the existing Benefice of Martock with Ash. Martock, seven miles west of Yeovil, lies on the edge of the Somerset Levels; Ash is a mile distant from Martock and Kingsbury Episcopi three miles away.

There are three churches to serve the three parishes. A strong sense of identity and community exists in each, but 'Benefice belonging' has been well established.

Over the period of 2023-2024 the Diocese undertook a re-ordering of the Level Arcs Benefice and extensive consultations took place with all the parishes involved. As a result, the Parish of Muchelney was assigned to our Benefice. The re-ordering was ratified by all the Parishes, the Archdeacon and the Bishop but awaits final ratification by the Church Commissioners. Although legally not a part of our Benefice as yet, we are now forging close ties with the church family at Muchelney and a strong sense of collaboration is developing with the PCC and the church community.

The Benefice Ministry Team is led by the Vicar of the Benefice. In 2025, this also consisted of one retired clergy with Permission to Officiate (PTO), one clergy with Permission to Officiate, one Lay Reader (PTO) and four Lay Worship Assistants, all of whom function across the Benefice.

## **Churchwardens**

This year we have continued to arrange all servicing and maintenance of equipment, as appropriate. This has included PAT testing, the service of the clock, the boiler, the alarm, the lightning conductor and the fire extinguishers. These have all been agreed as working and we have reports or certificates as required.

- The Parish returns have been completed.
- As we are expecting our quinquennial inspection in 2026, we have updated the inventory.
- Christmas was a time when we needed help to organise things such as the tree and candles and we're very grateful for all the help we received.
- There have been numerous site visits to the tower roof to try to sort out the various leaks. Ellis and Co have repaired the roof twice and we are pursuing quotes for a more permanent solution.

- There was a collapse of a vault in the church grounds in November. Although this is the responsibility of the Parish Council, we have met with them to discuss the way forward.
- Arrangements were put in place for the renewal of the chancel steps.

We would like to thank you all for putting your trust in us and for all the help we have received over the year. We have a brilliant team in All Saints, too many to mention by name. We have learnt a lot and enjoyed being churchwardens.

Hilary and Dave Bull

## Deanery Synod

We are part of the Ivelchester Deanery, led by our Area Dean, Rev. Bruce Faulkner, which serves to support its parishes in their local Mission and Worship through enabling partnership and facilitating the development of and sharing of ministries.

Three meetings took place in 2025 –

**February 2025** - We began the year looking at ***Shared Local Ministry*** through a presentation by the Area Dean looking at, and learning from, creative approaches being applied across the Church of England, and the wider Anglican church and other denominations across the world on this form of ‘being church’ in our local community.

Members worked in groups to look at the statistical reality of the parishes we live in and how it might be if we look at ‘being church’ differently in different locations; whilst we are all part of the Anglican church how we engage in our worship and service of the community will differ by dint of the people we live amongst.

Discussion followed around this on creative ways we might engage with families, singles, working and retired peoples. The challenge is always to ‘know the land’, but seek to view it with God’s eyes, being intentional in our love of neighbour but without assuming anything.

A practical guide, *“Learning from other’s creative thinking and planning for rural multi-parish ministry and mission”* was left with synod members to take on for use in their benefices/parishes as they might wish.

**July 2025 – ‘Yesterday, today and tomorrow – Lament, Anxiety and Hope in our worshipping communities’**, led by Susan Laycock (Lay Dean). This was a good time of discussion about, post Covid, thinking on the things we *lament* in our changed churches and communities, on what is making our churches *anxious*, and what we are also *hope filled* about the future.

Reflections were recorded and feedback will assist Synod at the first meeting of 2026 in looking further to matters of prayer for one another and our communities through 2026. It will also enable the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group to revise the Deanery Plan to create a plan developed locally that together we can engage with and support one another in our local service of the gospel.

**October 2025 - 'Listening to the silent member of your worshipping community'** – an evening with Mark Lidster, the Diocesan Church Buildings Advisor.

Mark gave a very interesting and informative talk which raised a number of questions. Here are some of the salient points ...

