

A Year in the Life of our Church



Everyone is Welcome

Journeying together in the love of Jesus

Incumbents Report for 2024

²¹ Jesus said to the disciples, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? ²² For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open”.

Mark 4.21-22

My dear friends in Christ,

When I was thinking about what I wanted to say in this Incumbents report, this reading from Mark’s Gospel was one of the set readings for a Thursday Communion. The reading really resonated with me as we think about St Martin’s being the church on the hill, shining out to the people of Worle, particularly at nighttime, when you can see the tower and spire lit up from quite a distance.

At the Thursday service I said something along the lines of:

We talk about the church on the hill shining out to all. But Jesus is telling us – as the Church – to shine out. What Jesus is saying, is that for the Christian message to spread and develop, followers must proclaim and show their faith.

We do that in what we say and what we do.

So, what do we do and what makes us ‘us’ as a Church community at St Martin’s. How do we shine out?

Well one of the main ways I believe we shine out to the community is through our Vision Statement:



I am both delighted and proud that we as a Church in 2024 have adopted this as our Vision Statement, and that it was passed unanimously by the Parochial Church Council (PCC – the governing body of each Church of England Church). The words sound easy, but to really live to this vision does and will take courage and....

I believe that when Jesus told us to shine out, it was to shine out to everyone so that all people know that they are loved. It is not just to

shine and burn brightly in the church building but beyond that, to the whole community.

How do we do this?

Well firstly by our actions as a Church and as individuals. I am so proud of the PCC that following the acceptance of our Vision Statement, we also passed a resolution to adopt the Church of England initiative of using *Prayers in Love and Faith*, where we can as a Church respect and bless relationships of same-sex couples, so as to affirm that we believe that Jesus' love is for everyone.

Well, the church building is our lampstand as it gives us a point of focus, but we want to be known as a Church working in the community. Being there for others (for all), offering different ways of coming to know Jesus, of belonging and believing.

I do believe that we do certain aspects of this work and discipleship well, and this Church Report – which I have given the subtitle of *A Year in the Life of our Church* – gives a snapshot of the various activities and events that have been happening within this lampstand over the last year and for years previously to that too.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of St Martin's. Everyone has a ministry to offer, and I am very grateful to you all who have provided and been part of the ministry and shining out to the community as we grow in word and action.

I would just like to take this opportunity to offer some personal notes of thanks

Firstly, the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and all involved with the finances of the church – such as paying invoices and sorting out Gift Aid - all the officers of the church and those who serve on the PCC and sub-committees and synods.

Thank you too to my Ministry Colleagues who provide such wonderful service and services to the church.

Thank you to everyone who “opens up” and prepares for the services, those who undertake duties of Communion Assistant, those who read and those who serve as vergers, particularly in the occasional offices. Those who operate the slides and the sound system in the services.

Thanks to our wonderful musicians and bell ringers for their weekly commitment and skills they bring to worship in their ministry; to those

who provide refreshments after services, to those who set up and run our various social and fund-raising events and concerts which are always eagerly anticipated and are thoroughly enjoyed by all in the Church and wider community.

Thank you to those who come to the working parties to tidy up and do jobs on the church and in the grounds and help to keep the church and its surroundings look so special. To those who do the flowers and the laundry of the church and of course to the wonderful team who do the cleaning in the church.

A particular note of thanks too, to all those who give to the church financially. We could not operate in the way we do without your financial commitment. I would just like to encourage everyone to be part of a regular stewardship system either through the envelope scheme or direct debits and to sign up for Gift Aid where appropriate.

I would like to just add two personal “Thank You” comments at this point. The first is to Liz Winter who retired from her post as Church Administrator during 2024. Liz worked tirelessly for St Martin’s and did many of the unseen “backstage” duties. Our prayers go with Liz for her future.

On a personal note, I would just like to thank everyone for all the support and care that I have received in the past year. As you know, this has been a difficult time for me and for my family, but I thank God that He has called me to St Martin’s, and I thank God for all of you and for all you do.

As we look back on 2024, let us also be mindful of our 900th Anniversary in 2025 and look forward beyond that, praying that we will do our part in making St Martin’s a lampstand for all future generations to come.

The way we do that is to build on our Vision Statement and to live out our faith believing that all are invited, and that all are welcome to join us as we journey together in the love of Jesus.

Amen

900th Celebration 2025



Although this report is for the year 2024, we did spend time meeting as a community discussing how we were going to celebrate our 900th Anniversary in 2025. These meetings were open to everyone, and I am grateful to the people who attended these meetings and brought their thoughts and volunteered to help.

