

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARY'S WYTHALL

England & Wales · Charity number 1132792

Details

Other names ST. MARY'S WYTHALL PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: St. Mary's Wythall is a local Parish Church, promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church. We hold Sunday and mid-week services, groups for prayer, Bible study and friendship. We run events for the elderly, after-school clubs with a Christian theme, youth clubs and a baby & toddler group. We support local and overseas charities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£217,582	£176,966	-	-
2023-12-31	£204,223	£210,438	-	-
2022-12-31	£210,085	£162,727	-	-
2021-12-31	£179,905	£162,881	-	-
2020-12-31	£160,954	£155,529	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Spencer		2018-04-22
Alison Spencer		
Deborah Brockbank		2024-05-12
Dr Amanda Clare Chishdon Dauncey		2023-05-14
Jennifer Enid Clark		2024-05-12
Joanne Darby		2024-05-12
Julie Annette Croxford		2022-05-15
Julie Arkell		2023-05-14
Llinos Looker		2024-05-12
Lynda Rogers		2020-10-18
PAMELA MABEL MILLER		
Paul Anthony Featherstone		2024-05-12
Paul Francis Harrison		2024-05-12
Rev Amanda Jane Featherstone		2019-06-05

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 11th MAY 2025



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

Isaiah 43:19



Vicar's Report 2024

2024 was an exciting year as we celebrated 10 years of worship in our current building. This marker in time gave us opportunity to give thanks to God for his faithfulness and his marvellous provision.

Our specific celebrations focussed on three main areas. We had a fantastic Weekend at Home where we enjoyed worship and fellowship, plus excellent teaching from Bishop Andrew Watson on the life of Elijah and what God might be calling each of us to. Our worship service that Sunday with our celebration choir was a wonderful time of dwelling in God's presence and lifting high the name of Jesus.

Nine members of St Mary's went to Uganda in August to visit our mission partner Caroline Bell in Moroto and also to visit Kira Farm, a vocational centre where St Mary's sponsors a student each year. This was an incredible experience for each member of the team, it increased our insights into the mission and ministry in both places, and having feedback to the church for prayer, the visit has strengthened these wonderful global church links that St Mary's is privileged to have.

The third part of the anniversary events was a celebration assembly with the children and staff of The Coppice School.

Overarching these specific activities we designated 2024 as a year of Prayer and Praise with the aim of being focussed on the Lord, worshipping him and crying out to him for all that is happening now and all that he will do going forward.

As we look back on the last 10 years we give thanks to God for the provision of our space within The Coppice School and for our very positive relationship with the school community. Being placed where we are brings us into contact with many families, places us at the heart of an exciting 'campus' which includes Woodrush High School and gives us a modern, warm, flexible building in which to worship and welcome people into.

Whilst it is important to look back and give thanks to God for his faithfulness we are also clear that we need to be attentive to what the Lord is doing now and to seek his guidance for all that lies ahead.

Within our vision as a church to 'grow as disciples and to make disciples' there are specific aspects that I feel it is right for us to focus on and pray into. These include:

- Continuing to offer ways people can explore the Christian faith eg 321 and Alpha courses.
- Raising up the next generation into service and leadership – looking at areas such as Sunday worship, small groups etc
- Inviting the Holy Spirit into every gathering and praying each person will encounter God
- Seeking to see where God is at work in our communities of Hollywood and Wythall and asking him how he wants us to serve here



Vicar's Report 2024 continued...

In the late summer I was praying about SCoFF, one of our areas of missional outreach, asking the Lord how we might draw people from that event into the worshipping life of the church and I clearly heard the Lord say, 'You love them and I will draw them to myself.' I find this very exciting and feel it is something for us as a whole church. I feel what the Lord is asking us to do is

- love people with genuine care and compassion and good listening
- faithfully teach of God's grace and truth from the Bible
- gather to worship placing Jesus at the centre
- pray that people in our communities will have curious hearts and minds about God and Jesus and the purpose of life

It will then be God's work to draw people to himself and grow his church. Please join with me in praying for this, and because our God is so good and so faithful we can be expectant for all he will do.

Rev Amanda Featherstone

February 2025

2024 Highlights

- We celebrated ten years of worshipping in our current building
- We held a special 10 year celebration assembly with The Coppice School with whom we share the building
- We held a Weekend at Home with the Bishop of Guildford as our speaker
- We were able to run Christianity explorers courses – Alpha in January and two 321 courses in September
- We saw our youth group grow from 2 people to 9 people and ran Youth Alpha in February
- The PCC agreed to advertise to recruit a part-time youth worker
- 9 members of our congregation spent 2 weeks in Uganda visiting our mission partner Caroline Bell and a mission project we support
- We continued to offer our after-school outreach event SCoFF, feeding around 60 people each week
- We established two new Bible study groups alongside our existing 8 groups
- We have two Churchwardens (having only had one for the past few years)
- We held a service in which 3 members of St Mary's were confirmed and 2 others re-affirmed their baptism vows
- An Easter Trail in the local park was organised by the 3 churches in Wythall and Hollywood
- A Family Fun Day at Pentecost
- Five events for seniors aiming to address issues of isolation and loneliness
- In collaboration with the Secondary School we moved the defibrillator outside our building so it can be accessed by the community, especially those using the sports pitches
- We were able to support the school and wider community by opening a condolence book for a Year 4 child who drowned. There were also people available to listen and talk with those who came to sign the book.
- We met every Sunday for acts of Christian worship and continue our Family @ 4 service once a month
- We established bi-monthly Prayer and Praise evenings
- We saw increased numbers of people attending services over Christmas, especially at our Carol Service and on Christmas morning
- We complied with all necessary safeguarding and health and safety aspects

Churchwardens' Report

It has been an exciting year at St Mary's and it has been a joy to serve as Churchwarden alongside my very experienced fellow Churchwarden, Alison Spencer. She has been a patient and supportive "teacher" as I have learnt how varied the job is (I now know the importance of the Church Inventory and how to fill in the "Mission Stats" form!), and an excellent partner in prayer as we have shared together! Paul Featherstone (Tall Paul) has also been a practical, prayerful and wise support as he continues as Duty Warden.

Key to our work is the strong, prayerful (that word again!) and supportive relationship we have with Rev Manda Featherstone as we meet regularly to listen and share, seeking God's way forward for us as we serve Him in our respective roles.

Celebrating 10 years in our Church Building with a June weekend of family fun, fellowship and worship was a real highlight as we looked back and also received excellent teaching from Bishop Andrew.

Signs of Jesus working amongst us as we serve Him include the ongoing mission activities (SCoFF, Little Lights, the new 3-2-1 course) and the wonderful Confirmation Service (led by Bishop Maurice) at the beginning of Advent. Family@4 is now established as a monthly addition to our Sunday services. As Warden, I have been so encouraged by the amazing teams that make these and many other activities at St Mary's thrive. The phrase "rooted and established in love" (Ephesians 3:17) comes to mind as I reflect on this willing service by so many.

At PCC we have agreed that we will employ a part-time Youth Worker and the regular Sunday evening Youth Group meetings and the planned Youth Alpha Course to be run jointly with HCLC, show there is both a need and an exciting opportunity amongst young people in our parish.

To serve in any role at St Mary's is to know that you will be prayed for and the regular weekly (Monday evening and Thursday morning) prayer meetings have been supplemented by the bi-monthly Prayer and Praise gatherings on Sunday evening. It strikes me that prayer is the beating heart of our fellowship.

At the time of writing, I look forward to my first Deanery visit (another learning curve!) and we all have the excitement of the visit of the Bishop of Birmingham on Palm Sunday. That's 3 Bishops at St Mary's in 10 months!!

More exciting still is the knowledge that God is at work amongst us and, to echo Ali's report last year, we can look forward to seeing God doing "far more than we could ever ask for or imagine, by His power that is working in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Ali Spencer (Church Warden) Paul Harrison (Church Warden) Paul Featherstone (Duty Warden)

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is St Mary's executive and decision making committee. Members are elected to the PCC at the Annual General Meeting and each serves for a period of 3 years. During 2024 the PCC has met 9 times and key agenda items have included:

Contemplation of our church vision of making new disciples of Jesus and for all of us to grow in our discipleship.

Regular updates about the various activities the church holds where people are introduced to the life of the church and the good news of Jesus is explained, for example 'Family at 4@', 'SCoFF' and the 321 course.

The 10th Anniversary celebrations including an enjoyable and spiritually challenging weekend held in June 2024.

A proposal to appoint a part-time youth worker. As of January 2025 an advertisement for the post has gone out and interest has been shown.

The feasibility and cost of projecting song words etc onto the back wall of the church to aid those leading worship from the front and this has now been accomplished.

The PCC has received regular updates from the Treasurer, Pam Miller, regarding St Mary's financial situation. In addition the PCC has agreed to proposals submitted by the Mission Committee regarding the allocation of the church tithe. Details of money given can be found in the Mission Committee report.

Safeguarding: The PCC, in line with our Safeguarding Policy, receives a report from the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator, Amanda Dauncey, at each PCC meeting. During the year the PCC has reviewed and agreed our St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy and the St Mary's Safeguarding Action Plan generated from the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

Membership of the PCC 2024 was:

Rev. Amanda Featherstone (Incumbent), Rev Marcus Pagnam (Curate), Ali Spencer (Church Warden), Paul Harrison (Church Warden), Pam Miller (Treasurer), Jude Emery (Reader), Amanda Dauncey (Safeguarding), Lynda Rogers, Llinos Cotterell, Julie Arkell, Julie Croxford, Jenny Clark, Paul Featherstone and Jo Darby .

Thanks are given to Richard Parsons who has recently stepped down from his role on the PCC as our Deanery Synod representative.

In attendance, non voting members were Gary Daniel, our Children's, Families and Schools Worker and myself, Ros Harrison (Secretary).

Ros Harrison (PCC Secretary)

Treasurer's Report

2024 has been another year in which we can thank God that St Mary's has been able to cover all our necessary expenditure, and even afford to pay for extras like projection to the back wall, which helps speakers, musicians and the school. We give God the glory, for it is He who is behind the generosity of our congregation.

My thanks to everyone who gives faithfully by standing order, through the envelope scheme or as cash on the plate. (A reminder to those who use the offering envelopes: these are dated so that you can see if you have missed a week and then bring that envelope (filled!) when you next come to church. Ideally, you should have no envelopes left when you get your new set. If it is a problem finding change to put in every week, paying several weeks together is perfectly acceptable.) Costs of maintaining the ministry of the church tend to rise annually so it is good practice to review our giving before God each year, especially if we have had a salary or pension rise. If you pay income tax, and Gift Aid your giving, the Chancellor allows us to reclaim the tax paid - this year that amounted to over £31000, all at no extra cost to ourselves.

We contributed our share of the diocesan Common Fund, which pays the stipends and housing costs of clergy, finances their pensions and the training of curates, and supports the costs of the diocesan officers. We give one tenth of the church income to a number of mission partners and Christian charities, details of which can be found in the Mission Committee report. We were grateful to again receive a grant from the Parish Council to help with the costs of SCoFF.

I am indebted to Dave Walters who continues to provide advice and support in all things financial, and to Steve who helps me with computing problems. Dave is again preparing our Annual Financial Report for the APCM in May. This will show our financial activity in detail - the table below summarises in round numbers the main ways in which our money has been received and spent:

Pam Miller (Treasurer)

income	£
Giving	135673
Tax refund	31010
Div/interest	904
Rental income	15759
School hire by clubs etc	1011
SCoFF	1680

Expenditure	£
Common Fund	61222
Clergy expenses	2403
Service costs	7282
Admin	3702
Salaries	42851
Charitable giving	14600
SCoFF (excess over income)	464
Houses - mortgage - ins/repairs etc	3007
Outreach	906

Safeguarding Report

This has been a challenging year for the Church of England in terms of Safeguarding, which remains a high priority. We at St Mary's have a rigorous Safeguarding Policy which is being followed carefully and this is easily accessible on our website. A paper copy of our Safeguarding policy is also available within our Policy file which is kept in the church lobby, for any church member or visitor to read.



Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is updated & reviewed by the PCC annually in March. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator gives a monthly safeguarding report to the PCC. I am also happy to report that the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Church of England House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as required by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)

I'm very pleased to report that all of our Church Volunteers have completed or updated their Basic Awareness Safeguarding training or are in the process of doing so. Many of our Volunteers & all PCC members have also done the recommended 'Foundations of Safeguarding' training and 'Awareness of Domestic Abuse' training, which is now mandatory for all who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults. I heartily recommend all this training, which is easily accessible online. If you are unsure whether you need to update your training or DBS please contact Nicola Clarkson who is our Church administrator. Nicola is happy to help anyone who is unable to do their training at home.

St Mary's Church has a portfolio of group activities which have specific Safeguarding requirements:

- Sunday Kids (Seeds & Shoots) held most Sundays during our 10.30am church service
- Sunday Night Youth and Youth Alpha course
- Children's GLOW group (Children's discipleship group)
- SCoFF: held after school on Wednesdays during term time for school children and families in the community.

- Little Lights: St Mary's Mother and Toddler Group held on Friday mornings during term time
- Super Saturday: held on three or four Saturday mornings a year for children and adults with additional needs and their families
- Hillside: A small team from St Mary's regularly visits this care home for adults with disabilities and we usually hold a service there every month
- Authorised Drivers: a small team of drivers confirmed & authorised by the church to give lifts to elderly or vulnerable adults to attend church
- Friendship Club and Elderly Care: for our senior members & friends

For each of the above activities, which include children, young people or vulnerable adults, the church has a safeguarding responsibility to ensure that a risk assessment is done and reviewed annually. Each activity has a team of volunteers with a nominated team leader. The Safeguarding team is required to ensure that each volunteer has been safely recruited (with 2 references & a current DBS if necessary) and has received the required training appropriate for their role. Guidelines are clearly laid down by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team and on-going adherence is monitored on the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard. Each of our volunteers, when commencing their involvement with an activity, should be provided with a role description and a pack of essential / helpful information specific to their role.

I would like to thank Nicola (who is our Safeguarding Verifier) for all her hard work in updating the Safeguarding Dashboard & Hub & ensuring that all Volunteers have been safely recruited. It is important that Activity leaders should regularly inform Nicola and myself about any new Volunteers or Helpers.

Your current St Mary's Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Rev Amanda Featherstone (Incumbent)

Dr Amanda Dauncey (Parish Safeguarding Coordinator)

Mrs Nicola Clarkson (Parish Safeguarding Verifier)

Mr Gary Daniels (Safeguarding Advocate for Children and Young People)

Mrs Linda Yates (Safeguarding Advocate for Vulnerable Adults)

Amanda Dauncey 2025

Buildings and Facilities Report

247 Alcester Road is currently home to our Curate Marcus and his family. During the year some minor repairs were carried out to a kitchen sink and a new extractor fan was fitted in the toilet. A new large section of fence in the garden was replaced following storm damage in the Spring. Another section of fence has been damaged by the more recent storm and consequently a further section of new fencing has been supplied and fitted.

5 The Willows is home to our Children, Families and Schools Worker, Gary, and his family. During the year some minor repairs to a tap and sink in the bathroom were carried out. More recently landscaping work has been carried out in the back garden to replace broken slabs, relay uneven ones and also to supply a new shed. New carpets have also been fitted in the lounge and dining room areas.

Church maintenance has included replacing an office laptop for the Church Administrator, buying a new monitor for the Children, Families and School Worker, and a new coffee pot for the kitchen. The defibrillator

was moved to outside the church entrance and a safe, insulated box was purchased to house it. This is code locked, but now readily available to anyone in the community. The projector to the back wall was re-instated with new cabling and this has facilitated sight of Easy Worship at the back of the church as well as at the front.

Ali Spencer (Church Warden)

Worship

I am very pleased to say that I absolutely love the worship of St Mary's church. I can wholeheartedly share that even if I wasn't the incumbent of St Mary's this is a church which I would choose to be part of and worship in.

Just like with our small groups the scripture that comes to mind is from the early church:

'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer' Acts 2:42

What a fabulous, prayerful, worshipping, Bible based people we are, who love the fellowship that we share with one another.

It is wonderful that we have a range of gifted people who preach from God's word each week. Over the year there have been a number of different sermon series as we have sought to hear from the Lord. At the beginning of the year we had a wonderful series entitled 'Heaven touching Earth', during Lent we looked at Faith, Hope, Love and Forgiveness. In the early part of the summer to had two series one looking at what God wanted to teach us from the life and faith of Peter, and the other focussed on David. It is always good to include teaching from the Old Testament. From September to November we looked at Paul's letter to the Philippians and it was helpful to study this book of the Bible together.

I am very positive about the fact that we continue to offer two different services on a Sunday, each with a different style of worship. We give thanks to God that we are seeing growth in terms of new people at both services.

Although we have two services there is overlap of people between the two and many homegroups have people from each service in them. This helps engender a sense that together we are St Mary's Church. It is also good to bring our two congregations together at two specific points in the year, one in the summer (August mainly) and one in Advent. In the summer we had a wonderful series taking a line of the Lord's Prayer each week. People were greatly blessed by new insights and it was wonderful to see a range of different people involved in these services. In Advent we followed the lectionary readings to help us prepare for Christmas.

We not only have our two morning services each week we also have our once a month Family @ 4 service, which was launched in 2023 and has continued to flourish in 2024. It is aimed at families with pre-schoolers or primary school age children. We gather in the round and services include a Bible story, worship songs and craft. They are interactive and fun and families are very positive about this gathering.

In 2024 we built upon our pattern of prayer gatherings in January, for Thy Kingdom Come and in September to launch a Sunday evening of 'Prayer and Praise' once every two months. The Lord has greatly blessed these and we are excited to continue them in 2025.

One of the wonderful things about every service at St Mary's is that we are expectant of all God will do among us and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Another wonderful thing about the worship at St Mary's is the vast number of people who volunteer in various roles to ensure everything happens – a huge thank you to each and every one of you.

As I close I would like to leave you with one question which I hope you will then act upon – what is your big prayer for the worship of the people of St Mary's church?

Thank you Lord for all you are doing among us, and we dare to pray 'more Lord, please' and 'Come Holy Spirit'.

Rev Manda Featherstone

Children, Family and Schools Work

2024 has been an incredible year! I continue to find great joy in my role as Children, Families and Schools Worker, actively participating in the life and leadership of St Mary's Church.

It is a privilege to serve alongside our dedicated team of volunteers who play a vital role in sustaining and growing our ministry with children and families. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who volunteer your time and facilitate faith exploration and growth for those who attend the many different things that we do within this ministry.

There have been many highlights throughout the year - let's take a look at all that has been accomplished:

Sundays

I oversee our dedicated Sunday children's ministry teams running Seeds (ages 4-7) and Shoots (ages 7-12) – focused on helping children understand God's love for them and others, and God's Story that runs through the Bible.

Throughout 2024, we covered several teaching themes, including the Nature of God - telling God's story and what He is like through both Old and New Testament Bible stories; short series on David, Peter and also Paul and his friends – these were parallel topics to the sermon series with the adult congregation. Alongside this, we looked at Easter, Pentecost, Advent & Christmas. Special all-age services, such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, and Harvest, continued to bring the whole congregation together in worship.

In the second half of the year especially, we have seen a growth in families with children regularly attending Sunday worship and exploring faith – some being through the children asking questions about Jesus and wanting to know more!

Our monthly Family@4 service is primarily for families with primary school-aged children and its aim is to engage those children and families in worship and faith discovery through worship, word, craft, testimony and finding Jesus! We have seen on average about 30 people attend each service, with many different families represented through the year. Over the eight services that we ran during 2024, we looked at many different topics including: 'God knows me by name' using the story of Zacchaeus; 'Jesus my helper' with the story of Jesus' first miracle turning water into wine; and 'You are invited' using the parable of the great banquet to invite attendees to come as they are into life with Jesus.

Glow Group

Running every Monday afternoon during term time, Glow Group serves as a discipleship group for children in school years 3-6 (ages 7-11), offering a space to learn about Jesus and grow in faith together. Sessions

are filled with engaging activities, including games, videos, scripture reading, crafts, drama, and discussions—not to mention doughnuts, pizza, and fruit!

With a couple of children moving on during the year, we now have 4 children attending Glow Group regularly, but hope and pray that we might grow in number in 2025, so that more children may be growing in their knowledge of, and in relationship with, Jesus.

Schools-work

Our partnership with Coppice Primary School remains a tremendous blessing. Over the past year:

- I have delivered lessons across all 18 classes, covering Christianity-themed topics such as “Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?” and “What is the best way for a Christian to show commitment to God?”
- Whole-school assemblies (600+ pupils) have provided fantastic opportunities to share Christian faith and values to the whole school community.
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 4 have visited St Mary's Church for lessons and exploration of the church space.

Little Lights

Little Lights, our weekly stay-and-play toddler group, has seen consistent attendance, with an average of between 20 and 25 children attending each session. This group provides a wonderful opportunity to support parents and carers while planting seeds of faith in young hearts through Bible stories and toddler praise songs.



Through 2024 we have thought about how we can say Thank you to God for lots of different things in our lives, and also looked at many different Bible stories about Jesus and the things that he taught us.

3,2,1 Course

In October we ran the 3,2,1 Course on Tuesday mornings with some mums from Little Lights. The course is designed to help people think about God, the world and themselves, sharing the good news of Jesus as our Saviour. We have carried on meeting after the 4 week course as the attendees continue to ask questions and discover more about everything that God has for them.

SCoFF (Community Outreach)

SCoFF continues to be a fantastic outreach ministry, creating spaces for families to engage with the love of Jesus. I am grateful to serve alongside an amazing team who dedicate their time and talents to making this ministry thrive. (Please refer to the separate SCoFF report for more details.)

Church Invites and Outreach Events

2024 again provided many opportunities to personally connect with families and invite them to church activities, including:

- Easter Trail – An ecumenical, interactive event in Wythall Park, featuring Easter story books, activities, and chocolate!
- Pentecost Service and Fun Day – A joyful gathering with a BBQ, inflatables, and our second bake-off competition! Well over 120 people attended and celebrated together on a beautiful sunny day.

- Christmas Events – Our annual Christingle and Nativity services again welcomed many families into church, with over 100 people attending the Christingle service and over 150 at the Christmas Eve Nativity. The Posada (journey of knitted Mary, Joseph and Donkey) went around 12 different families, sharing the good news of Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Each of these events allowed us to engage with families beyond our regular ministries, fostering deeper relationships and inviting people to explore faith.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we step into 2025, my prayer is that the connections made over the past year will lead to deeper faith journeys for the families we have engaged with. I hope to see many children and their families coming into St Mary's Church to explore faith and who Jesus is and ultimately, respond to the gospel and grow in relationship with Jesus.

Please join me in praying for all that is in store in 2025 and also thanking God for all that He has done over the past year.

If any of these ministries excite you and you feel called to get involved, I would love to hear from you! We always welcome more volunteers, alongside your prayers and support that are invaluable in continuing this vital work.

May God bless you today and throughout 2025,

Gary Daniel.

Sunday Night Youth

Since the start of 2024, we have been meeting at church. Leaders are as previously: Marcus and Nic Pagnam, Robert and Janet Watson, and Claire Daniel. In January we had two young people attending.

We spent December 2023 and January 2024 preparing to run Youth Alpha. This involved advertising through social media, the Hub, and word of mouth, plus we did team training. Kay Parker joined the team and Lynne Blackmore offered to help with

catering. We started Youth Alpha in February and during the course we were delighted to see the group grow to five young people.

Youth Alpha finished at the end of May. For June and July we met with an emphasis on fun and growing relationships so there were socials, BBQ, etc plus we used the Australian youth alpha material, 'Life Essentials' for discipleship discussions and teaching.

After a break in August, we continued to meet on Sunday evenings and over the course of the next few weeks the group grew to nine young people, due to four year 7s joining. This has been a great encouragement and the number now attending each week has meant that it feels like a genuine community of young people who are keen to know what it means to follow Jesus. We continued to balance socials with more focussed sessions using the Life Essentials material.

In December the young people served at the Christingle service by leading at the front, playing in the band, serving refreshments, welcoming on the door, etc. This was a great joy for all involved and they did a fabulous job!



The plan for 2025 is to run Youth Alpha again, which has been re-filmed and re-packaged, followed by more fun and intentional discipleship. We are delighted that Hollywood Christian Life Centre are joining with us for this.

In November the PCC agreed to employ a part time youth worker. We are currently advertising with interviews due in March. We pray for a good and fruitful appointment.