- Our church building is the silent member of our community. It is there for people when they need it but it needs to serve its purpose. How many people in the broader community actually use it?
- The mathematical proportions make each church unique. There is a big spiritual impact of decorations in our churches; everything has a meaning. Research around the history of our church buildings can encourage members of the community back into our churches.
- It is widely thought that we would spend more time in church if it was warmer but heating systems have caused much destruction to the fabric of our churches. We have gone away from dressing warmly to go to church (domestic expectation). *Perhaps we should be asking 'are we expecting too much of this building to heat it?'*
- The cost of heating our, often large, churches frequently causes problems. Warm air will process more moisture than cold air. Dry air will give the impression of warmth but the building needs to be well ventilated to avoid water remaining in the air and condensation forming. *The building should be ventilated (ie doors left open) for 3 or 4 times the length of time the heating was on.* Trying to retain heat is virtually impossible. *It is ok to have conversations about why we need to be warm.*
- Church repairs should be done with lime mortar. We need to allow a 'managed decline' of stonework where possible. Even if previous repairs were wrong (eg the use of concrete) they should be left alone if they aren't causing a problem.
- There is a challenge to dwelling in our church buildings.  
We should ask 'how can we be enabled to be what our purpose is?'  
How did the building used to be used?  
Is it about making a community space to help community thrive?  
What has been the impact of church and faith in our communities.
- Our Deanery representatives are Grace Dunton and Sally Howells

Sally Howells

## **Electoral Roll**

At the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting the number on the Roll was 108.

Ann Swain

## **Planned Giving**

Planned Giving is well supported at All Saints' Church and since the autumn of 2023 donors have had the options to set up their planned regular giving online, through the Parish Giving Scheme, or by standing order using the blue Planned Giving form to be found near the door in church. The online giving can be accessed through the 'Ways to Give' QR code from the

cards available in all pews or through the Parish Giving Scheme website – search Martock All Saints’.

Gift Aid claims, including under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, have been submitted quarterly to HMRC during 2025 by the Gift Aid Secretary and those arising from donations through the Parish Giving Scheme are received monthly. If you are a Gift Aid donor to All Saints’, but no longer pay tax, please contact Jane Cockerham on 824233 to discuss.

If you are a new donor to All Saints, we invite you to join our Planned Giving Scheme either using the QR code on the ‘Ways to Give’ cards in the pews, or through the Parish Giving Scheme website, which will offer the option of updating your donation each year, in line with inflation. Alternatively, please use a blue Planned Giving form, which can be found near the door in church. If you are eligible, please consider completing the Gift Aid section, which will allow All Saints’ to reclaim the tax you have paid on your donations, thereby increasing your gift by 25%. Gift Aid donations may also be put in a yellow envelope, found on the pews, with your details added to the front.

If you have any questions relating to planned giving, please feel free to speak to Jane.

Jane Cockerham

## Safeguarding

All my training is up to date as are the policies and procedures.

I continue to monitor when DBS checks and safeguarding training are due using the Parish Dashboard.

In November we celebrated Safeguarding Sunday when prayers were included for victims of abuse and those people who work so hard to make our churches a safer place. We also sang the Safeguarding hymn.

**All** volunteers, whatever their role, need to complete the basic safeguarding training.

I found this and thought I would share it with you:

***SAFEGUARDING MATTERS*** - *it matters more than anything else we do. If the Church cannot be safe for the vulnerable – children, the elderly, survivors of abuse, those at risk, those who carry scars invisible and visible – then should the doors remain open?*

*There has been a lot of talk about parish safeguarding culture, the atmosphere where safeguarding either flourishes or withers. Policies sit in folders but culture lives in people and the Church for all its quirks, committees and occasionally struggling cognitive engines MUST be a place where the vulnerable are not managed but cherished.*

*Safeguarding is not a bureaucratic imposition, it is what love looks like when it is properly organised. Safeguarding thrives in sunlight. It does not do well in cupboards.*

Carol Ansell

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Parochial Church Council's members/trustees are elected for 3 years at the APCM following the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll which is renewed annually. The PCC activities and responsibilities are supported by the Benefice Ministry Team and other members of the church. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met 5 times during 2025. The PCC is Registered Charity number 1160333.

## Financial Review 2025

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis. The total receipts on the unrestricted funds were £78,449 with £3,438 for restricted funds during 2025. The total amounted to £81,887. These figures are very similar to 2024.

Total expenditure amounted to £83,106, a decrease of £3,611 on 2024. Our total Reserves for year end were £79,677, a decrease of £1,220 on 2024.

The contribution towards the Diocesan Common Fund was £42,834, an increase of £3119 on 2024. Our Parish Share was paid on time and in full this year.

If anyone, who puts cash in the collection plate, or uses the envelope system, would like to change to paying by Standing Order, please get in touch with Jane Cockerham. It doesn't mean that you pay any extra by doing it this way, or that the Church can alter the amount at will. It is entirely under your control, it just makes it easier and quicker for us.