The aims of the year were highlighted as:

To celebrate 900 years of worship at St Martin's Church

And it was decided that the Objectives were:

- 1 Through the spirit of invitation and welcome to bring the love of Jesus into people's lives.
- 2 Highlight the role of the building as being at the centre of community for 900 years
- 3 Involve various community organisations, schools and businesses to be part of the celebrations

An outline for the year was developed and this includes:

January - Baptism Exhibition

February - Sunday 2nd 10am Candlemas special service of light

March - Tuesday 4th Shrove Tuesday 7pm Beetle Drive and Pancakes

Wednesday 5th 7pm Ash Wednesday

Saturday 29th 7pm Concert with refreshments by Bristol Ensemble to celebrate 900 years

April - Sunday 20th Easter Sunday

May - Friday 16th – Sunday 18th May Flower Festival

June - Sunday 8th 3pm-5pm Pentecost Birthday Party for Church

Saturday 21st 3pm Concert by Richard Lennox followed by tea and cake

Summer – dates to be confirmed A Festival of Bells and Bell Ringing

August - Friday 15th - Saturday 16th Exhibition

September - Saturday 27th Festival of Angels to celebrate Michael and All Angels

October - Sunday 5th Harvest Festival followed by Bring and Share Community Lunch

November - Saturday 8th St Martin's Fayre

Sunday 9th Service of Remembrance at War Memorial

Sunday 9th 3pm Worlewind Band Festival of Remembrance Concert

Sunday 30th Advent Sunday

December Friday 5th – Sunday 7th Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 7th 3pm Worle Chorale Concert for Tree Festival

We will also be commissioning some special kneelers to commemorate the year and fund raise for various good causes throughout the year. There will be some fund-raising activities through the year but the year is about celebration rather than raising amounts of money.

We are thankful and grateful to Fraser for designing the logo for the year.

Safeguarding Report

The Safeguarding Team comprises Jill Preddy, Yvonne Criddle, Lesley Faulkner and Rosie Davies. It has met 5 times during 2024 and reported regularly to the PCC.

The Safeguarding Policy was revised and accepted by PCC on 18 September 2024. The policy is displayed in the church porch together with a poster showing contact details for St Martin's church and for the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Safeguarding training was delivered in church for the PCC and other church members in October 2024.

During the National Safeguarding Sunday service on 17/11/24, emphasis was placed on the importance of safeguarding within the local church and community.

Please contact the team if you have any safeguarding concerns or you would like to chat.

Tel: 07443 303712

Email: safeguardingstmartinsworle@gmail.com

Schools

St Martin's work in local schools in the Parish

We are blessed to have three wonderful primary schools in the parish:

St Martin's Church of England School

Mendip Green Primary School

Worle Village Primary School



Vicar Jon with Dot the therapy dog from Mendip Green

During 2024 we were able to foster ever closer relationships with all the schools. These include regular assemblies in all three schools and various visits to talk about the Sacraments and "What does Vicar Jon Do" – something the congregation would no doubt be interested in!

We have also established a Messy Church Team, and do Messy Church Sessions in St Martin's School each term. During this time we have looked at themes in the Book of Ruth, Advent, Harvest and Pentecost. The sessions start with an introduction and craft activities. These always include a "food activity" such as biscuit decorating which is always popular. We also try to have a scientific experiment too which in the past has included flying rockets up the school hall! There is a moment of reflection, teaching and prayer and concludes with food such as hot dogs or sandwiches. As well as a wonderful group of volunteers who run these sessions, we are also blessed with a core of 12 to 16 children who attend this.



Craft Activities for Advent
Messy Church at St
Martin's School

As well as volunteers for Messy Church I am also most grateful to members of the congregation who volunteer as governors (including Chair of Governors – please see Mark Preddy's report) and also to listen to readers in school and undertake other activities in school.

It has also been great to have the schools attend St Martin's Church, such as visits on St Martin's Day, Easter and some wonderful Crib and

Christingle Services. I am heartened by how much the Church and School communities have grown together in 2024 and look forward to continuing this in the year(s) ahead.

Foundation Governor Links to Local Schools

St Martin's and Worle Village Schools are part of the Kaleidoscope Multi Academy Trust (MAT). As a Church school MAT, Rev Jon sits on the Church schools committee, providing spiritual guidance and other support across all the MAT schools. Both St Martin's and Worle Village schools share an Executive Head Teacher (Mrs Sue Elliott) and as a result the staff and pupils are being brought closer together and are encouraged to make full use of St Martin's Church building for acts of worship and to participate in Church events, for example the Christmas Tree Festival and services celebrating Easter and harvest.