Please do pray for the young people of Wythall and Hollywood. In some ways it has never been harder to be a young person, with all that culture throws at them along with the complex issues surrounding social media. For St Mary's Church to provide a space where they can meet to have fun, be themselves, and talk about the challenges of the teenage years in the context of looking to Jesus as our Guide and Lord is a great gift. We praise God for all that He has done this year and pray for this community of young people to grow in depth and number! Amen.

Marcus Pagnam

SCoFF

It is amazing to think that SCoFF (St Mary's Church Offers Food and Fun) entered its 3rd year!

We have continued to work in partnership with The Coppice School and Woodrush School as we have welcomed, on average, 50+ guests to SCoFF for 34 SCoFF afternoons, held on Wednesdays after school. Each time we have provided a safe space for families to gather and engage with crafts that are inspired by a biblical theme, play games, hear a short interactive talk expanding on the biblical theme, and then share a hot meal together.



In the summer term we experimented with SCoFF LITE – which was a shorter time together and without the meal. This was in response to lower numbers during previous summer terms and worked well. We also spent time considering how we can better equip the team to talk about Jesus and faith. This led to reformatting the afternoon so that the theme is introduced earlier, and a question is given for team and guests to consider while doing crafts, e.g. 'Does God heal today and if so, how can we pray for you?' In addition we had a team training day for adults and Woodrush volunteers in September.

We now have a prayer post box which is used every week where guests leave prayer requests for the Thursday morning prayer group to pray through.

We are grateful to the Coppice School for communicating SCoFF dates to parents and for the use of the hall, for Woodrush School for the team of young volunteers that bring so much energy and commitment to serving, and of course to our own team of approx. 22 people who faithfully set up, cook food, befriend guests, run crafts and games, serve refreshments and food, and then clear up afterwards (which is no small task!)

We were delighted to see some SCoFF families attend other St Mary's events, in particular the Family @ 4 services, Pentecost fun day, Christingle and Nativity services, plus other invite opportunities.

Our belief is that in many ways SCoFF is at the heart of St Mary's mission. It allows us to connect with local families to share the love of Jesus in conversation and practical ways. Our prayer has increasingly been, 'Lord give people curious hearts.' We are desperate for people to know the good news of Jesus through the ministry of St Mary's and through SCoFF!

Marcus Pagnam

Prayer

Prayer at St Mary's Church has continued during 2024 to be the solid ground for the increasing number of activities which are thriving here. Despite busy lives we try to follow the example of our Lord Jesus who while in human form did nothing without first praying to His Father in heaven.



Our usual activities persevere:

Two weekly Prayer Groups continue - one in church on Thursday mornings, open to all and attended by Church Leaders and staff, and the other in the house of a Licensed Reader on Monday evenings. All are welcome to join these groups.

There are many home groups at St Mary's Church which are led by church members throughout our neighbourhood. There, as well as engaging together in Bible study, members pray for each other, give thanks to God for fellowship and also pray for others to join us. In the days in between we commit to pray for each others' needs.

We have many gifted intercessors who lead our growing church into prayer during services.

Our service leaders also provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to share their answers to prayer as encouragement to us all.

Sometimes our Children's, Families and Schools worker and those who lead Sunday Kids groups will encourage children to share their prayers with the church before we all gather for Holy Communion.

The Prayer Ministry team continues to offer prayer ministry after each service, which as our membership grows needs more space! As always however church members can be seen praying for each other in their seats.

The Prayer Chain remains full and strong with 35 faithful people committed to pray for urgent needs of church members, their families, friends and indeed anyone else, that can arrive at any time, and we are all blessed if answers are shared with us.

Our vicar, Rev Amanda Featherstone, has in 2024 added a new prayer resource to St Mary's Church: every 2 months there is now an evening service of Prayer and Praise. All are invited and we concentrate firstly on praising and worshipping God for all the blessings, guidance and answered prayer that He has bestowed on us, including church growth, new inspiration, and so much more. And then we turn to Him for the future – offering ourselves in His service in whatever way He chooses, and together discerning His way forward.

It is always our hope that more and more people will engage in prayer in the many opportunities that already exist here, and in whatever God leads us to in the future, so that we will "pray without ceasing", knowing that God's promise is that, as Jesus said, "Whatever you ask for in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13.

Jude Emery

Super Saturday - Provision for People with Additional Needs

Super Saturday is something that was started after prompts from God specifically for families with children or adults with additional needs in our area.



It has now been running for a full three years.

Since starting in December 2021, we have learnt that there are very few such activities available, especially at the weekend and particularly that provide not only for the person with needs but also for the carers and/or their wider family.

We have found that indeed whole families do come along and that carers and other family members meeting together has been one of the most appreciated aspects of Super Saturday. One parent commented on Super Saturdays 'There's no other place like this'.

Eventually we hope to be able to involve some of our members in helping to run these events, like serving the refreshments etc.

These events are completely free and somewhere that we can bless these special people abundantly with God's love, something we all feel very strongly about.

Each session we provide a combination of crafts, games, a sensory space, singing, food, time to learn something of God's love and a warm friendly, accepting atmosphere for those with needs and their carers and families.

The team that run Super Saturday are fantastic, all with a real heart for those with additional needs and their carers. We have such fun and are truly blessed every single Saturday spent with these amazing people.

Last year Super Saturday ran three times, following a different theme each session;

'Easter Fun' in March with an Easter Egg Hunt and lots of chocolate

'Hurray for Harvest' with popcorn and scarecrow and autumn crafts.

'December Fun' a Christmas party with bacon butties, carols and a chocolate advent calendar

If you feel this is something God would want you to be involved in or if you know anyone you might like to invite along, please speak to Rev Manda or me Claire Emery.

Claire Emery

Discipleship & Small Groups / Homegroups

Homegroups are a key part of the life of St Mary's church and an essential part of our vision to 'grow as disciples'. Our homegroups are places of fellowship, discipleship, pastoral care and communication. I am reminded of that picture of the early church:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, ... and to prayer Acts 2:42

I am delighted that 60 members of St Mary's are part of a homegroup. We have groups that meet in the daytime and others that meet in the evening. Most meet weekly, one group meets fortnightly. I would like to thank all who lead groups, those who lead sessions and those who host homegroups.

The groups usually decide among themselves what they are going to study and at some points in the year groups are encouraged to follow the Sunday sermon series, a number of groups did this when we studied Philippians. As well as learning more of God through the Bible and growing as followers of Jesus I have encouraged groups to ask 'So what?' each session – looking at the application of the study and how God is directing us in our day to day lives through his word.

It was exciting to launch two new groups in September which are now meeting regularly. At this point we also produced an information leaflet detailing each group, the leaders, the location they meet and a short description giving the 'flavour' of the group. I would love to encourage as many people as possible to be part of a group so do take a look at the leaflet to find out more.

Homegroup Leaders meet together three times a year to share ideas for resources and to encourage one another. At the end of 2024 Claire Emery agreed to take on the role of homegroup co-ordinator, please pray for Claire in this role and do talk to her about any aspects relating to homegroups. Please also pray that the Lord will grow the number of people in groups at St Mary's, as Claire said to me recently 'I get so much from being in a group, I think everyone should be in a group if they can.'

During the year groups also form for people wishing to explore the Christian faith. We ran Alpha from January 2024 and then in September we used a new course called '321' from an organisation called 'Speak Life' - do look it up on the internet and watch the videos, it is a fantastic resource. We were pleased to be able to run both daytime and evening 321 courses, and some people who attended have gone on to be part of a homegroup.

We continue to rejoice and give thanks for all that God is doing among us.

Rev Manda Featherstone

St. Mary's Friendship Group

Our activities for older people are open to anyone in Hollywood and Wythall, please tell your friends about them. We hope that people who come will see what a great group of people attend St Mary's, and think about trying out one of our services.



Because of parking all of our activities take place in the holidays.

Last year in February we enjoyed The Great Escaper with Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson, based on the true story of a D-day veteran.

In the Easter break Mel Matthews gave us a fascinating talk on Birmingham Buildings which was followed by soup and puddings.

May saw something a bit different, Chair Sports. Guests worked in teams to battle some challenges, such as what's the longest strip you can make out of a piece of A4 paper, build a tower of dice while wearing paper cups on your hands. All good fun, good for the brain and co-ordination, followed by the not so good for you, but delicious, bacon butties.

In the summer we held our Afternoon Tea, with lots of homemade cakes, thank you to all the bakers.

Becketts supplied us with free scones, and Wythall Community Choir provided the music. A great afternoon. In October we showed The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry an uplifting story of how one man copes with grief.

We held short services at Dennis Potter Court at Easter, Remembrance Day and Christmas. We have a small loyal group there who really appreciate these outreach services.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make this all possible.

Chris Turner

Hillside

Over the last twelve months we have continued to provide a worship service to the staff and residents at Hillside, who have warmly welcomed us on every occasion and have enjoyed the services.

The numbers attending can range from around 10 to 20 in total, around a third of that number being staff, and the residents are really enthusiastic in joining in with the singing and prayers.

As well as celebrating the main Christian festivals we have explored topics such as: where is God, God loves us, and journey with God – all with very simple, interactive messages that suit the needs of those attending.

Many thanks again to our team of Amanda Dauncey, Deborah Brockbank, Rob Watson, Rev Manda and Linda Yates for continuing to make the services a success every month. Thanks also to Michael Holt, our newest member of the team, for his contributions.

We have made good connections with many of the staff members, who are receiving the gospel message as well as the residents. Some who also come to church most Sundays when accompanying one of the residents, who has been attending our church for around eighteen months.

Other residents have also attended our Super Saturday events – real evidence that God is using our connections with Hillside to bring people close to Him.

As mentioned previously, if you feel that you were able to offer assistance in supporting the services occasionally you would be most welcome – please let us know!

Dave D'Arcy

Mission Committee Report

The Mission Committee members are Jenny Clark, Pam Miller and Rob Watson. We meet several times a year to pray and discuss ways of keeping the church informed about the work of our mission partners. We bring new causes to the attention of the church and ensure that mission matters are included in the weekly intercessions on a regular basis. Each month, also, a prayer section on the news sheet gives information about one of our partners so that we can all be involved in their work.

We also recommend to the PCC how the tithe of the church's income should be distributed, and the following gifts were agreed in 2024:

£1000 to CMS for our support of 'Joshua' working in the MENA

£1000 to Just Caring, a local charity working with care leavers



£1000 to Betel, another very local charity working with addicts

£2000 to 2 members of our church family, serving with WEC

£1500 to Amigos to sponsor a student at Kira Farm and for their work with poor Ugandan families

£1000 to the Anglican Church in Bolivia

£1000 to Open Doors for ministry to persecuted Christians

£1000 to Sat7, Christian broadcaster to the MENA

£500 to Rachel Gidney, a former young person at St Mary's who is hoping to serve with a mission in Kenya

£1000 for Uganda - we have asked Caroline Bell how best to use this

£500 for Birmingham Prison chaplaincy work

£300 to Mercy Ships - suggested by a member of the congregation

£500 to GAIN (Global Aid Network), the relief arm of Agape

£1000 for Tools With a Mission - to help with the increased cost of sending containers

£500 Africa Inland Mission - to support a new work in N and NE Africa

£500 to Mission Aviation Fellowship, who provide transport for missionaries and others, including Rob and Jan!

£300 to Speak Life for their 321 ministry.

We also sent a total of £264 to The Children's Society from boxes held by members of the congregation and the collection at the Christingle service. £225 was given by those who attended the Carol Service for our local food bank.

A highlight of the year - our 10th in this building - was a visit to Uganda in the summer to stay with our mission partner, Caroline. We met her team, joined in with several of their activities and gained a new insight into life and work in Africa. We also spent a couple of days at Kira Farm, where it was a delight to meet our sponsored trainee, Naume, and see all the activities that go on. We came away with a new respect for the work done there.

In 2025 we shall aim to publicise the work of 4 of our mission interests - Caroline, Bolivia, Kira Farm and Joshua - while continuing to also support others financially and prayerfully. We hope that Caroline, Joshua and Rachel Gidney will be able to visit and share about their work and plans.

If you would like to know anything more about topics mentioned above, please speak to any of the committee.

Pam Miller

Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod of Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley has met on three occasions during 2024 and the main agenda items included the following:

24 February 2024

Deanery Synod met at St Andrews Church, Barnt Green. The subject matter was Diocesan Finance and it was introduced by Phelim O'Hare, Area Dean.

We were asked to reflect upon the financial situation in the context of mission of the church. Firstly we reflected upon the many blessing we have in terms of numbers of churches and ministry teams within them working in various areas. Then the Diocesan Finance team did a PowerPoint presentation of the Diocesan financial situation and it was clear that the situation was difficult and would need lots of prayer, thought and

careful management to keep our heads above water. The presentation entitled All Things Finance was in depth and sobering. I have a copy which can be made available to anyone who wishes to look at it in more depth.

We then broke into discussion groups to discuss what we had heard and then there was a time of open comments to report back. After a few notices the Synod was then closed with prayer.

12 June 2024

Deanery Synod met at St Lawrence Church Northfield

Phelim introduced the subject of this evening's synod

Following an earlier Diocesan Synod about young people and how we include them in the life of our churches, it was decided to invite Emma Sargeant and some members of the Bishop's Youth Synod to come to Deanery Synod to help us explore our desire and ambition regarding mission with and from young people in our parishes. Phelim then handed over to Emma who had brought with her a young lady called Anna who was a representative on the Bishops Youth Synod. There was a question and answer interview between the two where Emma asked Anna some questions about how youth might be better served in our churches and Anna responded with some suggestions. I have a copy of the transcript of the discussion if anyone wishes to explore this in greater depth. We then broke into discussion groups to discuss what we had heard and a feedback session followed this discussion. After a few notices the Synod was then closed with prayer.

17 October 2024

Deanery Synod met at St James the Great, Shirley

Revd Catherine Grylls (Ministry Development Lead – Lay) spoke to us about Growing Gifts.

The aim of the Growing Gifts programme is to empower, enable and equip lay people to share with licensed colleagues in a ministry of leading worship or preaching as we seek to grow Transforming Church at the heart of each community. This will then all be part of the authorised ministry lead within our oversight areas. The Synod broke into groups to discuss some of the issues raised in Catherine's talk. After this Tom Spicer, Children and Families Mission Enabler for Kings Norton Parish, spoke to us on his role and what he has been doing in the deanery. After a few additional notices the meeting was closed with prayer.

St Mary's Deanery Synod representatives up to June 2024 were Lynda Rogers, Richard Parsons and clergy. Richard Parsons stood down after one year as he did not wish to carry on in the role. Current representatives are therefore Lynda Rogers and clergy

Lynda Rogers

Electoral Roll

As of 31st December 2024 the Electoral Roll was 128. This year we have prepared a new roll, as per the instructions from the Church of England, we now have 96 on roll.

Charitable Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

1. Regular Public Worship open to all

Details of our worship services have been given in this report. We also upload an audio of the sermon from the Sunday service each week to our website and also send this out to people who have requested it and are unable to attend church on a Sunday.

2. Teaching of Christianity

This is done through sermons at our services and sometimes through small groups and occasional courses on mid-week evenings. Children and Young people are taught about Christianity through our young people's groups.

3. Taking of Religious Assemblies in Schools

During 2024 we continued termly assemblies for The Coppice Primary School, and also provided lessons each term.

4. The provision of a youth group with a Christian Ethos

We have continued to hold a youth group on Sunday evenings.

Activities 1-4 above are public benefits relating to the advancement of religion

5. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved

Clergy and Licensed Readers take funerals and are in contact with the bereaved. Contact with those who are housebound was made by phone calls and visits and also written letters/cards.

6. Promoting the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, children and those with additional needs.

More information about these activities is given on pages 9-18 of this report.

Items 5 and 6 help 'the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age or ill health or other disadvantage'

7. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

In 2024 we supported the organisations listed on page 19.

We have considered the guidance given by the Charity Commission about public benefit of our charity's activities.

Charitable information and Trustees

Full Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall

Other names the charity is known by: St Mary's Wythall PCC

Registered charity number: 1132792

Charity's principal address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
REV AMANDA FEATHERSTONE	Vicar		N/A
ALISON SPENCER	Church Warden PCC Secretary	Unil 27th June 2024	Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
JENNIFER CLARK			as above
JUDITH EMERY	Reader		as above
LYNDA ROGERS	Deanery Synod Rep		as above
JULIE CROXFORD			as above
JULIE ARKELL			as above
AMANDA DAUNCEY	Safeguarding Officer		as above
RICHARD PARSONS	Deanery Synod Rep	Until November 2024	as above
ROBERT WATSON		Until 12th May2024	as above
PAUL HARRISON	Church Warden	From 12th May 2024	as above
PAUL FEATHERSTONE		From 12th May 2024	as above
LLINOS LOOKER		From 12th May 2024	as above
DEBORAH BROCKBANK		From 12th May 2024	as above
JOANNE DARBY		From 12th May 2024	as above
PAMELA MILLER	Treasurer	From 27th June 2024	Co-opted by PCC
ROS HARRISON	PCC Secretary	From 27th June 2024	Appointed by PCC

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document - EXCEPTED

How the charity is constituted - The PCC is a body corporate

Trustee selection methods - Trustees are PCC members – these are the current Vicar, Curate, the Readers, and other members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall at the Annual Meeting. Additional members may also be co-opted to join the PCC.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves: We have a designated reserves fund. Some is invested with the CBF Church of England Funds and most is now represented by the 50 year lease on our new building and our Youth, Children and Families Worker's and Curate's houses. At 31/12/24 the total of the reserves fund was £ 839,649

Details of any funds materially in deficit - None

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have provisionally approved the trustees' report on 27th March 2025, subject to minor changes to format. Report was the circulated by email for final approval.

Alison Spencer, Church Warden

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary Income	2(a)	177,921	0	177,921	164,408
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	16,449	0	16,449	17,806
Income from investments	2(c)	6,588	0	6,588	5,641
Church activities	2(d)	16,624	0	16,624	13,847
Total Income		217,582	0	217,582	201,702
EXPENDITURE					
Church activities	3(a)	176,966	0	176,966	207,917
Raising funds	3(b)	0	0	0	0
Total expenditure		176,966	0	176,966	207,917
Net income / expenditure before		40,616	0	40,616	(6,215)
Net gains on investments		3,293	0	3,293	9,605
Net income / expenditure		43,909	0	43,909	3,390
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		43,909	0	43,909	3,390
Total funds brought forward		1,054,680	5,000	1,059,680	1,056,290

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December

2024 Balance sheet at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	806,654	826,102
Investments	7	165,554	129,638
Current assets			
Debtors - principally amounts due from Inland Revenue	8	33,243	31,660
CBF deposits		45,806	43,497
Cash at bank and in hand		56,309	31,873
		135,358	107,030
Current liabilities			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,977)	(3,090)
Net current assets		131,381	103,940
Net assets		1,103,589	1,059,680
Funds			
Unrestricted: General		258,940	251,204
Unrestricted: Designated		839,649	803,476
Restricted (For young people in Wythall & Hollywood)	10	5,000	5,000
Total		1,103,589	1,059,680

Assets and liabilities by fund are shown in Note 13

Notes to the accounts

1. The accounting policies adopted in these accounts are shown in the statement of Accounting Policies. Unrestricted funds include the general fund and the reserve fund (a fund designated by the PCC)

2. Income is analysed below

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned giving:	Gift aid donations	123,719		123,719	115,263
	Tax recoverable	32,163		32,163	30,587
	Other	7,417		7,417	9,686
Collections	cash	4,811		4,811	5,207
Gifts					
Donations, appeals		9,046		9,046	1,351
Specific charity collections		560		560	1,977
Children's Society		205		205	337
Legacies					
Voluntary income		177,921		177,921	164,408
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Hall lettings		690		690	1,151
Property rental / Diocesan contribution		15,759		15,759	16,655
Activities for generating funds		16,449		16,449	17,806
2(c) Income from investments					
Bank, Inland Revenue and deposit interest		3,061		3,061	2,427
Dividends on CCLA investments		3,527		3,527	3,214
Income from investments		6,588		6,588	5,641
2(d) Income from church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals		1,390		1,390	402
Spring harvest / Uganda		9,672		9,672	7,358
Outreach		696		696	170
Socials		359		359	761
Scoff		520		520	1,985
Course and other book sales / visiting speakers		352		352	38
Church weekend		904		904	
Sundry		340		340	923
Discretionary income / expense		300		300	600
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon		51		51	76
Little Lights		2,040		2,040	1,534
Income from church activities		16,624		16,624	13,847
TOTAL INCOME		217,582		217,582	201,702

3. Expenses are analysed below

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
3(a) Church activities				
Missionary and charitable giving	14,689		14,689	18,594
Diocesan Parish share	61,222		61,222	74,058
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	2,268		2,268	2,488
Upkeep of services (hall rental)	8,201		8,201	6,231
PCC property	3,007		3,007	2,467
Sunday school and youth	932		932	1,103
General Parish expenses (church office and repairs)	3,702		3,702	6,186
Salaries of church staff (administrator, childrens / youth workers)	42,851		42,851	40,793
Depreciation	19,448		19,448	35,802
Growth	2,487		2,487	1,505
Spring Harvest / Uganda	9,535		9,535	7,649
Outreach	989		989	1,250
Socials	926		926	1,033
Scoff	2,144		2,144	2,565
Course and other book sales / visiting speakers				77
Repairs	991		991	1,310
Church weekend	777		777	
Sundry	344		344	285
Super Saturday	127		127	569
Discretionary income / expense	32		32	
Elderly	117		117	73
Gifts	10		10	239
Kitchen	646		646	776
Cleaning	459		459	1,269
Little Lights	1,062		1,062	1,595

3(b) No costs were incurred in respect of raising funds or church stewardship in the current period.

4. Staff costs

Wages and salaries included salaries of £38,920 (2023 £37,067), £2,861 (2023 £2,605) of National Insurance and £793 (2023 £738) of employer, pension contributions in respect of 2 (2023 2) employees.

5. The PCC has a target to give 10% of income to charity.

6. Fixed assets for use by the PCC

	New building	Church equipment	5, The Willows	Curate's House	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost brought forward 1/1/2024	482,631	85,764	253,765	292,351	1,114,511
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Cost carried forward 31/12/2024	482,631	85,764	253,765	292,351	1,114,511
Depreciation brought forward at 1/1/2024	193,406	23,901	45,352	25,750	288,409
Charge for the year	7,587	6,159	2,702	3,000	19,448
Depreciation carried forward at 31/12/2024	200,993	30,060	48,054	28,750	307,857
Net book value at 31/12/2024	281,638	55,704	205,711	263,601	806,654
Net book value at 31/12/2023	289,225	61,863	208,413	266,601	826,102

No fixed assets are carried at a valuation.

Church equipment primarily comprises the stained glass window and the PA system.

7. Investment fixed assets

Movements during the year	2024	2023
	£	£
Net book value brought forward - 1 January	129,638	117,710
Additions	32,623	2,323
Net gain on revaluation	3,293	9,605
Net book value carried forward	165,554	129,638

Holdings at 31/12/2024 included £68,511 (market value) in the Church of England fixed interest fund and £97,043 (market value) in the Church of England Investment fund.

8. Debtors include £31,888 of income tax yet to be recovered from HMRC (2023 £29,945)

9. Liabilities due within one year comprise:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,977	3,089

10. Restricted funds

During 2021, the church received a £5,000 donation arising from the proceeds of the sale of Cornerstone Quest in Wales. The donor requested that the funds are used for the benefit of the young people of Wythall and Hollywood. At the year end, none of the donation had been spent on qualifying expenditure.

11. Analysis of unrestricted funds

The church has two unrestricted funds; the general fund and the reserve fund.

We show below the detailed performance of the two funds for 2024 and 2023.