### **Free Reserves**

The free reserves of the PCC are those funds that are freely available to be spent in pursuing the charitable objectives. The free reserves of the PCC, at the financial year end were:-

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total Reserves at 31st Dec	79677	80897
Less restricted funds	15306	15445
Free reserves	64372	65452

Balances of Accounts in bank, as at 31st December 2025 were:

	2025		2024
Lloyds Bank	£24,964	Actual	£28,380
CCLA Deposit Account	£54,787	Actual	£52,415
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£79,751</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>£80,795</b>

### Reserve Policy

Under the Charity Commission rules, we are required to have a policy regarding the amount of funds we hold in our accounts at any one time. It is suggested that this should be sufficient to cover a 3 - 6 months of operation. At a full meeting of All Saints Martock PCC, on 7th November 2016, it was resolved to set the PCC's Financial Reserve at £10,000. This has been subsequently increased to £25,000 following a full meeting of the PCC on 25th March 2025. Excess funds in the Lloyds account was transferred to CCLA in 2023, in order to earn extra interest, which is being retained in the CCLA to build our reserves.

### Regular Giving

The Gift Aid has been claimed quarterly this year.

We have received a total of £9,269 this year, compared with £11,060 in 2024

If you give on a regular basis, and pay enough tax to cover the gift and have not already signed a Gift Aid Form please do so, or put the money in a Yellow Gift Aid envelope, and complete the outside. If you no longer pay tax and have signed a Gift Aid form, please let Jane Cokerham know.

## **Fund Raising**

Thanks to Sally Howells and her team, fundraising has continued. The total raised this year amounted to a fantastic £7599 (£6047 for 2024). Well done Sally and everybody that supported her.

## **Charity Giving**

During the year £786.45 was raised from certain events. The money was split evenly between Cr2ee, Martock Charity shop and Restored RC. We have continued to support the Lord's larder with regular deliveries of food donated by the parish.

## **Conclusion**

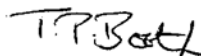
The Parish Share will increase by 8,32% this year to £46,397. This is year 2 of a phased increment, which will rise to £57,085 by 2029. This is a significant increase and we will all need to look at our donations on a regular basis to meet this increase.

Insurance and energy costs continue to rise at above inflation rates. We changed energy suppliers in Oct 2025, to Octopus, which should save about £1000 this year.

2026 will provide further challenges. The Chancel Steps are being repaired at a cost of over £22,000. Fortunately, the Church Commissioners, and The Guardians, will be footing the bill.

There are issues with the tower. Some remedial work has been carried out at the end of 2025, but further work may be necessary to keep the weather out.

All Saints continue to absorb the office expenses for Ash and Kingsbury. This increases our running costs by £3,000 pa.



Tim Booth  
Hon Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the Trustee's of All Saints Church, Martock, Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31 December 2025

Respective responsibilities of the Trustee's and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My remote examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

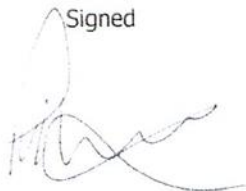
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you, as trustees, concerning such matters. The 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 matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act and Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P.J. Taylor ACMA  
40 Westhaugh Road,  
Stirling  
FK9 5GF

Signed  


Dated

18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints, Martock		1160333
<b>Annual Accounts</b>		
Report period from	<b>1/1/2025</b>	to
Prior period from	<b>1/1/2024</b>	31/12/2025
		31/12/2024

## Section A Statement of Financial Activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Restricted			Total funds	Prior year funds
		Unrestricted funds	Income funds	Endowment funds		
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	S01	60,448	2,034	-	62,482	64,400
Charitable activities	S02	12,295	1,304	-	13,599	14,710
Other trading activities	S03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	S04	5,555	-	-	5,555	2,843
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	150	100	-	250	13
<b>Total</b>	S07	<b>78,449</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,887</b>	<b>81,966</b>
<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>						
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	S08	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	S09	79,516	3,590	-	83,106	86,717
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S11	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	S12	<b>79,516</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,106</b>	<b>86,717</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	S13	<b>(1,067)</b>	<b>(153)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,219)</b>	<b>(4,751)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	S15	<b>(1,067)</b>	<b>(153)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,219)</b>	<b>(4,751)</b>
<b>Exceptional items</b>	S16	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers to/(from) funds</b>	S17	(13)	13	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	S20	<b>(1,080)</b>	<b>(140)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,219)</b>	<b>(4,751)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	S21	65,452	15,445	-	80,897	85,648
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	S22	<b>64,372</b>	<b>15,306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>79,677</b>	<b>80,897</b>

