

Annual Review 2025-2026



St. Martin in the Bull Ring
Birmingham Parish Church

'Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.' *Psalm 106 v1*

'Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God' *Psalm 50 v14*

'Sing to God with thankful hearts' *Colossians 3 v16*



Filling our lives with thanks to our creator God is the only appropriate response to the extraordinary and abundant blessings we receive in our lives – blessings that are not deserved, but blessings that are so graciously given. Pouring out gratitude to God is also liberating and life-enhancing for ourselves.

Thankfulness to the Lord enables joy, peace and contentment to grow fruitfully in our hearts and minds, in every aspect of our lives.

So as children of a loving God, scripture exhorts us to 'be thankful in all circumstances' (*1 Thessalonians 5 v18*) and to 'overflow with thankfulness' (*Colossians 2 v7*).

Heartfelt thankfulness can overflow to our brothers and sisters in Christ, but also, to all those around us – family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, and all those we meet in the course of everyday life.



This thankfulness is contrary to the cynicism, criticism, and conflict that have become so common in our contemporary culture.

(A lack of thankfulness is a breeding ground for all sorts of negativity, accusation, prejudice, hatred and violence.)

True thankfulness is also an antidote to increasing feelings of anxiety, restlessness and inadequacy.

'Don't worry about anything;
instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need and
thank him for all he has done.

Then you will experience God's peace,
which exceeds anything
we can understand.'

Philippians 4 v6-7



'In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.'

Brother David Steindl-Rast

'Be thankful for what you have and you will end up having more. But if you concentrate on what you don't have, you'll never, ever have enough.'

Oprah Winfrey



Thankfulness is more than politeness and being kind – although those have merit and value.

Genuine gratitude shared with love and sincerity can be life-enhancing and life-transforming. It can bring deep-rooted healing.

Thankfulness enthuses, encourages, energises and even enables endurance in the face of challenge.

So we pray that gratitude will grow in our hearts, be heard on our lips and shown in our actions.

May the Lord make thankfulness a core characteristic of our church – thankfulness to our God, and thankfulness to one another.

And we offer this annual review as a testimony – a small taste – of all the wonderful blessings we receive from God and from each other, and for which we are truly thankful in St. Martin's.

'Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.'
1 Thessalonians 5 v18

'Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you.'
2 Thessalonians 1

'Thou who hast given so much to me, give me one more thing... a grateful heart!'
George Herbert

Revd Canon Jeremy Allcock
Rector, St. Martin in the Bull Ring



Electoral Roll Report 2026

At the time of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 11.5.2025, there were 168 names on the Electoral Roll.

The total number of names on the Electoral Roll for 2026 is 185.

This information will be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 10.05.2026 after the Morning service.

Bridget Cameron
Electoral Roll Officer



Safeguarding Report 2026

Safeguarding is paramount at St. Martin's.

Thank you to all of you who have completed your training and DBS checks. There are several levels of training depending on your voluntary or paid role. The Safeguarding courses are Basic, Foundation, Domestic Abuse Awareness, Safer Recruitment and Leadership training. In total a remarkable 140 courses have been completed in the last year.



A huge thank you to Tina for running in house training and more will be held this summer.

A couple of weeks after the Annual meeting I will be around to share the results of the Safeguarding review questionnaire we took part in at the end of 2025.

Helen Atsou,
Safeguarding Officer
St. Martin in the Bul Ring



Fabric Report

Our work on the building falls into one of 3 categories. Regular Maintenance, Emergency Maintenance, and Projects. Here's a sample of some of the work:

Regular Maintenance:

- Roof, parapet and drain cleaning and general inspections
- Cleaning and repairs including the longstanding leak in the lounge
- Lifts
- Repairs to toilets, valves and taps
- Sanding, re oiling and lacquering of the church doors and hinges
- Upgrades to the internet and routers around church to a Ubiquity unify system

Emergency Maintenance:

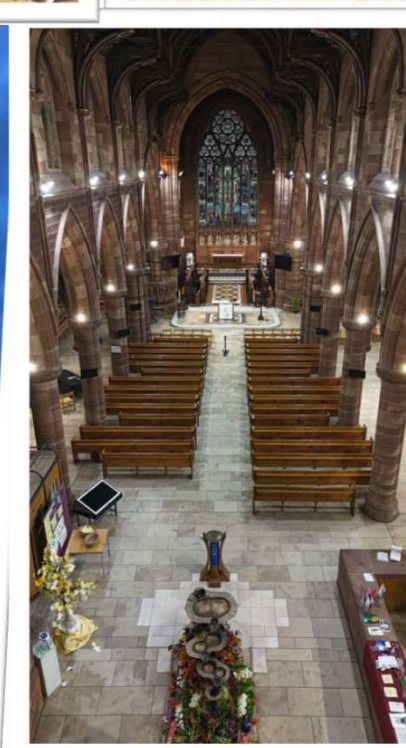
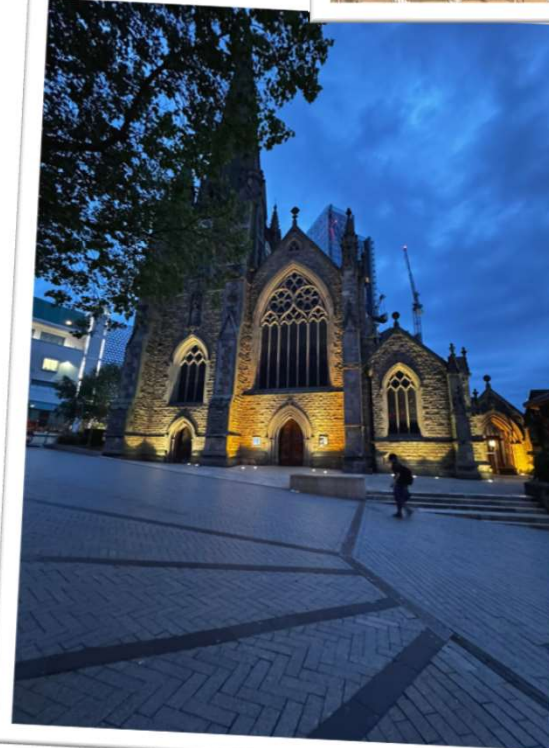
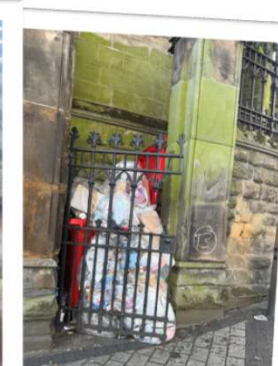
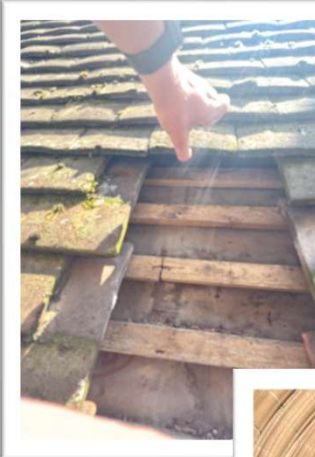
- Organ Blower Water Damage caused by condensation in contactor units
- Refrigerator replacement
- Investigation of protruding hessian caulk and mortar that fell onto the High Altar
- Repairs to the Fire panel

