Post of Vicar for
St Martin’s Church, Walsall
within the Diocese of Lichfield

www.stmartinswalsall.co.uk
1 Daffodil Road, Walsall, WS5 3DQ
Welcome to St Martin’s, a church focused on the love of God.

We have a desire to build His kingdom, within our church family and in our wider community, through the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Will you be the next person of God to lead us into the future, to change lives and deepen our worship and relationship with Jesus?

We welcome you to look at our church ......
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WHERE WE ARE - PLACES OF INTEREST

Through Jesus, Transforming lives, changing communities
WHERE WE ARE - Education

For further details, Click on the appropriate image or shape, or refer to the list of links at the end of this document.
The area of St Martin’s parish is relatively affluent with a large percentage of owner occupied households. In the 2011 census, out of the population of 6,700 in the parish only 50% were Christian, a drop of 19% from the previous census. Greater than 35% of the population consists of faiths other than Christianity. (See the Presence and Engagement website [14]).

The largest age group in the parish is 60 – 74 year olds and these are well represented in the church. The average age of the population has gone up since the previous census. The age group that is underrepresented in the church is 15 – 44 years and we see this as a challenge to increase membership in this age range.

However a third of those on the electoral roll for St Martin’s actually live outside the parish boundary, some only just outside but many from some distance away. They attend and participate in church life because they appreciate the fellowship and diverse churchmanship.
In line with practice elsewhere in the diocese, the Deanery has formed ‘Clusters’ of churches. St Martin’s has been clustered with St Paul’s at the Crossing, St John’s in the Pleck, St Luke’s Chuckery and St Matthew’s Church.

It has become the practice for this Cluster of clergy to go on retreat once a term for a day of Bible-study, prayer and planning of joint events. Relationships are excellent and mutually supportive.

All 5 churches involved are using a variety of styles of liturgy from BCP to charismatic-style worship and Common Worship. Cluster activities include a combined Bishop’s Certificate Course and, over the recent few years, a combined Confirmation Service at Lichfield Cathedral or one of the Cluster churches.

St Martin’s works closely with the only other church in the locality, Broadway United Reformed Church, which serves broadly the same area. There are shared services twice a year alternating the venue between the churches, joint Lent courses and youth club.

In the past the Vicar at St Martin’s has occasionally presented assemblies at Park Hall Infant and Junior Schools.
Who we are

History
In more than fifty years of life at St Martin’s there have been many changes in the congregation, ministers and patterns of worship. It has grown as a family grows and we feel that today it is a warm, welcoming, happy Christian community.

St Martin’s church building was completed and consecrated in 1960 following on from a church plant in the Longhorn Pub opposite. Initially this was to serve the newly built Orchard Hills estate and later the Brookhouse and Park Hall Estates. The ministers were originally curates from St Matthew’s church, Walsall, until in 1975 when St Martin’s was granted its own Team Vicar and in September 1977 St Martin’s became a district church responsible for its own affairs. In 2011 St Martin’s became a Parish Church in its own right.

Our church today
Drawing from a wide variety of backgrounds, St Martin’s church is a lively group of people serving God and their community. It is an open evangelical church with a sacramental focus. There are within the congregation people from many different traditions within the Anglican Church and other denominations, e.g. U.R.C., Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Charismatic and Independent Evangelical.
WHO WE ARE - Our Vision & Values

A place where each member, young or old, is loved and accepted unconditionally for who they are, and a place where people can experience the transforming power of God’s love.

- We value the church as a space where real relationships between God and one another can take place.
- We value and support each individual whatever their age, and the unique contribution they bring to the life of the church. A Ministry Team exists to encourage and enable the gifts and ministry of every member of the church.
- We value the teachings of Jesus Christ, and our love for him is the basis for working with the community and making our commitment to a fairer world.
- We value and support Christian giving, and as a church we give one tenth of our income away to local and international charities (see Appendix 2 - Mission Giving Charities).