	General fund	Reserve fund	Total	General	Reserve	Total
	2024	2024	unrestricted 2024	2023	2023	unrestricted 2023
Planned giving: gift aid donations	123,719		123,719	115,263	0	115,263
Tax recoverable	32,163		32,163	30,587	0	30,587
Other	7,417		7,417	9,686		9,686
Collections - cash	4,811		4,811	5,207		5,207
Gifts						
Donations, appeals	9,046		9,046	1,351		1,351
Specific charity collections	560		560	1,976		1,976
Children's Society	205		205	337		337
Legacies				0	0	
Voluntary income	177,921		177,921	164,408	0	164,408
Hall lettings		690	690		1,151	1,151
Property rental / Diocesan contribution		15,759	15,759		16,655	16,655
Activities for generating funds		16,449	16,449		17,806	17,806
Bank, Inland Revenue and deposit interest	2,211	850	3,061	1,711	717	2,427
Dividends on CCLA investments	904	2,623	3,527	890	2,323	3,214
Income from investments	3,115	3,473	6,588	2,601	3,040	5,641
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,390		1,390	402		402
Spring harvest / Uganda	9,672		9,672	7,358		7,358
Outreach	696		696	170		170
Socials	359		359	761		761
Scoff	520		520	1,985		1,985
Course and other book sales / visiting speakers	352		352	38		38
Church weekend	904		904			
Sundry	340		340	923		923
Discretionary income / expense	300		300	600	0.	600
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon	51		51	76	0.	76
Little Lights	2,040		2,040	1,534		1,534
Income from church activities	16,624		16,624	13,847	0	13,847
TOTAL INCOME	197,660	19,922	217,582	180,856	20,846	201,702

Scoff income in 2024 includes £500 from Wythall Parish Council. Discretionary income of £300 in 2024 was received from KNUC

11. Analysis of unrestricted funds (continued)

	General fund	Reserve fund	Total	General	Reserve	Total
			unrestricted			unrestricted
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church activities						
Missionary and charitable giving	14,689		14,689	18,594		18,594
Diocesan Parish share	61,222		61,222	74,058		74,058
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	2,268		2,268	2,489		2,489
Upkeep of services (hall rental)	8,201		8,201	6,231		6,231
PCC property		3,007	3,007		2,466	2,466
Sunday school and youth	932		932	1,103		1,103
General Parish expenses (church office and re- pairs)	3,702		3,702	6,186		6,186
Salaries of church staff	42,851		42,851	40,793	0.	40,793
Depreciation	6,159	13,289	19,448	1,738	34,064	35,802
Growth	2,487		2,487	1,505	0	1,505
Spring Harvest / Uganda	9,535	0	9,535	7,649	0	7,649
Outreach	989		989	1,250	0	1,250
Socials	926		926	1,033	0	1,033
Scoff	2,144		2,144	2,565	0	2,565
Course and other book sales / visiting speakers				77		77
Repairs	73		991	1,310		1,310
Church weekend	777		777			
Sundry	344		344	285		285
Super Saturday	127		127	569		569
Discretionary income / expense	32		32			
Elderly	118		118	73	0	73
Gifts	10		10	239	0	239
Kitchen	646		646	776	0	776
Cleaning	1,377		459	1,269	0	1,269
Little Lights	1,062		1,062	1,595		1,595
Church activities	160,670	16,296	176,966	171,387	36,530	207,917

Unrestricted funds - summary income / expenditure

Incoming Resources

	General fund	Reserve fund	Total unrestricted	General	Reserve	Total unrestrict- ed
	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £
Voluntary Income	177,921		177,921	164,408		164,408
Activities for generating funds		16,449	16,449		17,806	17,806
Income from investments	3,115	3,473	6,588	2,601	3,040	5,641
Church activities	16,624		16,624	13,848		13,847
Total Income	197,660	19,922	217,582	180,857	20,846	201,702
Expenditure						
Church activities	(160,670)	(16,296)	(176,966)	(171,387)	(36,530)	(207,917)
Raising funds						
Total expenditure	(160,670)	(16,296)	(176,966)	(171,387)	(36,530)	(207,917)
Net income / expenditure before investment gains	36,990	3,626	40,616	9,470	(15,685)	(6,215)
Net gains on investments	746	2,547	3,293	2,824	6,781	9,605
Net income / expenditure	37,736	6,173	43,909	12,294	(8,904)	3,390
Transfer between funds	(30,000)	30,000				
Net movement in funds	7,736	36,173	43,909	12,294	(8,904)	3,390
Total funds brought forward	251,204	803,476	1,054,680	238,910	812,380	1,051,290
Total funds carried forward	258,940	839,649	1,098,589	251,204	803,476	1,054,680

13. Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund

Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund at 31 December 2024

	General £	Designated Reserve £	Total Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Represented by:					
Fixed assets	55,703	750,951	806,654	-	806,654
Debtors	32,217	1,026	33,243	-	33,243
Liabilities due within 1 year	(3,977)	-	(3,977)	-	(3,977)
Bank account	113,010	(61,701)	51,309	5,000	56,309
CBF Deposits	28,667	17,139	45,806	-	45,806
CBF Investment Fund	33,320	63,723	97,043	-	97,043
CBF Fixed Interest	-	68,511	68,511	-	68,511
	258,940	839,649	1,098,589	5,000	1,103,589

Contact

Address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN
We are situated to the rear of the Coppice School site.

Vicar: Rev Amanda Featherstone 0121 413 3287 revamanda@wythallchurch.net

Curate: Marcus Pagnam 01564 201441 marcus@wythallchurch.net

Warden: Alison Spencer 07772 568898 ali@wythallchurch.net
Paul Harrison 07532 016436 paul-harrison5@sky.com

Church Office: churchoffice@wythallchurch.net 01564 823248



Services

All are welcome at our regular Sunday services, which are:

9am Communion Service

10.30am Informal Service with children's groups

Once a month we have our Family@4pm service—see website for dates.

St. Mary's online

Web

www.wythallchurch.net



facebook.com/StMarysWythall



[@stmaryswythall](https://twitter.com/stmaryswythall)



[@stmaryschurchwythall](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchwythall)



Our YouTube channel is called
St Mary's Wythall



*Copies of this report printed at St Mary's are on recycled paper.
This report is also available electronically from the church office.*

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING MAY 2024



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the wa-
ter that sends out its roots by the stream.
Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Vicar's Report 2024

Since meeting Jesus when I was a student at University, I have loved being part of a church. And I can't express how much I love being part of St Mary's and what a privilege it is to be called to lead this fellowship at this time.

As church we are the body of Christ, every member is important, we each have our part to play. We are the family of God called to care for and encourage one another. We are each followers, disciples, apprentices of Jesus and we spur one another on as we seek to follow Him and become more like Him. We are called individually and corporately to fulfil the Great Commission to make Jesus known and see people come to faith in Jesus, be baptised and grow in faith.

A few years ago at a conference on leadership I heard the analogy that leaders should spend time both on the dance floor and also on the balcony looking with delight on the dance floor and seeing all that is happening.

In the ordination service for priests it states:

'...they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen....'

Part of the privilege in leading the church is that I get an overview of all that God is doing. I don't by any means see everything but I stand on the balcony, being a watch-person and I seek to watch for the signs of God's new creation. So, in this vicar's report I wanted to share some stories of what I am rejoicing in seeing God doing. Obviously, this is challenging as I have to maintain confidentiality and not disclose anything I haven't the permission to share but here is a taster:

- People experiencing the fellowship they'd always longed to be part of, a fellowship of such deep prayer and care
- A family at SCoFF writing a prayer and putting it in the post box – a prayer that the parent thought was impossible – that prayer has been answered and answered way beyond expectations!
- A new person to church explaining that they immediately felt at home.
- Someone coming new to church with a great hunger to read the Bible
- A description of St Mary's as a gem, as a church that 'punches above its weight'
- Numerous people articulating a sense of being held and uplifted by people's prayers when they were going through a difficult time.
- Someone stating 'I don't know where I'd be without my homegroup'
- Volunteers at SCoFF from Woodrush school finding great joy and purpose.

I write these because they are about God's work in us and through us as a church.

I wonder what accounts of 'God at work' you would add both from your own life and what you've heard others say.

We worship the living God and we are seeing Him at work in so many ways in our lives, our church and our communities.

One of the highlights for me in 2023 was our summer 'One another' sermon series. May we keep one-anothering one another and may the church of St Mary, Wythall be obedient to God and faithful to His word and may He make us a beacon of light and bringers of hope to the communities of Hollywood and Wythall.

Rev Amanda Featherstone

February 2024

2023 Highlights

- Welcoming many new people in to the worshipping life of St Mary's Church
- Curate ordained a priest and now leading us frequently in services of Holy Communion
- Launching a new monthly service 'Family @ 4' which aims to draw families with primary school age children into the worshipping life of the church
- A new website
- Being able to make a generous financial offering to Birmingham Diocese to cover the cost of ministry for a vicar and a gift of 50% cost of a curate
- Having sufficient funds to be able to update our PA system
- Continuing to run SCoFF
- Running a joyous Pentecost Fun Day with Bake Off competition
- Continuing our ministry to older people through the renamed St Mary's Friendship Club
- Launch of 'Fun in the Park' a summer community activity of games, craft and Bible story.
- Joint working with two other churches in the area to run an Easter Trail in the park
- A commitment to corporate prayer both weekly and at set points of the year.
- Developing the Men's ministry and opening this to men in other churches in the area
- Bringing both congregations together for one service in the summer and at Advent, studying 'one anothers' in the Bible and characters around the Cradle. It was a joy to worship together.
- Craft events for young people and a parent.
- Offering a 'Wreath making event' which was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to invite people to Christmas services
- Providing a space for members of the community to watch the Coronation of King Charles III together
- Doing the 'SHAPE course' for church members to identify the gifts and skills God has given them and consider how to use them in the church and community to show God's love
- We met all Diocesan Safeguarding targets

Churchwardens' Report

I have thoroughly enjoyed another year as Church Warden, with the support and wisdom of Pam and Paul as Deputy and Duty Wardens. I feel this year that I have learnt more about the Church of England, but even more about myself as God has graciously led me. It has been a delight to meet regularly with the Staff Team to share bible study and to pray for each other – another lovely bonus of serving as Church Warden.

I met with Area Dean Phelim O'Hare and was able to share with him some of the activities and outreach of our fab church and he was full of praise and encouragement. An annual visitation will be part of feedback to the Diocese, usually in the Spring. This is the time to present our Log, Terrier and Inventory. Paul and I will be working on this and you will be able to see them at the APCM in May.

It has been rewarding to update our Health and Safety Policies, particularly to run a Fire Drill to ensure that our procedure is fit for purpose. This worked really well and we even managed to coordinate singing an appropriate worship song on the day – "Set our hearts on fire" – thank you Ruth Gardner for noticing!

What a joy to see new people joining us, new initiatives started like Family@4pm and encouragements to join to 'Dig Deeper' on Sunday evenings

It is exciting to imagine what God will have prepared for us in 2024 as we celebrate 10 years of worshipping Him in our Church building

I pray that He will continue to do "far more than we could ever ask for or imagine, by His power that is working in us"

Ali Spencer (Church Warden) Pam Miller (Deputy Warden) Paul Featherstone (Duty Warden)

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is St Mary's executive and decision-making committee. Members are elected on to the PCC at the Annual General Meeting and each serves for a period of 3 years. During 2023 the PCC has met on nine occasions and the key agenda items have included:

A proposal by the Diocese to create Oversight Areas comprising several parishes which will work together for mutual support. Arch Deacon Jenny Tomlinson attended our January 23 meeting. It was proposed and agreed by the PCC that we would join with St Philips Dorridge, St Thomas Hockley Heath, St Patricks Salter Street and St Mary Magdalene Tanworth In Arden. An Oversight Minister will be announced from one of the churches in due course

Family@4pm – a new initiative proposed by Manda to launch a family service at 4pm one Sunday a month. Families would be invited from the Coppice School and from networks in Little Lights, SCoFF and Summer 'Fun in the Park' activities

Celebration of 10 years in the Church Building 2024. We were encouraged to dream and share what the celebrations might include. It was agreed that a special weekend of June 21-23 would be an opportunity to gather together to worship and celebrate, and that a mission trip to Uganda to visit Caroline Bell would be planned for the Summer

Church finances: The PCC has received regular updates from the Treasurer regarding St Mary's financial situation and was happy to approve the accounts prior to the APCM in May. The PCC also agreed the proposals submitted from the Mission Committee regarding the allocation of the church tithe.

Safeguarding: The PCC, in line with our Safeguarding Policy, receives a report from the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator, now Amanda Dauncey, at each PCC meeting. During the year the PCC has reviewed and agreed our St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy and the St Mary's Safeguarding Action Plan generated from the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

Membership of PCC 2023 was:

Rev Amanda Featherstone - Vicar

Secretary: Alison Spencer – and Ros Harrison mid term

P Miller, J Clark, J Emery, A Spencer, L Rogers, R Watson, J Croxford, S Underwood, R Mc Mahon, P Branford, J Arkell, A Dauncey, R Parsons, E Bridgens, V Farmer, S Parker, P Carter

In attendance, non-voting - M Pagnam (Curate), G Daniel (Children, Families and Schools Worker)

Ali Spencer and Ros Harrison (PCC Secretary)

Treasurer's Report

This year, again, we thank God that, in the midst of a cost of living crisis, as a church we have managed to cover our costs, with a small surplus. Last year our surplus was exceptionally large, then this year we found that we needed to replace our PA system. God knows what we need before we ask Him and He had already provided for us.

My thanks to everyone who gives faithfully by standing order, through the envelope scheme or as cash on the plate. (A reminder to those who use the offering envelopes: these are dated so that you can see if you have missed a week and then bring that envelope (filled!) when you next come to church. Ideally, you should not have any envelopes left when you get your new set. If it is a problem finding change to put in every week, paying several weeks together is perfectly acceptable.) Costs of maintaining the ministry of the church tend to rise annually so it is good practice to review our giving each year, especially if we have had a salary or pension rise. If you pay income tax, and Gift Aid your giving, the Chancellor allows us to reclaim the tax paid - this year that amounted to over £34000, all at no extra cost to ourselves.

We contributed our share of the diocesan Common Fund, which pays the stipends and housing costs of our clergy and supports the costs of the diocesan officers. We give one tenth of the church income to a number of mission partners and Christian charities, details of which can be found in the Mission Committee report. We were grateful to receive a grant from the Parish Council to help with the costs of SCoFF.

I am indebted to Dave Walters who continues to provide advice and support in all things financial, and to Steve who helps me with computing problems. Dave is again preparing our Annual Financial Report which will show our financial activity in detail. The table below summarises in round numbers the main ways in which our money has been received and spent.

Pam Miller (Treasurer)

Income	£
Giving	129400
Tax refund	34700
Div/interest	890
Rental income	15480
Fees (net)	1100

Expenditure	£
Common Fund	74000
Clergy expenses	2500
Service costs	7000
Admin	6200
Salaries	40800
Charitable giving	18000
SCoFF (net)	2000
Houses - mortgage - ins/repairs etc	2500
Cleaning	1190
Outreach	1220
New PA Sysytem	50300

Buildings and Facilities Report

- 247 Alcester Road is home to our Curate Marcus and his family. Nil to report about the house.
- 5 The Willows is home to our Children, Families and Schools Worker, Gary, and his family. During the year we have paid to replace carpets and lino where necessary.

Church maintenance has included kitchen dishwasher repair and a new PC for the Church office

Following the breakdown of the PA/AV system in 2023 it was necessary to garner quotes and agree to the purchase of a new system, which was fitted in October. We are in discussion with The Coppice School regarding a contribution from them to the cost.

Ali Spencer (Church Warden)

Worship

As I write this report this beautiful prayer has come to mind, one which we often say at the beginning of services

*We have come together as the family of God
in our Father's presence
to offer him praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive his holy word,
to bring before him the needs of the world,
to ask his forgiveness of our sins,
and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ
we may give ourselves to his service.*

When I look at the worshipping life at St Mary's I see:

We are God's family – we are from different backgrounds and we span a range of ages and in God we are family together. I love the way St Mary's cares for one another as members of a family should.

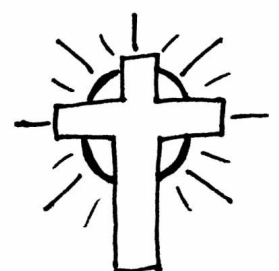
We acknowledge God's presence – we know that Jesus is with us through the Holy Spirit and as we worship we seek to be attentive to the Spirit. It is wonderful at St Mary's to have times of listening to God and sharing words, pictures and testimonies.

We are based on the Bible – we know that the Bible is God's Word, it is living and active and has authority. This is so key. It enables us to know God better and to speak with grace and truth to one another and to the communities around us.

We worship – it is so good at St Mary's to raise our praise and thanksgiving together in hymns and Psalms and songs. We are led so ably by talented musicians who most importantly are themselves worshippers. May we each week be worshipping in Spirit and Truth.

We pray – we are thankful that we have a God who hears us, our God who is sovereign over all things, hears our cry for His broken world, for our nation and for the people we love. It is such a gift to be led in prayer and to pray together in our services.

We are forgiven people saved by grace – we know that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God but we also know that God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to die for us. It is so powerful to engage in our corporate act of confession together each Sunday, to have the truth of forgiveness proclaimed over us and to step afresh



into the new life God gives us. It is also wonderful that we can gather around the Lord's table together and share in Holy Communion together, something our Lord Jesus commanded us to do.

One wonderful thing I see at St Mary's is that anytime we gather we are expectant of all that God will do among us. We certainly have seen Him do wonderful things over this past year. We are thankful for all the new people He has brought to St Mary's and how He is growing each of us.

We can see from the outline above that there are many things happening at a spiritual level as we worship together. There are also many practical things happening too, so please hear a big thank you to each and every person who does a rota job or serves in any way – you are wonderful and we give thanks to God for you.

In 2023 there are some specific aspects of our worship together to give thanks for:

The launch of the monthly Family @ 4 service.

We have been praying for a long time for more families at St Mary's and we are seeing God answer that prayer. We have contact with lots of families through Little Lights and SCoFF plus we meet in a Primary School. We therefore wanted a way to draw families into the worshipping life of the church. Realising that people might not be able to take the step directly into regular services and also acknowledging there may be many draws on families' time in a morning. We launched this new service in October and are delighted by the contacts with different families that are being made.

Updating the PA system

We were pleased to be able to update the PA system in October this is still being finalised and we continue to get used to using it.

Joint services

We are so blessed to gather together as one congregation for our Easter celebration. We also had joint services during the weeks of the summer holidays and during Lent. Our sermon series of 'one anothers' and 'Characters around the Cradle' were amazing as was the sense of being St Mary's together.

I wonder what you would say were your highlights of our worship together in 2023?

The final part of the prayer states

*that through his Son Jesus Christ
we may give ourselves to his service.*

May we leave church each Sunday different to how we arrived and may we be a beacon the light of Jesus and show God's love both as the church of St Mary's and as individuals.

I hope you'll all join me in a resounding Amen!

Rev Manda Featherstone

Children, Family and Schools Work

What a great year 2023 has been!

I continue to take great joy in my role as Children, Families & Schools worker, in being a part of the leadership & life of St Mary's. It is a privilege to work alongside our valuable team of volunteers who help lead & sustain the various ministries to children, families and in our link with the Coppice primary school.

There are lots of highlights to share, so please delve in and read what's been going on!

Glow Group – We started a discipleship group for children in school years 3-6 (Juniors, aged 7-11) after Easter and have been running it every Monday afternoon during term-time since. It is like a home-group for children – a place to learn about Jesus together and grow in relationship with Him. We have learnt lots and had great fun doing it, playing games, watching videos, reading and learning scripture, making crafts, doing drama, engaging in lively conversation and eating doughnuts & pizza (& some fruit!). We have had 8 different children attend, with 6 regulars coming along every week – 3 of whom are 'un-churched' yet would now profess a faith in Jesus! A special thanks goes to Liz Bridgens who helps me run & plan this group every week, she has a real heart for children knowing & understanding who Jesus is and the group would not be able to run without her!

School – What a privilege it is to work alongside The Coppice primary school in many different ways! Over the past year I have delivered lessons to all 18 classes in school, working with the Christianity themes that I have been given that range from 'Could Jesus heal people?' to 'Is anything ever eternal?'. I have taken whole school (600+ pupils) assemblies and we have welcomed several year groups into the Church building for a visit and lesson – they really don't have very far to come!

Relationships with staff have continued to develop as we look to serve the school in other ways too – from making the Church AV equipment available for assemblies & school fayres, to helping staff celebrate 'Feel Good Fridays' (half-termly, celebrating successes of the previous few weeks) by taking in cakes & chocolates.

Being a parent of children in The Coppice school has also given me opportunities to connect with and build relationships with other parents, which in turn gives me opportunity to personally invite people to church events & activities.

A team of volunteers from St Mary's and myself also go into school every Tuesday lunchtime to support staff in running 'Board Games Club', the aim of which is to engage with children who sometimes struggle to engage socially with others.

Sundays – I oversee a great team who lead and run our Sunday morning children's groups: Seeds (ages 4-7) and Shoots (ages 7-12). We want the children who attend the groups to know the love of God and the truths of Jesus and His sacrifice for us. During 2023 we used several different series of teaching which were developed with the children's faith development & understanding of the Bible in mind. We looked at the Armour of God (Ephesians 6) Parables of Jesus & Experiencing God in the Psalms alongside other themes too.

During the first half of the year, we ran All-together services on the 4th Sunday of each month, where there were no children's groups and the whole congregation worshipped & learnt together. In October we started 'Family@4pm' services instead of these monthly all-together services, aiming to attract families with primary-aged children to come and worship and discover Jesus together at 4 pm on a Sunday afternoon each month. Please see the separate 'Family@4' report for more information! We will still lead and run all-together services on Sunday mornings for special events and invite services e.g. Mothering Sunday, Easter & Harvest, where all ages come together to worship God & learn more of Him together as family.

Little Lights - Little Lights is St Mary's toddler group - a 'stay & play' group for parents or carers with babies, toddlers & children who don't yet go to school. It runs between 10am & 11.30am every Friday morning during term-time in the big (school) hall at Church.

Over the past year we have seen a strong number of people attending, with an average of about 25 children coming along weekly (with their parents/carers!) - with a good number of regular attendees coming most weeks, which has given us opportunities to build relationships with the parents & carers, presenting us with opportunities to share the good news of Jesus & also invite to other events (such as Family@4 & invite services/outreach events).



This could not be done without the fabulous team of Church volunteers at Little Lights who help both practically in running the session and in being there to listen, chat & build relationships with the adults who attend with little ones.

Little Lights is a great evangelistic opportunity, alongside being a great resource to parents with little ones in the community. Each week we ensure that we have a Bible Story alongside some great, 'toddler praise' songs where many of the children get up and have a dance with some actions and have fun praising and thanking Jesus. This is a great opportunity for seeds of the gospel to be sown into young hearts and minds & also to challenge the parents & carers too!

SCoFF - SCoFF continues to be an amazing community outreach that gives us fantastic opportunities to share the love and gospel of Jesus and to build relationships with families in our community. I feel privileged to help lead SCoFF and work with a fantastic team of volunteers from Church, who so generously give up their time & talent to serve others. Please see the separate report for further details about SCoFF!

Church Invites & Outreach Events – We want children & their families to discover and know Jesus for themselves. We have had many great opportunities in 2023 to connect with people on a personal level, and then invite them to church services, events & activities where we have further chances to present the gospel and give people the opportunity to explore who God is for themselves:

An interactive Easter trail around Wythall Park on Easter Saturday, handing out Easter story & activity books & chocolate eggs.

Pentecost service & fun day (with BBQ, inflatables & our very own Bake-off competition!);

Fun in the Park – Every Wednesday during the summer holidays a team went down to the park to offer craft activities, play games and read Bible stories. We made some great contacts with families that have given us opportunities to connect again & invite to other events & activities that we offer here at Church.

Advent & Christmas gave us opportunities to invite folks into Church, with the Christingle service & Nativity service particularly geared towards families, alongside lots else that happened during that period!

All of these different events, services and activities saw families who attend SCoFF, Little Lights and school in attendance alongside links with other people that we have made during the year.

Looking ahead to 2024 – I hope & pray that 2024 will, once again, be fruitful in ministry to children, their families & the school. My prayer is that more people that we have built connections with over the past year will continue to explore what faith means for them & in turn will respond to the gospel, turning to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. As part of the community of believers here at St Mary's, they would then be able to grow in faith & tell others of the life-changing love of God!

I hope that practically, we can replicate many of the outreach events & services that have happened throughout 2023 and also look to doing new, exciting things as the Lord leads us.

If any of what I have mentioned excites you and you want to know how you might be able to help, then please do talk to me! Of course, there is always room for more prayer, so please do join me in praying! Yet there is always room for more fabulous, dedicated volunteers to help both practically and to connect with people, sharing the gospel & good news of Jesus in lots of different ways!

May God Bless you both today and throughout 2024.

Gary Daniel.

Sunday Night Youth

Throughout 2023, we offered our house (247 Alcester Road) as a venue for young people (secondary school age) to come and learn more about Christianity and the bible on Sunday evenings. In July, the 3 young people that were regularly attending decided to move on, and in September we started with 3 new young people from St Mary's Church. This reduced to 2 regular young people towards the end of the year.