Projects:

- 2025 Quinquennial Report
- Investigation of water ingress into Crypt
- Removal and installation of temporary secondary glazing
- Complete redecoration of Parish Offices
- Kitchen cooker hood repairs
- Reseating, repointing and repairs of leadwork and parapets
- Upgrades to mixing console and audio equipment
- Investigation of insulation in nave and aisle roofs
- Investigation of the Land behind church with archaeologist.

The Team:

Rich, David, Stephen, Rob, Walter and Warren carried out most of the maintenance – using external contractors where appropriate.



Financial Summary 2025

Birmingham Parish Church

Balance Sheet (Summary)

		As at	As at
		31/12/2025	31/12/2024
Fixed assets			
	Tangible Assets	1,964	2,411
	Investments	83,205	78,969
		85,169	81,380
Current assets			
	Debtors	34,858	41,421
	Cash At Bank And In Hand	202,863	253,563
		237,721	297,984
Liabilities			
	Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	-49,417	-23,650
		-49,417	-23,650
Net current assets less current liabilities		188,304	274,334
Total assets less current liabilities		273,473	355,714

Birmingham Parish Church

Balance Sheet (Summary) continued

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Unrestricted			
	General fund	237,997	207,603
		237,997	207,603
Designated			
	Church Plant Fund	10,000	10,000
	Maintenance Fund	10,741	125,000
	Clergy Housing Redecoration Fund	5,300	4,800
		26,041	139,800
Restricted			
	Angel Tree	1,816	2,252
	Memorial Board Fund	4,059	4,059
	Vulnerable Adults / Cuppa & Chat	3,560	2,000
		9,435	8,311
Fund Totals		273,473	355,714

Birmingham Parish Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	2024
		funds	funds	funds	funds	total funds
Income from:						
	Donations	32,970	-	1,608	34,578	36,599
	Legacies	2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000
	Regular giving	80,899	-	878	81,777	87,732
	Other giving (services, church boxes, contactless)	51,940	-	-	51,940	28,823
	Gift Aid reclaimed	25,038	-	-	25,038	24,204
	Grants	2,500	-	113,803	116,303	104,783
	<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>					
	Room Hire & fees	69,852	-	-	69,852	48,708
	St Martin's Health & Healing	32,271	-	-	32,271	32,134
	Investments	12,494	-	-	12,494	14,062
	Other income	19,432	-	-	19,432	13,238
	Total income	329,396	-	116,289	445,685	392,283

Expenditure on charitable activities:		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	2024
		funds	funds	funds	funds	total funds
	Expenditure on trading activities	4,641	-	16,667	21,308	19,245
Direct costs:	Common fund	109,800	-	-	109,800	99,467
	Mission giving	8,800	-	-	8,800	8,500
	Church ministry expenses	29,560	-	14,426	43,986	27,962
	Utilities & insurance	42,074	-	-	42,074	57,207
	Net Zero Carbon Project	-	109,317	18,000	127,317	-
	Direct cost Wages	35,683	-	30,636	66,319	58,150
Support costs	Building maintenance	28,842	4,942	-	33,784	37,588
	Office & Administration, incl staff	43,338	-	35,436	78,774	81,966
Total expenditure		302,738	114,259	115,165	532,162	390,085
	Fund transfers	-500	500	-	-	-
	Net gains on investments	4,236	-	-	4,236	1,754
Net income(expenditure) and movement in funds		30,394	-113,759	1,124	-82,241	3,952
	Fund balances at start of year	207,603	139,800	8,311	355,714	351,762
	Fund balances at end of year	237,997	26,041	7,735	273,473	355,714

passionate in worship



We are enormously indebted and deeply grateful for the many, many people who contribute to our worship life at St. Martin's. Wonderful saints, through selfless service, who enhance our worship each week – Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursday – by leading our prayers, reading scripture, sharing communion, preparing and serving refreshments, greeting us at the door and making us welcome.



Thanks to John our Sacristan who so faithfully and lovingly prepares the table for holy communion throughout the year. Thanks to Marion and John as our Licensed Readers, as well as all the clergy team.

Our Worship Leader, Philippa Done, has continued to grow and develop our wonderful music team and it is so encouraging to see new vocalists and musicians contributing to our musical worship each week and helping us give praise and glory and honour to our Lord.

Thank you to you all.

We are blessed by your musical gifts and talents.

We are also excited to see how our new Sunday evening, informal worship, reflecting on the Psalms – 'Selah' – will develop over the coming year.