During 2024 we agreed to form a joint "Local Governing Board" across both St Martin's and Worle Village primary schools. Mark Preddy (a member of PCC) is one of the Co-Chair of Governors, and plays an active role, together with Rev Jon and Mrs Elliott in the management of both schools. Whilst St Martin's is the official "Church School" we maintain a close link with both in terms of spiritual and community matters. During the latter part of last academic year, a number of church members helped to launch our first "Messy Church" held at St Martin's School, and we ran another 3 events in 2024, which were enthusiastically received by both pupils and staff. Our aim is to continue these once a term (6 per year).

Like many schools there are significant challenges with finance and recruiting support staff at both our link schools. Despite these, the leadership team and governors are fully committed to making our schools great places of learning and a fun place to be for our pupils.

Men's Fellowship

This year has been very successful calling all men who may feel free to drop in at any time and have a chat with one another. Our meetings are usually held at the Lamb on Worle High Street, and we meet on the third Thursday of each month. In the past we have not met during August and December, but we have now decided to meet during these months. We have enjoyed activities such as Crown Green Bowling, and a walk which ended with fish and chips at Sand Bay. We look forward to the coming year with a repeat curry night, darts and brewery trip with a summer barbecue and during December carol singing.

It is always good to welcome our neighbours as well as new friends.

Fabric Committee Report

The Fabric Committee is a subgroup of the PCC. It is made up of a chairman, a secretary and normally six members of the church. They bring with them different skills not only for maintenance work but with their concern about the building. In particular with the forthcoming 900th anniversary, they are very conscious of this event.

During the year, they have been responsible for the central gas boiler servicing, flood lighting (where possible replacing bulbs with LED), putting together plans regarding a replacement handrail leading to the lower car park. They took on the challenge of replacing the two outside family benches disposing of old and siting new benches in a very professional way.

The group looked at the challenges of maintaining St Martin's and eagerly awaits the Quinquennial Report which was carried out at the latter part of the year. In addition the Committee's responsibilities include the PAT testing, fire extinguisher annual testing and any other area regarding Health and Safety. They also look at the work and maintenance in the upper churchyard and our thanks must be with all those who commit their time and skills.

Free Film Nights

These continue to be successful with many of the people attending being from the community. The film nights are held in the Autumn, Winter and Spring time. Doors open at 5.15 pm and films start at 5.40 pm. Admission is free and tea/coffee and snacks are available. The choice of films varies to try to meet all tastes, and we are open to suggestions for new films. We are fortunate to have a small band of friends who help serve the refreshments and show the film.

St Martin's Church Finance Team

It has been a busy year for the Finance team, with John Bangham resigning as our Treasurer following the last APCM. John has continued to support me through the year, for which I am most grateful.

There are a number of people involved, each playing a vital role in ensuring our finances run smoothly.

Treasurer	Mark Preddy
Fees	Mark Preddy (Liz Winter before her resignation)
Bookkeeping	Kewstoke Financial Services (John Leddy)
Payroll	JD Accounting (Janet Drissell)
Support and advice to Treasurer	John Bangham
Gift Aid	Diane Swatton
Cash counting & Banking	Jill and Mark Preddy, Val and Neil Adams, Rosie Davies, John Bangham.

Planned giving forms an important part of our total income. There are two principal schemes.

- Weekly Blue Envelopes
- Monthly Standing Order paid through your bank.

At the end of 2024 we had a total of 53 members who had committed to planned giving.

The Gift Aid Scheme is administered by Diane, and for members who pay tax, enables us to reclaim 25% more from the UK.GOV. This is a valuable source of income for the Church.

We continue to accept payments by card using our SUMUP machine which you will normally find on the Donation table at the back of the Church.

During 2024 the Diocese held a number of consultations with Treasurers to discuss a new methodology for calculating Parish Share to better distribute costs to Parish/Benefices based on the costs of ministry and Diocesan support. This has led to a significant increase for St Martin's

and will continue to rise in the subsequent 4 years to meet the full cost of ministry. Our PCC has committed to paying our 2025 Parish Share in full.

With the resignation of our Parish Administrator, Liz Winter, in September, the PCC made the decision not to recruit for the role in view of increased Parish Share costs. The church office is now maintained by a combination of the ministry team and volunteers, with Mark Preddy taking responsibility for managing Fees, our Church website and keeping the IT equipment updated.