We meet to play games, eat and drink great food and drink, and, using Youth For Christ resources, we look at what it means for a young person to be a Christian today. We also meet for the occasional social – the most notable one being a 'Barbie Film and Pizza Night' which was held in the Peter Thompson Room in October, with 9 young people attending.

In addition to this we also ran special 'Mum and Daughter' evenings: a jewellery making evening in March, a Body Shop/Pamper evening in July, and a Christmas decoration making evening in November. At each of these the young people and their mums/carers joined in with the activity and were part of a brief biblical thought/devotion.

I am so grateful for the team who give themselves faithfully to serving our young people.

Of course we would love to grow in number but more important is that we grow disciples who are ready to live in obedience to Christ. We would greatly value your prayers for the leaders: Marcus and Nic Pagnam, Claire Daniel, and Robert and Jan Watson.

Marcus Pagnam

SCoFF

We have had a 2nd wonderful year of SCoFF (St Mary's Church Offers Food and Fun.)

Working in partnership with the Coppice School and Woodrush School we have welcomed, on average, 50 guests to SCoFF for 26 SCoFF afternoons, held on Wednesdays. Each time we have provided a safe space for families to gather and engage with crafts that are inspired by a biblical theme, play games, watch a video and then hear a short interactive talk expanding on the biblical theme, followed by sharing a hot meal together.

We are grateful to the Coppice School for communicating the SCoFF dates to parents and for the use of the hall, for Woodrush School for the team of young volunteers that bring so much energy and commitment to serving, and of course to our own team of approx. 22 people who so faithfully set up, cook food, befriend guests, run crafts and games, serve refreshments before serving hot food, and then clear up afterwards (which is no small task!)



We were delighted to see some SCoFF families attend other St Mary's events, in particular the Pentecost fun day, the Christingle and Nativity services, the Family @ 4 service, plus other invite opportunities. It is proving to be a wonderful way for the parish church to build relationships with the local community.

Marcus Pagnam

Safeguarding Report

Jenny Clark who was our previous Safeguarding Coordinator retired at the end of October 2023, when I took over as our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

Jenny was very hard-working & diligent and it's been hard stepping into her footsteps, although she had all the paperwork very well-organised. I've done lots of Safeguarding training which I found very interesting and which remind-

ed me of the importance of training for everyone involved in all our church activities, whether as Leaders, Volunteers or Helpers.



On 21st October 2023 Jenny organised our in-house Safeguarding Training Session at St Mary's which was well attended by 28 Volunteers & others. This was an excellent morning and ten Volunteers remained to watch a video of the Safeguarding Basic Awareness training. The Safeguarding team was able to update the attendees with the salient aspects of St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and to answer questions.

I'm very pleased to report that all our Volunteers have completed or updated their Basic Awareness Safeguarding training, which can easily be done online. Many of our Volunteers & all PCC members have also done the excellent 'Foundations of Safeguarding' training & 'Awareness of Domestic Abuse' training, which is really interesting & relevant to our Church life and family life. I heartily recommend all this training & Nicola is happy to help anyone who is unable to do this at home.

Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is updated & reviewed by the PCC annually in March. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator gives a monthly safeguarding report to the PCC. I am also happy to report that the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Church of England House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as required by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)

The church now has a portfolio of activities which includes:

- Sunday Kids (Seeds & Shoots) held most Sundays during our 10.30am church service
- Sunday Night Youth
- Youth involvement in the St Mary's Band
- Children's Discipleship Club (GLOW group)
- SCoFF: held after school on Wednesdays during term time providing fun activities, a hot meal and a short Bible message to children and families in the community who are in need.
- Little Lights: St Mary's Mother and Toddler Group held every Friday morning during term time
- Super Saturday: an enjoyable event held on four Saturday mornings a year for children and adults with additional needs and their families
- Hillside: A small team from St Mary's regularly visits a care home for adults with disabilities and we usually hold a service there every month

- Authorised Drivers: a team of drivers confirmed & authorised by the church to give lifts to elderly or vulnerable adults to attend church

**Friendship Club and Elderly Care: for our senior members & friends* *

For each of the above activities, which include children, young people or vulnerable adults, the church has a safeguarding responsibility to ensure that a risk assessment is done and reviewed annually. Each activity has a team of volunteers with a nominated team leader. The Safeguarding team is required to ensure that each volunteer has been safely recruited (with 2 references & a current DBS if necessary) and has received the required training appropriate for their role. Guidelines are clearly laid down by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team and on-going adherence is monitored on the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard. Each of our volunteers when commencing their involvement with an activity is provided with a role description and a pack of essential / helpful information specific to their role.

The Friendship Club is an exception to this rule, as per current guidelines

I would like to thank Nicola (who is our Safeguarding Verifier) for all her hard work in updating the Safeguarding Dashboard & Hub & ensuring that all Volunteers have been safely recruited. It is important that Activity leaders should regularly inform Nicola about any new Volunteers or Helpers.

Your current St Mary's Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Rev Amanda Featherstone (Incumbent)

Dr Amanda Dauncey (Parish Safeguarding Coordinator)

Mrs Nicola Clarkson (Parish Safeguarding Verifier)

Mr Gary Daniel (Safeguarding Advocate for Children and Young People)

Mrs Linda Yates (Safeguarding Advocate for Vulnerable Adults) Prayer

Prayer

It is a pleasure to be asked to write this report for another year.

I note that last year's report ended with the sentence, 'Over all St Mary's is a prayerful church'. That remains solidly true and it gives us a deep sense of thanksgiving to God that many people who visit our church recognise and comment on that, and also on the presence of God during our worship and prayer times.



We have a number of gifted people who lead our **Intercessions** during both services in a way which reflects the heart of the church as a whole and also their own unique gifting.

Community Prayer

During last year there has also been a sense of prayer spreading outside among our community. Under Rev Manda's guidance some members of the church went out to meet people on our streets and in a communal hub; to introduce ourselves as members of St Mary's and to ask people if they would like us to pray for them. Some agreed and received prayer there and then; others wrote their requests down and we gathered them to a group inside the church who prayed through them. The response was overwhelmingly positive from shoppers, walkers, shop owners and from all ages. Our intention is to repeat that as the weather improves.

Our two regular **Prayer Groups** continue – the one which I attend gathers up to 8 people in a member's home in an evening, together we look at a Bible text, spend time thanking God for all of his many blessings, and then lift up to him both all aspects of our church's ministry and our personal issues. We close with the Lord's Prayer, the Grace or other blessing. We often feel, especially in the winter that it is an effort to come out, but

always go home refreshed and blessed, and thanking God for his presence among us.

The second Prayer Group is held in Church in a morning and welcomes both Staff members and congregation.

The Prayer Chain which has continued for many years is as active and lively as ever.

New members are encouraged to join and currently there are 35 members of church who commit to pray initially for 48 hours for any issue as we are asked. Prayer requests are encouraged from all church members, their friends and their loved ones. If required, the request may be anonymous, and the pray-ers operate under guidance. Quite often responses are shared if the person wishes, and always there is grateful thanks to God that during difficult times the person being prayed for senses the prayers of their church family upholding them.

The Prayer Ministry Team

There are ten people who make themselves available to offer prayer in church.

The lack of space and privacy remains an issue but we are encouraged to see that spontaneous prayer commonly happens among our congregation at the end of services.

Jude Emery

Super Saturday - Provision for People with Additional Needs

Super Saturday is something that was started after prompts from God specifically for families with children or adults with additional needs in our area.



It has now been running for a full two years.

Since starting in December 2021, we have learnt that there are very few such activities available, especially at the weekend and particularly that provide not only for the person with needs but also for the carers and/or their wider family.

We have found that indeed whole families do come along and that carers and other family members meeting together has been one of the most appreciated aspects of Super Saturday. One parent commented on Super Saturdays 'There's no other place like this'.

Eventually we hope to be able to involve some of our members in helping to run events, like serving in the cafe etc.

These events are completely free and somewhere that we can bless these special people abundantly with God's love, something we all feel very strongly about.

Each session we provide a combination of crafts, games, a sensory space, singing, food, time to learn something of God's love and a warm friendly, accepting atmosphere for those with needs and their carers and families.

The team that run Super Saturday are fantastic, all with a real heart for those with additional needs and their carers. We have such fun and are truly blessed every single Saturday spent with these amazing people.

This year Super Saturday will be running three times, following a different theme each session:

- 'Easter Fun' in March with an Easter Egg Hunt and lots of chocolate
- 'Hurray for Harvest' with hotdogs and scarecrow and autumn crafts.
- 'December Fun' a Christmas party with bacon butties, carols and a chocolate advent calendar

If you feel this is something God would want you to be involved in or if you know anyone you might like to invite along, please speak to Rev Manda or me, Claire Emery.

Claire Emery

Small Groups / Homegroups

If you have chance to watch the introduction video on our website you'll hear me say that the overall aims of St Mary's are to

Love God and to Love others.

Loving God includes getting to know him better and following Jesus as His disciples. Being a disciple isn't just about what we believe but how we live our lives, aiming and praying to become and to act more like Jesus.

Loving God (including worshipping) and growing as disciples is a lot of what we are doing when we gather together on a Sunday. Another key place for this is in our small groups / homegroups.

At the end of 2023 we had 8 small groups meeting regularly some in the daytime and some in the evening. This means that about 60 adults from the church are part of a small group.

The number of people in small groups has remained fairly consistent over the past few years. It has though been good to see people who have recently joined the church get involved in a small group fairly quickly. This is a great because small groups are not only a place for discipleship but they also provide fellowship and friendship, as well as being places to gain information about the life of the church.

In the autumn small groups were invited to take part in the 'SHAPE course' which explored the gifts and skills that God has given us and looks at how we use them in His service and to His glory.

In January 2023 we ran Alpha. It was a great group with really lively discussions. After Alpha this group studied Mark's Gospel together, being joined by other members. The combined group has gone on to form a small group / homegroup.

It has also been a joy to see members of the Alpha group become regular worshippers at St Mary's.

I am grateful to all the small group leaders for all the preparation you do. I thank all those who host small groups, your hospitality and generosity is much appreciated. I also thank everyone who is part of a group for all you contribute and share.

If you're not yet part of a small group, and would like to be, please have a chat with me sometime so we can seek to identify the best group for you.

Rev Manda Featherstone

St. Mary's Friendship Group (formerly Elderly Care Group)



Our main event of the year was a cream tea in August. The scones were donated by Becketts and the wonderful selection of cakes were baked by our church members. We were fortunate to have two musical sessions, one from the Olton Amazing Pluckers and the other Wythall Community Choir.

Our other events were both films, 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' in April and 'Ladies in Lavender' in October. The venue for the October film had to move from church to Dennis Potter Court as the church floor was being sealed. Dennis Potter provided us with a delicious lunch. If anyone has ideas for activities please speak to one of the team. We hope that these events allow people to look forward to going out near to home, make friendships and hear about the services and support that are open to them at St Mary's

We have continued to provide services at Dennis Potter Court over 2023, starting with Easter where we offer communion, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, and Christmas. These are attended by a small but loyal group of people from the Court and their friends.

Our programme for 2024 is now available in church - please look for the flyer.

Chris Turner

Hillside

Hillside continue to welcome us into their Residential Home to deliver a simple worship service once a month, and this continues to be a blessing, both for the residents and staff, and for the team who deliver the services.

As a reminder, the unit supports adults with a range of needs, and the residents have always enthusiastically joined in the services. The support staff also join in, with up to 20 people involved.

We have made some good connections with the residents and staff.

John, one of the residents, continues to attend our church services every week, and I would encourage you to engage with him and help him to feel at home in our wonderful church.

We are told by the staff that the residents look forward to the services and are heard singing worship songs for days after the services!

Many thanks to Rev Manda, Amanda Dauncey, Deborah Brockbank and Rob Watson for continuing to make the services a success every month, and Lynda Yates has recently joined the team.

If you feel that you were able to offer assistance in supporting the services occasionally you would be most welcome – please let us know!

Dave D'Arcy

Mission Committee Report

The role of the Mission Committee is to spearhead the church's response to Jesus' command to 'go into all the world to preach the gospel'. We do this by keeping the church informed about the work of our mission partners, by bringing new causes to the attention of the church, and ensuring that mission matters are included in the weekly intercessions on a regular basis. Each month a prayer section on the news sheet gives information about one of our partners so that we can all be involved in their work.

We also recommend to the PCC how the tithe of the church's income should be distributed, and the following gifts were agreed in 2023:

- Tools With a Mission £1000
- Just Caring £500
- Rocha £100
- Tear Fund £500 for relief of famine in Ethiopia
- Ripple Effect (formerly Send A Cow) £1000
- Palestine/Israel £2000 - £1000 via TearFund, and £1000 via Embrace The Middle East (formerly Bible Lands Society)
- Amigos £1000 - to sponsor a Student at Kira Farm in 2024
- Christian Aid £500 - in lieu of envelope collection
- Chris and Katy Servante £1000 - church members living by faith and working with WEC.
- Teso Development Trust £800 - to assist with student fees at St Peter's Theological College
- Day One Ministries £300 - to pay for 100 diaries for prisons
- Global Care £500 - for skills training for teenage girls
- Betel £1000
- Sat7 £1000
- The Message Trust £500
- Bolivia £500
- Centro Cristiano Church, Citta Della Pieve, Italy (known to Marcus and Nic) £500
- Caroline Bell £1000 - as a personal gift and for her ministry



We were also able to send £1119 to charities supporting survivors of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey, ensuring that our money was used in both countries. Donations at our Christmas services raised £142, which we sent to charities working in Israel and Gaza - again, making sure that victims of the war on both 'sides' were supported. A total of £314 was sent to The Children's Society from boxes held by members of the congregation and the collection at the Christingle service.

Our Kira Farm student, Martin, corresponded regularly by email with Pam, and was full of enthusiasm for all that he was learning. Like all our other students, he gained a much more positive outlook on life and left with new skills to help lift his family out of poverty in the future. The party travelling to Uganda in summer 2024 to stay with our mission partner, Caroline, also hope to visit Kira Farm and meet this year's student.

If you would like to know anything more about topics mentioned above, please speak to any of the committee - Pam, Jenny and Rob.

Pam Miller

Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod of Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley has met on three occasions during 2023 and the main agenda items included the following:

11 February 2023

Emma Sargeant, the Diocesan Growing Younger advisor spoke about FLEX which is new modular learning tool, designed to make training and learning in small groups more accessible for individuals and teams of

people. There are currently 30 modules available to choose from and you can do as many or as few as you like. Modules include reflections on children's and young people's work, bereavement, growing your own faith and engaging with other faiths, to name but a few. Participants can either follow a pick and mix format to suit themselves or follow a Commissioned Pathway for Childrens Work leading to being commissioned as a childrens or youth worker within a parish in cooperation with the ministry team in a parish. Emma also introduced Tom Spicer the Childrens and Families Missioner for KNMS based at Hawkesley School. Further details of FLEX from Emma Sargeant email emmas@cofebirmingham.com

7 June 2023

Fred Rattley—Director of Community Regeneration and Chief Executive of Thrive Together Birmingham

Fred introduced the work of Thrive and challenged people to think about what they could do in their own communities. Ten years ago an independent charity was set up with the Bishops permission called Thrive Together Birmingham. It is linked to the Community Regeneration work done in the diocese but stands slightly apart, in order to qualify for additional funding from the City Council as an independent charity. Broad aims are to end poverty, to help and support local communities, and to assist people in their aims to achieve social justice. In particular he spoke about the Places of Welcome initiative which started here in Birmingham and is now happening in over 600 places throughout the UK. Also the Birmingham Warm Welcome initiative which focusses on connecting people to each other, services, wellbeing activities, and warmth. There are now 220 such spaces in and around Birmingham and Solihull.

19 October 2023

This meeting was the first of the new Triennium

Elections of Clergy and Laity to Standing Committee for the next 3 year period were made.

Phelim introduced a report written in October 2022 reflecting upon Mission and Ministry Post Covid. (Church attendance in October 2022: Post Covid-19 Trends, Patterns and possibilities by Dr Bev Botting, Dr Ken Eames, the Ven Bob Jackson Oxford.anglican.org/insights)

Statistics were given regarding church attendance in October 2022 as compared to October 2019. There had been a significant drop. The report attempts to analyse this and other data and draw some conclusions. The meeting broke into discussion groups to talk about this and then were invited to report back to the meeting. A discussion followed.

St Mary's Deanery Synod representatives up to June 2023 were:

Jenny Clark, Pam Carter, Lynda Rogers and Clergy

Pam Carter and Jenny Clark stood down in June and Richard Parsons was elected as a new rep

Current representatives in 2023-24 are therefore Lynda Rogers, Richard Parsons and clergy

Lynda Rogers

Electoral Roll

In 2023 the Electoral Roll was 133. This year there are been 4 additions and 9 deletions, making the total 128 in 2024.

Charitable Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

1. Regular Public Worship open to all

Details of our worship services have been given in this report. We also upload an audio of the sermon from the Sunday service each week to our website and also send this out to people who have requested it and are unable to attend church on a Sunday.

2. Teaching of Christianity

This is done through sermons at our services and sometimes through small groups and occasional courses on mid-week evenings. Children and Young people are taught about Christianity through our young people's groups.

3. Taking of Religious Assemblies in Schools

During 2023 we continued termly assemblies for the Coppice Primary School

4. The provision of a youth group with a Christian Ethos

We have continued to hold a youth group on Sunday evenings.

Activities 1-4 above are public benefits relating to the advancement of religion

5. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved

Clergy and Licensed Readers take funerals and are in contact with the bereaved. Contact with those who are housebound was made by phone calls and visits and also written letters/cards.

6. Promoting the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, children and those with additional needs.

More information about these activities is given on pages 8-16 of this report.

Items 5 and 6 help 'the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age or ill health or other disadvantage'

7. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

In 2023 we supported the organisations listed on page 17.

We have considered the guidance given by the Charity Commission about public benefit of our charity's activities.

Charitable information and Trustees

Full Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall

Other names the charity is known by: St Mary's Wythall PCC

Registered charity number: 1132792

Charity's principal address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
REV AMANDA FEATHERSTONE	Vicar		N/A
ALISON SPENCER	Church Warden PCC Secretary		Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
JENNIFER CLARK			as above
JUDITH EMERY	Reader		as above
LYNDA ROGERS	Deanery Synod Rep		as above
ELIZABETH BRIDGENS		Until 14th May 2023	as above
VALERIE FARMER		Until 14th May 2023	as above
PAM CARTER	Deanery Synod Rep	Until 14th May 2023	as above
SONYANETTE PARKER		Until 14th May 2023	as above
ROBERT WATSON			as above
STEPHEN UNDERWOOD		Until Dec 2023	as above
RACHEL MCMAHON			as above
JULIE CROXFORD			as above
JULIE ARKELL		From 14th May 2023	as above
AMANDA DAUNCEY		From 14th May 2023	as above
PATRICIA BRANFORD		From 14th May 2023 Until Dec 2023	as above
RICHARD PARSONS	Deanery Synod Rep	From 14th May 2023	as above
PAMELA MILLER	Treasurer	From 14th Mat 2023	Co-opted by PCC
ROS HARRISON	PCC Secretary	From Sept 2023	Co-opted by PCC

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document - EXCEPTED

How the charity is constituted - The PCC is a body corporate

Trustee selection methods - Trustees are PCC members – these are the current Vicar, Curate, the Readers, and other members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall at the Annual Meeting. Additional members may also be co-opted to join the PCC.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves - We have a designated reserves fund. Some is invested with the CBF Church of England Funds and most is now represented by the 50 year lease on our new building and our Youth, Children and Families Worker's and Curate's houses. At 31/12/23 the total of the reserves fund was £ 803,476

Details of any funds materially in deficit - None

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report on 21st March 2023

Alison Spencer, Church Warden

Accounts

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities FRSSE SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

The general funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the application of the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are only available for use for the purpose for which the funds have been raised. During 2015, the PCC decided that the Building Fund be renamed the Reserve fund and balances therein are available as reserves. The remaining balance on the Restoration fund was also transferred into the Reserve fund. The Restoration fund is restricted and the balances therein are reported within these financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is also recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount is quantifiable and the ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for when they accrue.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share ("quota" or "common fund") is accounted for when paid. Any Common Fund unpaid at 31 December is provided in these accounts as a constructive (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Property

Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold property is depreciated over an estimated useful life of 50 years. The church building is depreciated over 50 years to nil residual value.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used by the church for services and office equipment is capitalised and depreciated to its residual value (usually nil) over its estimated useful life from the date of commissioning. Estimated useful lives range from 3 years (for computers and software), 8 years for furniture and 9 years for the sound / vision equipment in the Church.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets / liabilities

Current assets, including estimated income tax recoverable, are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers and recorded at transaction price.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Mortgage debt

Mortgage debt is initially recorded at proceeds less transaction costs. Interest is charged based on contractual interest arrangements. At the period end, the mortgage is shown at its settlement value.

Contact

Address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN
We are situated to the rear of the Coppice School site.

Vicar: Rev Amanda Featherstone 0121 413 3287 revamanda@wythallchurch.net

Curate: Marcus Pagnam 01564 201441 marcus@wythallchurch.net

Warden: Alison Spencer 07772 568898 ali@wythallchurch.net

Church Office: churchoffice@wythallchurch.net 01564 823248



Services

All are welcome at our regular Sunday services, which are:

9am Communion Service

10.30am Informal Service with children's groups

Once a month we have our Family@4pm service—see website for dates.

St. Mary's online

Web

www.wythallchurch.net



facebook.com/StMarysWythall



[@stmaryswythall](https://twitter.com/stmaryswythall)



[@stmaryschurchwythall](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchwythall)



Our YouTube channel is called
St Mary's Wythall



*Copies of this report printed at St Mary's are on recycled paper.
This report is also available electronically from the church office.*

Wythall Parochial Church Council**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023****Net incoming / (outgoing) resources - general fund**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income given under gift aid	115,263	129,308
Income tax recovered / recoverable (Note 2)	30,587	34,460
Non-gift aid giving	9,686	8,774
Collections	5,207	3,711
Donations	1,352	1,731
Deposit interest	1,199	241
Income from investments	1,403	967
Fees to PCC and Diocese	2,923	4,227
Children's society	337	239
Sundry Income (Note 4)	15,422	9,616
Total incoming resources	183,378	193,275
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	2,488	1,502
Upkeep of services (hall rental, church repairs)	6,231	4,635
Sunday school and youth	1,103	323
Administration expenses (church office)	6,186	3,775
Common Fund to Diocese	74,058	55,000
Diocese share of wedding & funeral fees	2,521	3,321
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	18,280	21,996
Children's society	315	239
Salaries of church staff (administrator, children, families & schools worker)	40,793	24,135
Depreciation (Note 6)	1,738	718
Growth	1,505	742
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	18,691	10,178
Total outgoing resources	173,908	126,562
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	9,470	66,713
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources (Note 3)	9,470	66,713
(Losses) / Gains on investments	2,823	(3,876)
Net movement in funds	12,293	62,837

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Balance sheet at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	826,102	811,568
Investments	7	129,638	117,710
Current assets			
Debtors - principally amounts due from Inland Revenue	2	31,660	34,719
CBF deposits		43,497	42,147
Cash at bank and in hand		31,873	53,262
		107,030	130,128
Current liabilities			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(3,090)	(3,116)
Net current assets		103,940	127,012
Net assets		1,059,680	1,056,290
Funds			
General		251,204	238,901
Designated		803,476	812,380
Restricted (For young people in Wythall & Hollywood)	9	5,000	5,000
Total		1,059,680	1,056,290

Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund at 31 December 2023

	General	Designated Reserve	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£
Represented by:				
Fixed assets	61,862	764,239	-	826,102
Debtors	30,298	1,362	-	31,660
Liabilities due within 1 year	(3,090)	-	-	(3,090)
Bank account	102,337	(75,464)	5,000	31,873
CBF Deposits	27,222	16,275	-	43,497
CBF Investment Fund	32,574	46,427	-	79,001
CBF Fixed Interest	-	50,637	-	50,637
	251,203	803,476	5,000	1,059,680

The total market of value of all bank balances, deposits and investments at 31 December 2023 was £205,008 (2022 £210,699).