**Section B**

**Balance Sheet**

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
			£	£	£	£	£
			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Fixed assets</b>							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		B05	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	(Note 19)	B07	(2,235)	2,235	-	-	997
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 24)	B09	63,191	17,387	-	80,578	81,621
<b>Total current assets</b>		B10	60,956	19,622	-	80,578	82,619
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		B11	(3,416)	4,316	-	900	1,722
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		B12	64,372	15,306	-	79,677	80,897
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		B13	64,372	15,306	-	79,677	80,897
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>		B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities		B15	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>		B16	64,372	15,306	-	79,677	80,897
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>							
Endowment funds	(Note 27)	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	(Note 27)	B18	-	15,306	-	15,306	15,445
Unrestricted funds		B19	64,372	-	-	64,372	65,452
Revaluation reserve		B20	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total funds</b>		B21	64,372	15,306	-	79,677	80,897

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>H. J. Bull</i>	HILARY BULL	7/3/26
<i>David Bull</i>	DAVID BULL	7/3/26

## Note 6: Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year				Last year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Expenditure on raising funds:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charity Running Costs	17,513	713	-	18,226	18,047	5,393	-	23,440
Clergy Expenses	1,571	-	-	1,571	1,193	-	-	1,193
Cost of Services	5,367	191	-	5,558	4,124	256	-	4,381
Diocesan Quota	42,834	-	-	42,834	39,715	-	-	39,715
Employee Costs	4,543	2,092	-	6,635	4,543	2,008	-	6,551
Expenditure on Magazine & Bookstall	170	-	-	170	139	-	-	139
Fees to the Diocese	2,940	-	-	2,940	2,249	-	-	2,249
Major Repairs to Charity Centre	2,075	-	-	2,075	2,250	6,053	-	8,303
Routine Repairs to Charity Centre	2,502	595	-	3,097	534	211	-	745
<b>Total charitable activities</b>	<b>79,516</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,106</b>	<b>72,796</b>	<b>13,921</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,717</b>
Separate material item of expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total separate material item expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>79,516</b>	<b>3,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83,106</b>	<b>72,796</b>	<b>13,921</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,717</b>

## Other information:

## Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	This year				Last year			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Activity 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Activity 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Note 27: Charity funds**

**27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period**

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

\* Key: UG - unrestricted general funds; UD - unrestricted designated funds; R - restricted funds; EC - endowment capital funds; and EE - endowment expendable funds

Fund names	Fund Type UG, UD, RE, EC, EE *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Bequest Fabric Fund	RE		9,994	-	-	-	-	9,994
Chairs Fund	RE		13	-	-	13	-	-
Charities	RE		-	-	-	-	-	-
Children's Work	RE		5,083	2,501	2,135	-	-	5,448
Clark's Field Rent	RE		-	-	-	-	-	-
Clock Repair Fund	RE		-	-	-	-	-	-
CO-OP DONATIONS	RE		229	-	129	-	-	100
Community Choir Fund	RE	Community Choir	-	500	540	-	-	40
Flower Fund	RE		155	101	191	-	-	65
General Fund	UG		49,549	78,449	79,296	13	-	48,689
Improvements to All Saints Fund	UD		15,682	-	-	-	-	15,682
Memory Cafe	RE	For aiding Dementia	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Hymn Books	RE		-	-	-	-	-	-
Organ Fund	RE		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sound System Replacement	RE		126	-	-	-	-	126
Tower Fund	RE		-	336	595	-	-	259
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>80,804</b>	<b>81,887</b>	<b>82,886</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>79,805</b>