I would like to thank the team of supporters as mentioned above.

Community Cake and Coffee Mornings

These are held every Thursday morning at 10.45 am following the mid-week Holy Communion Service. We are fortunate to have a small team of helpers in preparing and tidying up afterwards.

The cake and coffee/tea are free of charge, and everyone is welcome to join. These coffee mornings are held underneath the Gallery which is laid out in café style. It is good to see people from the community popping in for coffee and a chat. We are fortunate the cakes are donated, and the church funds the coffee and tea.

This proves a good opportunity to let people know about events taking place in church and for them to be able to ask questions if they wish. It is good that many who attend the service beforehand remain for coffee and are able to greet people who just arrive for refreshments.

Christmas Tree Festival 6th – 8th December 2024

We held our 3rd Christmas Tree festival on the first weekend of December. Invitations were distributed to local businesses and organisations, giving them an opportunity to support our community event by decorating a tree and advertising. The primary schools in the parish were also encouraged to participate in the festival, as were groups and individuals from within the church itself.

There was no cost to enter a tree and no entrance fee for the event, but donations were welcomed to be split equally between the local charity 'Somewhere to Go' and St Martin's Church.

There were about 25 beautifully decorated trees in church, many adorned with handmade decorations depicting themes including friendship, memories, singing and school crafting. The making of a blue Knitted Tree brought the church knitters together. Focusing on the theme of the sea, it was decorated with knitted hats which will be sent to the Mission to Seafarers. In the New Year the rectangles will be made into blankets for Somewhere to Go.

The weekend started with a Grand Opening evening of carols, readings, mulled wine and mince pies, and a representative from Somewhere to Go spoke about their important work that takes place in Weston, providing food and shelter for the homeless. The congregations had been asked to vote for their favourite 6 carols and the top choices were all sung during the evening, plus a very lively rendition of The 12 days of Christmas! Attendance on the Saturday was impacted by Storm Darragh, which gave us a poignant opportunity to reflect on the work of our chosen charity. A joint choir from The Village School and St Martin's School did manage to attend and perform some super Christmas songs and this was much appreciated. The weekend ended on the Sunday with a concert by Worle Chorale which was very well received (and has already been booked for 2025!) and closing compline with carols.

Throughout the weekend refreshments were available, and tea, coffee, biscuits and cake were in plentiful supply, thanks to a marvellous group of hard-working volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the planning and success of this event. A grand total of £1612 was raised.

St Martin's Bell Ringers

Like many other churches we do not have as many active ringers as we used to, but we have managed to ring on the majority of Sundays during the year, including the major festivals, as well as for weddings.

During the year seven quarters were rung including on 6th June for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and a half-muffled quarter on Remembrance Sunday.

Two of the quarters were rung to celebrate 80th birthdays - those of Paul Elliot, Church Warden, and Barbara Taylor one of our ringers.

A band from the area rang in April, the first peal on the bells since they were re-tuned and re-hung in 2013.

We have also hosted the Axbridge Branch training morning and visiting ringers.



Some of St Martin's ringers and friends

As always we are grateful for the support we receive from Rev Jon and everyone linked to St Martin's.

Within the immediate area the ringers try and support one another, and we are thankful for their help and friendship.

Lunch on the Last Sunday in the Month

On the last Sunday of the month we have continued to have the Church Lunch at the Summerhouse, where we are welcomed and well looked after.

We average about 25 each month.



Munch and chat in good company

In the first half of the year, we said our personal farewells and thanks to John, the landlord, on his retirement and moving back to Scotland. He has always been very welcoming and supportive of St. Martin's



Yummy, yummy!



Mine's yummiier!

The lunch is open to all, and it is a great way of getting to know members of the congregation who we either do not know or to discover more about them. It is fellowship and munch!

Locking Deanery Synod Report for 2024

The parish's two representatives on Locking Deanery Synod are Yvonne Criddle and Grace Rubery.

Grace represents the Deanery at Diocesan Synod and Yvonne is a member of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group

The year began with the Deanery Service of Light, at the end of January, held at St Andrew's Banwell. The focus was on chaplaincy within a variety of settings

Carrying on from 2023 there have on-going discussions and regular updates at each meeting as to the proposed new format for the parish/benefice share and the implication for each parish. The proposal was agreed at the July meeting of Diocesan Synod. It will be phased in as there will be significant increases for many parishes.