Each year in June the PCC produces a Mission Action Plan, highlighting key areas for the church in terms of mission and growth. The review of the plan for 2015 – 2016 has been postponed until September. However the plan for 2015 – 2016 along with comments on progress against these goals is attached (see Appendix 1 - Mission Action plan).
Who we are - Leadership Team

Parochial Church Council
The membership is:
- The Vicar
- Church Wardens,
- Deputy Wardens
- Licensed Lay Ministers
- Deanery Synod Reps.
Plus elected members:
- Jackie Lynam (secretary)
- Dorothy Doody
- John Duder
- Lesley Bates
- Margaret Jones
- Jacky Brown
- Debra Mayo
- Gary Mayo
- Sue Ball
- Yvonne Kent

Ministry Team

Through Jesus, Transforming lives, changing communities
**WHO WE ARE - Other Team Members**

**Ministry Team:** The Ministry Team members are chosen through a calling out process. They meet with the Vicar every 3rd Tuesday of the month to pray for all aspects of the Church’s life. They enable the ministry of all Church members by encouraging them to explore and use their own gifts. They also reach conclusions by consensus and make suggestions to the PCC to whom they are responsible. Other things include leading specific aspects of Church life, planning and leading services with the Vicar along with seeking training opportunities and personal spiritual development.

**Standing Committee:** They consider matters referred to it by the full Council and make recommendations for endorsement by the PCC.

**Deanery Synod Representatives:** Jen Whitford

**David Gregory**

**Paid Staff:**
- Director of Music
- Children’s & Families Worker
- Verger
- Cleaning Staff

**Volunteer Staff:**
- Halls Manager
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Covenant Secretary
- Treasurer & Finance Team
- Fabric Committee
- Safeguarding Officer
- Health & Safety Officer

**Deanery Synod Representatives:**
- Jen Whitford
- David Gregory

**Rotas for:**
- Servers
- Leaders
- Preachers
- Bible Readers
- Intercessors
- Prayers for Healing
- Welcomers
- Sides Persons
- Flowers
- Tea & Coffee
- Home Communion
- News Letter

**Who we are - Other Team Members**
We appointed Julie Penney as a part time Children & Families worker in 2015 to enhance and support our existing work with children, young people and families within our church and community. She is supported by a management team and the body of the church.

- Sunday Groups
- Baby & Toddler Group
- Messy Church
- Uniformed organisations
- Crèche Facility

Enactment of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper

Quiz Night

Queen’s 90th Birthday
Caring Hands: A pastoral group for the church and community.

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eye through which Christ’s compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.”

St Teresa of Avila

The focus for Caring Hands this year is to be more aware of people missing from church. To help new people feel welcome.

Our goal over the next 12 months is to continue building on projects already in place and moving towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Church.

Some of the help that that has been shared over the last few years includes:

- Providing Meals
- Home visits
- Lifts
- Dog Walking
- Home communion
- Sending cards to those away, sick or missing for a while.
- Helping with Doctors’ or Hospital appointments
**WHO WE ARE - REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**Home Groups**
4 groups,
2 daytime and 2 evening,
meeting every other week.

**Bereavement Group**
Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month 11am-12pm.

**Café**
Every Thursday morning
10am -12.30pm weekly.
A place to chat, meet others
and make friends.

**Thai Chi**
Led by members of our Church
to help people with mobility
issues along with raising money
for the Church.

**Prayer Walking**
2 teams covering two
residential estates in
the parish.

**AA**
Every Monday evening led
by one of our own members.
WHO WE ARE - Occasional church activities

Courses

- Lent
- Alpha
- CAP
- Freedom in Christ
- Pilgrim
- Prayer

Church Weekends – Whitemoor Lakes

Prayer Tent & Special Prayer Events.
WHO WE ARE - Community Groups

CHILDREN
Baby and Toddlers - Friday weekly 9.30-11.00 am (term time only)
Rainbows - Wednesday weekly 5.30 pm (term time only)
Brownies - Wednesday weekly 6.30 pm (term time only)
Guides - Wednesday weekly 7.30 pm (term time only)
Messy Church - 1st Sunday in the month 9.30 am and 3rd Sunday in the month 4.00 pm
Kumon - Maths and English tuition - Tuesday 4.15 pm and Saturday 10.30 am-12.30 pm (term time only)
Karate - Friday 6.00 - 7.00 pm
Kickboxing - Tuesday 5.00-6.00 pm