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Analysis of funds movements for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
General Fund		
Brought forward	238,910	176,073
Net incoming / (Outgoing) resources	9,470	66,713
(Losses) / gains on investments	2,824	(3,876)
Carried forward	251,204	238,910
Reserve Fund (previously Building Fund)		
Brought forward	812,380	844,282
Dividends/Interest	3,040	2,735
Income from hiring accommodation	16,655	12,924
Income from church facilities hiring	1,151	1,151
Other income	0	0
Mortgage Interest	0	(368)
Other expenses	0	0
Repairs / maintenance	(2,467)	(5,044)
Depreciation	(34,064)	(30,753)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	(15,685)	(19,355)
Transfers from restoration fund / general fund	0	0
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(15,685)	(19,355)
(Losses) / Gains on investments	6,781	(12,547)
Carried forward	803,476	812,380
Restricted fund		
Brought forward	5,000	5,000
Donation	0	0
Net incoming / outgoing resources	0	0
Carried forward	5,000	5,000
TOTAL		
Brought forward - 1 January	1,056,290	1,025,355
Carried forward - 31 December	1,059,680	1,056,290

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Notes to the accounts

1. The accounting policies adopted in these accounts are shown in the statement of Accounting Policies.
2. Income tax of £29,945 is yet to be recovered on income received under gift aid (2022 £33,568) and is included within debtors.
3. The general fund surplus for 2023 is £12,293. In 2022, the general fund surplus was £62,837. The reserve fund balance includes £1,008 which is held in the restoration fund.
4. Sundry Income and Expenses may be analysed as follows:

	2023 Income £	2023 Expenses £	2022 Income £	2022 Expenses £
Kitchen sundries	-	-	18	-
Spring Harvest	4,958	5,249	710	410
Outreach	170	1,250	-	851
Socials	761	1,033	265	162
Scoff	1,985	2,565	2,264	1,897
Course books / visiting speakers	38	77	107	146
Repairs	-	1,310	233	729
Other	-	-	-	-
Sundry	923	284	39	88
Super Saturday	-	569	520	686
Discretionary income / expense	600	-	450	904
Uganda trip including BDBF funding	2,400	2,400	-	-
Advent	-	-	1,372	-
Elderly	-	73	5	324
Gifts	-	238	320	380
Kitchen	-	776	-	945
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon	76	-	103	-
Unclaimed cheques released	-	-	1,457	-
Cleaning	-	1,269	-	1,296
Specific charity collections	1,976	-	1,015	-
Little Lights	1,534	1,595	740	1,360
	15,422	18,691	9,616	10,178

5. The PCC has a target to give 10% of income to charity.

6. Fixed assets for use by the PCC	New building £	Church 5, The Willows equipment £	Curate's House £	Total £
Cost brought forward at 1/1/2023	482,631	35,429	253,765	292,351
Additions	-	50,336	-	-
Cost carried forward at 31/12/2023	482,631	85,764	253,765	292,351
Depreciation brought forward at 1/1/2023	165,045	22,163	42,650	22,750
Charge for the year	28,362	1,738	2,702	3,000
Depreciation carried forward at 31/12/2023	193,406	23,901	45,353	25,750
Net book value at 31/12/2023	289,225	61,862	208,413	266,601
Net book value at 31/12/2022	317,586	13,265	211,115	269,601

No fixed assets are carried at a valuation.

The new building has been accounted for within the building fund with the exception of the stained glass window, which cost £15,000 where funds were raised from the congregation within the general fund. The Curate's House is within the Reserve Fund

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Notes to the accounts

7. Investment fixed assets

Movements during the year	2023	2022
	£	£
Net book value brought forward - 1 January	117,710	131,602
Additions	2,323	2,531
Disposals	-	-
Net (loss) / gain on revaluation	9,605	(16,423)
Net book value carried forward at 31 December	129,638	117,710

Holdings at 31/12/2023 included £50,637 (market value) in the Church of England fixed interest fund and £79,001 (market value) in the Church of England Investment fund.

8. Liabilities due within one year comprise:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,089	3,116
Deferred income	-	-
Total	3,089	3,116

9. Restricted Funds

During 2021, the church received a £5,000 donation arising from the proceeds of the sale of Cornerstone Quest in Wales. The donor requested that the funds are used for the benefit of the young people of Wythall and Hollywood. At the year end, none of the donation had been spent on qualifying expenditure.

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	General Fund	Reserve Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
Income given under gift aid	115,263	-	-	115,263	129,308
Income tax recovered (Note 2)	30,587	-	-	30,587	34,460
Non-gift aid giving	9,686	-	-	9,686	8,774
Collections	5,207	-	-	5,207	3,711
Donations	1,351	-	-	1,351	1,731
Interest	1,199	3,040	-	4,238	2,975
Income from investments	1,403	-	-	1,403	967
PCC Property	-	1,151	-	1,151	1,151
Rental income on PCC property	-	16,655	-	16,655	12,924
Fees to PCC and Diocese	2,923	-	-	2,923	4,227
Children's society	337	-	-	337	239
Sundry Income (Note 4)	15,422	-	-	15,422	9,616
Total incoming resources	183,378	20,846	0	204,223	210,085
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	2,488	-	-	2,488	1,502
Upkeep of services (hall rental)	6,231	-	-	6,231	4,635
PCC property	-	2,466	-	2,466	5,044
Sunday school and youth	1,103	-	-	1,103	323
General Parish expenses (church office and repairs)	6,186	-	-	6,186	3,775
Common Fund to Diocese	74,058	-	-	74,058	55,000
Diocese share of wedding and funeral fees	2,521	-	-	2,521	3,321
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	18,280	-	-	18,280	21,996
Children's society	315	-	-	315	239
Salaries of church staff (administrator, children, families & schools worker)	40,793	-	-	40,793	24,135
Depreciation (Note 6)	1,738	34,064	-	35,802	31,470
Growth	1,505	-	-	1,505	742
Mortgage interest	-	0	-	0	368
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	18,691	-	-	18,691	10,178
Total resources expended	173,908	36,530	-	210,438	162,727
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	9,470	(15,685)	0	(6,215)	47,358
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources	9,470	(15,685)	0	(6,215)	47,358
(Losses) / gains on investments (Note 7)	2,824	6,781	-	9,605	(16,423)
Fund brought forward	238,910	812,380	5,000	1,056,290	1,025,355
Fund carried forward	251,204	803,476	5,000	1,059,680	1,056,290

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING MAY 2023



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
they will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream. Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Vicar's Report 2023

Myself and Paul continue to feel greatly blessed to be part of the St Mary's family. It really is an incredible and exceptional church.

I feel very privileged to be called to lead the church at this point in time and I am very excited by the many ways we are seeing God at work in us and through us.

It feels to me that 2022 was a significant year in the life of the church as we emerged from the Covid pandemic and were able to meet, worship, minister to one another and engage in mission without restrictions. I encourage you to read summaries of the different ministries of the church in the following pages of this report. I reflect that it has been exciting to see our Sunday gatherings flourish with special times of worship and the wonderful experience of being in God's presence. It has been great to welcome new people into the family of St Mary's and see our homegroups meeting and new people joining these gatherings for fellowship and discipleship. I have watched in awe as God has guided us and enabled us to respond to the cost of living crisis by launching SCoFF. The community that has built up through this ministry is very special. I reflect that it was truly fantastic to return to a full range of Christmas services and activities; this was my fourth Christmas at St Mary's and only the second time without any cancellations or restrictions from the pandemic.

Alongside all this has been God's sustaining and blessing in all other aspects of church life: the pastoral care, prayer, work with the elderly, ministry in The Coppice School, and so much more.

Just as 2022 has felt significant for St Mary's, looking ahead into 2023 also feels a significant time for the church locally, nationally and globally. There are various challenges facing the church and as followers of Jesus we cry out for His guidance, wisdom and truth.

When we look into God's Word we see clear direction of who we are called to be and what we are called to do. This vision is seen when Jesus responds to a question about the greatest commandment, He replies:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.....Love your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22:37-38

Then after the resurrection and before Jesus ascends into heaven he gives His disciples The Great Commission:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

From these words of Jesus we take forward our call to:

Love God, Love others, Make Disciples and Grow as Disciples

Jesus' final words at the end of Matthew's Gospel are:

And surely I am with you to the very end of the age Matthew 28:20

With Jesus' words directing our vision and with Jesus' presence through the Holy Spirit to equip and guide us we go forward as a church and as individuals with great excitement and expectation into all that lies ahead.

Rev Manda Featherstone

March 2023

2022 Highlights

- SCoFF – St Mary's Church offers Fun and Food, responding to the cost of living and providing meals for families once a week.
- Barn Dance, a chance for church members to socialise together and have fun
- ECG events – blessing older members of the Community
- New Curate: Marcus Pagnam was ordained Deacon in June 2022
- Children, Families and Schools Worker – Gary Daniel, employed from Sept 2022
- The new Staff Team is working well
- Super Saturday events
- Grants for SCoFF and Super Saturday
- We ran the Alpha course for people to explore what the Christian faith is about.
- We ran the Bible Course, helping people grow in faith
- Easter and Christmas Community Trails with other local churches
- Spring Harvest trip – enabling people to receive teaching and engage in worship at a large conference
- Christmas services – with no COVID restrictions
- Visits of Bishop Walter from Bolivia and Caroline Bell from Uganda
- Ongoing, faithful, regular giving of church members that facilitates the mission of St Mary's in our community and supports other Christian organisations and missions
- We have met all Diocesan Safeguarding targets

Churchwardens' Report

As I looked back over 2022 to prepare this report I looked at my notebooks and diary. Memory is not a gift I am blessed with and so I write lists and notes. I found that these notes were full to the brim with plans, ideas and exciting possibilities. Alongside them were bible verses and pictures that God has shown me throughout the year. God is faithful and always present. What a privilege and joy it has been to serve another year as warden! I can honestly say that the more I have asked God the more he has graciously shown me – a real encouragement to anyone considering serving in any way.

Initially I stood alone after the APCM as there was no other warden, but then Pam Miller and Paul Featherstone stepped forward to be Deputy and Duty Wardens. This was a new idea for St Mary's. We have worked together through the year, adventuring and learning. It has been great to share with them and learn from each other as we have seen God at work in our church. I was keen to review and update Health and Safety policies and streamline Risk Assessments and I am very grateful for their support and advice in the process. We have also worked together to review the church inventory, log and terrier, which will be available at the APCM for you to see.

New people have joined our congregation, new initiatives have started, new vision has been revealed, new words and pictures have been shared in our services. Some have described a 'fizzing'/'bubbling'

feeling and others have mentioned 'new shoots'. This is an exciting time; God is building His church and we are called to *hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful* (Hebrews 10:23)

Ali Spencer (Church Warden) Pam Miller (Deputy Warden) Paul Featherstone (Duty Warden)

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is St Mary's executive and decision-making committee. Members are elected on to the PCC at the Annual General Meeting and each serves for a period of 3 years. During 2022 the PCC has met on five occasions and the key agenda items have included:

Vision for St Mary's – Manda expanded on the themes of Worship, Discipleship and Community. We spent time praying and discussing this vision and what it means for our church.

St Mary's response to the cost of living crisis – We discussed several ideas of response to the need in the community and agreed to prayerfully and financially support 'St Mary's Church offers Food and Fun' (SCoFF) – an exciting weekly provision to the community of Wythall and Hollywood.

Oversight Ministry – We spent time discussing and praying about this initiative from the Church of England; churches are gathered into oversight area groups by the Deanery, an oversight Minister is appointed from the group to oversee mission in that area group. PCC are asked to sign an agreement to proceed. This is an ongoing item at present.

Church finances: The PCC has received regular updates from the Treasurer regarding St Mary's financial situation and was happy to approve the accounts prior to the APCM in May. The PCC also agreed the proposals submitted from the Mission Committee regarding the allocation of the church tithe.

Safeguarding: The PCC, in line with our Safeguarding Policy, receives a report from the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator at each PCC meeting. During the year the PCC has reviewed and agreed our St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy and the St Mary's Safeguarding Action Plan generated from the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

Membership of PCC

Rev Amanda Featherstone - Vicar

Secretary: Alison Spencer

PCC members for 2022 -2023: Rev A Featherstone, P Carter, P Miller, J Clark, J Emery, A Spencer, V Farmer, E Bridgens, L Rogers, R Watson, S Parker, E Croxford, S Underwood, R Mc Mahon

In attendance, non-voting- M Pagnam (Curate), Gary Daniel (Children, Families and Schools Worker)

Ali Spencer (PCC Secretary)

Treasurer's Report

This year we took the decision to produce for the PCC a quarterly update on our income and expenditure. This enables us to keep a check on our spending and the income that covers it, and will help us towards setting a budget for future years, all of which is good financial practice. It looks as if 2022 will be another year with a healthy surplus in the General Fund, for which we give God the glory, for it is He who sparks the generosity of our congregation.

During the year we made the final payment of the mortgage on the curate's house, and with Gary and family settled in 5 The Willows, we have rental income from both. Inevitably, with a full-time Children's, Families and Schools Worker, and a second member of the clergy, staffing costs have risen but I think we would all agree they are worth it!

We paid our share of the Common Fund and tithed our received income, details of which can be found in the Mission Committee report. We were refunded just over £30,000 by HMRC for money given under Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer and have not already signed a Gift Aid form, please ask me for one.

Money was generously given in response to a request for support for SCoFF, our venture to help address the cost of living crisis for local families. We also received a grant from Spring Harvest towards Super Saturdays, our work with children and adults with additional needs.

I am grateful to Dave Walters, who continues to provide advice and support, and to Steve who helps me with computing problems. Dave is again preparing our Annual Financial Report (finding my mistakes and omissions in the process!), which will show our financial activity in detail. The table below shows our main 2022 income and expenditure in round numbers for those who can't wait for Dave's presentation at the AGM or, like me, struggle to understand all those figures!

Pam Miller (Treasurer)

Income	£
Giving	140,800
Tax refund	30,400
Interest	880
Rental income	12,900
Fees (net)	1,676
SCoFF	4,000

Expenditure	£
Common Fund	55,000
Clergy expenses	1,500
Upkeep of services	5,960
Admin	3,660
Salaries	24,100
Charitable giving	22,300
Houses - mortgage, ins, repairs, decorating etc	36,000
Cleaning	1,160
Outreach	850
SCoFF	1,990

Buildings and Facilities Report

All change at the church houses in 2022!

- 247 Alcester Road was privately let at the beginning of the year until we had the exciting news that St Mary's would have a Curate. The house was made ready for the arrival of the Pagnam family – new decoration, installation of an alarm, servicing of gas boiler and gardening was undertaken prior to them moving in June. Following the move there were issues with the washing machine and dishwasher, which were replaced, and also a bath leak which was repaired.
- 5 The Willows was also privately let and then St Mary's employed Gary Daniel as Children, Families and Schools Worker. The house was made ready for the Daniel family with little needed apart from gas boiler service and garden tidying. They moved in September.

As both houses are now let/used by St Mary's Church it has been necessary to put together Rental Agreements and Occupancy Agreements. I would like to thank Paul Featherstone for his help with these. Church maintenance has included kitchen dishwasher repair and the purchase of a new laptop used for worship on Sundays. Currently we are experiencing difficulties with the PA system and a working group is investigating solutions and will present a proposal to PCC in due course. The 5 year Electrical Inspection is due in the first few months of 2023

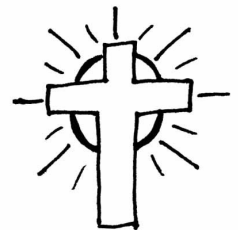
Ali Spencer (Church Warden)

Worship

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 95:1-2



I am so encouraged and excited that St Mary's is a church that loves to gather and worship together. There is a great atmosphere and we love to be in the presence of God and to exalt the name of Jesus.

Jesus states that part of the greatest commandment is to **Love God**. We embrace this as part of our vision for the church and for us as individuals. Our gathered worship is one aspect of expressing our love of God and as we do, by His graciousness and kindness, we receive from Him.

There are many spiritual and practical elements that enable our regular worship to take place and I want to express my thanks to everyone who fulfils roles within our weekly rota. We are blessed to have 3 licensed Readers alongside the clergy, we also have wonderful musicians who, more importantly, are worshippers, and help us engage with, worship and love God.

Whilst our gathered worship expresses our **Love of God** it is also a place where we **Grow as Disciples**. I am excited that St Mary's is a church that loves to hear God speak. The Bible is one key way in which God speaks to us and we are blessed with many great preachers at St Mary's.

We started the year with a sermon series in the Book of James covering many aspects including faith in action and the power of speech. During August we once again had one service at 10am which enabled the whole family of St Mary's to worship together, which is very special. During this month we looked at being Lifelong Disciples of Jesus exploring the delights and challenges at the different stages of life. The

testimonies that were shared were so encouraging and inspiring. In the autumn we had a series in the book of Colossians helping us look again at who Jesus is and how we put Him first in all things.

We continue to offer two services every Sunday, with a 9am Communion Service and a 10.30 service with children's groups where communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. On certain specific Sundays we have one service to bring both congregations together. This year this included Easter Sunday.

My prayer is that God gives us a greater hunger for both His presence and His Word. May He guide us and delight us as we gather to worship together.

Rev Manda Featherstone

Children, Family and Schools Work

Wow! What a great few months!

My wife, Claire, and our two boys, Ewan (10) & Benji (8), and I moved from Water Orton here to Hollywood/Wythall, trusting and believing that this is where God wants us to be at this time. I have served God in full-time ministry for over 20 years and rely on Him to lead & guide us to the places where He wants us to be & serve.

Since taking up the role as Children, Families & Schools Worker at the beginning of September, alongside the fabulous staff team, I have taken on leading and developing church ministries and community outreach that happen regularly, aimed at engaging children, their families & the Coppice school.

I am enjoying the new challenges and opportunities the role has given me to use my skills and gifts, working as part of a great team and with the whole Church here at St Mary's.

At this point, I would like to give special thanks to the amazing and dedicated teams of volunteers who support all of the various ministries of St. Mary's. As a part of my role, I have the joy of working alongside and offering support and encouragement to many of these teams, and am amazed at the dedication and willingness of so many to serve the Lord as a volunteer.

What does the role of Children, Families & Schools Worker involve?

1. **School** - It has been great to build relationships with The Coppice primary school. We have welcomed classes into church for visits, taken whole school (600+ pupils) assemblies and arranged for me to lead R.E lessons in all classes in school throughout the academic year (which is very exciting!). Volunteers from St Mary's and myself also go into school every Tuesday lunchtime to support staff in running 'Board Games Club', the aim of which is to engage with children who sometimes struggle to engage socially with others.
2. **Sundays** - My role on Sunday mornings is to oversee and run the children's ministry team & children's groups and also to plan and deliver our monthly all-together services. There is a fabulous team who lead and run our Sunday morning children's groups: Seeds (ages 4-7) and Shoots (ages 7-12). These groups are often quite small in number but have plenty of regular attendees. Teaching has been following the sermon series/readings in Church, but in the new year will be following series that I put together with the children's faith development in mind. For example, between Christmas & Easter our topic will be the Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

All-together services, on the 4th Sunday of every month, are where all ages worship together. The aim is that everyone who attends, from the youngest through to the oldest, leaves having worshipped God and been given the opportunity to listen to what God is saying to them, and been given a chance to respond to the message too. I am passionate about doing all-together services and believe they play an important part in the Church, as all ages come together to worship God & learn more of Him together as family.

3. **Little Lights** - Little Lights is St Mary's toddler group - a 'stay & play' group for parents or carers with babies, toddlers & children who don't yet go to school. It runs between 10am & 11.30am every Friday morning during term-time in the big (school) hall at Church.



We have seen good, growing numbers of attendees. In December we saw 25 or so children coming along weekly (with their parents/carers!), with a good group of regular attendees coming most weeks. At Little Lights, I am supported by a fabulous team of volunteers, to provide a place for babies and toddlers to play and for parents/carers to find a warm welcome, space to chat, build relationships and enjoy refreshments.

Since coming on-board in September, I have introduced some 'toddler praise' songs that encourage the children to get up and have a dance, do some actions and have fun praising and thanking Jesus. 'The Wiggle Song' is a firm favourite that encourages the children to get their wiggles out before sitting down to listen to the story and a few parents have said how they have had to find the song on YouTube as their toddler keeps asking for it to be played!

4. **SCoFF** - SCoFF is an amazing community outreach that is providing us with fabulous opportunities to share the love and gospel of Jesus and also to build relationships with families in our community. Some of those who attend are starting to talk about it as their church, which is really great! I feel privileged to help lead SCoFF and work with such a fabulous team. Please see the separate report for further details about SCoFF!
5. **Church Invites & Outreach Events** - Advent & Christmas presented us with many opportunities to invite people into our Church for services and also to be out in the community sharing Jesus at different outreach events. This included an interactive advent trail around Wythall Park, working ecumenically with other churches in Hollywood & Wythall, and singing carols at the Wythall Christmas lights switch-on. We had a fabulous Christingle Service in early December and immersive, dress-up nativity service on Christmas Eve, both with families from SCoFF, Little Lights and the school in attendance.
6. **Super Saturday** - I am involved as a team member in helping plan and lead at our Super Saturday events for those with additional needs. Please see the separate report for further information on Super Saturdays!
7. **Looking ahead to 2023** - There will definitely be plenty more action as I continue in daily ministry (expect an even longer report from me next year!), but I also hope to be able to start a Children's Discipleship group where 7-11 year olds can find out more about Jesus and grow in relationship with Him.

I am also hoping that we are able to have a big celebration at Pentecost where we can invite the

community to come and join us in celebrating the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church. A chance for the whole church to be involved in outreach activities!

We hope to have some sort of outreach to children and families throughout the school summer holidays where we can share Jesus in our community.

Alongside the things mentioned above, there are also other, different parts to my role that keep me busy from one day to the next! Please do talk to me if you ever want to know more or, if you feel you would maybe like to help in some way by volunteering in any of the ministries I have mentioned, please do not hesitate to seek me out or contact me!

Gary Daniel.

Sunday Night Youth

On Sunday November 6th, 2022, we launched a new youth group meeting weekly at 247 Alcester Road, called Sunday Night Youth.

The vision for this group is to create a space where secondary school aged young people can meet to grow friendships, have fun, study the bible, and pray together, a place where they can be encouraged in their faith and grow as disciples of Jesus as they navigate the teenage years.

At our first meeting we had 6 young people, however it has now settled down to a regular 3 young people, who are at the younger end of secondary school age. These 3 are enjoying Sunday evenings and we hope and pray that their faith is growing as a result of meeting.

We are looking at creative ways of connecting with the older young people, including jewellery making in the near future. In this way we hope to develop good relationships from which faith conversations and discipleship can take place.

This group is still in relatively early days. Of course we would love to grow in number but more important is that we grow disciples who are ready to live in obedience to Christ. We would greatly value your prayers for the leaders: Marcus and Nic Pagnam, Claire Daniel, and Robert and Jan Watson.

Marcus Pagnam

SCoFF

In the Spring of 2022, as the impending 'cost of living crisis' was being increasingly talked about, St Mary's leadership, under Rev Manda's guidance, started to ask the question, 'how might St Mary's Church respond? Months of prayer, consideration and discussion took place, resulting in the formation of an idea of a regular event where families from the Coppice school could gather in the church hall after school, for fun and food, hence Scoff was born. (**St Mary's Church Offers Food and Fun.**)

With Manda, Gary, and Marcus committed and on board, various exploratory planning meetings ensued, resulting in the formation of a basic team consisting of people to oversee the kitchen, the crafts, and the bookings. And then the team grew. We invited 2 staff members from the Coppice, one of whom has become a core team member. Then we spoke to staff at Woodrush school, who asked if a small team of



pupils who would benefit from being involved in such a venture could join the team, bringing two members of staff and approx. 8 regular students to the team. And then the team grew even more to cover crafts, games, kitchen duties and set up/clear up more adequately.

Since our first session on Wednesday October 5th 2022, we have had a fairly steady number attend. We capped bookings at 50 and allowed for approx. 10 team members to eat with guests. A typical SCoFF looks like:

- 1.30pm: the kitchen team arrive
- 2pm onwards: set up team arrive
- 3pm onwards: doors open, with a warm welcome, drinks, biscuits, crafts and games
- 4.15pm: a short presentation with Christian content (currently about prayer), followed by sung grace
- 4.30pm: a meal served to tables seating up to 8 people. Families and groups eat together and chat. Typical meals incl spaghetti Bolognese, sausage casserole, and fish fingers, mash and peas
- 5pm: Guests leave, and the team tidy up

In late November we were able to source some dry food goods to offer to families who would benefit. Our supplies have currently run out and we are considering if we should continue this and if so how. We are able to signpost families to the local foodbank at HCLC.

