St Martin of Tours Parish Church, West Coker

Registered Charity Number: 1185493

Annual Report

Year ending 31st December 2025

Administrative Information

St Martin of Tours Parish Church is situated in Church St, West Coker. It is part of the Benefice of Coker Ridge, the Diocese of Bath & Wells, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 82 High St, West Coker, BA22 9AT

The Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members who have served since 29th April 2025 until the date this report was approved are:-

Incumbent & Chair Revd Philip Macaulay

Vice Chair Mrs Valerie Barker

Wardens Mrs Susan Bonning

Mr Michael Collins

Representatives on the Yeovil Deanery Synod

Mrs Valerie Barker – Deanery Lay Chair

Mrs Jacqueline Gormer

Elected Members

Mrs Judy Beattie

Mrs Lotty Boersma (Foundation Governor)

Mrs Caroline Collins (Electoral Roll Officer)

Mrs Barbara Hampshire (Treasurer)

Mrs Rita Coward

Mr Alan Gormer

Mrs Julie Brigden

Mr Chris Varley Licensed Reader

Co-opted Member – Secretary

Mrs Stella Davis

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Rector's Report

A generic report for the Coker Ridge Benefice accompanies this report. A verbal report specific to West Coker will be presented at the APCM on April 27th.

Report on Fabric of the Parish Church and Review of the Year 2025

Services are held every Sunday, and occasionally during the week. They are led by the Rector, the Licensed Reader and a team of three worship assistants. Average weekly attendance ranges between 14 - 28. In 2025 there was one wedding, one baptism, one funeral, and a burial of ashes. Memorial services were held for Gina Seaton and Beryl Preston. Special services included World Day of Prayer (40), Harvest Festival (27), Infant Loss Wave of Light, Remembrance Service (165), Carol Service (74) Crib Service (33) Midnight Mass (16) Christmas Day (23). School services on 10 occasions.

Thanks are due to the team of volunteers who look after the churchyard, cutting and strimming the grass and contributing to general upkeep.

Rita Coward continues as our much-valued and loved organist; we miss her when she is unwell and cannot come, and now (March 2026) wish her a speedy return to the organ.

The Bell Tower and Ringers

We are indeed fortunate to have a full complement of 8 bells at St. Martins. The tower originally held 6 bells, 4 of which were installed in 1770 and 2 more in 1779. In 1911 a faculty was obtained from the Bath and Wells Diocese, to install a new bell frame and augment the bells to 8. The original Tenor (the heaviest from 1779) was recast and 2 bells added. The bells do require regular maintenance, bearing greasing etc., and new ropes occasionally; but otherwise they are the same as the day they were installed in 1911.

Somerset has the second highest number of bells hung for change ringing in the country and, like many towers, there are not enough ringers to go round. West Coker does not have a regular local band, but we do share ringers with other local towers for special occasions, and encourage others to ring our bells. We practice every Wednesday evening and there is a quarter Peal (45 minutes in length) every Tuesday morning. We also have visiting bands from many parts or the country. V.E. Day this Year (2025) was marked at St. Martin's when the Dorset County Association rang a full peal on the bells: a full peal takes 3 hours non- stop, and no mistakes are allowed !

At their end-of-term service, West Coker Primary leavers climb the tower to see bells, and get to chime them afterwards. If anyone would like to learn how to ring, or just see what goes on, please get in touch. **David Neal, Tower Captain.**

January

*Spectrum Electrical installing 4 lights and heater re-wire, £546:16. *Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells phoned me: good chat about the Blackmore legacy, she was very supportive of our cause and actions as a PCC to reclaim the legacy. There was nothing that the hierarchy of the Diocese could do to help. * Safeguarding meeting with Revd Phil and Sue Phillips: Parish roles discussed. *23rd Very strong winds forecast, Storm Eowyn; checked carefully the church floor and roof line. *Completed 'Statistics for Mission' statement for 2024.

February

*12th Ten new blue pew seat cushioned covers arrived. *20th Ladies Prayer group met at St. Martin's Church.

March

*19th First grass cut of the season with the team! *25th Service for the Annunciation, 10:30am at St. Martin's Church.

