



St Martin's  
Potternewton,  
Leeds.  
Parish Brochure  
2025



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## **1. Summary**

St Martin's has established good links with local churches, charities, schools, nurseries and other organisations. Our main weekly church service is the sung Parish Eucharist on Sunday. Services and events which require a larger venue are hosted at St Martin's. There is a small, dedicated core of members who commit their time and skills to St Martin's. The Church and Institute buildings are in generally good condition. The modern vicarage stands next door to the church and allows for relatively quick and easy access to the city centre and to the many amenities that Leeds offers. St Martin's has not passed a resolution regarding the consecration and ordination of women.

### **Mission Action Plan**

- ✚ Grow our church membership
- ✚ Develop our community links.
- ✚ Revitalise our church music.
- ✚ Develop our work with young people and families.
- ✚ Develop our pastoral care.
- ✚ Make our church more environmentally friendly.

Our website address is: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3275/>

## **2. The Priest That We Want**

We want a priest who:

- ✚ Has the skills to grow our church membership
- ✚ Has good leadership skills
- ✚ Encourages all church members and groups to participate and use their talents for the benefit of the church
- ✚ Has the skills to use modern communication technology effectively
- ✚ Is caring and supportive and inspires members to grow in their faith
- ✚ Is a good listener with all ages and groups
- ✚ Is energetic and enthusiastic in dealing with the diverse needs of the church and parish.

We would expect proper holidays and days off to be taken and would support training (CMD) and personal development.



### **3. Our Parish**

Our parish is Potternewton which is an urban, inner-city parish. It is less than 2 miles from Leeds city centre and includes the areas of Chapeltown and parts of Scott Hall and Harehills. It is part of East Leeds Deanery and the Leeds Episcopal area.

St Martin's Church is located in the Chapeltown Conservation area. It is on St Martin's View which is directly off Chapeltown Road.

Chapeltown Road has been described as the 'Faith Mile' as it is the most diverse single road in Leeds, in terms of places of worship. The religions represented include Sikh, Muslim and Christian. There are 8 different Christian denominations with their places of worship. These are Methodist – Roscoe Church, Evangelical Protestant – Wesleyan Holiness Church, English Catholic – Holy Rosary Church, Polish Catholic Church, Pentecostal – Church of God of Prophecy, Zimbabwe Apostolic Church - meets in St Martin's Institute, Mustard Seed Church – meets in St Martin's Institute and Anglican – St Martin's Church.

There are 3 primary schools in the area – Mill Field School – to be renamed Alder Tree School from September 2025, Bracken Edge School and Hillcrest Academy. There are no secondary schools.

*Stewardship Campaign Service*



*Harvest Festival Service*





Potternewton has a population of 21,000. Around 9% of the population is over 65 years old. The parish also has a high minority ethnic population with the largest groups being Black Caribbean and Pakistani Asian. Chapeltown and Harehills enjoy a thriving commercial activity with a wide range of shops, cafés, restaurants and services. This attracts visitors from the wider area of the city. A highlight of the parish is the Leeds West Indian Carnival which is held annually on August Bank Holiday and draws crowds of over 100,000.

The parish offers a wide range of shops and services. Roundhay Park, with its parkland, gardens, Tropical World, lake and cafes is close by and easily accessible. People in the parish are friendly and Carnival is always colourful and vibrant.



*Leeds Carnival*



*St Martin's Church*

## 4. St Martin's Church – Its People and Activities

Members who look after the church and its people include the churchwardens, the Safeguarding Officer and members of the PCC.

St Martin's has benefited from the support of curates and an associate priest. After several productive years at St Martin's, our Associate priest moved on in 2022. In 2024, our last curate was licensed as a priest in his own parish.

The main church service of the week is held on Sunday. It is a sung Parish Eucharist of the Common Worship with the organ and choir. Lay members administer the chalice, read the lessons and lead the Intercessions. There is also a shorter midweek service with Holy Communion. Additional services are held throughout the year. During Lent, Stations of the Cross are walked and on Palm Sunday, there is the Palm Cross procession and the Reading of the Passion. During Holy week there is the Maundy Thursday Service with ritual foot washing and on Good Friday, the Service of the Cross. On Easter Sunday there is the early morning Service of Light. At Christmas, the Community Carol Service, the Tots service and the Crib service take place. Over the last year, 6 baptisms, 2 weddings and 24 funerals were held.

Since COVID, the number of attenders at the Sunday Parish service has been 40 adults on average. A significant proportion of the congregation is over 65. This includes members of the senior church leadership. The vast majority of church attenders live within the parish and the number of people on the electoral roll is 115.