We invited SCoFF families to Christmas services and were delighted to see some attend Christingle and the Nativity service in particular and get to experience St Mary's Church gathered in worship.

It is hard to list all those involved as the number is many, including from beyond the community of St Mary's Church, however grateful thanks must be expressed to Katie Servante who worked hard to ensure that SCoFF is health and safety compliant, as well as St Mary's team members: Julie Croxford, John Derry, Robert and Jan Watson, Rachel McMahon, Chris Turner, Dave D'Arcy, Mel Matthews, Richard Parsons, Jean Masters, Liz Bridgens, Paul and Ros Harrison, and Son Parker.

Marcus Pagnam

Safeguarding Report

The year 2022 has been an exciting year for St Mary's and the safeguarding team. Following on from the pandemic, when all of our face-to-face activities for children, young people and our elderly members were stopped, we have over the past 18 months seen many new activities burst into life. The church now has a portfolio of activities which includes:

- **Sunday Kids:** held most Sundays during our 10.30am church service
- **Sunday Night Youth:** held most Sunday evenings in the curate's house
- **Little Lights:** St Mary's Mother and Toddler Group held every Friday morning during term time
- **Super Saturday:** an event held 5 times a year for children and adults with additional needs and their families
- **Youth involvement in the St Mary's Band** occasionally in our All -Age services
- **Hillside:** A team from St Mary's regularly visits a care home for adults with additional needs

- **Authorised Drivers:** a team of drivers confirmed by the church to give lifts to elderly or vulnerable adults to attend church services
- **SCoFF:** held in the early evening of Wednesdays during term time, providing fun activities and a hot meal to families in the community who are in need.

For each of the above activities, which include children, young people or vulnerable adults, the church has a safeguarding responsibility to ensure a risk assessment is done and reviewed annually. Each activity has a team of volunteers with a nominated team leader. For each volunteer the safeguarding team is required to ensure that they have been safely recruited and have received the required training appropriate for their role. Guidelines are clearly laid down by the Church of England's National Safeguarding Team and on-going adherence is monitored on the Church of England Safeguarding Dashboard. Each of our volunteers when commencing their involvement with an activity is provided with a role description and a pack of essential / helpful information specific to their role.

In July we welcomed our volunteers to our in-house Safeguarding Training Session, which was well attended, and the safeguarding team was able to update the attendees with the salient aspects of St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and to hold an open session of questions and answers. The Parish Safeguarding Policy Issue 4 has undergone its required annual review and the revised policy was agreed by the PCC at its meeting on March 23rd 2023. The Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator gives a monthly safeguarding report to the PCC.

In September the safeguarding team was delighted to welcome Mr Gary Daniels as St Mary's Children, Family and School's Worker and we look forward to working with him.

I am also happy to report that **the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Church of England House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as required by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)**

Your current St Mary's Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Rev Amanda Featherstone (Incumbent)

Miss Jenny Clark (Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator)

Mrs Nicola Clarkson (Parish Safeguarding Verifier)

Mr Gary Daniels (Safeguarding Advocate Children)

Mrs Linda Yates (Safeguarding Advocate Vulnerable Adults)

Jenny Clark

Prayer

St Mary's Church has for many years given high priority to prayer in all of its forms because it is our belief that communication with our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ our Lord is essential to ensure that we move forward in ministry by his direction and thus are able to worship joyfully in all that our Church does for our members and for the good of our community.

There are two weekly **Prayer Groups** open to all: one in a church member's house and the other in our building. In addition, the many house groups which meet regularly devote time



to pray over personal and church issues as we know them.

The **Prayer Chain** has increased in both membership and requests for prayer over the last year. Often when feedback is given, [although not asked for], the common response is the sense of comfort and support from the prayers of others during troubled times. Currently the Prayer Chain consists of 33 people who commit to pray for a 48 hour period over urgent issues which the leader passes through the chain by email. This is available to all who ask and can be confidential or anonymous as required. Long term issues are passed on to relevant House Group leaders. During the last year there have been close to 300 requests.

St Mary's conducts two **24/7 Prayer Events** each year which are always well attended and prove to be a precious time to pray, reflect and to listen to God. Answers are shared, prayed over and collected so that His direction can be used in our church and community.

There are several **Prayer Partnerships** among our congregation which are private by nature but always bless the people involved. More are encouraged.

Prayer Ministry remains to be impeded by lack of quiet space but goes ahead regardless. There are always suggestions of new ideas to improve this situation; however, in the warm and loving atmosphere after our services, it is common to see members praying for each other.

There are 11 men and women in our PM team who operate under guidelines and are ready and available at all services to pray when asked. Several of the ministry team have training in Prayer Ministry and we are all aware, due to safeguarding training, how to deal with any disclosure above and beyond our responsibility.

Our congregation was encouraged last Pentecost under the 'Thy Kingdom Come' banner, to choose 5 people who they wanted to pray for to come to know Jesus as Saviour, to wear a bracelet with 5 knots as a reminder, and to spend 10 days doing just that. This idea was received well.

Over all St Mary's is a prayerful church.

Jude Emery

Super Saturday - Provision for People with Additional Needs

Super Saturday – A vision that has come to fruition

Super Saturday is a new initiative St. Mary's has been running since December 2021. It is something that was started after prompts from God, specifically for families with children or adults with additional needs in our area.



Since starting, we have learnt that actually there are very few such activities available, especially at the weekend and particularly that provide not only for the person with needs but also for the carers and/or their wider family.

We felt very strongly that we wanted these events to be completely free and somewhere that we could bless these special people abundantly with God's love.

At each session we provide a combination of crafts, games, a sensory space, singing, food, time to learn

something of God's love and a warm friendly, accepting atmosphere for those with needs and their carers and families.

Super Saturday is run once a school term and follows a different theme each session;

- 'December Fun' a Christmas party with bacon butties, carols and a chocolate advent calendar
- 'Pancake Party' in February with pancakes to decorate and pancake games and songs
- 'Easter Fun' at the beginning of April with an Easter Egg Hunt and lots of chocolate
- 'Summer Party' in June with a picnic lunch, ice cream and a mini beach
- 'Hurray for Harvest' with hotdogs and scarecrow and autumn leaves crafts.

The team that run Super Saturday are fantastic, all with a real heart for those with additional needs and their carers. We have such fun and are truly blessed every single Saturday spent with these amazing people.

If you feel this is something God would want you to be involved in or if you know anyone you might like to invite along, please speak to Rev Manda or me, Claire Emery.

Claire Emery

Small Groups / Homegroups

I highlighted in my Vicar's report that our vision as a church includes:

Making disciples and Growing as Disciples

In terms of **Growing as Disciples** I feel that the small groups within the church are of vital importance. They are places in which the Bible can be studied together and people can encourage and gently challenge one another. The Bible says that:

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another Proverbs 27:17

Small groups are also places of deep fellowship and the place from which pastoral care is often provided.

It has been wonderful in 2022 to see groups meeting face to face and to see new people joining groups. Throughout 2022 they have been 7 homegroups running. We have had approximately 60 people in small groups throughout the year. The groups meet on different days and some are in the daytime and some in the evenings.

I once again extend my thanks to those that take the role of 'small group leaders' and also thank those who host and everyone who goes along to make them such special places. I am aware that often the leading of the studies is shared amongst members of the group who are willing to do so.

I would like to encourage anyone who is not currently part of a group to consider joining one. Please contact me for more information.

The area of church life directed towards **Making Disciples** is one that excites me greatly. In January 2022 we offered the Alpha course. The new year is a great time to launch Alpha as we can use the Christmas services to advertise it. It was great to see people come along who had heard about it from the front of church and people who were invited by friends. The participants were very enthusiastic and the Alpha was extended to include all the available sessions. Then following Alpha the group met weekly to study Mark's Gospel.

In the autumn we offered The Bible Course (produced by The Bible Society), which is excellent, and it was good to see the Alpha group joined by members of the church congregation.

One of the disappointments from the Alpha course has been not seeing members of that group join Sunday worship. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 outlines making disciples and baptising them. I invite you to join me in praying that we will see salvations, that is, seeing people come to a living faith in Jesus, and that in declaration and celebration of that we will be baptising people.

Rev Manda Featherstone

Elderly Care Group

We held 4 events last year. A charity coffee morning in January where we sold unwanted Christmas presents. Does that sound ungrateful? I hope not!

Holiday at Home was again hosted by Phoenix Assurance and was a very enjoyable day with lunch, games, a guest speaker and music.

Our harvest lunch was a first for us and went really well. Homemade soup and apple cake went down really well and we enjoyed the craft and a chance to reminisce about harvest festivals from the past, and finally finishing with a quiz from Mel.

Our showing of Fisherman's Friends with a fish finger lunch at October half term was well supported, as are all events by people from church and people from the local community.

This year I have decided to stand down as chair of the ECG and we have no one on the committee who wants to take over. If you feel drawn to planning activities for older people in church and the wider locality, please speak to Rev Manda or Chris Turner. There is a very supportive team and I'm sure you would enjoy working with them.

Chris Turner



Dennis Potter Court

We have continued holding Easter, Remembrance, Harvest Festival and Christmas Services at Dennis Potter Court in 2022. Whilst numbers have fallen, as sadly some who came have passed away, we still have a loyal number who look forward to the services. Once a month we offer a hymns, Bible study and cake session. This has been an informal way to explore faith and the word of God, and has allowed us to get to know the ladies who come on a deeper level.

Chris Turner

Hillside

For the last eighteen months we have been visiting Hillside Residential Home in Wythall to deliver a worship service to the residents and staff.

The unit supports adults with a range of needs, and the residents have always enthusiastically joined in the services, with the added benefit of members of staff (including some Christians) engaging in worship too.

Many encouraging conversations have taken place, and one of the residents now visits church every week.

The monthly services consist of a short talk, sung worship and prayer, and gifts for the residents and staff.

Many thanks to Rev Manda, Amanda Dauncey, Deborah Brockbank, Rob Watson and Karen Walker for helping to make the services a success every month.

We are always happy to welcome any new members to the team, so please let us know if you would like to join in future services.

Dave D'Arcy

Mission Committee Report

The Mission Committee was pleased to welcome Rob Watson as a new member in 2022, joining Jenny Clark and Pam Miller in seeking to keep the church informed about the work of our mission partners, in bringing new causes to the attention of the church, and ensuring that mission matters are included in the weekly intercessions on a regular basis.



We also recommend to the PCC how the tithe of the church's income should be distributed, and the following gifts were agreed in 2022:

CMS £1000 to support 'Joshua' working in the Middle East and

£2000 for Bolivia

Birmingham City Mission £1000

Tearfund £2000, half of which for relief work in Afghanistan

Just Caring £1000

Teso Development Trust £1000 for an incinerator at Ngora Hospital

Christian Aid £500

Tools With A Mission £1000

Railway Mission £500 - to support chaplains

Betel £1000 - suggested by our young people

Scripture Union £500

WEC mission partners £1000

Sat 7 £1000

Amigos £500 to sponsor a student at Kira Farm in 2023

Caroline Bell £1000

£2000 was allocated to help with the costs of SCoFF, and £5400 remains to be distributed early in 2023 - some suggestions for this have been received and will be prayerfully considered.

We were also able to send £1900 to charities working in Ukraine at the start of the war - who knew it would still be raging in 2023? Donations at our Christmas services raised just over £60 each for The Children's Society and Mercy Ships. £239 was raised for the Children's Society from collection boxes.

We were pleased to welcome and provide afternoon tea in the summer for the visit of Bishop Walter and his wife from Bolivia, and to hear about the Bolivian church from them afterwards. Our mission partner in Uganda, Caroline Bell, came to an evening service on Remembrance Sunday to update us about her life and work

in Moroto with Africa Inland Mission. Seeds were sown of a plan for a team to visit her in 2024 as part of the church building's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Our Kira Farm student, Cavine, corresponded regularly by email with Pam, and some of her letters were printed in the news sheet. Like all our other students, she really enjoyed her year, gained a much more positive outlook on life and left with new skills to help her lift her family out of poverty in the future.

If you would like to know anything more about topics mentioned above, please speak to any one of us.

Pam Miller

Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod of Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley has met on three occasions during 2022 and the main agenda items have included the following:

Sports Ministry:

The Rev Natalie Andrews: National Lead for the Church of England Sport and Wellbeing Project addressed the synod at its February meeting. Rev Andrews shared her passion for sport and mission and was keen to emphasise that one way to reach people for Christ could be through sport and wellbeing which enables us to connect with people who wouldn't normally be in church. She introduced the Synod to the Church of England Sport and Wellbeing Project, which has been launched across seven pilot dioceses of which Birmingham is one. The vision for the project is to use sport as a core evangelism and discipleship vehicle to engage with churches and to reach communities. The project is a vital part of the Church of England's evangelism strategy to be a church for "All people in every place" and over the next 10 years there is a desire for the Church of England to form a younger more diverse church, and sport is a really good way of engaging with those whom the church has struggled to connect with missionally in the past. More detail of this project can be found at www.churchofengland.org/resources/national-sport-and-wellness-project

Learning for Discipleship and Mission

Guy Donegan-Cross Diocesan Director of Learning for Discipleship and Mission addressed the Synod at its meeting in June. Guy began by asking the question: "Why make disciples?" and he answered that question by reminding us of the Great Commission given by Jesus to go and make disciples of all men, and therefore making disciples must be the central task of the church. Guy suggested that every church should ask themselves two questions "What is our plan for discipleship?" and "Are our plans working?" Guy introduced the Synod to a new diocesan initiative entitled "The Way of Discipleship". This is for both churches and individuals to use, and contains comprehensive resources (including a course) relating to growing and being disciples. It replaces the previous Diocesan 3D Course and more information regarding this can be found at wayofdiscipleship.org

People and Places and Oversight Areas

At its meeting in November the synod addressed the issue of oversight areas and interesting presentations regarding how oversight areas might work were shared.

Presentations were received from seven parishes within the KMNS Deanery most of which outlined the discussions being held between churches linked within their own oversight area. Key factors arising from across the presentations were as follows:

Resources which had the potential be shared across an oversight area.

The potential difficulties that would need to be overcome.

Successful initiatives already existing within the oversight area that could be extended further

St Mary's Deanery Synod representatives for 2022 were: Jenny Clark, Pam Carter, Lynda Rogers and Clergy

Jenny Clark



Picture from bike ride that took place 29th June 2022

Charitable Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

1. Regular Public Worship open to all

Details of our worship services have been given in this report. We also upload an audio of the sermon from the Sunday service each week to our website and also send this out to people who have requested it and are unable to attend church on a Sunday.

2. Teaching of Christianity

This is done through sermons at our services and sometimes through small groups and occasional courses on mid-week evenings. Children and Young people are taught about Christianity through our young people's groups.

3. Taking of Religious Assemblies in Schools

During 2022 we continued termly assemblies for the Coppice Primary School and these are now all in person.

4. The provision of a youth group with a Christian Ethos

This began on Sunday evenings in 2022.

Activities 1-4 above are public benefits relating to the advancement of religion

5. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved

Clergy and Licensed Readers take funerals and are in contact with the bereaved. Contact with those who are housebound was made by written letters and phone calls.

6. Promoting the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, children and those with additional needs.

More information about these activities is given on pages 8, 10, 13 and 15.

Items 5 and 6 help 'the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age or ill health or other disadvantage'

7. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

In 2022 we supported the organisations listed on page 16.

We have considered the guidance given by the Charity Commission about public benefit of our charity's activities.

Charitable information and Trustees

Full Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall

Other names the charity is known by: St Mary's Wythall PCC

Registered charity number: 1132792

Charity's principal address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
REV AMANDA FEATHERSTONE	Vicar		N/A
ALISON SPENCER	Church Warden PCC Secretary		Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
ANDREW HARRIS	Church Warden	Until 15th May 2022	as above
JENNIFER CLARK	Deanery Synod rep		as above
JUDITH EMERY	Reader		as above
PAMELA MILLER	Treasurer		as above
LYNDA ROGERS	Deanery Synod Rep		as above
ELIZABETH BRIDGENS			as above
LLINOS COTTERELL		Until 15th May 2022	as above
VALERIE FARMER			as above
PAM CARTER	Deanery Synod Rep		as above
SONYANETTE PARKER			as above
ROBERT WATSON			as above
STEPHEN UNDERWOOD		From 15th May 2022	as above
RACHEL MCMAHON		From 15th May 2022	as above
JULIE CROXFORD		From 15th May 2022	as above

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document - EXCEPTED

How the charity is constituted - The PCC is a body corporate

Trustee selection methods - Trustees are PCC members – these are the current Vicar, Curate, the Readers, and other members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall at the Annual Meeting. Additional members may also be co-opted to join the PCC.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves - We have a designated reserves fund. Some is invested with the CBF Church of England Funds and most is now represented by the 50 year lease on our new building and our Youth, Children and Family Minister's and Curate's houses. At 31/12/22 the total of the reserves fund was £ 812,380

Details of any funds materially in deficit - None

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report on 17th March 2022

Alison Spencer, Church Wardens

Accounts

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities FRSE SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

The general funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the application of the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are only available for use for the purpose for which the funds have been raised. During 2015, the PCC decided that the Building Fund be renamed the Reserve fund and balances therein are available as reserves. The remaining balance on the Restoration fund was also transferred into the Reserve fund. The Restoration fund is restricted and the balances therein are reported within these financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is also recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount is quantifiable and the ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for when they accrue.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share ("quota" or "common fund") is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided in these accounts as a constructive (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Property

Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold property is depreciated over an estimated useful life of 50 years. The church building is depreciated over 50 years to nil residual value.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used by the church for services and office equipment is capitalised and depreciated to its residual value (usually nil) over its estimated useful life from the date of commissioning. Estimated useful lives range from 3 years (for computers and software), 8 years for furniture and 15 years for the sound / vision equipment in the Church.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets / liabilities

Current assets, including estimated income tax recoverable, are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers and recorded at transaction price.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Mortgage debt

Mortgage debt is initially recorded at proceeds less transaction costs. Interest is charged based on contractual interest arrangements. At the period end, the mortgage is shown at its settlement value.

Incoming and Outgoing Resources - General Fund

	2022 £	2021 £
Income given under gift aid	129,308	114,544
Income tax recovered / recoverable (Note 2)	34,460	29,311
Non-gift aid giving	8,774	4,207
Collections	3,711	2,884
Donations	1,732	1,850
Deposit interest	241	3
Income from investments	967	934
Fees to PCC and Diocese	4,227	3,442
Children's society	239	285
Sundry Income (Note 4)	9,616	2,469
Total incoming resources	193,275	159,928
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	1,502	1,079
Upkeep of services (hall rental, church repairs)	4,635	4,121
Sunday school and youth	323	767
Administration expenses (church office)	3,775	2,803
Parish quota to Diocese (Common Fund)	55,000	60,000
Diocese share of wedding & funeral fees	3,321	2,654
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	21,996	15,335
Children's society	239	285
Salaries of church staff (administrator, children, fami-	24,135	29,951
Depreciation (Note 6)	718	556
Growth	742	758
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	10,178	5,706
Total outgoing resources	126,562	124,015
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	66,713	35,913
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources (Note 3)	66,713	35,913
(Losses) / Gains on investments	-3,876	4,127
Net movement in funds	62,837	40,076

Balance sheet at 31 December 2022

St Mary's Wythall Accounts 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	811,568	842,409
Investments	7	117,710	131,602
Current assets			
Debtors - principally amounts due from Inland Revenue	2	34,719	29,457
CBF deposits		42,147	21,701
Cash at bank and in hand		53,262	22,929
		130,128	73,522
Current liabilities			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-3,116	-2,192
Net current assets		127,012	81,964
Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year	9	0	-30,621
Net assets		1,056,290	1,025,355
Funds			
General		238,910	176,073
Designated		812,380	844,282
Restricted	10	5,000	-
Total		1,056,290	1,025,355

Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund at 31 December 2022

	General £	Designated Reserve £	Restricted £	Total £
Represented by:				
Fixed assets	13,265	798,303	-	811,568
Debtors	33,568	-	-	34,719
Liabilities due within 1 year	-3,116	-	-	-3,116
Bank account	139,065	-90,803	5,000	53,262
CBF Deposits	26,377	15,770	-	42,147
CBF Investment Fund	29,751	41,213	-	70,963
CBF Fixed Interest	-	46,746	-	46,746
Mortgage	-	0	-	0
	238,910	812,380	5,000	1,056,290

The total market of value of all bank balances, deposits and investments at 31 December 2022 was £210,699 (2021 £186,648)

Analysis of funds movements for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
General Fund		
Brought forward	176,073	135,998
Net incoming / (Outgoing) resources	66,713	35,913
(Losses) / gains on investments	-3,876	4,163
Carried forward	238,910	176,073
Reserve Fund (previously Building Fund)		
Brought forward	844,282	866,208
Dividends/Interest	2,735	2,599
Income from hiring accommodation	12,924	10,516
Income from church facilities hiring	1,151	470
Other income	0	0
Mortgage Interest	-368	-1,489
Other expenses	0	0
Repairs / maintenance	-5,044	-12,937
Depreciation	-30,753	-24,440
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	-19,355	-23,889
Transfers from restoration fund / general fund	0	0
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	-19,355	-23,889
(Losses) / Gains on investments	-12,547	1,964
Carried forward	812,380	844,282
Restricted fund		
Brought forward	5,000	0
Donation	0	5,000
Net incoming / outgoing resources	0	5,000
Carried forward	5,000	5,000
TOTAL		
Brought forward - 1 January	1,025,355	1,002,205
Carried forward - 31 December	1,056,290	1,025,355

Notes to the accounts

1. The accounting policies adopted in these accounts are shown in the statement of Accounting Policies.
2. Income tax of £33,568 is yet to be recovered on income received under gift aid (2021 £29,457) and is included within debtors.
3. The general fund surplus for 2022 is £62,837. In 2021, the general fund surplus was £40,076. The reserve fund balance includes £976 which is held in the restoration fund.
4. Sundry Income and Expenses may be analysed as follows:

	2022	2022	2021	2021
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
	£	£	£	£
Coffee	18	-	-	95
Spring Harvest	710	410	-	-
Socials	265	162	-	718
Outreach	-	851	-	-
Scoff	2,264	1,897	-	-
Course books / visiting speakers	107	146	-	46
Repairs	233	729	-	833
Youth related income	-	-	223	-
Sundry	39	87	1	480
Super Saturday	520	686	-	-
Discretionary income / expense	450	904	-	-
JAM	-	-	15	-
Advent	1,372	-	-	-
Elderly	5	324	-	50
Gifts	320	380	282	2,264
Kitchen	-	945	-	-
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon	103	-	89	-
Unclaimed cheques released	1,457	-	-	-
Cleaning	-	1,296	-	1,107
Specific charity collections	1,015	-	1,726	-
Little Lights / Noahs Ark	740	1,360	133	112
	9,616	10,178	2,469	5,706

5. The PCC has a target to give 10% of income to charity.

Notes to the accounts, continued

St Mary's Wythall Accounts 2022

6. Fixed assets for use by the PCC	New building	Church equipment	5, The Willows	Curate's House	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost brought forward at 1/1/2022	482,631	34,799	253,765	292,351	1,063,545
Additions	-	631	-	-	631
Cost carried forward at 31/12/2022	482,631	35,429	253,765	292,351	1,064,176
Depreciation brought forward at 1/1/2022	139,994	21,445	39,947	19,750	221,137
Charge for the year	25,051	718	2,702	3,000	31,470
Depreciation carried forward at 31/12/2022	165,045	22,163	42,651	22,750	252,607
Net book value at 31/12/2022	317,587	13,265	211,115	269,601	811,568
Net book value at 31/12/2021	342,636	13,353	213,817	272,601	842,409

No fixed assets are carried at a valuation.

The new building has been accounted for within the building fund with the exception of the stained glass window, which cost £15,000 where funds were raised from the congregation within the general fund. The Curate's House is within the Reserve Fund.

7. Investment fixed assets

Movements during the year	2022 £	2021 £
Net book value brought forward - 1 January	131,602	122,886
Additions	2,530	2,592
Disposals	-	-
Net (loss) / gain on revaluation	-16,423	6,126
Net book value carried forward at 31 December	117,710	131,602

Holdings at 31/12/2022 included £46,746 (market value) in the Church of England fixed interest fund and £70,964 (market value) in the Church of England Investment fund.