Note 3: Analysis of Income

Analysis	This year				Last year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash Collections	3,105	-	-	3,105	2,357	-	-	2,357
Donations	8,314	869	-	9,183	8,146	245	-	8,391
Gift Aid Claimed	9,563	185	-	9,748	10,183	877	-	11,060
Grants - One-off	600	500	-	1,100	-	-	-	-
Planned Giving - Gift Aided	32,716	420	-	33,136	33,686	3,330	-	37,016
Planned Giving - Non-Gift Aided	4,449	60	-	4,509	4,974	410	-	5,384
Sundry Donations	1,701	-	-	1,701	192	-	-	192
<b>Total donations and legacies:</b>	<b>60,448</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,482</b>	<b>59,538</b>	<b>4,862</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>64,400</b>
<b>Charitable activities:</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bookstall & Card Sales for Fundraising	239	-	-	239	318	-	-	318
Fetes, Bazaar, Other Fund-raising Events	6,295	1,304	-	7,599	4,331	1,716	-	6,047
Magazine Advertising Income	36	-	-	36	-	-	-	-
PCC Fees Income	5,570	-	-	5,570	5,714	-	-	5,714
Printing & Stationery Income	17	-	-	17	88	-	-	88
Reimbursement of costs by other parishes	138	-	-	138	2,542	-	-	2,542
<b>Total charitable activities:</b>	<b>12,295</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,599</b>	<b>12,993</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,710</b>
<b>Other trading activities:</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other trading activities:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Income from investments:</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Received	5,555	-	-	5,555	2,843	-	-	2,843
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income from investments:</b>	<b>5,555</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,555</b>	<b>2,843</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,843</b>
<b>Separate material item of income:</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total separate material item income:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other income:</b>	150	100	-	250	13	-	-	13
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other income:</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>78,449</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,887</b>	<b>75,387</b>	<b>6,578</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,966</b>

Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for: (please provide description and amounts)

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the reporting period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Where any endowment fund is converted into income in the prior period, please give the reason for the conversion.

Within the income items above the following items are material: (please disclose the nature, amount and any prior year amounts)



# Priest's Report for APCM 2025

## Introduction

Thankfulness is an essential part of our Christian life, as it has at its roots the recognition that all that we have and are is a gift from God. It is worth reflecting upon the fact that everything that happens in our church life is down to the effort of individuals working together to create our common life together. Whether it is the coffee we drink, the Pew Sheet we read, the clean pew we sit on or the services we enjoy and countless other elements that make up our experience of church life – someone somewhere has made that happen. So 'thank you' for all of your efforts, no matter how big or small, for every one of them is essential and a vital part of what makes All Saints' Church the very special place that it is. Above all, thanks be to God for blessing, sustaining and empowering us to live and serve in this wonderful place.

At the outset, I would thank our wonderful Churchwardens Hilary and Dave Bull, who have served us so well this year. They bring such great energy and joy to all that they do, and have worked tirelessly to keep up with the many tasks that their role requires. We owe them a great debt of thanks for all their hard work.

My thanks too to our multi-talented Administrator Sarah Nicholas. It is truly amazing the amount of work Sarah does in the day and a half allotted to her. The complexities and sheer volume of her tasks are beyond recalling here, but needless to say, they are mind-boggling and all vitally important to the smooth running of our Benefice. A huge thank you to Sarah!

My thanks also, as ever, to all the members of the PCC who have worked so hard throughout the year engaging with numerous challenges and making vital decisions. Special thanks to Sally Howells our incredibly hard-working PCC Secretary for her constant dedication. Mention must be made too of Carol Ansell our Parish Safeguarding Officer who has continued to serve us so well despite her own sad loss of Eddie – we are incredibly mindful of her loss, and so grateful to her for serving us in many different ways.

We were sad to see our excellent Treasurer Jeremy Hudson resign from his role when he moved home but were delighted to welcome Tim Booth to the role of Treasurer and our thanks to him for all his wonderful work and skill in managing our church finances this year. It is an immense task and Tim has given many hours to this role and we are most grateful to him and to Linda for gifting this time to us.

## Worship and Discipleship

Our worship is the core part of our life together and we have continued to offer as wide a range of worship opportunities as possible at All Saints'. We have our regular BCP 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30 Common Worship Holy Communion and our lay-led Morning Worship. In

addition, we also have our reflective service Still Waters at 6.30pm on the fourth Sunday of the month which has grown in attendance over this year and attracts some who never attend our Sunday morning services.

My thanks to all involved in leading our worship on Sundays at All Saints': Rev Richard, Rev Ben, Bridget, Sally, Grace, and to Andy Handcock for his leadership of our music group, Dave, Hilary, Martin, Andy, Sara, Carol A. Carol P. and Jane. My thanks to all our readers, intercessors, sides-people and welcomers - not forgetting all who make tea and coffee after our services - thank you all. My thanks to Steve Salisbury for his input and guidance throughout the year in all matters concerning our worship and ongoing ministry of music. Mention must also be made to of Andrew and Ellen Howard who lead worship on a regular basis at St Martin's Kingsbury and who serve us so well on our PCC.