ADULTS
Alcoholics Anonymous - Monday 8.00 - 9.00pm
Community Café - Thursday 10.00 am-12.30 pm (weekly)
Wives’ Group – 2nd Wednesday in the month 7.30 pm
Gorway Ladies Probus – 3rd Monday in the month 10.15 am
Embroidery - 2nd Saturday in the month 2.00 pm
Diabetes Education - 1st & 3rd Monday in the month

St Martin’s Seniors - The Over 55 Club – 1st Thursday in the month 7.30 pm
Bereavement Support Group - 3rd Thursday in the month 11.00 am -12.00 noon
Walsall U3A - A volunteer led, lifelong leaning co-operative for older people with many different Interest Groups. 1st Thursday in the month 2.00 pm
Neighbourhood Watch - Orchard Hills Neighbourhood Watch, 3 meetings per year
Walsall Older Persons Project - Group for people with learning disabilities, alternate Wednesdays 10.00 am–4.00 pm
Craft Group - Tuesday 7.00pm
Tai Chi - Thursday 10.00 am, 10.50 am & 11.40 am.
Extend - Fun exercise for all and those with limited mobility - Tuesday 11.00 am – 12-00 noon
Chris’s Toe Tappers - Tap dancing classes Wednesday weekly 8.00 pm (term time only)
Slim4Good - Slimming club, Tuesday weekly 9.30 pm
Slimming World - Slimming club, Tuesday 7.00 pm
Asian Catholic Forum – 3rd Saturday in the month 7.00 pm
Walsall Artists – 2nd Thursday in the month 7.30 pm
WHO WE ARE - Other Activities

We have church members involved in ecumenical activities:

- Walsall Street Ministry
- COMEX at the Glebe Centre
- Prom Praise Choir at the Royal Albert Hall
- Hospital Visiting Team

For further details, click on the appropriate image or shape, or refer to the list of links at the end of the document.
The church, built in 1960, is a modern ‘A’ frame structure with a steeply pitched wood shingled roof and brick in filled low level walls. It is situated on the junction of Sutton Road and Daffodil Road.

On the wall outside the front of church is a lovely carving of Christ with the children by an unknown artist. The building has ramped access and a large tarmacked car park at the rear.

On entering the church the focal point is the large gilded cross on the east wall behind the altar. Recently re-ordered, the body of the church includes a new porch, carpeting and chairs. It can seat 200 plus people.

The church grounds are currently maintained by members of the congregation. There is no graveyard associated with the church.
**Our Buildings - Other Facilities**

**Audio and Visual Aid Equipment**

- Yamaha Clavinova Keyboard
- 8500 Lumen Digital Projector and wall mounted screen
- Church sound system with fixed and radio microphones
- Hearing loop
- CD player and digital recorder for capturing sermons and special services
- Speakers in the porch for service relay
- 24 channel Mixing desk

**Alarmed Office/Vestry**

- Laptop with broadband access
- Photocopier (on contract)
- Combination Lock Safe
- Portable Digital Projector
- Ancillary office equipment
Our Buildings - The Halls

The church halls are integral and comprise of a large main hall, a small hall and 2 smaller rooms, one of which is set aside as a prayer room. Both the church and the halls have easy wheelchair access and there are separate male, female and disabled toilets. There is a kitchen equipped for large scale catering. We have a current project to refurbish the kitchen. Tea and Coffee are served here after most of our Services.