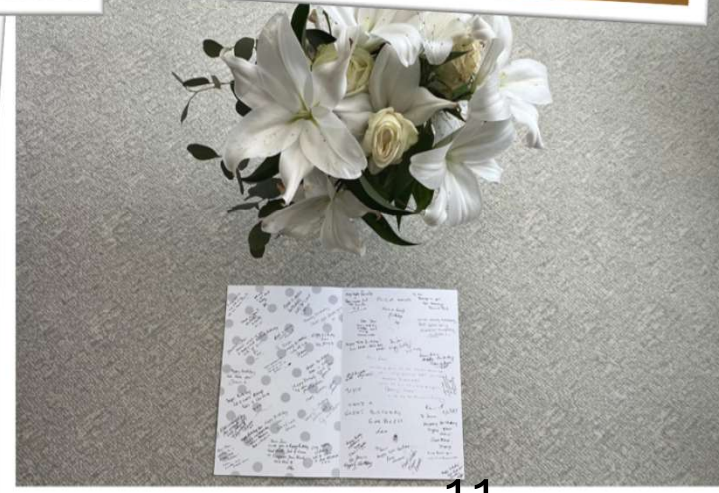
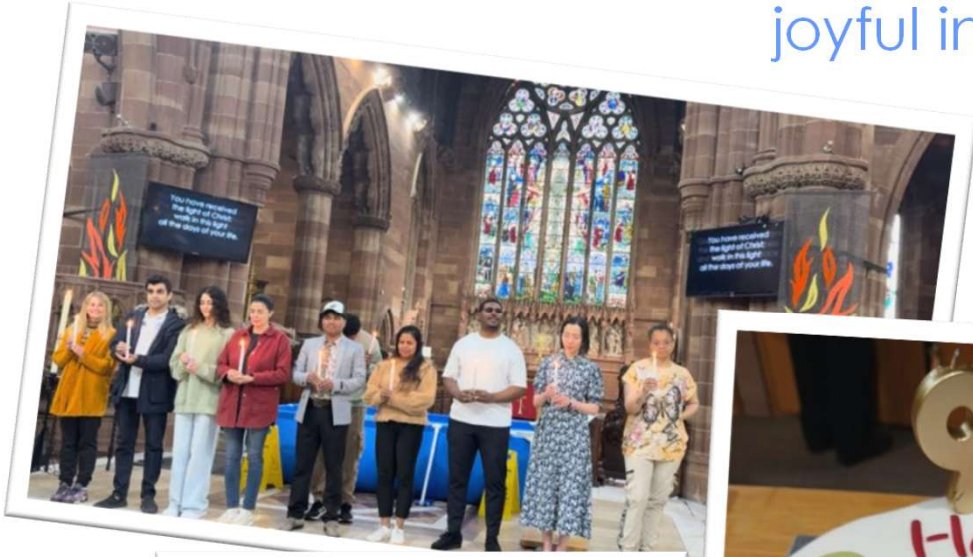
Revd Canon Jeremy Allcock



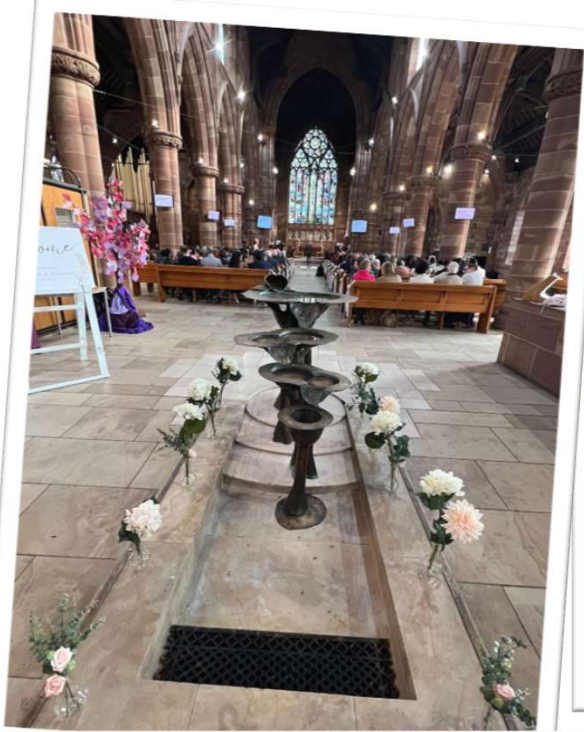
joyful in celebration



joyful in celebration



joyful in celebration



overflowing in thankfulness

“We love being part of St Martins, and it’s such a joy to see our children grow within this loving and nurturing community.

Our eldest loves going to Mini Martins every Thursday during term time — a space where he can learn, play, and build friendships. For us as parents, it’s also a chance to connect with others in the wider community and share our experiences over toast and tea.

On Sundays, we love hearing the church bells ring from our doorstep and being welcomed by familiar, friendly faces as soon as we walk through the doors.

As a family, attending Sunday school together has been a particularly meaningful part of our church life. Both our children are included, and on some days we even have the opportunity to volunteer, which deepens our connection to the community even more.

It’s been lovely to see our eldest grow in confidence—he now joins in with activities, has a go at the crafts, and really gets involved.



His comfort is clear—especially when he happily runs down the aisle during the all-age service, completely at home in this environment.

Being part of this church means so much to us—it’s not just somewhere we go, but a community we are growing in together.”

Kind regards
Rebecca & Nathan



overflowing in thankfulness

Good afternoon Rev. Ivor.

6 weeks ago (16.Aug. 2025)my husband and I visited the bullring, market, general look around and a visit to your wonderful church.

Later in the afternoon we came back to the Church to ask directions for a bus to get us back up the hill to be by the Cathedral. This was where we were to get our bus back to our hotel. You made us very welcome and went to find out this information for us. On your return you told us yes there was a bus, but it involved changes and too much messing about for us. But not to worry you had booked a taxi for us , and as you had booked it you would pay for it. You even came and stood with us until the taxi came to make sure we were safe on our way.

We are both in our eighties and I was using a crutch at the time. But by this time we were both feeling a bit worse for wear.

We are both so very grateful for all you did for us that afternoon.. You really did go the extra mile. We are both Christians and the following week in Church we were telling our Church family what you had done. One of our friends comes from the Midlands and we made an extra point of telling her. Her reply surprised us, she said " That does not surprise me in the least, That is St. Martins. They have a reputation for helping others ".She then went on to say "Many years ago I used to help in the gift shop at St. Martins" we did not know any of this. What a way to be know. You do not only speak your faith, but you live it. You are an example to us all. Our friend is Mrs Karen Stringer.

I have now had a new knee.so in a few short weeks I will no longer be needing my crutches. We believe good comes out of all situations if you look for it, and if my knee had not been so bad that afternoon we would not have had the good fortune of meeting you and the wonderful people of St. Martin in the Bullring Church.