8. Liabilities due within one year comprise:

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	3,115	2,192
Deferred income	-	-
Total	3,115	2,192

9. Liabilities due after one year comprises:

	2022 £	2021 £
Mortgage secured on the Curates House	-	30,621

Interest was charged on the debt at 2.90%. The term of the mortgage was 25 years. There was no minimum payment and the PCC repaid the mortgage when cash flow allowed. The mortgage was fully repaid in August 2022.

10. Restricted Funds

During 2021, the church received a £5,000 donation arising from the proceeds of the sale of Cornerstone Quest in Wales. The donor requested that the funds are used for the benefit of the young people of Wythall and Hollywood. At the year end, none of the donation had been spent on qualifying expenditure.

Statement of Financial Activities

	General Fund	Reserve Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	2021 Total
Income given under gift aid	129,308	-	-	129,308	114,544
Income tax recovered (Note 2)	34,460	-	-	34,460	29,311
Non-gift aid giving	8,774	-	-	8,774	4,207
Collections	3,711	-	-	3,711	2,884
Donations	1,731	-	-	1,731	6,850
Interest	241	2,735	-	2,975	2,602
Income from investments	967	-	-	967	934
PCC Property	-	1,151	-	1,151	744
Rental income on PCC property	-	12,924	-	12,924	11,634
Fees to PCC and Diocese	4,227	-	-	4,227	3,442
Children's society	239	-	-	239	285
Sundry Income (Note 4)	9,616	-	-	9,616	2,469
Total incoming resources	193,275	16,810	0	210,085	179,904
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	1,502	-	-	1,502	1,079
Upkeep of services (hall rental)	4,635	-	-	4,635	4,121
PCC property	-	5,044	-	5,044	12,937
Sunday school and youth	323	-	-	323	767
General Parish expenses (church office and repairs)	3,775	-	-	3,775	2,803
Quota	55,000	-	-	55,000	60,000
Diocese share of wedding and funeral fees	3,321	-	-	3,321	2,654
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	21,996	-	-	21,996	15,335
Children's society	239	-	-	239	285
Salaries of church staff (administrator, children, fami-	24,135	-	-	24,135	29,951
Depreciation (Note 6)	718	30,753	-	31,470	24,996
Growth	742	-	-	742	758
Mortgage interest	-	368	-	368	1,489
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	10,178	-	-	10,178	5,706
Total resources expended	126,562	36,164	-	162,727	162,881
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	66,713	-19,355	0	47,358	17,024
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources	66,713	-19,355	0	47,358	17,024
(Losses) / gains on investments (Note 7)	-3,876	-12,547	-	-16,423	6,126
Fund brought forward	176,073	844,282	5,000	1,025,355	1,002,205
Fund carried forward	238,910	812,380	5,000	1,056,290	1,025,355

Contact

Address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN
We are situated to the rear of the Coppice School site.

Vicar: Rev Amanda Featherstone 0121 413 3287 revamanda@wythallchurch.net

Curate: Marcus Pagnam marcus@wythallchurch.net

Warden: Alison Spencer 07772 568898 ali@wythallchurch.net

Church Office: churchoffice@wythallchurch.net 01564 823248



Services

All are welcome at our regular Sunday services, which are:

9am Communion Service

10.30am Informal Service with children's groups

On the 4th Sunday of the month children and adults worship together at 10.30am in church.

St. Mary's online

Web

www.wythallchurch.net



facebook.com/StMarysWythall



[@stmaryswythall](https://twitter.com/stmaryswythall)



[@stmaryschurchwythall](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchwythall)



Our YouTube channel is called
St Mary's Wythall Tech



*Copies of this report printed at St Mary's are on recycled paper.
This report is also available electronically from the church office.*

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
they will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream. Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Vicar's Report 2021

The blank above is deliberate! Not that 2021 was a 'blank year', far from it. We entered the year into another lockdown including the closure of schools. We reopened church for our wonderful Easter celebrations. We continued with a hybrid of both in church and online services. We then relaunched two in-person Sunday morning services from September. However, by Christmas the Omicron variant was creating large numbers of infections, causing us to consider how to worship at Christmas.

Those are some of the 'facts' if you like. But what was God doing? How was God at work in your life and in the life of the church? He was at work in so many wonderful ways. There have been tough times and sadnesses, there has been joy and excitement, but God is faithful and was with us in it all. What would you write in the blank space above to delight and give thanks in all that you saw God do in 2021? When I was training to be a vicar my tutor said at the end of each year – the most important question is 'do you know Jesus better now than you did at the beginning of the year?' It's not just a challenge it's an amazing invitation.

The other reason for leaving the above blank is to reflect the text I feel God has been placing on my heart

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19*

As we move into 2022 what do you perceive God to be doing? Our prayer is that we perceive and see how God is at work and join in with it.

Here are some of the things where I'm seeing God at work:

- Older members of our church returning after the pandemic
- Homegroups continuing to offer fellowship, support and discipleship
- New people joining St Mary's
- 4th Sunday Together services with amazing involvement of our young people
- Running Alpha and the number of participants
- Incredible openings to be involved in the Coppice School including teaching the Christian faith
- Our work with people with additional needs both in specific events and at Hillside

The list goes on – what would you add? If you are prayerfully perceiving a new thing you feel God is doing I'd love to hear from you and talk this through.

St Mary's is a wonderful family and an incredible church. I'm grateful to God for bringing myself and Paul here. I am thankful to each and every person for the ways you serve and all that you bring to St Mary's.

Rev Manda

February 2022

2021 Highlights

The Charity Commission asks us to report our achievements and performance for the year, as well as our ongoing activities. Of particular note in 2021 were the following:

- We continued to provide full online weekly services from January to July and a shorter online talk from August onwards, once our main service was in-person.
- We contacted around 100 families by phone during January and February to find out how they were coping and offer to pray for them
- We ran an online Alpha course, via Zoom, between January & April, for those wanting to ask questions about life and the Christian faith
- We produced a series of monthly online 'Hope in the Community' services from February to July, focussing on a different area each time, including seniors, local healthcare, crime and policing, and schools.
- Volunteers from St Mary's helped in the Coppice school, packing food parcels for those on free school meals during lockdown, and from November helped to run a lunchtime Board Games club
- We relaunched gathered, 'in-person' worship services taking into account and applying Government and Church of England COVID-19 regulations to minimise risk of Covid transmission. These started with one Sunday service a week in March and returned to two a week from September, and included larger services for Remembrance and Christingle.
- A Church prayer was written, printed and distributed.
- We held our first in-person Coppice School assembly since pre-pandemic in October. Other assemblies were made available online, at least termly, through the pandemic .
- We held our first event specially aimed at families with additional needs, and started planning & advertising for future events.
- We established a coordinated ministry through meals for those in need, for example through illness.
- Our New Toddler Group, Little Lights, launched in November.
- Monthly services re- commenced at Hillside Residential Home.
- We restarted special services at Dennis Potter Court sheltered accommodation for Harvest and Christmas, at their request. These had stopped at the start of the pandemic.
- In the local community, St Mary's sang carols at the first ever Wythall Lights Switch on, and we joined another local church to sing carols in the streets with 'Mary and Joseph' on a float!
- We successfully applied to have a Curate (currently our Ordinand, Marcus) to commence in June 2022
- Safeguarding targets for the Dashboard set by the Diocese to be achieved by 2024 are being met ahead of time.

Churchwardens' Report

2021 has been an interesting year! We started with a complete lockdown through the first quarter of the year and then a gradual reduction in restrictions for meetings from April onwards. This enabled us to start to meet in person for Sunday worship but with substantial procedures in place to keep people as safe as possible as we worship. Over the year we have moved from booking places at services to being much more flexible, with the reintroduction of two services on a Sunday from September. However, we still adopt safety protocols to try to limit the spread of the virus as it continues to affect so much of the country's population. This, however, has not stopped us from enthusiastically worshipping God and experiencing his presence with us. Perhaps through 2022 we'll feel safe enough to reduce the precautions further and get back to a more normal approach to worship.

Probably the biggest event this year, as far as the wardens are concerned, is that Pam Carter stepped down at the APCM in May after many years' service – seeing us through some very tricky times with great

commitment, love and skill. Many, many thanks for all that you did and for just who you are.

As one person moves on, another steps in! Ali Spencer took over from Pam and has been wonderful, enthusiastically picking up the role and bringing her own character and gifts to it. The church is in safe hands with the likes of Ali taking up the warden responsibility.

Let's look forward to 2022 and all God is going to do in and through us.

Andy Harris and Ali Spencer (Church Wardens)

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is St Mary's executive and decision-making committee. Members are elected on to the PCC at the Annual General Meeting and each serves for a period of 3 years. During 2021 the PCC has met on nine occasions and the key agenda items have included the following:

Hope in the Community: The PCC adopted this initiative as its strap line for 2021. One thousand post cards were produced, outlining areas of help that St Mary's could offer to the community and providing specific contact details. Services embracing the Hope in the Community strap line were also held with education, health, police and local businesses featuring.

Connect-Explore-Respond-Grow-Bless: The PCC was introduced to the concept of "Simple Church" and it felt that as we emerged from the pandemic, during which most of our activities had been closed, we had a real opportunity to reassess the way forward for the Church. The PCC was happy to adopt the Connect-Explore-Respond-Grow-Bless framework in deciding what activities we should keep, which we should no longer do and which new activities we would like to take up when moving forward. This initiative remains ongoing.

Church finances: The PCC has received regular updates from the Treasurer regarding St Mary's financial situation and was happy to approve the accounts prior to the AGM in May. The PCC also agreed the proposals submitted from the Mission Committee regarding the allocation of the church tithe.

Church services: The pandemic has this year brought considerable challenges to the PCC, in how best to organise our church services, ensuring that we meet all the government and Church of England guidelines. Throughout the year the PCC has also ensured that, in the provision of our services, we remain sensitive to our vulnerable church members at all times and that we work in unison with the Coppice School in relation to the use of the building. The PCC discussed and agreed our programme of Christmas and Easter Services and events and conducted an evaluation of these services in order to determine improvements and to implement new ideas.

Safeguarding: The PCC, in line with our Safeguarding Policy, receives a report from the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator at each PCC meeting. During the year the PCC has reviewed and agreed our St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy and the St Mary's Safeguarding Action Plan generated from the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

PCC Secretary: in April Jenny Clark resigned from her role as PCC Secretary and the newly appointed PCC Secretary is Alison Spencer

PCC members for 2021 -2022 include: Rev A Featherstone, P Carter, A Harris, P Miller, J Clark, J Emery, A Spencer, L Cotterell, V Farmer, V Harris, E Bridgens, L Rogers, R Watson, S Parker and (in attendance) M Pagnam.

Alison Spencer and Jenny Clark

Treasurer's Report

This has been another stop-start year in terms of meeting together but we have again seen the faithfulness of God and of His people at St Mary's. Although a number of givers have ceased or decreased their giving, for various reasons, others have begun to give so our income has largely been maintained. We currently have rental income from two properties but expect this to change during 2022, when Marcus and family take up residence in 247 Alcester Road as he becomes our curate.

My thanks to everyone who gives faithfully by standing order, through the envelope scheme or as cash on the plate. (A reminder to those who use the offering envelopes: these are dated so that you can see if you have missed a week and then bring that envelope (filled!) when you next come to church. Ideally, you should not have any envelopes left when you get your new set. If it is a problem finding change to put in, a cheque to cover several weeks is perfectly acceptable.) Costs of maintaining the ministry of the church tend to rise annually so it is good practice to review our giving each year, especially if we have had a salary or pension rise. If you pay income tax, and Gift Aid your giving, the Chancellor allows us to reclaim the tax paid - this year that amounted to just over £26000, all at no extra cost to ourselves.

I am very grateful to Dave Walters who continues to provide advice and support and my husband Steve who helps me with computing problems. Dave is again preparing our Annual Financial Report which will show our financial activity in detail. The table below summarises the main ways in which our money has been received and spent, in round numbers:

Pam Miller, Treasurer

Income	£
Giving	127,440
Tax refund	26,510
Dividends/interest	860
House rentals	11,630
Fees (net)	1,070

Expenditure	£
Common Fund	60,000
Clergy expenses	1,080
Service costs - hall hire, wine/wafers, door servicing	5,000
Admin	2,800
Salaries	30,000
Charitable giving	15,300
Youth/children	770
Houses - mortgage - insurance/repairs etc	47,440
Cleaning	1,400
Training/outreach	1,475

Buildings and Facilities Report

Again Covid restrictions have limited the use of the church building and there has been little expenditure or maintenance required. The only cost has been the replacement of the hot water urn in the kitchen.

The tenants in the 'Curate's' house on Alcester Road have been in the property all year. There were a couple of major expenses during the year, although neither of them had been expected. Firstly, part of the

ceiling in the lean-to porch fell down after heavy rain - fortunately nobody was hurt. We had to act quickly, and a local roofing company were able investigate the cause and make the area safe. The flat roof above the porch and the office had deteriorated, and was replaced, along with the porch ceiling and the electrics and light in the porch.

The other problem occurred just before Easter when the central heating boiler developed a leak and tripped all the electrics in the property. Again, we were fortunate to be able to call on an engineer who was able to source and fit a new boiler within a few days. He carried out the work at a competitive cost and the new boiler is much more efficient and has a 15 year warranty.

When our Youth, Children and Families' Minister, Ria, left during the year it was decided to rent out the house in The Willows on a short term lease while the church identifies the role for her replacement. While the house was empty we took the opportunity to upgrade the electrics to current regulations and redecorate throughout. A tenant moved in during September.

Brian Lee, Facilities Manager

Worship Services

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you, I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1

I am so encouraged that St Mary's is full of people who long to gather together to worship God. It was challenging at the beginning of 2021 to be back in a lockdown and not be gathering in our building for worship.

We continue to be very grateful to Graeme Yeo and Cathy Walters for their technological abilities and the time given to ensure that we were able to worship through our pre-recorded online services. Thanks also go to all those who led, preached, read etc. It was great to hear how people were engaging with God through these services both within our community and further afield.

We were delighted to resume in-building services on Palm Sunday and be able to then celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with our service on Easter Sunday. We continued from then with a communion service in the building and an informal worship service on-line.

In August we took our informal service into the building and we explored the topic of Prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication). Our online services took on a simpler format and we explored the Miracles of Jesus.

From 5th September we relaunched our 2 services trialling a new start time for our second service, thus worshipping together at both 9am and 11am with refreshments for all in-between the services. I feel it is right for us to grow the identity of each of these services with one being more formal and quieter and the second service being more informal.

From September we had a sermon series 'We are the Church' and were encouraged by the example of the early church in Acts and we launched our church prayer:

May the Church of St Mary, Wythall, enjoy a time of peace. Lord, may we be strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit and grow in numbers, living in awe and fear of you, our Lord. Amen. (Based on Acts 9:31)

Our next sermon series went through Paul's letter to Titus and the challenge to all of us, especially those in leadership.

We then had a wonderful range of Christmas services where we were able to gather as the church family and welcome in people within our community so we could also contemplate afresh the gift of Jesus and worship God together.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we go forward, may we earnestly seek God and worship him.

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefit. Psalm 103:1 & 2

Rev Manda

Children, Family and Youth Work

We love that at St Mary's we are a fellowship of all ages.

At the start of 2021 our activities were based online. Ria would 'pop up' during our online service with a suggested activity for children to do during the service, then Ria and another member of the children's team met families on Zoom after the service for a 'Zooming Together' session. Zooming Together continued until the school summer holidays, when all ages were invited to join our summer services in church. Meanwhile from May to July we hosted a monthly Sunday afternoon service in church: Families on the Fourth Sunday at Four o'clock!

Our three Youth cell groups, Pic 'n' Mix, Youth and Youth+, started the year meeting online and it was really lovely to be able to start meeting in person again from May (outside) and June (in church).

As schools restarted after lockdown we sent each of our families a Home Schooling Award 'for perseverance and hope through the 2020-2021 pandemic'. At Easter, when our Easter Packs were sent to each household in our congregation, we included, for those with younger family members, items specially chosen for children and teens. We were able to support the Coppice School by recording assemblies on YouTube in the first half of the year, while in-person assemblies were still not possible.

In September we very sadly said goodbye to Ria Taylor, our Children, Youth and Families Minister, as she moved to a job working with young people through the Local Authority.

We are so grateful to the people who have taken on leading and helping with our children and youth groups. Please read their reports which follow.

Sunday Kids - Seeds

Seeds is the name for the group for children in Reception to Year 4 at school, roughly ages 4-8. Those aged 3 can attend this group with a parent instead of going to crèche if they prefer. This is quite a wide age-range to manage and there has been some juggling since Sunday Kids was relaunched in the autumn: the most regular attenders are aged 3, 4 and 8 so the 8 year old has been promoted to Shoots a little early.

With now only 2 regulars there can sometimes be more leaders than children but we try to have a fun time of games, Bible stories and craft. We aim to follow the adult sermon series where appropriate but adapt sessions for this age-group. We hope that they will, above all, enjoy Sunday Kids and learn that following Jesus is fun. We want them to know Him as a friend for life. We use material provided by the Urban Saints' resource 'Energize', which has a fund of ideas to customise for our children.

There are six leaders, working in pairs - Lynne B & Rachel M, Robert W & Lynda R, Jo D & Pam M - so we each do one week a month usually. More children and leaders are always welcome!

Pam Miller

Sunday Kids - Shoots

Leaders: Son P, Kay P, Liz B

Supports: Paul F, John D, Jan W, Jodie C

Age: school years 4 to 6 (currently flexible due to changing circumstances)

Shoots has recently undergone some changes as the older children (secondary school years) have transitioned to the 'Moving On' group held once a month. However, this older group very often attend still to support the younger Shoots members.

Numbers currently vary between 2 and up to 8 children in attendance weekly, including those of secondary age, though more children in this age group are on our prayer list of church families. Without secondary school age there are 4 regular children in the group. The group includes one young member who has special needs and is supported by his father each week.

Resources

The lessons are planned each week by accessing resources from the Urban Saints Energize website which church subscribes too. Following the church readings and sermon series is a wonderful way to be integrated into the church family's teaching, learning and growth for both children and Sunday school teachers.

Future

Positive! the Sunday Kids work is delivered by talented Christian teachers and support staff to enthusiastic children and young people who are beginning to serve within the church as they grow in the Christian faith.

Son Parker

Little Lights

Wow! What a start Little Lights has made!

Little Lights is a stay and play toddler group for children (babies to pre-school age) and their parents & carers and runs every Friday in term time, 10am – 11.30am. The aim of the group is to build relationships with people in the community, whilst also sharing Jesus through conversations, actions and also through the story time each week.

The group began on November 26th 2021 and since then 37 families are now on the register and we have an average of 15 families attending each week. In order to be able to build up relationships and keep the group welcoming and safe, it is felt that a maximum of 20 families could attend each week, so we are now looking at possible booking systems and options that are available for this.

Each week the group follows the same format, starting with free play, with various toys and activities for the children to join in with their parent/carer. We then have 'tidy up time!' and tidy away the toys; the children sit down for juice and biscuits and this is followed by story time and songs. Each week the story will be about God/ Jesus. Before Christmas we looked at different parts of the Christmas Story and this term we are looking at Creation. We use material published by Scripture Union to help with this! We then sing a song together, generally one from the adults' primary school days (!) during which the children play musical instruments and then we sing some nursery rhymes!

Each half term we aim to produce a newsletter which informs the adults about various events going on at St. Mary's and other information which we hope is useful!

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'Thank you' to the team who come along to help with Little Lights, from helping to set up and pack down, making drinks in the kitchen and chatting to the families that come along – Andy, Val, Pam M, Pam C, Jean, Lynda, Jo, Liz, Jenny. A massive 'Thank you' also to Cathy in the office for all the support she gives, and Manda for her support and encouragement!

Nicola Clarkson



Safeguarding Report

The year 2021 and the pandemic brought almost total closure of our face-to-face church activities involving our children, young people and elderly members. However, the later months of 2021 have seen a gradual reopening of some exciting new activities. A new toddler group (Little Lights) has started on Friday mornings and as Sunday services resumed in the church our Sunday Kids have also restarted. As activities have restarted it has been necessary for the safeguarding team to ensure our volunteers are given the appropriate safeguarding information relevant to their role and that they have completed the appropriate training. This has required the safeguarding team to revise role descriptions, complete risk assessments and compile and distribute safeguarding packs to every volunteer. In both 2020 and 2021 we have been unable to hold our annual in-house safeguarding training session due to the COVID restrictions. However, we intend to hold a session later this year which will allow our volunteers to ask questions and be updated on any changes to our policy and procedures.

The Birmingham Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard remains an effective checklist in ensuring we are keeping abreast of Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. The dashboard, which is accessed electronically, has three levels and we are happy to report that we are steadily achieving the requirements of level three, the highest level. Keeping up with the dashboard is an ongoing activity for the safeguarding team as new requirements are being added all the time.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy Issue 3 underwent its required annual review this year and some additions were made. The revised policy was agreed by the PCC at its meeting in May. A copy of St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy is available on our church website and a hard copy can be found in the folder rack in the church foyer. As safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of our church family, please do find time to familiarise yourself with its content.

I am also happy to report that **the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Church of England House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as required by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)**

Your current St Mary's Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Rev Amanda Featherstone (Incumbent)

Miss Jenny Clark (Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator)

Mrs Cathy Walters (Parish Safeguarding Verifier)

Mrs Pam Miller and Mrs Son Parker (Safeguarding Advocates Children and Youth)

Mrs Linda Yates (Safeguarding Advocate Vulnerable Adults)

Jenny Clark

Prayer

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:13 and 15b



Prayer has been described as the 'engine room' of the church.

Prayer happens in so many different ways at St Mary's: by individuals, in our worship services, in small groups. It also happens in specific prayer gatherings; one happens on a Monday evening in a parishioner's home and one on a Thursday morning at church. These prayer meetings are truly blessed times.

People also meet as prayer partners and triplets praying for one another, aspects of church life and for the needs of the world.

The other great commitment to pray for people comes through our Prayer Chain. It is a real privilege to

pray for people who are in need.

We also offer prayer ministry after each of our church services.

If you would like people to pray for you please utilise the prayer chain (by contacting Judith Emery) or seek out Prayer Ministry at church.

In 2021 we once again joined in with 'Thy Kingdom Come' – an international initiative from the Archbishop of Canterbury for people to pray between Ascension and Pentecost. We were supplied with great resources to aid our praying. One specific area of prayer was lifting to God 5 people we know that they might come to faith in Jesus – I encourage you to keep praying for the 5 people on your list.

I heard someone recently say that if people really thought they would be meeting with Jesus and talking with Him surely they would be queuing up to pray. So I'd love to encourage you to come along to one of the prayer meetings.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

Rev Manda

Provision for People with Additional Needs

2021 saw the exploration and then delightful launch of a provision for people with additional needs and their families.

This was something that I had had on my heart for some time. So in January 2021 I contacted a group of 8 people, shared what I had been thinking and asked if they would join me in praying into it, seeking God's guidance as to whether it was something for St Mary's and if it was, what it might look like.

We met 3 months later and people felt very positive and that we should explore together what the provision might consist of.

We had further meetings and began to grapple with whether we were looking to put on a specific provision or look at how we make our services accessible to all. We decided that it was most definitely both of these things.

During a day's retreat I spent time praying into this area and God spoke through a friend with the words 'Do something rather than do nothing'.

We got a larger team together (15 people) to plan our first event. Early December on a Saturday morning we rejoiced in welcoming 30 people to St Mary's. There was food, Christmas crafts, a small multi-sensory area, a video and carols. There was a wonderful atmosphere, great conversations and much joy.

Families with both children and adults with additional needs came along. Our aim is to provide a fun and safe environment with enjoyable activities and to facilitate mutual support between carers and parents.

We are very enthusiastic to be running further events in 2022. We plan to run about 5 a year on a Saturday morning and are excited to see what God will do in it and through it.

We have also relaunched monthly services at Hillside Residential Home which caters for older people with additional needs. These are attended by about 20 residents and staff and are a great time for all.

Rev Manda

Small Groups / Homegroups

The small groups of a church offer so much – fellowship, bible study, prayer. This sense of belonging and journeying with others in faith is very beautiful.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who run small groups, for your pastoral care and concern for people and for encouraging people to dwell in God's word. Thanks also to those who host meetings in their homes.

During 2021 we once again had a mixture of some groups meeting face to face and some online. When I evaluated the small groups at St Mary's in October 2021 we were running 9 groups and had approximately 60 people who were part of groups, which is wonderful.