April

*Lent lunch at The Pavilion, £238:50 raised and donated to West Coker School. *Good Friday, Sutton Bingham Church: Prayer Station, reflect and pray 2 – 7pm. 'The Last Hour' at St. Mary's, Hardington, 2pm. *29th St. Martin's Church AGM meeting.

May

*8th VE Day remembrance, 2 minutes silence at 12 noon. Bells and candles lit in respect. *17th Plant Sale @ Teal House. *Fixed Vestry lock, metal plate to support door lock.

June

*22nd Vision Planning Meeting 2026 - 2029, led by Revd Phil. *Sat 28th West Coker School Summer Fete in the School field. Our Church was used for the school children to display their creative art work, and West Coker WI gave their time and provided refreshments for the school. (12noon – 3pm) ***July***

*Requested a quote from Spectrum Electrical for two more 3Kw heaters, to be located in the main aisle. *Attended Choral Evensong at Wells Cathedral for all diocese Safeguarding Officers, followed by drinks and nibbles at the Bishop's Palace. *16th Purchased and installed two smoke detectors (next to the organ and bell tower). *23rd School Leavers' Assembly (three Year 6 pupils), 10am in the Church.

August

*Benefice Pet Service at East Coker Church, led by Richard Kirlew. *29th 12 new pew cushions arrived. The two rows of pews in the centre of the church now have new cushions.

September

*2nd New SMART meter installed in the bell tower, to keep tabs on electricity use and cost. *13th West Coker School Open Day – 10 – 11:30am. *Revd Phil went to Flourish House to attend a meeting to discuss the Diocese Safeguarding audit.

October

*3rd Dame Sarah Mullally is to be Archbishop of Canterbury. *4th Devon Bell Ringers on Tour 5 – 6pm at St. Martin's Church. *A metric ton of pea gravel was spread around the church pathway from lych gate to the main church door. *25th Met with Rob Poole from Spectrum, to discuss the location of the two new heaters.

November

*4th West Coker School pupils, parents and village folk provided a large number of woollen poppies, which the school used to create an amazing display in and around St. Martin's Church. The display was left in place for 3 weeks. *14th Quiz Night at The Village Hall, led by Christine Terrell, a very pleasant evening. *21st and 24th Spectrum Electrical engineers installed the two new heaters.

December

*4th Preparations started to put Advent cards into envelopes, ready to distribute to volunteers, who will put a card into each home in the Parish of West Coker – all went to plan!! *10th Sent PCC members a copy of the story to replace the Cistern Head on one of the drainage pipes. A quote has been received from Warman Building Company - £1,241:69. Work really needs to be undertaken on all drain pipe systems. *15th School Carol Service *22nd New heater purchased for the church organist to use.

Mick Collins and Sue Bonning, Church Wardens

Report on the Proceedings of the Church Council

The PCC met on 6 occasions in January, March, April (APCM), July, September, November. The atmosphere is relaxed but purposeful. We discuss and make decisions on topics as varied as fundraising, trees, re-ordering and safeguarding, as well as monitoring finances, and services and events. We would like to thank Sue Bonning for offering us Teal House for our meetings.

Report on the list of Church Members
There are currently 32 on the Electoral Roll, although some regular worshippers are not included yet.
Caroline Collins, Electoral Roll Officer

Report on safeguarding
The Safeguarding Dashboard system, meshed in with the Diocese Safeguarding Team at Wells, keeps safeguarding officers well informed of their responsibilities, current safeguarding thinking and courses available to attend. A poster in St. Martin's church porch outlines safeguarding contacts, their role and phone numbers, should anyone wish to communicate. (Parish priest Rev. Phil Macaulay / Safeguarding Manager, Bath and Wells Ben Goodhind / Mick Collins PCC Parish rep.) Our Lay Reader Chris Varley, who is an integral part of our parish and Benefice team, holds up to date DBS and safeguarding certificates. Dashboard is an integral part of monitoring and communication across the Diocese. Just inside St. Martin's Church are some small, informative safeguarding fliers (a pocket guide) for people to read or takeaway, summarising what everyone needs to know about safeguarding.