Thank you so very much for all you did for us that afternoon, we very much appreciate it and thank the Lord for you all.

overflowing in thankfulness

Dear Jeremy

I wanted to drop you a note after yesterdays service. I have been coming to St Martins for nearly 50 years and have seen it through many stages.

A lot of churches in England are having declining congregations with the average ages every increasing. What you and your team have brought to St Martins in the past view years has been remarkable. The services are vibrant and engaging. Yes as a city centre church it is easier to attract a congregation versus a rural country church, but what I have been witnessing for a while now is quite special.

Each member of the clergy has their own style and strengths, the music group has flourished, and the youth are part of the church family.

Often in the church people forget the church is not a building, and Christ's message can be delivered in many ways. There is no point in spreading the good news in a way that no one wants to listen.

Please pass this on to the rest of the team, as it is clearly a team effort, and I wish you, Clare and your family a Merry Xmas and a blessed 2026.

Dear Jeremy,

A brief note to thank you for hosting us at St Martin's yesterday for the Eco Diocese Silver Award celebration. It was a wonderful occasion and great to see so many people making the effort to be present. We really valued being able to worship and celebrate at St Martin's. It is a special place with a powerful sense of God's presence in the midst of all the energy and bustle of the centre of the city.

In Christ,
Bishop Michael

overflowing in thankfulness



unceasing in prayer

There are many weekly opportunities to join in prayer:

- everyday in church
- lighting candles
- writing on the prayer tree
- our monthly prayer diary with prayer suggestions for everyday
- our 'Lord teach us to pray' booklet
- UCB Word for Today
- our Prayer Warriors – receiving regular

WhatsApp messages with request to pray for people in need

- our Sunday worship and intercessions
- our Tuesday healing service
- our Thursday holy communion



- praying with church family members after services
- our online night prayer (Compline) every Wednesday
- our Growing Roots groups meeting in church and online every Thursday

- online lunchtime prayer every Friday
- Healing Rooms on Friday afternoons
- our new Selah services once a month on Sunday evenings

- If you would like someone to pray with you – please just ask. We are a church family that are very willing to pray with each other.
- If you would like prayer and encouragement about praying at home then please do ask – we will do our best to encourage you.

wholehearted in welcome

We have the great privilege and joy of being part of the St Martin's welcome team. As the name suggests it is our job to give a warm welcome to people who come into the church for our worship services both on Sundays and the regular midweek services on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The welcome is extended to our regular congregation and also to visitors to our church. We remember also those who happen to be passing by but decide to pop in to look around or simply find out what is going on!

Why do people come into the church?

To worship God, of course. But as a city centre church people come into St Martin's for any number of reasons. Many come in simply to admire the beautiful building and its stunning architecture. Some are interested in the history of the church and its relationship with the city. Some say they have lived in Birmingham for many years and never been in. We often have to say that people are welcome to come back to look around at a more appropriate time.

Others just long for a quiet space for personal prayer and reflection, perhaps to light a candle to remember a loved one who is ill or quietly grieve someone who has died. We can direct them quietly into the prayer chapel at the back of the church.

We are privileged to be able to invite people into our service of worship and remind them of the reason why we are here. But we try to be respectful when an invitation is declined.



Occasionally, there are people who can be challenging and these are times when we need help and support from others.

Support

We are always so grateful to clergy, staff and volunteers on duty in the church. It reminds us that we are all very much part of a team. And since we all have our limitations, it's good to be able to pass some people on to others who have knowledge, experience and skills which we lack.

wholehearted in welcome

In conclusion

We remember that St Martin's is the house of God and we welcome people in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's his work. For our part we try to give an invitation to our worship services and pray that people might respond to Jesus' challenge to "follow me."

We are so thankful to all those people who are on the welcome team who work so hard to extend the welcome we want to give. This includes regular services, special events and all the extra services at Christmas and Easter. We're particularly grateful that so many members of the team are willing to step in at short notice when someone is absent for whatever reason. Your work and commitment does not go unnoticed.



This report is not a recruitment exercise but there might be someone thinking that "this act of service might be for me."

Colin and Pam Walker

generous in hospitality

St Martin's doors are open 7 days a week and as Open Church takes place on 6 of those days, it is a significant part of the Church's ministry to the people of Birmingham and those who come from further afield...

Open Church is open each weekday (closed Mondays) 12-5pm and on weekends until 4pm. We welcome hundreds of people into the building every day and are particularly busy at the weekends. Many people are visitors, (across denominations and from all religions and none) We often hear comments about how peaceful it is, an oasis away from the hustle and bustle of a very busy city centre...

Some come in to look around or take pictures. Others come to light candles and to pray or for prayer. And some come to get practical help and support, including the many vulnerable people who are struggling with street homeless or who are inadequately housed but needing help (with housing issues, benefits, sorting medical appointments, or just a sleeping bag). Many members of this community also come in regularly for a hot drink and a pot noodle and a bit of company (thank you for your generous gift of pot noodles! We prepare around 30 each week!!)

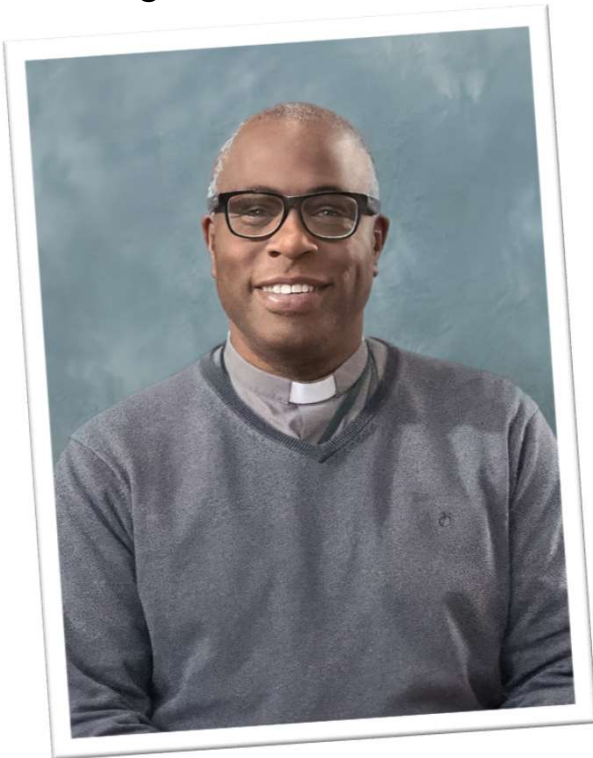
generous in hospitality

Here are three stories in the many stories we encounter each week...