It has been a joy to have Sarah Atkins assisting me at the altar as server and both she and Jane Caddell are currently on the Lay Worship Leaders training course being run here in our Deanery.

In addition to our regular Sunday services this year we have celebrated VE Day and VJ Day, held a Pet Blessing Service, Healing Service, a special service for the Deanery Bell-ringers and a Quiet Day in Lent. We hosted a speaker from CAP and have been assisted on occasions by Rev Simon Taylor in our morning worship. We have had a steady stream of funerals, some weddings and quite a few baptisms throughout the year. These transitional life events provide unique and meaningful connections with those outside of church life and are a vital part of our ongoing mission. My special thanks to Bridget Jones for her efforts and skill in funeral ministry and for her assistance with baptisms throughout this year.

We have continued with our home-group programme this year too, having recently finished the Be Still course. I have conducted altar training and it was a joy to see Alfie Rendell commence his placement in Wells Cathedral as he continues his journey of discernment towards training for the priesthood.

### **Mission and Outreach**

We continue to build connections with our community here in Martock and seek to share God's love with as many as we can. Throughout the year, we have put on events that invite people to come into the church and enjoy themselves. Such events this year have been: our Lent lunches, Supper with Friends with Roger Morgan, the Christmas Market, Guide Dogs Coffee morning, two exhibitions of photos by Colin Lawrence, a harp concert and a recent concert with Nigel and Tina Guthrie. Sally's stall at the monthly Farmer's Market keeps the face of the church in front of our community and raises much-needed funds as well as providing an opportunity to talk and share with people. My thanks to her and Bridget and others who run the stall each month.

In addition, we have started a Community Choir that meets every two weeks and most recently a Memory Café to serve our community that meets once a month in the church. My special thanks again to Sally Howells who has frequently led many of these initiatives and who, with a dedicated team of helpers, has provided a vast array of refreshments on many occasions throughout the year.

We have seen an increased number of people attending our seasonal services notably the Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Day services. Last year's Remembrance Day service was also very well attended. It remains an ongoing plea from me to the whole church family to be intentional and invitational. If we do not personally invite people to come to these events it is unlikely that they will.

### **Finances**

Our finances are in reasonable shape and my thanks to all who give regularly, generously and sacrificially we are so very grateful. Our Benefice share has increased again and currently stands at around £47,000.00 and for the Benefice as a whole - £72,000.00! I appreciate that giving will be squeezed in these days of rising costs of living, but I do urge you to keep giving as generously as you can to God's work here - and any who haven't signed up to regular Gift-Aided giving to speak to Jane Cockerham or Tim Booth about doing so. My special thanks to Jane for all her hard work on our Gift-Aid donations and for her other significant efforts in many areas of our church life!

### **All Saints' Church building (and Churchyard!!)**

This year our Churchyard hit the news both nationally and even internationally(!) when the Lewis family crypt suddenly collapsed. The BBC were straight onto it, and the Parish Council acted very swiftly to secure the site, and I was able to call on the skills of the Church Buildings Advisor Mark Lidster very quickly. The collapsed box-tomb was lifted out and stored nearby, and we now await the deliberations of the Parish Council's insurance company who will have to pay for the reinstating of the crypt. It will no doubt drag on for many more months to come. I will keep you posted!!

Within the church building we have seen the total renewal of the chancel steps largely paid for by the Church Commissioners!! It was an amazing job executed with incredible skill and care by Luke Grafton and his team. My thanks to Colin Lawrence for a full photo history of this fascinating journey during which we found another crypt!!

Repairs have been done to the Bell Tower roof which was leaking very badly and areas of roof in the south aisle have also been repaired. It is now likely that the Bell Tower roof will need replacing and recent quotations put the cost of work at about **£105,000.00**. The big cost is the scaffolding required so we will need to seek grants as well as embark upon fund-raising efforts.

It was with sadness that this year saw the demise of the Guardians Fund Raising Committee. Despite many pleas for more volunteers, none were forthcoming, so the FRC were forced to end and with that the ongoing activities of the Guardians. The Trustees are still active and the accrued funds are still under their auspices. Only when the funds are finally exhausted will the Guardians as an entity cease to exist. Our hope is that they may well revive again if future volunteers can be found. Needless to say, we are so very grateful to the Guardians, both past and present, for their efforts and for the funds they have created over the years. A very big thank you to them all.

My thanks to all who clean the church regularly and tidy around - it is regularly noted by visitors how clean and well cared for the church is – well done to Carol Ansell and her team for all their efforts and to Jane Cockerham and all those who arrange our flowers throughout the year – thank you!