*Choir on the Church Green*



*Christmas Carnival – Sunday Club*



Traditionally, Music has played an important role in the church. In recent years however, COVID, the ageing church and choir membership as well as changes in organists have taken their toll. At church services at present, 'Leading Voices' lead the singing instead of a full choir. The annual Gospel Concert at which several local churches take part and which allows different choirs and types of music to be enjoyed, has not taken place for the last few years. As the revitalisation and modernisation of the church music continues, we look forward to enjoying these concerts.

St Martin's has links with young people in the community through local schools and nurseries. In 2024, Bracken Edge School held their Harvest Festival Service at St Martin's with some 400 pupils taking part. At Easter, Harvest and Christmas, Tots services for young children from local nurseries such as the Chapeltown Community nursery are held in church. The church's Sunday Club for children produces the annual Christmas Carnival. Although this has not taken place in recent years as the number of children attending has greatly declined, we hope to reinstate it as Sunday Club membership increases.

Links with local charities, businesses, artists, doctors' surgeries etc. are maintained. Local artists have exhibitions of their work displayed in church. These have included photography, carnival costumes and paintings. Local charities have helped to maintain the Community Kitchen. At the annual Community Carol Service representatives of the community organisations read the Bible lessons.

*Tots Service*



*Palm Sunday Procession*





*Carnival Costumes Exhibition (top); Garden Party (bottom)*



Membership of St Martin's Mothers' Union has fallen in recent years. Last year (2024), members organised the annual World Day of Prayer Service and the Leeds Lady Day Service, both of which were hosted at St Martin's. Our last priest was a member of Mothers' Union. Members also organised the Outreach activity in which 'Moving On' packs for victims of Domestic Abuse were donated by the congregation. Mothers and fathers are presented with floral tributes on Mothering Sunday and Fathers' Day at church services.

St Martin's works well with Churches Together and has good relationships with other local churches.

Our annual Summer Garden Party is the church's main fundraising event and brings together church members and members of the community. Leeds Heritage Open Days in September give visitors the opportunity to view our historic and beautiful church with its rich interior which features high quality stained glass and painted chancel murals with multi ethnic angels.

## **5. St Martin's Institute – Its People and Activities**

The Institute team consists of the Institute manager, the booking secretary, the churchwarden, a groundsman and a cleaner. Additional help is given with repair/maintenance jobs. The Institute team is small and somewhat stretched.

St Martin's Institute is a community landmark. Rooms in the Institute are offered for rent and are used by local groups for a variety of classes, meetings and events. The classes include Exercise and Dance classes for young children and adults. The meetings include those of the local Residents Housing Association. Denominational churches such as the Zimbabwe Apostles and the Mustard Seed Church rent rooms for their meetings and prayers. During term time, local 'Uniform' groups such as the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet weekly.

*Ceilidh*



*Plant Stall*





St Martin's Community Kitchen has been in operation for over 10 years. It was started and manned by church members and has continued in partnership with local charities - Black Health Initiative (BHI) and at present, the Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen. Meals and food parcels are provided each week for around 60 disadvantaged individuals, families and vulnerable members of our community.

Leeds City Council books the Institute for use as a polling station at local and national elections. With the Council's help, a stair lift was installed in the lower hall to help members of the community who have mobility problems.

Other Events, Meetings and Classes which take place at the Institute include Ceilidhs, Children's parties, the Pancake Evening, Mothers' Union meetings and Bible Study Classes. Bible Study classes in 2024 successfully brought four participants to confirmation. The Flower team runs Flower arranging classes for groups such as local carers. Wine and Cheese as well as Quiz evenings also take place.

#### *Mothers Union*



#### *Flower Arrangement Class*



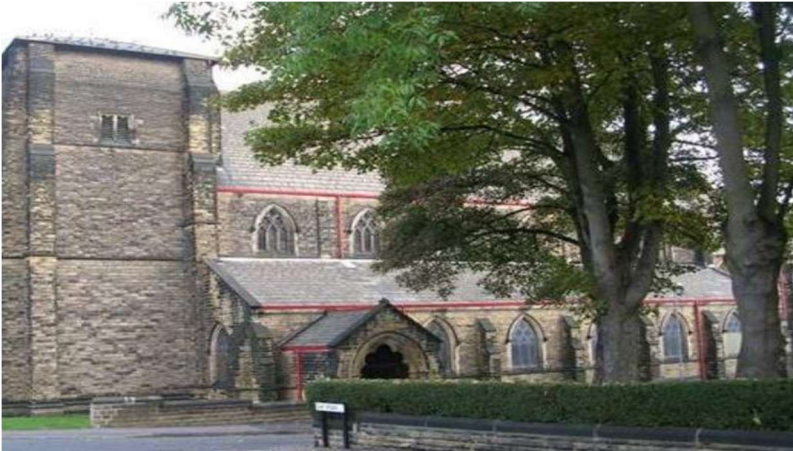
## 6. The Church and Its Buildings

St Martin's Church is a Grade 2 Listed building built in 1879 – 81 in a Gothic Revival Style. It is generally in good condition. A small kitchenette and three toilets were added a few years ago and more recently, a new boiler and LED lights to the nave and aisles.