The halls are regularly used by non-church organisations such as U3A, Walsall Older Persons Project and the lettings revenues contribute significantly to the church income.

Alcohol consumption is allowed on the premises. A strict no smoking policy is in force throughout the building.

**Large Hall**

Capacity: 100 people (approx.)

**Small Hall**

Capacity: 45 people (approx.)

**Prayer Room**
Situated 100 metres from the church on Daffodil Road, St Martin’s House is a detached property. Built in 1977 it comprises 4 Bedrooms, family bathroom, downstairs guest cloakroom/WC, spacious study, large kitchen, living room, dining room, utility room, spacious corridors, garage and a large parking space at the front.

It is fitted with Gas Central Heating. There are manageable medium sized lawned gardens to the front and rear of the property.
Patterns of Worship - Regular

Family Communion Service
1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month at 10am
Prayer is available in the prayer room during communion.

Messy Church
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
Messy Church is an activity based service for families with children. On the third Sunday of the month Messy Church meets from 4pm to 5pm.
Messy Morning meets on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10am in the large hall, alongside the Family Communion service which takes place in church (tea and toast is available from 9.30 am).

All Age Worship
2nd Sunday of the month at 10 am

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of the month at 3.30 pm
A spoken BCP service of Holy Communion using traditional language.

Prayer and Praise
1st Sunday of the month at 6.30 pm
A very informal service with a time of worship, followed by time for waiting on God and open prayer.

Thursday Morning Communion
Every Thursday morning at 9.30 am
A short spoken service of Holy Communion lasting half an hour.

Music and Worship at St Martin’s
Music plays an important part in the life of St Martin’s. We have a vocal ensemble, which doubles as a choir, supported by an ad hoc group of talented instrumentalists.
We embrace a variety of styles and traditions in our services. These range from Taizé chants, Celtic, World, and choral anthems, to contemporary worship songs. Our Director of Music, Penny Wheble, seeks to source the best of the old and the best of the new music available. She states that “to lead worship our hearts must be right with God, and be open to the Holy Spirit, as we point the congregation towards the living Lord and draw them into closer relationship with Him.”
Patterns of Worship - Annual

Ash Wednesday

Easter: Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday: Sonrise Service
10am Family Service

Harvest: 2nd Sunday in October

Annual memorial Service: Late October/Early November

Remembrance Sunday

Christmas: Toy Parade Service – 2nd Sunday morning service
Messy Christmas – 3rd Sunday afternoon
Carols by candlelight – 6.30 pm service 3rd Sunday
Christingle – Christmas Eve at 4 pm
Christmas Eve – 11 pm midnight communion
Christmas day – BCP Communion 8 am
Christmas day – Family communion 10am
## Occasional Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016 To date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weddings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms/Christenings</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedications/Thanksgiving</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average Sunday attendance
- Adults: 90, 91
- Children: 14, 17

Current electoral roll as at 2015 stands at 159
The pie charts attached show the summary of the Church’s income and expenditure for the year ending December 2015.

The main income comes from Church Giving, £73,490, and Hall Lettings, £18,548, along with donations of £18,137 for specific purposes the main part of this being the “Building for the Future” Fund.

As part of the Church’s Mission Giving, 10% of Church Giving is donated to a range of local, national and international charities (see Appendix 2 - Mission Giving Charities). £7,300 was donated in 2015 and the PCC have approved the donation of a further £7,000 in 2016.

Projects undertaken during the year included fabric repair and maintenance expenditure on landscaping work, decorations, installation of double glazing and acoustic work in the halls (just under £30,000) financed mainly from accumulated surpluses over previous years. Equipment expenditure on a project to install a high powered digital projector in the main church building cost over £11,000. The 8,500 lumen projector was necessary to combat the difficulties in projecting videos in a light filled worship area.

2015 was the first year of a project to employ a Children & Families Worker which is to run for 3 years and is estimated to cost £30,000. A grant of £12,500 has been approved from the Diocese of Lichfield Growth Fund and the PCC has designated £17,500 to fund the balance.