### **Tiddlers**

I am delighted that Tiddlers has continued to grow and is often as full as we can manage with the team we have. My thanks to Hannah, Sally, Pauline, Carol, Jane, Linda and the rest of the team who have kept this vital link with local families going. We have a dedicated group of ‘regulars’ who really enjoy the company and care that Tiddlers provides. A special thank you to the gentlemen who come faithfully each week early in the day to set-up for the morning session. My thanks too to Pauline Bevan who faithfully represents the Mother’s Union at our baptism services, presenting the candidate with a wonderful knitted teddy. Thanks too to Mandy Starmer who has created Stompers a session for children and carers to go out into nature together, hear a Bible story or theme that links into their time outside. Another vital and helpful link with local families.

### **Martock Primary School**

I am also glad that we have a meaningful and ongoing relationship with our local church school. I meet with Sarah Lafferty-Jenkins, the Head Teacher. and the school have come into church for services on various occasions in the year. The whole school attends plus their parents and carers and inevitably they are great occasions and opportunities to interface with the children and their families. In addition, Bridget and Sally head-up the Open the Book team who present Bible stories as dramas to the children at Martock and Ash Primary Schools. These are very well received and both the team and the children have great fun during these sessions. My thanks to all involved for keeping these vital interactions with our schools alive and well!

### **Bellringers**

Our bellringers have gone from strength to strength and their skills have developed enormously over the past year. We have hosted visiting ringers and the bell tower is now recognised as being alive and well in our Deanery. My thanks to David Hammonds for his continuing efforts in coming over to train them and to the other bell-towers in the Benefice who are also supporting our training programme. Special thanks to Fiona Cozens who continues to look after the many

practical details that surround running a bell tower. So, a very special well done to Fiona and all the team for working so hard and moving forward together so well.

### **Final thanks**

There are so many tasks that make life so much better for so many and yet can be overlooked when it comes to saying a simple 'thank you'. Our church is opened and closed every day by someone and that simple yet vital task is organised each week by Alick Finlayson who also programmes the boiler so that heat appears at the right time for all of us! My thanks to Alick and all the team that open and close the church daily.

So ends another long report (!) and my final thanks to all of you for your kindness, prayers and support to me and Tracey as we seek to serve God and all of you and the wider Benefice - we couldn't do it without you all.

Blessings,

Rev. Paul

# MINUTES of the APCM 2025

**MINUTES for the  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
At All Saints' Church, Martock  
on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 11am  
29 People were present**

**Vestry Meeting** - Election of Churchwardens – David and Hilary Bull were proposed to continue as church wardens by Rev. Paul Fillery, seconded by Grace Dunton. Agreed unanimously. Rev. Paul thanked Dave and Hilary for their first year of office and for their willingness to serve.

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening Prayers</b> by Rev. Paul Fillery (Chair)
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> – Tim and Linda Booth, Jane and Richard Caddell, Ivan Childs, Tracey Fillery, Val Ford, Maggie Ormsby.
<b>3</b>	<b>AOB</b> – none declared
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of the last APCM</b> held on 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 were proposed as an accurate record. Proposed by Dave Bulll, seconded by Grace Dunton. All agreed.
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> - none
<b>6</b>	<b>Revised Church Electoral Roll</b> – Ann Swain had completed the electoral roll with 104 members now enrolled and some forms still to be returned. It was noted that some people who were on the previous roll are no longer on the revised roll. Paul thanked Annie for compiling the roll once again.
<b>7</b>	<b>Financial statements</b> of PCC for year ending 31.12.2024. The reports had previously been audited by Mark Taylor, approved by the PCC and presented to the public before the meeting. Paul offered thanks to Jeremy for his hard work and commented that he is always willing, happy and cheerful! Jeremy commented that we are very lucky at AS as we have a generally healthy bank balance but we must be mindful of increasing insurance and service costs which have a big impact. We need to think about further fundraising and the further increase of regular giving. It's not just about money, but time and energy commitments. Jeremy was presented with a gift as he will be leaving us very soon. We are very grateful that Tim Booth has agreed to take over as Treasurer.
<b>8</b>	<b>Independent Examiner</b> – Paul Taylor was proposed to continue to audit our accounts as our Independent Examiner next year. To be confirmed.