I first met 'J' when she asked for help with lighting a candle in the prayer chapel. St Martin's has always held a special place for her. She used to regularly travel down from up north to light candle with her late Mum and has continued to do so for her whenever she was in the city. She lost her Father a couple of months ago but whilst life has not been easy, adjusting to the loss of both parents and whilst there is much sadness, there is also some light at the end of a very dark tunnel. St Martin's will continue to be that oasis she needs in her grief.



'A' arrived back in the city from down south, with a couple of bags, hoping to reconnect family he'd lost touch with due to a breakdown in his mental health. He spent his first couple of nights back in the city, travelling on the number 11 bus. It was the only safe place he could get some sleep. He came into St Martin's looking shell shocked and seeking help. He's since become part of our community and we're helping him to be established in safe and secure housing. He is slowly rebuilding his confidence.



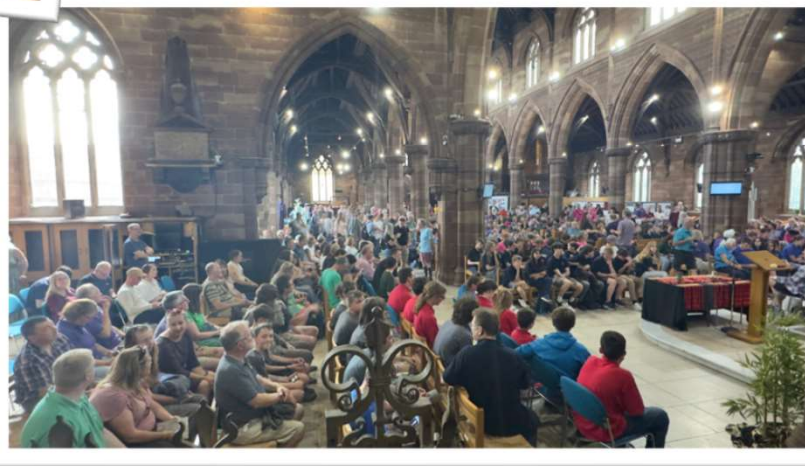
'M' sat in the pews. She was in floods of tears. She needed prayer. She poured out her heart. She longed for a baby. A female colleague and I gently laid hands on her. As we prayed, we both felt a strong sense of God's presence. We asked her to come back and let us know how she's getting on. We watch this space...

We don't know who will come through the doors of St Martin's each day and it can sometimes be very challenging, but we do thank God for His love and that He continues to be present in our welcome and busy in our ministering.

Many thanks to everyone who is part of the Open Church Team, for your commitment to provide a warm and loving welcome to all who visit St Martin's each week.

Revd Ivor Lewis
Assistant Rector

generous in hospitality



generous in hospitality



genuine in friendship

I went through the Restore Training in the Autumn of 2024. Soon after, I was matched with Maria. Every couple of weeks, we met for coffee or a walk or a visit to a museum. While it is not part of a befriender's role to get involved in the asylum seeker process, Maria would ask me to pray when they had an appointment or were awaiting a decision. When she and her family got their approval to stay, we celebrated. Maria kept me informed on her progress in English classes at the college and her job search.



Meanwhile, here at St. Martin's, our housekeeper had moved on and we were looking for someone to do some extra cleaning. I had been praying that Maria could find a good job, I knew that Maria had cleaning experience, so I suggested that she might be a good fit for this. After going through the interview process, Maria has become our new Housekeeper!

We are happy to have such a good employee join our team, Maria and her family are happy to have made this progress towards getting settled in the UK and Maria and I are both very happy to have moved from our befriender relationship to now being work colleagues!

The next step for me now is to meet my new befriende!

I'd appreciate prayers for us and for the more than 100 befriending pairs being supported by Restore.

Tina Brogan
Admin and Finance Manager

RESTORE
BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES SUPPORTING REFUGEES

Could you befriending a refugee?

Contact Jaz
jasmine@restore-uk.org
or scan here for more info/ to sign up:

BEFRIENDING TRAINING DAY
SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025
9.45-4PM
ST JOHN'S HARBORNE

compassionate in support

Every Friday afternoon the Healing Rooms Team gather together for a time of fellowship, worship, and prayer. We begin by sharing lunch, enjoying one another's company, and preparing our hearts for what God wants to do. From there we move into worship, testimony, and prayer, ready to minister to those who come seeking help, comfort, or healing.

It has been a privilege to witness how open people are to receiving prayer — especially many young people who are searching for faith in Jesus. Some arrive carrying heavy burdens: family difficulties, personal struggles, or health concerns that feel overwhelming. Yet time and again we see the Lord meet them. After prayer, people often describe a deep peace settling over them, a sense of burdens lifting, or a renewed joy as they encounter Jesus and invite Him into their lives.

One of the greatest encouragements is when people return to share answers to prayer — to give thanks to the Lord and to express gratitude for the time and care they received. These moments remind us that God is truly at work, both in their lives and in ours.

We always end our time together with a prayer of thanksgiving, offering back to the Lord everything that has been shared. It is a blessing to witness His love, power, and compassion for those who reach out to Him.

Sheena's Testimony *(shared with permission)*

Sheena first came to us on 20 February with severe back pain. She relied on walking sticks to move around and was struggling with daily life. After receiving prayer, she went shopping in the city centre and later returned to tell us that the pain had eased significantly — enough for her to continue her day without difficulty. On 1 May, Sheena came back again, this time full of joy. She reported that she had remained free from pain since that day of prayer and no longer needed her walking sticks. She came specifically to give thanks to God and to express her gratitude to the team.

Her story has been a wonderful reminder of God's kindness and His desire to bring healing and hope. If anyone would like to know more about Healing Rooms or how to get involved, please speak to [Elsie](#), [Bert](#), [Flora](#), [Paul](#), [Sandra](#), or [Sue](#).



eager in sharing God's love



“Go in Peace and Serve the Lord”

...is a blessing we hear at the end of every service. For me, these words resonate deeply and sum up what my faith and my role in church life have come to mean since I became part of St Martin's.