West Coker C. of E. V C Primary School attend St. Martin's Church on a monthly basis for Collective Worship sessions during term time. Collective worship is led by the school staff and the pupils. All school staff are DBS and Foundation Safeguarding cleared and approved. Val Barker, Simon Ellis and Lotty Boersma who also help lead collective worship, are also Safeguarding cleared.

The school will have undertaken Safeguarding and Risk Assessment measures when walking to visit the church. All pupils are collected from the church by parents / carers from 3:15pm. Some parents, grandparents and members of St. Martin's Church congregation also attend collective Worship sessions to support our village school – always a lovely atmosphere created in the church.

On a Tuesday morning in term time, The Acorns stay and play fun group for babies, toddlers and carers takes place in West Coker School. The leader is the benefice safeguarding lead and all volunteers hold up-to-date Foundation Certificates.
Mick Collins PSO

West Coker CofE VC Primary School

The school's vision is: "Working together to grow and flourish".
The school's Christian values are Community, Wisdom, Hope, Respect and Kindness.
In September 2025 it became clear that our school was on the 2025/2026 list for a SIAMS inspection. We were fortunate that we did not have to wait until the end of the school year; the inspection took place on 22 October 2025. The Ethos Committee, comprising Revd Phil Macaulay, Mick Collins, Phil Hyland, Rebecca Edwards and myself, had thoroughly prepared for this inspection.

The inspector concluded *that West Coker CofE Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.*

As notable strengths the inspector mentioned a strong teamwork ethic, a nurturing and welcoming ethos, using nature to develop spirituality, a strong partnership between the school and the church, and continuous school development. As development points, the

inspector suggested a training program for staff to deliver an effective religious education in the new syllabus, and help pupils' understanding of injustice in the world. The Ethos Cttee and the Board of Governors will continue to work on our strengths and our development areas. A further area of attention will be the new Special Educational Needs Policy.

The number of pupils in the school stays stable but rather low, with 27 at the moment. In September 2025 an open day was held for prospective parents. It was very well organised by Rebecca Kilburn, and the feedback was very positive. We do not yet know the number of new pupils in the new school year, but we do know that 5 children from year 6 will leave the school in July.
Lotty Boersma, School Governor

Zambia Companion Link

In September 2024, the PCC agreed that we wished to continue with our link, even if all we could do would be to pray for the church at Twapia during times when there might be little news. Our link has continued to be one with sparse news, with the most recent update in November 2025. From this, we learned that St Peter's is now known as Ndola West Parish and that there is a new bishop, Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Chikoya. We observed Zambia Sunday in July, with Zambia themed intercessions and the collection raised £102 for St Peter's. **Jacky Gormer, Zambia Link Rep.**

Proceedings of Deanery Synod
Deanery Synod met three times in 2025 – in February, June and October. Meetings are usually open, rather than being confined to Deanery Representatives. In July Natalie Wainwright from the Diocesan Finance team, talked and answered questions about parish giving and fundraising – a very useful session. Others looked at recent research into attitudes to belief, and ways of doing worship. There are several charities across the Deanery which St Martin's supports – CAP (Christians Against Poverty), Candles for Ukraine, the Lord's Larder. Elections for Deanery Synod will be held at APCMs in 2026. **Val Barker, Deanery Synod Rep.**

West Coker PCC 2025 Annual Finance Report

2025 was a busy year financially for St Martin of Tours.

Our Parish Share was £20,122, which is a 8.76 % increase from 2024- this was paid in full to the diocese.

The Restricted Fund currently holds £2,221.98 – this account was previously used as the Roof and Heating Fund.

This year we raised £2,377.00 from fundraising events such as Winter Warmer, Lent, Summer and Harvest Lunches, Quiz Night, sale of Christmas Cards, Plant Sale and our Giving to Charity was £772.50 which is 32.5% of our fundraising total for 2025. Donations to the church was £1,460.41 – small donations and coffee.

Our lovely congregation and friends raised £3,930.90 through donations for new Pew Cushions for both sides of the central isle pews. We are appreciating the comfort and warmth.

An outstanding balance of £3,260.14 from the 1st tranche of new heating was received from the Diocese OSR account in January 2025 and were then able to reimburse the parishioner who had paid the original invoice for the works.