During the year Locking Deanery Synod has met three times in March, July and October.

The March meeting was held at Christchurch, Weston-super-Mare where the main focus was highlighting the priorities for the Deanery. These are Weston College, Magnificat Estates and Hubs for both young and older people.

Nigel Warren, from Hutton, was appointed Assistant Area Dean

St Mary's Langford was the venue for the July meeting. The meeting focused on Magnificat parishes, noting that there were seven in Locking Deanery (based on indices of deprivation) - all in the Weston area.

Revs Craig Philbrick and Tim Erridge led the input based on their own experiences. They noted that Magnificat estates, in many ways, had more in common with villages than towns because of their sense of community and independence

The final meeting of the year was held at St Peter's, Milton in October. Since the previous meeting the work and mission of the Deanery had been reviewed and also parishes had received letters advising them of their parishes/benefice share for 2025. For most parishes this will mean a major increase over the next couple of years, putting pressure on their finances.

In light of the above, most of the meeting was focused on John 15:1-11 (the True Vine) by initially dwelling in the word, and then in groups creating a 'vine' from various objects.

From this it was highlighted afresh our dependence on God as well as our need to support one another. In this we need to be willing to be vulnerable and honest with each other about our situations.

The Area Dean, Rev Andrew Hemming, announced that he would be standing down at the end of the year.

We have all been grateful and give thanks for Andrew's guidance, listening ear, insightfulness and willingness to be adaptable as to members views as well as his support for individual parishes.

St Martin's Church Mission Giving Group



This group came together in October 2022 with the purpose of promoting the parish's activities in local and worldwide mission and outreach. The Mission Giving Group, comprising three members of the PCC and one lay member, met twice during the year under review.

The Group considered the success of both established methods of fundraising and the potential of different approaches. It is relevant to recount the support that we have been able to provide through the group's fundraising efforts:

Items considered were:

1. The regular gifts given from the church to sponsor a child (Sergio) through the auspices of Compassion UK.
2. Support for the Bath & Wells Diocesan Link with our connection in the Central Diocese of Zambia.
3. The success of fundraising appeals made during the year.
4. Potential areas of need that we might be able to support.

During the year regular monthly contributions were made to Compassion UK by way of sponsorship for Sergio. In addition, donations were collected in the Piggy Bank on the Mission Table; part of these were sent as a birthday present for Sergio and the remainder sent as a gift to support his local community.

Work with the Diocesan Link is impacted by the distance between the Ndola Diocese with whom we are linked, nevertheless the church sends £20.00 per month to Bath & Wells to help with the costs of maintaining the Link.

During the 40 days of Lent church members were encouraged to put aside in collection buckets the value of luxuries that they had foregone in the period. The concept was well received, and we were able to make a donation of £492 to Somewhere to Go, a local charity supporting homeless people in the town.

Our relationship with local charity Hands of Compassion continues with support going to them so that they can maintain their good work in educating and training the disadvantaged folk in Zambia. During the year fundraising enabled the church to send £800 via Hands of Compassion to provide water and electricity to a start-up project to train unemployed men and women in skills that should enable them to sell whatever they manufacture, and work towards being self-sufficient.

We have also raised monies towards the construction of new school rooms adjacent to St Andrew's Anglican church in Chipulukusu (Ndola). Shortly, we will be sending monies to the church to purchase stationery equipment for the first 50 children to be educated there. The construction project has been supported by a grant from Hands of Compassion.

The Group wanted to support the efforts of the aid agencies in the Middle East and for two weeks buckets were placed in church to raise monies for the Disasters Emergency Committee. £327 was collected and sent to the DEC to enable it to be increased under the government scheme to double contributions for the charity.

A Christmas Tree Festival has become a regular feature at St Martin's and in this year £1,600 was raised. 50% of this was given to Weston Hospice care and the balance was retained for the work of St Martin's Church.

The Group would like to thank all of those who have assisted in the fundraising to help our many underprivileged brothers and sisters. We realise that not all are able to contribute to our ministries, but we continue to be supported with their prayers.

Church Cleaning Team Report

In October 2024 the Cleaning Team was delighted to welcome three new members, Paul Martin, Jill Preddy and Wilf Simpson. Their joining has enabled the workload to be spread out and become less onerous for all.

Cleaning takes place on Friday mornings, or at other suitable times.