Over the coming year the PCC is to decide how best to utilise accumulated balances of approximately £37,000, possibly as part of updating the current Mission Action Plan although the Parish Share is due to increase to £64,000+ at current price over a number of years.

Communications

- Website
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Prayer emails
- Telephone Prayer chain
- Weekly notices by email
- Prayer diary
- Weekly Newsletter

A4 printed both sides folded to A5.
The Challenge

As a Church we have prayerfully considered where God is leading us as at St Martins and where we need to focus our efforts. We see the challenges as -

- To seek and discern God’s will in pursuing the growth of His kingdom at St Martin’s.

- To grow in numbers and participation within the Church, young families and people within the 20 – 40s age group, whilst maintaining pastoral care across the generations within the parish.

- To discern and develop the gifts and ministries of all individuals within the Church; further develop the Ministry Team and spread the workload of the Church.

- For the Church to act as a beacon for God throughout the community; to foster links with the whole community regardless of their faith. A major focus of this is to maintain and encourage use of the church halls for all of the community and use this as an opportunity for outreach.

and now –

- To seek a vicar who can act as a focal point within the Church and lead us in our efforts to fulfil these challenges.
Our Church Needs You

Through prayerful consideration, we believe the main characteristics of our next Vicar would be -

- Someone who is open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- Someone who demonstrates a passion for Evangelism, Outreach and Pastoral care.
- Someone who can encourage the presence of young families, children and youth in the Church.
- Someone who is committed to encourage and develop the gifts and ministries of everyone within the Church.
- Someone who is comfortable with a breadth of spirituality and liturgical practice.
- Someone with a dynamic and imaginative approach to growing God’s Kingdom.
- Someone with a sense of humour and preferably who is IT and Social Media literate.

... and to know they are called to St Martin’s Walsall.
External Links and Reference


Vision Document 2015/16

Through Jesus, Transforming Lives, Changing Communities

PRAYER needs to be at the centre of everything we do as a Church.

Already completed

- During administration of communion people to be invited to pray silently
  already implemented, but needs constant reminder
- Organise a prayer walk round the parish – first prayer walk held in August, plans for a
  monthly prayer walk
- Prayer Breakfast – need to fix other dates

To be completed within the next 12 months

- Sermon series on prayer – done January-March 2016, using the Prayer Course
  http://www.prayercourse.org
- Reintroduce use of Prayer Board during services
- Organise Parish Pilgrimage to Lichfield Cathedral – 2016
- Night of Prayer – early 2016 – taking place Friday 13- Saturday 14 May

Longer term aims

- Organise special event to bring community, church and other faith groups together.–
  special community event being organised to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday on Saturday
  11th June 2016
Already completed

- Improve communication within church and with wider community, and ensure that events are publicised well. Make greater use of leaflets/fliers, and posters – weekly email bulletin being sent to congregation
- Couple of times a year invite congregation to wear name badges during the service and use people’s names during the sharing of the Peace – done on first Sunday in September, positive feedback

To be completed within the next 12 months

- Hold annual service for hall users
- Organise Bereavement Training
- Raise awareness and to contact those not seen in church for some time. – Caring Hands Pastoral Group have been sending cards and getting in touch with people we haven’t seen for a while
- Continue to encourage use of Vine collage in church
- Produce photo gallery of church members – John Duder actioning
- Focus on pastoral care 3 or 4 times a year during services

Longer term aims

- Set up a text alert system, to send out important messages/prayer request via text message
- Explore becoming a dementia friendly church – David Primrose coming to speak to the PCC about this on 5th May 2016

Already completed

- Home Groups to be encouraged to do ‘Life on the Frontline’ Course – home groups have agreed to do this course during the Autumn of 2015 or early 2016
- Record sermons/talks so they are available on the church website, and for people to download so sermons are available for those who can’t make it to church – now available on our website