In the autumn we put an additional two heaters in the back of the centre isles at a cost of £1,936.30, these funds came out of our current account which will be reimbursed from the remaining OSR funds held by the diocese in 2026.

This year we were successful in claiming back a misdirected legacy to St Martin of Tours Church, and through an awful lot of patience and communication with lawyers and such managed to secure £85,000.00 of the £103,000.00 into our bank account, with the remainder of the outstanding funds due in early 2026.

Our total received income, through tax efficient and plate giving and donations fundraising, interest, Legacy and statutory fees our income was £115,679. Our total spend (Parish Share, alter supplies, utilities, giving, repairs) for the year was £35,222.00 so a shortfall of around £12,000 (Discounting the Legacy as those funds are restricted). On a monthly basis we are short of an average of just over a £1000 regarding receipts and expenses.

At the end of the year (2025) the balance in our general bank account was £93,440.71 and in our Wall Fund bank account £2,213.88

I would like to record huge thanks to PCC members for their support over the last year.

Barbs Hampshire - Treasurer – St Martin of Tours Church, West Coker, Somerset - 27th March 2026

Valerie Barker - Vice-Chair

27/04/2026.

West Coker's Receipts & Payments Account

for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	General fund £	Designated fund £
Receipts			
Donations and Legacies:			
Planned giving		15,936	-
Collections, donations & other giving		923	-
Income tax recovered		-	-
Legacies		90,538	-
Other Trading activities			
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc		-	-
Income from other Properties		-	-
Annual Fete/events		2,377	-
Receipts from Investments:			
Interest & dividends		3,561	-
Receipts from Charitable activities:			
Parochial fees		1,263	-
Other Receipts			
Insurance claims		-	-
Sale proceeds from fixed assets		-	-
Loans received		-	-
Other		-	-
Total Receipts		**114,598**	**-**
Payments			
Charitable activities:			
Donations/Grants to charities		(899)	-
Mission & Evangelism		(192)	-
Parish Share		(20,122)	-
Clergy expenses		-	-
Church running expenses		(781)	-
Churchyard maintenance		(76)	-
Cost of raising funds		-	-

Support costs	-	-
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(1,711)	-
Governance Costs	(240)	-
Other	(1,795)	-
Major expenditure		
Repairs to church buildings	-	-
Repairs to other property	-	-
Capital purchases/additions	-	-
Loan repayments	-	-
Total payments	**(25,816)**	**-**
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over payments	**88,782**	**-**
Transfers between funds	-	-
	88,782	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)	6,094	62,390
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)	94,876	62,390

**produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5*

Parochial Fees Note

The PCC received parochial fees as detailed below during the year. Part is made up of statutory prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986. The balance r extras such as bells, flowers and special heating, or paid to visiting ministers, Readers or Non-Stip Parochial Fees policy

Of these fees only the amount due to the PCC (statutory & non-statutory) is shown above as leg ministers (as set out in the DBF policy) should not be treated as PCC income

During the year, the PCC received parochial fees totalling	**£1,957.00**
Statutory Fees due to the PCC totalled	**£1,071.00**
Statutory Fees due to the DBF totalled	**£613.00**
Statutory Fees received on behalf of a third party	**£170.00**
Non-Statutory Extras due to the PCC totalled	**£192.00**
Non-Statutory Extras due to a third party totalled	**£0.00**
The PCC also received Deposits for the following year totalling	**£0.00**
In total the PCC repaid the following Fees during the year	
Payment to DBF of Statutory Fees	**£907.00**
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	**£170.00**
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	**(£30.00)**

Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs (This excludes fees for Sunday Services)	**£0.00**

Restricted fund £	2025 £	2024 £	Accounts List code
1,250	17,186	11,748	1
-	923	6,764	2
-	-	-	3
-	90,538	-	4
-	-	-	5
-	-	-	6
-	2,377	1,803	7
40	3,601	8,559	8
-	1,263	3,883	
-	-	-	10
-	-	-	11
-	-	-	12
-	-	-	13
1,290	115,888	32,757	
-	(899)	(792)	14
-	(192)	(280)	15
-	(20,122)	(18,502)	16
-	-	-	17
-	(781)	(4,782)	18
-	(76)	(395)	19
-	-	-	20