The recent Quinquennial Inspection in October 2023 identified the deteriorating condition of the floor tiles in church as the main issue which needed to be addressed as a matter of some urgency. This work is ongoing. The churchwarden looks after the church buildings.

The church is used every Sunday for the Parish Eucharist service, midweek for a shorter service with Holy Communion and for baptisms, weddings and funerals throughout the year. Additional services in Lent, Easter and Christmas as well as events such as our Garden Party, Heritage Open Days and Exhibitions by local artists also use the church.

*St Martin's Church – exterior*



*St Martin's Church - interior*





St Martin's Institute stands directly opposite the church on St Martin's View. It is a Grade 2 Listed building which opened in 1904. It is in good condition generally. Major work completed over the last few years included installing a new floor in the Upper Hall, a stairlift in the Lower Hall, hot water to the toilets and refurbishing of the Community Kitchen. Access to the upper floors is via stairs.

The Institute is used six days a week at present.

*St Martin's Institute*



*St Martin's Community Kitchen*



*St Martin's Vicarage*

The Vicarage is located next door to the church. It is a four bedroomed detached house built in the 1980's. The rooms include a study, lounge, dining room, dining kitchen, utility room and downstairs toilet. There is a drive and garage attached to the property and a small enclosed garden to the rear.



## **7. The Church and Its Finances**

The past year has been one of financial challenges. The real problem has been meeting the Parish Share. We can meet the day-to-day expenses of both our large and inefficient Victorian buildings but cannot afford to do this and meet our Parish Share obligations. We currently manage paying between 40 – 50% of the Parish Share request but this does not leave enough to cover emergency situations other than approximately 3 months running costs which equates to around £20,000. It leaves nothing for refurbishment of our buildings.

We are currently undergoing a Gift Aid Stewardship Campaign. The last one in 2019 realised limited financial results. Most in St Martin's are already giving regularly and via bank or envelope schemes. Gift Aid donors = 45 (approx.); Gift Aid (if authority is received) will be about £134p/w; Average giving per week (2024) is £500p/w (approx.)

Our main income stream comes from the rental of rooms in St Martin's Institute - £34,000 in the past year. Rental charges have been increased over the last two years. However, to pay the present Parish Share, we would need to modernise the Institute. Without improvement and modernisation of the facilities on offer, we would be unable to increase rental charges to the level that is required. We have an unrestricted reserve (held in shares) of £62,000 and a deposit reserve of £2,300. These reserves pay interest into our current account of £2,000 per year so any usage of these reserves must factor in the loss of interest payments.

St Martin's pays reasonable clergy expenses. With the previous incumbent, the PCC undertook the payment in full of certain expenses.

The Balance sheet as at December 2024 and the Receipts and Payment summary from January – December 2024 are included as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.



## 8.The Wider Context

St Martin's does not have clustering relationships with other churches. Traditionally, we have had interactions with churches in Chapeltown and Harehills Churches Together. The parish has its share of social and economic deprivation problems linked to high unemployment and low income. With the support of Churches Together, weapon bins were installed in areas of the parish to help reduce the incidence of knife and violent crime. Our last vicar took the Parish Eucharist service at All Souls Church on one Sunday each month. Members of St Martin's and Roscoe churches have worked together to hold the World Day of Prayer service. In 2024, it was held at St Martin's. St Martin's flower team provides the floral displays at St Aidan's at the Anniversary service celebrating Jamaica's Independence. Members of St Martin's have links with the local 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist and All Hallows Churches - food which is surplus to our Community Kitchen's requirements is donated to the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church Food Bank and to All Hallows Church Rainbow Junktion Café. We participate in Churches Together - Good Friday Easter Walk of Witness which ends at a local park where an outdoor service is held.

St Martin's does not have a formally shared ministry team or other leadership team. We have not passed any resolutions concerning the ministry of women priests.

*Good Friday Walk of Witness*



*World Day of Prayer Service*