Weekly cleaning:

- Toilet cubicles: clean all surfaces; replenish toilet rolls and soap; empty bins
- Kitchen: clean sink and surrounds and shelf on top of the safe
- Vestry: empty bins

- Glass doors: remove any marks
- Vacuuming: all carpets in the main body of the church, including alter area, vestry, kitchen floor and the area in front of the West door, porch mats

Monthly cleaning:

- Body of church and gallery: all chairs, pews, choir stalls, organ area, and surfaces are wiped
- Polish: altar rails; shelves of choir stalls; small tables
- Wipe down/clean where necessary: bannisters, glass panels and surrounds on gallery stairs; children's area

6 monthly, to coincide with churchyard cleaning:

- wash wooden floor area and porch mats
- clean vestry shelves
- empty and clean kitchen cupboards and shelves

Any member of the team working on their own in church must adhere to the Lone Working Policy and:

- let someone know where they are
- have a mobile phone with them
- keep the outer door locked

Home Groups

This is a sociable group which meets in church and is well attended. Over the course of the year there were sessions on the background and history of strands of Christianity (Celtic, the Reformation and Hospitality) and courses which explored different books of the Bible (Letter to Philemon, Habakkuk and the Book of Job.)

We also thought about how our faith informs how we relate to the world, in courses on Caring for Creation, and on Vision, Mission and Living in Love and Faith.

Our courses during Lent and Advent involved studying the Lord's Supper and the different prayers used, and sections from Luke's Gospel which form part of our worship in Evensong and Morning Prayer.

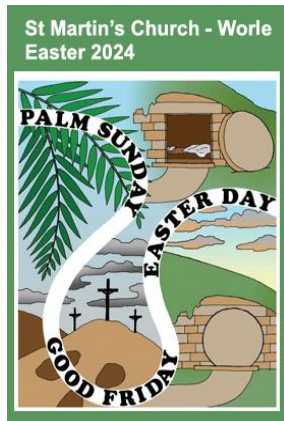
Between 'term times,' there are puzzles and crafts, laughter and good conversation. The craft sessions not only knitted for the Christmas tree but provided blankets and knitted hats for premature babies as well.

And there is always tea and cake.

We're so grateful to everyone who takes part, however they do so, particularly of course, those who provide sustenance in the form of home-made cake...

Magazine Committee

We have “produced” three magazines this year,



- *Easter.*
- *Harvest Festival.*
- *Christmas.*

Each edition starts with a planning meeting, when the broad outline is agreed, with a window of two-three weeks to prepare the material, which is assembled and proofread, before the pages are then sent to the printers.

For our two large print editions, 3,500 copies, the members gather in Church on a Friday morning, to place the magazines into recyclable paper bags for each road. Then the wider Church family takes over and distributes the magazines to every house in the Parish.

We are always looking for new contributions, so please do contact us.

The Church magazine is an important part of our mission, in bringing the Good News to the Parish

Social Events 2024

Part of the church's mission is to encourage its members, and the wider community, to participate in a range of social activities and St Martins Church has run a varied programme during 2024.

Our free monthly film nights during the darker evenings have been popular and have shown a variety of films including 'A Man called Otto', 'Dream Horse' and 'Death on the Nile'.

In February we had our 2nd Pancake and Beetle Drive evening on Shrove Tuesday which was a well-received and fun evening with the trophy for the expert pancake tosser going to a new home for the year!

We have enjoyed a variety of Saturday afternoon concerts in church, with a performance by the Mendip Consort of Recorders, a prom concert by Worlewind Band, and an autumn concert by Hollie-Anne Bangham, accompanied by our organist Richard Lennox. All were well received and brought in audiences from church and the wider community.

A quiz night with fish and chip supper in July was popular again, and good competitive fun was had by all.

Our annual St Martin's Day Fayre in November was supported by many generous donations of cakes, crafts, bottles, books and bric-a-brac. There was also a raffle and children's activities. During the morning there was an opportunity for people to make donations for the work of the church and the grand total raised was enhanced greatly by generous gifts.

The Christmas Tree festival ended our social calendar for the year, details of which are in a separate report.

All these events have been well supported and provided much enjoyment and fellowship, whilst raising money for the life and work of the church. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with these events, they couldn't happen without you all!

St Martin's Choir

We are a group of people who have committed themselves to help lead the congregation in the singing of music at the 10.00am service on Sunday morning and a once-a-month Evensong at 6.00pm.

We meet in church for choir practice on Thursdays at 6.15pm for 45 minutes. We also sing at weddings and other services when required.

We are always looking, and hoping to welcome, new members who would be happy to make that commitment.