<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Churchwardens' Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.</b>  Hilary and Dave thanked Grace for her support over the last year and commented that it had been an enjoyable learning curve and they were looking forward to the ongoing challenges.  Ellis and Co have checked and repaired the roof. A faculty has been obtained to carry out the work to replace the chancel steps – funded by the Church Commissioners. Other works are reported in the Annual Report.  Thanks to Dave and Hilary for all their hard work.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Deanery Synod Report</b> – lots of good things have been happening. It is good to share both news and challenges.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation of nominations for election to 5 vacancies on the PCC.</b>  Tim Booth, proposed by Ann Hall, seconded by Ken Hall, Steve Salisbury, proposed by Sally Howells, seconded by Hilary Bull and Ellen Howard, proposed by Bridget Jones, seconded by Sally Howells were nominated and duly elected to PCC.  (10 PCC members now in total, 2 vacancies remain).</p> <p>Thanks were offered to all the sidespeople and welcomers. Training has been embraced and has enabled the smooth running of our Sunday services.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Section M15 (1h) of the Church Representation Rules 2020</b> agreement to welcome any licensed Reader resident in the parish. The meeting agreed unanimously that Bridget Jones should be welcomed once again as a member of the PCC. Grateful thanks were extended to Bridget for her championing and support in so many things.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Other items relating to the Annual Report 2024</b> – it was commented that it was a great joy that the bellringers are doing so well although they still do not have a Tower Captain. The arrival of skilled members and help from the educator has been a blessing, but it is hoped that someone will step forward.  The Annual Report reads well; we should be proud of all we do!</p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b> – The Guardians – we are grateful for all that has been raised but the enormity of all the work and effort involved for events has become more apparent recently. The Trustees will carry on fundraising at the moment but this won't continue in the same way. PCC will hopefully seize the opportunity to continue the good practice that the Guardians have established in terms of fundraising. Alec agreed to attend Guardians meetings as a representative of PCC for the time being.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Priest's report</b> – this had been circulated previously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul thanked everyone for the love and support shown to him and Tracey over the last 18 months – it has helped so much.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks that so many people say how welcoming AS is. Bishop Michael was very impressed.</li> <li>• Thanks were expressed to Sarah who works very hard in the office, to Sally for everything, to Carol for keeping us all up to date with safeguarding.</li> <li>• The addition of Morning Worship has been well received. Thanks to Andy for leading the music and adding a new dimension to our worship and making it more accessible.</li> <li>• Benefice Ministry Team – Rev. Richard is an inspiration and we are blessed to be served by Rev. Ben, Bridget, Grace and Sally.</li> <li>• We give thanks for Alfie for his serving and Lee for making our worship joyful.</li> <li>• Home groups have been successful, with thanks to the leaders and hosts.</li> <li>• Children - Tiddlers – thanks to all who help to make this such a welcoming experience, with special thanks to Pauline for her loving presence.</li> </ul> <p>Stompers – a small number of people attend but it is the way forward. It would be good to have a Family Worker if we could afford it ... Our good links with our local schools continues, especially with <i>Open the Book</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to Alick for taking on the programming of the heating and the rota for opening and locking up church, the wonderful flower arrangers, the Leadership team and everyone who contributes to life in our church.</li> <li>• Remember to be invitational and intentional!</li> <li>• Thanks were offered to Paul for his dedication, wisdom, vision and leadership enabling us to make so many things happen. We are very grateful.</li> </ul>
15	<b>Closing Prayers</b> – the meeting closed at 11.50am.



## Vestry Meeting

Opening prayer, election of church wardens

### AGENDA for the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MARTOCK Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

<b>1</b>	Welcome and Opening Prayers
<b>2</b>	Apologies for Absence
<b>3</b>	AOB
<b>4</b>	Minutes of the last APCM held on 27.04.25
<b>5</b>	Matters Arising
<b>6</b>	Revised Church Electoral Roll
<b>7</b>	Financial statements of PCC for year ending 31.12.2025
<b>8</b>	Independent Examiner
<b>9</b>	Churchwarden's Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
<b>10</b>	Deanery Synod Report
<b>11</b>	Presentation of nominations for election to 7 vacancies on the PCC (12 in total)
<b>12</b>	Rule M15 (1)(k) of the Church Representation Rules 2020 agreement relates to the co-option of members to the PCC. Approval to co-opt our Reader to PCC (enabling attendance of PCC meetings and having a vote).
<b>13</b>	Other items relating to the Annual Report 2025
<b>13</b>	AOB
<b>14</b>	Priest's report
<b>15</b>	Closing Prayers