To be completed within the next 12 month

- Create jobs list so people in church know how they can be involved in the life of St Martin’s - Diane Sainsbury to action – autumn 2015
- Messy Home Group to study Youth Alpha course
- Run Freedom in Christ Course – started in April 2016, 12 participants, course already planned for the autumn
- Rerun Worship Course – autumn 2015 – not yet actioned
• Encourage more people to join home groups – letter sent out to congregation in the autumn on 2015, sadly no new take up

Longer term aims

Already completed

• Take Messy Church into local schools – started at Blue Coat Junior School in September 2015

To be completed within the next 12 months

• Open The Book Assemblies – a non-threatening way of telling Bible stories in schools – Simon & Julie attending training event on 3 November, unfortunately local schools did not want Open The Book Assemblies
• Holiday club – 2016
• Light Party – Saturday October 31st 2015
• Family Event – Saturday 28 November 2015
• Start a Men’s group in 2016

Longer term aims

• Explore how to reach out to the parents and grandparents of children who have links with St Martin’s.
• Look for ways to reach out to the wider community, especially those on the Park Hall Estate, and address some of the issues of loneliness and isolation that exist in the community. – Introduced monthly prayer walks around Orchard Hill and Park Hall Estates, distributing leaflets about the church. Looking at ways this can be developed.
• Introduce afternoon film club, to include tea.

Already completed

To be completed within the next 12 months

• Within next 12 months – develop skills, advertise all that is done by the church, spend money to be seen to be generous
• Ensure that refreshments after services are free – PCC approved this in 2015
• Run Everybody Welcome course – taking place on Saturday 7 May 2016
• Organise teaching series on theme of ‘generosity’
• Church Weekend – 18-20 November 2016

**Longer term aims**

• Within next 2 – 3 years create a skills register, and develop a dedicated welcoming team

Updated 03 May 2016
**APPENDIX 2 - MISSION GIVING CHARITIES**

**Mission Giving 2016**

£7000 is available for Mission Giving in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARITY</th>
<th>SUGGESTED AMOUNT</th>
<th>MONTH OF FOCUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Big Feed – was due to come out of proceeds from the Christmas Fair, but due to the fair being cancelled PCC have already approved a donation of £500 from the 2016 Mission Giving</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walsall Older Persons Project <a href="www.wclld.co.uk/kb5/walsall/usch/service.page?id=3nrDhlGdEi">www.wclld.co.uk/kb5/walsall/usch/service.page?id=3nrDhlGdEi</a> Social club for older people with learning difficulties based at St Martin’s.</td>
<td>£1000</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi’s n Lows <a href="hisnlows.co.uk">hisnlows.co.uk</a> Provides safe environment for homeless adults &amp; persons with drug and alcohol issues to access support.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacMillan Cancer Support <a href="www.macmillan.org.uk">www.macmillan.org.uk</a> 2016 is MacMillan’s 20th anniversary. 1,393 people are diagnosed with cancer in Walsall every year. Last year they raised £46,000 and helped 240 people through grants for heating/transport, etc. Since 2012 six new posts were created in the hospitals and community. Their goal for 2016 is to raise £50,000. The money raised supports local services.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Doors <a href="www.opendoorsuk.org">www.opendoorsuk.org</a> charity supporting persecuted Christians around the world, providing Bibles, training, community development projects and support.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walsall Link Line <a href="www.walsalllinkline.co.uk">www.walsalllinkline.co.uk</a> The Link Line is a voluntary project. We work from a belief that older people should receive the best care possible and that no-one should feel isolated or alone.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Care <a href="www.globalcare.org.uk">www.globalcare.org.uk</a> who support vulnerable children worldwide. They do incredible work through their partners and because they have these partners on the ground they are often able to help immediately when disasters occur.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vine Trust <a href="www.thevinetrust.co.uk">www.thevinetrust.co.uk</a> Community Development Trust actively engaged in economic, environmental and social regeneration.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myasthenia Gravis Association, web-site <a href="www.myaware.org.uk">www.myaware.org.uk</a>. The aims of the association are: to support people with MG and their families • to increase public and medical awareness of the condition • to raise funds for research and support staff • to provide free counselling and benefits advice services MG, a severe muscle weakening disease, is currently incurable and there is no government funding available for research into the disease so the association has to raise its own funds for this purpose. As little as 30 years ago, a third of patients diagnosed with the disease died from respiratory failure, and a further third ended their lives in wheelchairs. The association has existed for 40 years, so progress is being made, but more needs to be done.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustain Micro Enterprise, Uganda <a href="www.sustainmicroenterprise.com">www.sustainmicroenterprise.com</a> Helps empower vulnerable women (widows/grandmothers caring for children) operating small businesses in local communities, including Kwagala (LOVE).</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tearfund <a href="www.tearfund.org">www.tearfund.org</a> Tearfund’s call is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest. We long for new life and a new sense of worth for people. We do whatever it takes to end poverty and rebuild poor communities. We work through local churches.</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brass for Africa www.brassforafrica.com It is a bit different from some of the charities we have supported before, as it is not about providing the basics in life, but about improving the quality of children’s lives and is ultimately providing employment to some of those who have benefitted from the music programmes. I feel very blessed by the joy that music has brought into mine and my children’s lives and can appreciate the difference these projects might make. As part of the support for this charity I was hoping to arrange some additional fundraising concerts at the church during the year with a couple of bands that I have a links with (a brass group and a swing band).