I am not new to God's Word. I have been a believer since the age of seven, when I was baptised. Yet since joining the St Martin's church family, this blessing has become far less abstract and no longer something left purely to my own interpretation. I have come to understand more deeply that God calls each of us into relationship with Him and into community with one another.

In the past, I thought that “go in peace” simply meant feeling calm after visiting the Lord's house and listening to His Word. Less than ten years ago, however, life brought me to Birmingham in search of a new home, a new job, and new friends in a completely unfamiliar city. I remember one afternoon wandering into St Martin's not by choice, but by chance. It was centrally located and easy to access, and I had one clear intention: to light a candle for my new life and to pray that God would help me settle down. Like many visitors during open church hours, I entered seeking peace.

My new life in a new city came with many challenges, both big and small. When things did not go to plan at first, I often found myself wondering whether I had done something wrong or somehow upset my Lord without realising it. How? When? Why? These questions circled endlessly in my mind. At the same time, there were moments when I reminded myself that I am a strong woman, and that this strength had carried me through some of the most unimaginable situations. Only later did I begin to understand that this strength did not come from me alone, but from God, who promises, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

eager in sharing God's love

There was one moment in particular when I came to my quiet corner at St Martin's, knowing no one, and simply could not hold back my tears. The more I tried to hide them, the worse it became. Then something remarkable happened. Someone from the congregation stood up during the service and gently handed me a tissue, while another person leaned over and whispered, "Keep coming," with the warmest, most reassuring smile. Without a single explanation, I knew I would be alright. (The heroes of my story may recognise themselves — thank you.)

I kept coming back. At first, I continued to sit quietly in my corner, too shy to approach anyone, but I listened — really listened — to God's Word as it was shared, worshipped, and explained by people who were here at St Martin's by choice: God's choice. Slowly, the deeper meaning of "Go in peace and serve the Lord" began to unfold for me. I came to recognise this blessing is not an ending of the service, but a sending out: an invitation to carry Christ's presence beyond the church doors and into daily life, offering healing, reconciliation, and love wherever we go.

Then came a moment of revelation that felt like a bolt of lightning through my heart — faith is active. The Lord is alive and present, with us and within us. As Scripture reminds us, "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17). Faith is not about sitting quietly in a church corner, trapped in insecurities and worries, waiting desperately for answers. It is about becoming one of those at the church door and beyond — with a warm glance, an encouraging smile, or a reassuring handshake for someone walking through their darkest days. . It is about being a small ray of the Lord's light—radiating love, care, and hope—and trusting that the world will reflect that light back.

Looking back now, I understand that what once seemed like an accidental wandering into St Martin's was not accidental at all. It was a chapter in God's greater plan—His way of calling me not only to belong, but to serve. What began with lighting a candle in a quiet corner has grown into a journey of involvement and commitment, from welcoming others at the door to serving as a member of the church council. I see now that God was gently preparing and inviting me to take part in the life and mission of this church in many different ways. St Martin's has become more than a place of refuge for me; it is where I have been called to serve, to grow, and to walk alongside others in faith.

Evita Veisa
Member of the Parochial
Church Council (PCC)

confident in proclaiming Jesus

Worship for *Advent*

Advent Sunday 30 November

Hope

Sunday 7 December

Peace

Sunday 14 December

Joy

Sunday 21 December

Love and Light

Worship@9.30&11.00



Lent

22 February *Training for godliness*

1 March *Listening gladly to the words of God*

8 March *Meet together*

15 March *Pray for all people*

22 March *Let the Holy Spirit guide you*

9.30 & 11.00
every Sunday



Caring for Creation

Worship@St. Martin in the Bull Ring
every Sunday 9.30 and 11.00

Sunday 14 September

Reigning over creation
in the image of God

Sunday 21 September

Let every created thing
give praise to the Lord

Sunday 28 September - HARVEST
Water for life



Sunday 21 December

9.30am Advent Holy Communion

11.00am Christingle

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24 December

2.00pm German Carol Service

4.30pm Carols by Candlelight

11.00pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Christmas Day,

Thursday 25 December

10.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion



Christmas Worship
@St Martin in the Bull Ring

Holy Week

@St. Martin in the Bull Ring

Palm Sunday - 29 March

9.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Morning Worship

Monday Tuesday Wednesday

30, 31 March, 1 April

12.30 & 6.00 Short service of prayer

Tues 12.30 Healing Service

Maundy Thursday - 2 April

12.30 & 7.00 Holy Communion

(followed by the stripping of the church)



Good Friday - 3 April

Noon till 3.00 Meditations on the Cross

(Please feel free to come and go
quietly during this time.)

focused on growing disciples

Since I joined St. Martin in the Bull Ring in February 2025, I have taken part in numerous church activities, and the 321 course has been one of the sources of inspiration that has shaped my engagement with the parish.

The course material was intellectually rigorous yet accessible, presenting core theological themes with a clarity and coherence that reflected careful pedagogical design. Each session unfolded through a well-structured progression of ideas that encouraged both open reflection and spiritual attentiveness.

Equally enriching were the discussions woven throughout our meetings. Conversations with our clergy member offered a depth of theological insight, while exchanges with fellow lay participants introduced a diversity of perspectives that refined my own understanding of Christianity. These dialogues—thoughtful, candid, and sometimes unexpected—transformed the course from a structured training programme into a genuinely communal inquiry.

Taken together, the experience has deepened my understanding of Christian doctrine and strengthened my sense of belonging within the church community.

Grace Huang



Got questions about God,
the world and you?

Discover life according to Jesus

4 sessions
Interactive videos

Small groups
Thoughtful conversations
Friendly environment



creative in welcoming families

Wow, what an exciting year we have had in our Children and Young People's ministry. We have had a number of new families join plus we continued to see our faithful regular families sharing fun times together.