-	-	*(1,087)*	21
(5)	**(1,716)**	*(972)*	22
(214)	**(454)**	-	24
-	**(1,795)**	*(1,595)*	23
(543)	**(543)**	-	25
-	-	-	26
-	-	-	27
(8,760)	**(8,760)**	-	28
(9,522)	**(35,338)**	*(28,405)*	
(8,232)	**80,550**	*4,352*	
-	-	-	
(8,232)	**80,550**	*4,352*	
6,404	**74,888**	*92,689*	
(1,828)	**155,438**	*97,041*	

fees due to the PCC or the DBF, as
elates to charges as fixed by the PCC, for
pendiary Ministers as set out in the DBF's

gally the amount due to the DBF and other

Balance owed at year-end (inc. in Creditors)

(£294.00)

£30.00

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1185493

Acorn Accounting for Business Limited
Suite A
17 The Park
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1DN

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.

(Registered Charity No.1185493)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Planned giving – General Fund				
Planned giving	8,536		8,362	
Tax Efficient Planned giving	8,860		8,105	
Planned Giving – Restricted Fund				
Planned giving	-		-	
Tax Efficient Planned giving	1,250		1200	
Collections, donations and other giving				
Donations – General Fund	33		400	
Donations – Restricted Fund	-		1,050	
Special Appeals – pew cushions	4,032		-	
Legacy received	90,538		-	
Income tax recovered	-		-	
Annual fete and events				
General Fund	2,377		462	
Restricted Fund	-		1,710	
Parochial fees	910		5,206	
Investment income				
Bank interest and dividends received				
General Fund	3,561		3,905	
Restricted Fund	40		108	
Loan from parishioner (re church wall repairs) – now repaid	-		(7,332)	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		120,137		23,176
PAYMENTS				
Donations and grants to charities and mission giving	899		795	
Children/Youth work costs – school leavers books	60		80	
Local Mission & Evangelism projects	132		200	
Parish share	20,122		18,502	
Church running expenses				
Light and heat (2024 includes test pew heaters)	429		3,357	
Organ tuning and music costs	-		1,055	
Other church expenses	206		178	
Repairs and maintenance	195		418	
Churchyard maintenance	76		695	
Pew cushions	4,603		-	
Church heating system	9,303		-	
Architects fees	214		-	
Support costs – fees to visiting ministers	1,016		1,254	

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.

(Registered Charity No.1185493)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Administration (incl staff costs)				
Bank charges – restricted fund	5		22	
Coker Ridge Benefice – administration costs	-		-	
Salaries and wages - organists	695		480	
Accountancy (2024 2 years)	240		450	
Other				
Insurance	1,745		1,596	
Loan repayments	-		12,000	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		39,940		41,082
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		80,197		(17,906)
CASH FUNDS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2025		73,806		91,712
CASH FUNDS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025		154,003		73,806

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.

(Registered Charity No. 1185493)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

CASH FUNDS

	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£
Bank Current Account	93,441	5,012
CBF Deposit Account	10,500	10,500
Bank Current Account – roof fund	2,214	6,404
OSR Trust Fund CBF Deposit Account	47,848	51,890
At 31 DECEMBER 2025	154,003	73,806

CBF INCOME SHARES DODGE CHURCHYARD

	2025
Balance brought forward	6,960
Investment performance	(278)
Balance carried forward	6,682

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities Act 2011 and SORP'S 2008 Regulations.

Certificate of Approval

I approve these accounts and confirm that they include a complete record of all relevant income and associated expenses and that I have made available all records and information for their compilation.

Signed: B Hampshire Date: 18/06/2026

B Hampshire (Mrs)
Treasurer

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN OF TOURS, WEST COKER.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report on the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin of Tours, West Coker. for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the 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 Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
* state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My 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 any 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 accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

HM Lambshead ICPA
ACORN ACCOUNTING FOR BUSINESS LIMITED
Suite A
17 The Park
YEOVIL
Somerset
BA20 1DN

18 June 2026