- Believes that the opportunity to learn and play music has the most profound and empowering effect, particularly on the disadvantaged young people, orphans, ex street kids, refugees and vulnerable children that they support.
- With local partners, The Mlisada Organisation provides regular music education and performance opportunities to many children and young people. Currently support 9 brass bands projects for children residing in Ugandan orphanage homes; Mlisada, The Good Shepherd Home and the Bethlehem Home and also at the Ugandan National Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre at Kampiringisa.
- Supports a brass music education programme for the children at the MacDella Cooper Academy in Liberia.
- Funds general music tuition in the Tender Talents Magnet School, a school with a very strong performing arts heritage for disadvantaged children, and singing lessons for the very young girls that attend the Mummy Foundation (Katwe slums, Kampala).
- Has initiated Brass Instrument Teacher Training for older musicians from the programmes who now have skills in Music and have an interest in teaching other young people from similar backgrounds as themselves.
- Has funded and facilitated the set up of Uganda’s only Instrument Repair Workshop and provided Instrument Repair Technician training to local young people.
- Provide additional support for the organisations they work with e.g. as a trusted channel for communication at the Kampiringisa Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre they have supported psycho-social care and counselling for all 200+ young people and the local music teachers have also undergone basic awareness training in psycho-social care and children’s rights. They have also funded the Mummy Foundation Building and salaries for key members of staff. They also provide a monthly feeding grant for the children living in the Mlisada home.

Comex (Glebe Centre) www.theglebecentre.org.uk The Glebe provides hot meals, clothing, advice and general information and also a needle exchange programme. These services are delivered to some of the most vulnerable adults in Walsall - these being adults aged 18+, including those who are homeless, unemployed, who have mental health issues, substance abuse and other associated issues. The centre has struggled in the recent years of the recession, to remain fully open, particularly after funding from a number of funders ended, but with the help of donations from churches and individuals, it has been able to remain open. Comex has received some extra funding over the last three months and this slightly "healthier" bank balance ensures continued opening until March 2016. The directors are now tendering for new funds to enable the Glebe to remain open from April 2016. Continued financial support from St Martin’s will help them to succeed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brass for Africa</th>
<th>£500</th>
<th>November</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comex (Glebe Centre)</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£7000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Society</td>
<td><a href="http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk">www.childrenssociety.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Christingle Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fight child poverty and neglect and help all children have a better chance</td>
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