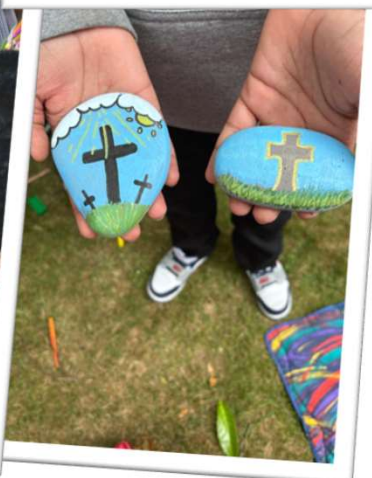
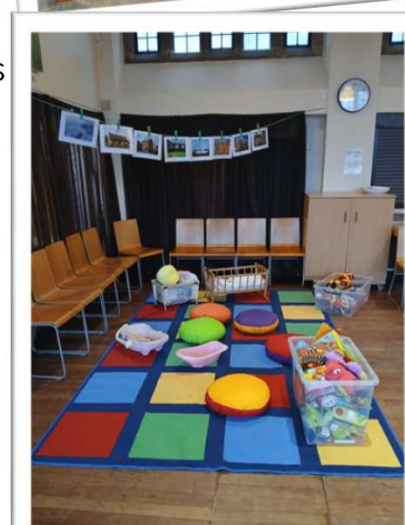
Have you seen our display board at the back of church near the teas and coffees? This board is regularly updated with crafts made during our Sunday sessions.

Please keep a look out for the Prayer Tent in church, especially during the school holidays when those visiting us have a creative space to reflect and pray.

Those aged between newborn to 5 years old now have a weekly stay-and-play. 'Mini Martins' began in April 2025 and through a mixture of play, crafts, drama and song, our youngest disciples can learn more about Jesus in a suitable setting. A number of families attend and include a mixture of those connected to the congregation and those who are not.

June saw our now annual Summer Party at the Rectory. The sun shone as we enjoyed a BBQ, face-painting, games and a bouncy castle!

In July Neill was baptised in a lovely service with his best friend (and regular attendee) Zion supporting and praying for him. Neill has also shadowed Rich and is getting more comfortable with helping with some of the technical aspects of our services.



creative in welcoming families



Francis and Pinky joined the team in the Summer. When Pinky isn't a face-painting extraordinaire she is a brilliant dance teacher, teaching us all the best moves. Depending on your age we have our very own Neil Buchanan/Tony Hart in Francis who hasn't yet found a bible verse he couldn't connect a craft to! We would also like to thank Sue who has stepped back from the rota in order to care for her mom. Sue has been great at serving on the team and continues to offer support where she can.

A number of our young people attended a Diocesan weekend away in October. They all had a wonderful time taking part in adventure activities like a zip-line, walks in the dark and yummy food! There have also been opportunities for our young people to meet after school for hot chocolate and take a trip to the cinema.



creative in welcoming families

They say good things arrive in 3s and never has this been more true with the arrival of 3 beautiful babies to our congregation! Micah was born in September and Ezra has stepped into big brother duties so well. Areil was also born in September and brings joy to everyone with her amazing array of pretty dresses and matching headbands. Last but not least Holly was born in December and Destiny and Christabel are performing their big sister responsibilities enthusiastically.

What is Advent/Christmas time without a Nativity Play and this time we decided to have a Scratch Nativity. No rehearsal nor script, what could go wrong!? Of course it was equal amounts of chaos and fun but cast and audience enjoyed it alike. We even had Peaky Blinder-style shepherds.

Our annual Christmas Party had pizza, quizzes and games. No party is complete without Pass the Parcel. So many families attended which was lovely to see.

If any of the above has inspired you to get involved with children's ministry, please do speak to a member of the Clergy team. We would be happy to have you!

In December Rebekah formally stepped back from her role. Rebekah has been wonderful serving as leader for the past couple years and through her dedication she rebuilt children's ministry at church. From drama performances, beautiful artwork

cinema trips, hot chocolate chats, launching mini-Martins and of course, the Diocesan weekend away. She has been nothing short of amazing. God has blessed her with talents that she so generously chose to share with us all. We are thankful that she continues to support the team in a voluntary capacity.

Please continue to pray for the recruitment of a new Children's and Youth Co-Ordinator. The Lord has blessed us with a team of willing and talented volunteers and we hope to find an enthusiastic and skilled person to lead us.

Loretta Jones
Children's and Youth Team
PCC Secretary



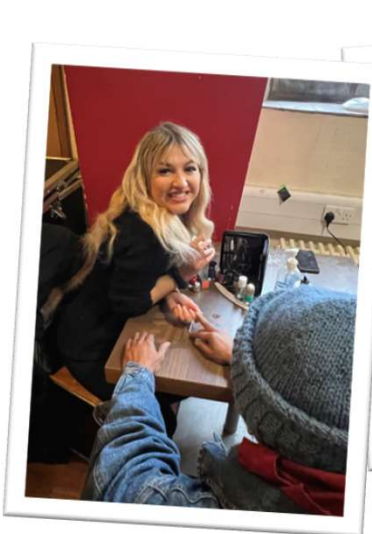
determined in helping the vulnerable

Cuppa & Chat (C&C) is an outreach program offering both sustenance and spiritual support, a warm, welcoming space. It's designed to help build relationships over food, offering a 'ministry of presence.' So much so that [we] volunteers can share kindness, love and peace with a listening ear.

We pray before opening the doors also while / and after being with God's people – our neighbours – some of whom are experiencing homelessness, poverty and systemic barriers. And we try at that moment to offer something of God's love in our actions. Be it showing empathy or helping to find meaning through their stories and our own testimonies. And, where possible, guide them towards partner referral services.

My experience of being part of the C&C team has been humbling. One of the first encounters I had was approaching, then listening to a young man (we'll call him 'T') who seemed anxious. After a little encouragement, he opened up...

'I'm doing OK,' he said, having to sleep rough in the woods near me. How's that been? Em OK, he said. Then he showed me a photo of the tent and the area [with a wind break] that he'd made into a makeshift home. I asked again if he was really OK. After a moment he said no! He said, 'when I first moved out there,' it was because a mate of mine was already set up there, 'He'd been there 6 months, and we'd always got on well.' Anyway, I'd only been there [with him] a month and one morning I didn't see him. I didn't think that much of it. 'He was a loner.'



determined in helping the vulnerable

Next day it was the same, so I went to check on him & he was lying there so, still – no response. We looked at each other at that moment of knowing, and I said, 'Can I pray?' He put his hands together as I asked God, for his peace for the other young man and 'T.' I asked him [T] if he'd consider speaking to someone else about this, 'when he was ready?' His answer, maybe... Yeah! When ready, yeah.

We would talk more about this as well as his joy at getting more permanent [Council] accommodation over the coming nine months. This was just one of the many stories of broken lives that people have shared. But in each, there has been hope. Christ' puts us where we can heal and be used for healing, in His name 'that's my takeaway.' There are so many stories within the C&C team that magnify and confirm this. As a team, we look out for one another, by sharing our burdens.

I would encourage anyone desiring more [Galatians 5:22] the fruit of the Spirit to engage with any opportunity to serve within our church community. Like so many, I'm unqualified to serve. However, as 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 reminds me... 'Our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant...' I thank God for His grace.

Frank Barnett
Cuppa and Chat Volunteer
PCC Lay Chairman

NB We are grateful for the partnership we have with The Active Well Being Society and for the delicious vegetarian meals they provide for us to share.



Also, for the first time this year, in partnership with the Street Banquet team and St. Philip's Cathedral, we were able to host a memorial service specifically for the street community to remember those who had died – and in some cases, for whom there had been little opportunity to mourn.



committed to caring for creation

It was agreed that after a number of years of fruitful work, the Caring for Creation Working Group would step down for a while. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the life of the group over the past 5 years – Matt Churchouse, Linda Cooper, Jo Murgatroyd, Ralph Newnes, Roy Newnam, Ed Porteus, and Alan Sherrin. Our aspiration to be a church that is 'committed to caring for creation' very much continues.

- We really appreciate the years Jo Murgatroyd has given to this group. She has now passed on the Parish Environment Contact role to me. I have been attending the Deanery PEC meetings to share ideas and concerns. Also, we had a very interesting webinar from St. Christopher's Church on how they achieved their A Rocha Gold Eco Award.
- We once again contributed to Creationtide worship through our Harvest Festival and shared lunch.
- We have formed a partnership with Carolyn Morton at Birmingham Friends of the Earth for composting the leftovers from our Cuppa and Chat and Choir with no Name community meals. Carolyn is in desperate need for volunteers at their Digbeth garden in order to continue this work.



committed to caring for creation

- St. Martin's were privileged to host a celebration led by Bishop Michael as Birmingham were the first diocese to be awarded a Silver Eco award
- We were excited this past Autumn to receive a request from Mark Adams to take our leftover candle wax to be made into trench candles to send to Ukraine. He collects from us roughly quarterly and so far he has managed about 1000 candles, approx 650-700 definitely from our particular collection. If nothing has changed, and Ukraine are looking at another winter of defending, he'll be firing up the stove again in September. We have shared below words he wrote to explain the purpose of his project, words Jeremy shared on Remembrance Sunday.

Tina Brogan
Parish Environment Contact
Admin and Finance Manager

Currently there is a war raging on our continent the likes of which we've not seen in 80 years. Most of the content in the media focuses on the futuristic nature of the conflict, but the reality is more akin to WW1; trenches, mud, filth and of course the fallen.

I am looking to build batches of trench candles. These simple devices provide warmth, a solution to drying clothes, and a source of light and psychological comfort, for those that have to sleep in a true Hell on Earth. The defenders themselves come from all walks of life. Many did not aim to join the military as a career. They are doctors, teachers, municipal workers, the clergy, builders, salespeople, artists, musicians, mothers and fathers. They are fighting not only for their freedom, but also dignity, self determination, the right to practise a religion of choice, and for the fragile framework of democracy itself.

I hope you can help me fulfill this small token gesture; the symbolism, unfortunately, once again, of the church providing light and hope to these defenders in their darkest hour, is not lost.

Mark Adams



We have rung for Sunday service every week during the period, as well as on Christmas Day. Regular band activities on Sundays and Tuesday evenings continue, and high standards have been maintained despite slightly reduced numbers during holiday periods. We continue to support up-and-coming ringers and help our band members remain stimulated and challenged.

In both April 2025 and April 2026 St Martin's hosted a Masterclass on behalf of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). This event showcases ringing excellence and provides a training opportunity for new ringers from across the UK who have completed the 'Learning the Ropes' scheme. The day begins with a workshop in the Tea Lounge. Afterward, groups travel to other local towers before regrouping at St Martin's to ring on the 16 bells. It's always a rewarding occasion, and we are grateful to the church for the use of the facilities and support with logistics.



In July, Birmingham hosted the National Youth Contest, bringing together 41 youth teams from across the country for a day of competition and ringing at 11 towers in and around Birmingham. The contest grows every year, posing a massive logistical challenge. However, with assistance from about 200 volunteers and considerable help from the staff at St Martin's, the day was a huge success. The local 'Brumdingers' team won their category, which included three children of St Martin's ringers - so the future is bright for the band!

The bells continue to attract visiting ringers. During this period, we welcomed bands from BUSCR (Birmingham University), Cambridge University Guild, Society of Cambridge Youths, Towcester, Cheltenham and the Ancient Society of College Youths. The latter society held an Advanced Ringing Academy week in late August, giving talented young adult ringers the opportunity to hone their skills on the lovely bells at St Martins.

Five peals were rung, most notably a peal of Stedman Cinques in October, rung by an all-female band. This peal was specially arranged to welcome Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury. The footnote to the peal also noted that the first ever peal on 12 bells in which a woman took part was of the same method in the same tower in 1912. Band members and friends also rang a peal to mark the forthcoming wedding of a band member, Alistair Cherry.

At the Band Annual General Meeting in November, chaired by the Rector, we elected two new members, one of whom is a current student at Birmingham University. Stephanie Warboys stepped down as Conductor after a highly successful seven years, and we elected Alistair Cherry as her replacement.



We were very pleased to be able to arrange ringing for Rich Taylor 's wedding in March, which neatly coincided with a visiting band, meaning the bride and groom came out to 12 bells ringing instead of the usual 6 or 8 for a wedding. Rich is a great friend to the band, and we wish him and his wife, Gizelle every happiness.

Finally, I would like to express the band's gratitude to our Rector, Jeremy, for his support and wisdom, and to thank all the staff team at St Martin's for their prompt efficiency, kindness and helpfulness.

VICTORIA WILBY
Secretary, St Martin's Band
May 2026