If you are not yet part of a group or haven't been in one for a while, I encourage you to do so. Please get in touch with me.

Rev Manda

Elderly Care Group and Dennis Potter Court

Sadly we had no ECG activities in 2021 because of the restrictions around Covid, and in this year we will be keeping a watchful eye on advice and keeping the health and safety of our congregation and community at the forefront of any plans before activities recommence.

We were however delighted when the manager of Dennis Potter Court invited St Mary's back to lead services for Remembrance and Christmas. In past years these have been planned by Tricia Horton who had a very special caring relationship with the Court and visited individual members when they were ill. However this year, due to illness, Tricia has stepped down and the Elderly Care Group stepped up to take a greater role in the planning and delivery of the services. We all felt very blessed to see old friends at the Court and I think they were equally delighted to see us and hear again the message of Christ's birth.

Thank you to Tricia and Dennis Horton for their commitment to Dennis Potter, and to Julia Tremlett who had also been a stalwart of many years and who stepped down last year.

Chris Turner

Mission Committee Report

The Mission Committee exists to spearhead the church's response to Jesus' command to 'go into all the world to preach the gospel'. We do this by supporting mission partners and organisations financially and prayerfully, and responding to needs locally and internationally as they arise. In 'normal' years we have run prayer days so that our partners can be prayed for by the wider church, and have welcomed 'missionary' speakers. We hope to resume these as the Covid situation allows. Each month a prayer section on the news sheet gives information about one of our partners and we hope people use this.

The Mission Committee also prayerfully recommends to the PCC how the tithe (10%) of the church's income in the previous year should be distributed. In 2021 we had a total of £14800 to share amongst charities and mission partners and the following gifts were approved by PCC:

Tools With a Mission: £500

Teso Development Trust: £500 towards the completion of a secondary school in a Ugandan Village

Just Caring: £1000

Barnabas Fund: £1000
Christian Aid: £1000 in lieu of a door to door collection
A Rocha: £250
Caroline Bell (Africa Inland Mission): £250 to use in her ministry
Church Mission Society: £1000 to support our mission partner 'Joshua'
Amigos: £1000 - for student sponsorship at Kira Farm in 2022
Betel: £1000
Send a Cow: £500
Scripture Union :£1000
SAT 7: £1000
Hamlin Fistula Hospital: £500



Total: £10500 - the remaining £4300 will be prayerfully distributed early in 2022

We were also able to send £2050 to West Mercia Women's Aid during lent, and £1430 to Global Care for solar lamps in Uganda from our Advent Project.

If you would like more information about any of these people/organisations, please have a word with one of the Committee.

We continued to support David, our sponsored a student at Kira Farm, who returned to complete his training when the Farm reopened after Covid lockdowns. We look forward to helping another young person in 2022.

Jenny Clark and Pam Miller are the Mission Committee members. Liz Lee has stood down from the Committee and we thank her for all she has contributed over the years. We would love to replace her! Please do offer if you have a special interest in mission. Suggestions for Christian charities to support and are always welcome.

Pam Miller

Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery Synod

The newly configured Deanery Synod of Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley has met on three occasions during 2021 and the main agenda items have included the following:

An Introduction to the new deanery and the appointment of key officers:

At the first meeting of the synod in May, synod members from all three deaneries met together for the first time and were encouraged, in small groups, to share information about their own parishes and to develop an awareness of the geography and potential of the new deanery moving forward. Key officers were also appointed and introduced to synod members.

People and Places:

This item has been an agenda item at all three meetings of the Synod and discussions were held regarding the People and Places initiative and moving the diocese forward now that all of the six new deaneries were up and running. The People and Places framework is viewed as a way of re-shaping the Church of England Birmingham in mission and ministry. The synod was asked to consider the idea of dividing our new deanery into Oversight Areas which would embrace a cluster of parishes overseen by an identified Oversight Minister, supported by local minister(s) as part of a team, which would also include a range of lay people in mission. This framework will to be considered in greater detail during 2022.

Thy Kingdom Come: From Lament to Action:

The synod received the report of the Archbishops' Anti Racism Task Force and was guided through the recommendations of the report with special emphasis on those recommendations that require action by PCCs and local churches. Arising from this report a motion has been submitted to the Diocesan Synod suggesting that every deanery should appoint a Racial Justice Champion to move these

recommendations forward.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

The synod was introduced to this diocesan course and was reminded that the hope of the LLF process was to study and pray together, and to listen to each other and to God about relationships, marriage, identity and sexuality. We were advised that LLF is not imposed upon us, but we are strongly invited to take part in the course, one of which will be held within our own deanery. The findings from each course will help to inform the way forward for the national church

Eco Church: Journeying to Net Zero and Deanery Champions:

The synod welcomed Jo Chamberlain, the Church of England Environmental Officer, to their October meeting. Jo centred her presentation on how local parish churches can make a significant difference in reducing carbon emissions and referred the synod to some very helpful websites. The synod was also informed that a Deanery Environmental Champion (DEC) is to be appointed with the role of encouraging the deanery in its environmental work.

The synod was pleased to welcome Rev Phelim O'Hare as Area Dean of Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery at his licensing service on 13th September 2021.

St Mary's Deanery Synod representatives for 2022 are Rev Amanda Featherstone, Jenny Clark, Pam Carter and Lynda Rogers.

Jenny Clark

Birmingham Diocesan Synod

The Birmingham Diocesan Synod met on three occasions during 2021. Two of the meetings were held online but the third meeting in November was a face-to-face meeting held at the beautiful new Christ Church, Church of England Secondary Academy in Yardley Wood. Main agenda items across the meetings included:

Report of the proceedings of the General Synod of the Church of England:

This is a standing item on the agenda of all diocesan synod meetings and members are briefed by our general synod elected representatives regarding the agenda items discussed and the decisions made.

People and Places:

This has been an agenda item across all three meetings and the discussions have mainly centred on the six new deaneries and the appointment of the full time Area Deans. The synod was pleased to note that with the appointment of Phelim O'Hare to the KNMS Deanery all six deaneries were now up and running. It was reported that the restrictions of the Covid pandemic had delayed to some extent the moving forward of the People and Places framework but it was hoped that significant progress can be made in 2022.

Diocesan Finances:

The Synod received and approved the 2021 annual accounts of the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance and received and approved the budget for 2022

Diocesan Reports:

The Synod was pleased to receive reports from the following : Diocesan Board of Education, Diocesan Safeguarding Team, Diocesan Reference Group for Racial Justice, Diocesan Eco Church and Carbon Net Zero Project, Diocesan Mothers' Union Representative, Diocesan Resources.

The synod was introduced to the Church of England: Living in Love and Faith and the Clergy Covenant for Well Being initiatives and were alerted to the resources available. The synod agreed to take both these initiatives forward.

Jenny Clark, Diocesan Synod Representative for KNMS Deanery

Charitable Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

1. Regular Public Worship open to all

Details of our worship services have been given in this report. For parts of 2021 we were not able to hold services in the building; however during this time we produced online services twice a week which were available via YouTube and our church website.

2. Teaching of Christianity

This is done through sermons at our services and sometimes through small groups and occasional courses on mid-week evenings. Children and Young people are taught about Christianity through our young people's groups.

3. Taking of Religious Assemblies in Schools

During 2021 we continued termly assemblies for the Coppice Primary School, either recorded or in person.

4. The provision of a youth club with a Christian Ethos

This took place for the first two terms of 2021 and varied between online chat and in person meeting, according to Covid restrictions.

Activities 1-4 above are public benefits relating to the advancement of religion

5. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved

Clergy and Licensed Readers take funerals and are in contact with the bereaved. Contact with those who are housebound was made by written letters and phone calls.

6. Promoting the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, children and those with additional needs.

More information about these activities is given on pages 9, 8, 11 and 12.

Items 5 and 6 help 'the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age or ill health or other disadvantage'

7. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

In 2021 we supported: Tools With a Mission, Teso Development Trust, Just Caring, Barnabas Fund, Christian Aid, A Rocha, Africa Inland Mission, Church Mission Society, Amigos, Betel of Britain, Send a Cow, Scripture Union, SAT 7, Hamlin Fistula Hospital, West Mercia Women's Aid, Global Care and the Children's Society.

We have considered the guidance given by the Charity Commission about public benefit of our charity's activities.

Charitable information and Trustees

Full Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall

Other names the charity is known by: St Mary's Wythall PCC

Registered charity number: 1132792

Charity's principal address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
REV AMANDA FEATHERSTONE	Vicar		N/A
PAMELA CARTER	Church Warden until 16/05/2021 Deanery Synod rep		as above
ANDREW HARRIS	Church Warden		as above
ALISON SPENCER	Church Warden from 16/05/2021 PCC Secretary from 21/10/2021		as above
JENNIFER CLARK	Deanery Synod rep PCC Secretary until 16 May 2021		Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
JUDITH EMERY	Reader Deanery Synod rep until 18/10/2020		N/A
VALERIE HARRIS	Reader		Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
PAMELA MILLER	Treasurer		as above
LYNDA ROGERS	Deanery Synod Rep		as above
ELIZABETH BRIDGENS			as above
LLINOS COTTERELL			as above
VALERIE FARMER			as above
BRIAN LEE		Until 16/5/2021	as above
SONYANETTE PARKER			as above
ROBERT WATSON			as above
GRAEME YEO		Until 26/01/2022	as above

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document - EXCEPTED

How the charity is constituted - The PCC is a body corporate

Trustee selection methods - Trustees are PCC members – these are the current Vicar, Curate, the Readers, and other members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall at the Annual Meeting. Additional members may also be co-opted to join the PCC.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves - We have a designated reserves fund. Some is invested with the CBF Church of England Funds and most is now represented by the 50 year lease on our new building and our Youth, Children and Family Minister's and Curate's houses. At 31/12/21 the total of the reserves fund was £ 844,282

Details of any funds materially in deficit - None

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report on 17th March 2022

Andrew Harris & Alison Spencer, Church Wardens

Accounts

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities FRSE SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

The general funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the application of the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are only available for use for the purpose for which the funds have been raised. During 2015, the PCC decided that the Building Fund be renamed the Reserve fund and balances therein are available as reserves. The remaining balance on the Restoration fund was also transferred into the Reserve fund. The Restoration fund is restricted and the balances therein are reported within these financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is also recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount is quantifiable and the ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for when they accrue.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share ("quota" or "common fund") is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided in these accounts as a constructive (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Property

Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold property is depreciated over an estimated useful life of 50 years. The new church building is depreciated over 50 years to nil residual value.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used by the church for services and office equipment is capitalised and depreciated to its residual value (usually nil) over its estimated useful life from the date of commissioning. Estimated useful lives range from 3 years (for computers and software), 8 years for furniture and 15 years for the sound / vision equipment in the new Church.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets / liabilities

Current assets, including estimated income tax recoverable, are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers and recorded at transaction price.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Mortgage debt

Mortgage debt is initially recorded at proceeds less transaction costs. Interest is charged based on contractual interest arrangements. At the period end, the mortgage is shown at its settlement value.

Incoming and Outgoing Resources - General Fund

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income given under gift aid	114,544	105,872
Income tax recovered / recoverable (Note 2)	29,311	26,430
Non-gift aid giving	4,207	3,495
Collections	2,884	1,736
Donations	1,850	2,299
Deposit interest	3	26
Income from investments	933	911
Fees to PCC and Diocese	3,442	3,676
Children's Society	285	288
Sundry Income (Note 4)	2,469	2,344
Total incoming resources	159,928	147,076
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	1,079	818
Upkeep of services (hall rental, church repairs)	4,121	1,677
Sunday school and youth	767	1,003
Administration expenses (church office)	2,803	2,842
Parish quota to Diocese (Common Fund)	60,000	60,000
Diocese share of wedding & funeral fees	2,654	2,296
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	15,335	14,460
Children's Society	285	288
Salaries of church staff - Administrator, Children, Youth & Families Minister	29,951	32,255
Depreciation (Note 6)	556	792
Growth	758	376
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	5,706	4,509
Total outgoing resources	124,015	121,317
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	35,913	25,760
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources (Note 3)	35,913	25,760
(Losses) / Gains on investments	4,162	1,903
Net movement in funds	40,075	27,663

Balance sheet at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	842,409	867,176
Investments	7	131,602	122,886
Current assets			
Debtors - principally amounts due from Inland Revenue	2	29,457	27,054
CBF deposits		21,701	21,690
Cash at bank and in hand		33,345	22,929
		84,503	73,522
Current liabilities			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(2,539)	(2,192)
Net current assets		81,964	75,775
Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year	9	(30,620)	(63,632)
Net assets		1,025,355	1,002,205
Funds			
General		176,073	135,998
Designated		844,282	866,207
Restricted	10	5,000	-
Total		1,025,355	1,002,205

Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund at 31 December 2021	General £	Reserve £	Restricted £	Total £
Represented by:				
Fixed assets	13,353	829,056	-	842,409
Debtors	29,457	-	-	29,457
Liabilities due within 1 year	(2,539)	-	-	(2,539)
Bank account	96,039	(67,694)	5,000	33,345
CBF Deposits	6,136	15,565	-	21,701
CBF Investment Fund	33,627	45,375	-	79,002
CBF Fixed Interest	-	52,600	-	52,600
Mortgage	-	(30,620)	-	(30,620)
	176,073	844,282	5,000	1,025,355

The total market of value of all bank balances, deposits and investments at 31 December 2021 was £186,648 (2020 £173,870).

Analysis of funds movements for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
General Fund		
Brought forward	135,998	108,335
Net incoming / (Outgoing) resources	35,913	25,760
(Losses) / gains on investments	4,162	1,903
Carried forward	176,073	135,998
Reserve Fund (previously Building Fund)		
Brought forward	866,207	882,280
Dividends/Interest	2,599	2,892
Income from hiring accommodation	11,634	10,516
Income from church facilities hiring	744	470
Other income	-	-
Mortgage Interest	(1,489)	(2,325)
Other expenses	-	-
Repairs / maintenance	(12,937)	(7,448)
Depreciation	(24,440)	(24,440)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	(23,889)	(20,335)
Transfers from restoration fund / general fund	0	0
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(23,889)	(20,335)
(Losses) / Gains on investments	1,964	4,262
Carried forward	844,282	866,207
Restricted fund		
Brought forward	-	-
Donation	5,000	-
Net incoming / outgoing resources	5,000	-
Carried forward	5,000	-
TOTAL		
Brought forward - 1 January	1,002,205	990,615
Carried forward - 31 December	1,025,355	1,002,205

Notes to the accounts

1. The accounting policies adopted in these accounts are shown in the Statement of Accounting Policies.
2. Income tax of £29,457 is yet to be recovered on income received under gift aid (2020 £26,584) and is included within debtors.
3. The general fund surplus for 2021 is £40,075. In 2020, the general fund surplus was £27,663.
The reserve fund balance includes £964 which is held in the restoration fund.
4. Sundry Income and Expenses may be analysed as follows:

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
	£	£	£	£
Coffee	-	95	25	116
Socials / Outreach	-	718	6	242
Course books / visiting speakers	-	46	-	20
Maintenance	-	833	-	364
Youth related income	223	-	-	-
Sundry	1	480	130	243
Discretionary income / expenses	-	-	300	381
JAM	15	-	759	614
Advent	-	-	-	357
Elderly	-	50	143	35
Gifts	282	2,264	-	800
Vicarage Redecoration Fund	-	-	-	-
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon	89	-	120	-
Create Space	-	-	300	66
Cleaning	-	1,107	-	837
Specific charity collections	1,726	-	10	-
Noahs Ark / Little Lights	133	112	551	435
	2,469	5,706	2,344	4,509

5. The PCC has a target to give 10% of income to charity. Charitable giving also includes other appeals.

Notes to the accounts, continued

6. Fixed assets for use by the PCC	New building	Church equipment	5, The Willows	Curate's House	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost brought forward at 1/1/2021	482,631	34,570	253,765	292,351	1,063,317
Additions	-	229	-	-	229
Cost carried forward at 31/12/2021	482,631	34,799	253,765	292,351	1,063,546
Depreciation brought forward at 1/1/2021	121,256	20,889	37,246	16,750	196,141
Charge for the year	18,738	556	2,702	3,000	24,996
Depreciation carried forward at 31/12/2021	139,994	21,445	39,948	19,750	221,137
Net book value at 31/12/2021	342,637	13,353	213,817	272,601	842,409
Net book value at 31/12/2020	361,374	13,681	216,519	275,601	867,176

No fixed assets are carried at a valuation.

The new building has been accounted for within the building fund with the exception of the stained glass window, which cost £15,000 where funds were raised from the congregation within the general fund. The Curate's House is within the Reserve Fund.

7. Investment fixed assets

Movements during the year	2021	2020
	£	£
Net book value brought forward - 1 January	122,886	113,894
Additions	2,590	2,827
Disposals	-	-
Net (loss) / gain on revaluation	6,126	6,166
Net book value carried forward at 31 December	131,602	122,886

Holdings at 31/12/2021 included £52,600 (market value) in the Church of England fixed interest fund and £79,002 (market value) in the Church of England Investment fund

8. Liabilities due within one year comprise:	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,539	2,192
Deferred income	-	-
Total	2,539	2,192

9. Liabilities due after one year comprise:	2021	2020
	£	£
Mortgage secured on the Curates House	30,620	63,632

Interest is charged on the debt at 2.90%. The term of the mortgage is 25 years. There is no minimum payment within 12 months although the PCC expects to pay about £10,000 which will reduce the outstanding liability by about £8,000.

10. Restricted Funds

During 2021, the church received a £5,000 donation arising from the proceeds of the sale of Cornerstone Quest in Wales. The donor requested that the funds are used for the benefit of the young people of Wythall and Hollywood. At the year end, none of the donation had been spent on qualifying expenditure.

Statement of Financial Activities

				2021	2020
	General Fund	Reserve Fund	Restricted Fund	Total	Total
Income given under gift aid	114,544	-	-	114,544	105,872
Income tax recovered (Note 2)	29,311	-	-	29,311	26,430
Non-gift aid giving	4,207	-	-	4,207	3,495
Collections	2,884	-	-	2,884	1,736
Donations	1,850	-	5,000	6,850	2,299
Interest	3	2,599	-	2,602	2,918
Income from investments	933	-	-	933	911
PCC Property	-	744	-	744	470
Rental income on PCC property	-	11,634	-	11,634	10,516
Fees to PCC and Diocese	3,442	-	-	3,442	3,676
Children's Society	285	-	-	285	288
Sundry income (Note 4)	2,469	-	-	2,469	2,344
Total incoming resources	159,928	14,977	5,000	179,905	160,954
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	1,079	-	-	1,079	818
Upkeep of services (hall rental etc)	4,121	-	-	4,121	1,677
PCC property	-	12,937	-	12,937	7,448
Sunday school and youth	767	-	-	767	1,003
General Parish expenses (church office and repairs)	2,803	-	-	2,803	2,842
Quota	60,000	-	-	60,000	60,000
Diocese share of wedding and funeral fees	2,654	-	-	2,654	2,296
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	15,335	-	-	15,335	14,460
Children's Society	285	-	-	285	288
Salaries of church staff (Administrator and Children, Youth & Families Minister)	29,951	-	-	29,951	32,255
Depreciation (Note 6)	556	24,440	-	24,996	25,232
Growth	758	-	-	758	376
Mortgage interest	-	1,489	-	1,489	2,325
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	5,706	-	-	5,706	4,509
Total resources expended	124,015	38,866	-	162,881	155,529
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	35,913	(23,889)	5,000	17,024	5,425
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources	35,913	(23,889)	5,000	17,024	5,425
(Losses) / gains on investments (Note 7)	4,162	1,964	-	6,126	6,166
Fund brought forward	135,998	866,207	-	1,002,205	990,615
Fund carried forward	176,073	844,282	5,000	1,025,355	1,002,205

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall, also known as St Mary's Wythall PCC, is a registered charity number: 1132792

Contact

Address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN
We are situated to the rear of the Coppice School site.

Vicar: Rev Amanda Featherstone 0121 413 3287 revamanda@wythallchurch.net

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Andy Harris *until 15/5/2022*

Seniors: Chris Turner 0121 430 8478

Church Office: churchoffice@wythallchurch.net 01564 823248



Services

All are welcome at our regular Sunday services, which are:

9am Communion Service

10.30am Informal Service with children's groups

On the 4th Sunday of the month children and adults worship together at 10.30am in church.

St. Mary's online

Web

www.wythallchurch.net



facebook.com/StMarysWythall



[@stmaryswythall](https://twitter.com/stmaryswythall)



[@stmaryschurchwythall](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchwythall)



Our YouTube channel is called
St Mary's Wythall Tech



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Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2021



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream. Jeremiah 17:7-8*

Vicar's Report

This is in many ways a historic report in the sense that it charts the journey of the Church, and specifically the life of the church of St Mary's, during a pandemic. It would be easy for us to look back and say that the year started with such promise – a confirmation service with adults and young people affirming their faith in Jesus and all of us worshipping Him and being sent out by Him. Then a wonderful sermon series in Ephesians in which we explored how to live our lives worthy of God's calling and about which someone said 'it's like a Netflix box set, in that you can't wait for the next episode.' Plus a recognition that we had welcomed in a good number of new people. And then ...

But the 'And then ...', although daunting, was also full of promise. On Sunday 22nd March 2020 the doors of the church building closed. However, God's promise to be with us and never leave us, His promise to equip and sustain us, has been realised. We do however recognise that it was a tremendously hard year, there has been much pain and sadness about people who lost their lives and there is an enormous amount of exhaustion and ongoing impact amongst those who had to step up in various ways to serve others. Going forward we need to consider how time is given to lament and how space is made for people to tell their stories.

Within our individual stories and the story of the church there is much to give thanks and praise to God for. In my Vicar's report a year ago I used the verse:

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ (Colossians 4:3)

No-one could have ever envisaged what happened in 2020, and although I in no way believe God caused the pandemic, I do believe that because of it the door to proclaiming the message of Jesus opened. Our worship services went online (and we express a huge thank you to all who have enabled that to happen, especially Graeme Yeo and Cathy Walters). We found that this meant that many people were able to connect with online services and so connect with God and His word. Some people were local, some in other parts of the UK and some even in other parts of the world.

Doors also opened into our communities in a new way, with neighbours getting to know one another better and people helping one another out in various ways.

The text I want to give as we both look back and look forward is Psalm 27 verse 13:

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

There are three aspects I want to highlight:

CONFIDENCE – We can be confident in God for He is the Lord and holds all things in his hands. This is our trust, our faith. By looking back we see that God has been faithful, He has never left us therefore we look forward with confidence for all He will do in the future.

HOPE – Hope has become our key message at the end of 2020 and into 2021. It is wonderful that there is much hope around – hope in the vaccine, hope that Spring is on its way – but we know that true hope is found in Jesus. This is the hope we have, a hope that is 'steadfast and certain'. The verse from Psalm 27 states 'I will see ...' we are confident that we will see the Lord at work, He is our hope.

EXPECTANCY – The outcome of our confidence and our hope is to be expectant. To know that we will see the goodness of God. My prayer is that we are always looking for signs of the kingdom breaking in – that we are expectant to see salvation, healings, growth in faith and breakthroughs in our community and whatever God wants to do among us.

Lord, move by your Spirit and make us a confident, hopeful and expectant people. Amen.

Rev Amanda Featherstone, Vicar

February 2021

2020 Highlights

The Charity Commission asks us to report our achievements and performance for the year, as well as our ongoing activities. Of particular note in 2020 were the following:

- Producing online services. When government rules meant that churches needed to close, in March 2020, we began to record services which were shared online via YouTube. These came out twice a week on a Sunday morning and a Wednesday.
- Setting up phone buddies for those living alone, who would appreciate a weekly contact
- Joining with the Parish Council and other local churches to signpost those in need of help in Wythall, to local volunteers offering help
- Putting in place risk assessments and good practice to make the building as Covid safe as possible, so that services could be restarted when government guidelines allowed
- Advent packs sent to all church households, with reflections and other items to help us journey through advent. Packs were also sent to our children and young people at Pentecost and Harvest.
- Supporting the Coppice Primary School with termly 'virtual' assemblies to replace our usual 'in-person' ones, and creating a very special nativity film with them.
- Adapting to the use of Zoom for trustee and other meetings, for prayer and small groups and for children and young people's groups
- Setting up WhatsApp groups for prayer, encouragement and chat for those church members wanting to join
- Joining with another local church in running events in the run up to Christmas: a Christmas colouring competition in local schools, doorstep carols within the parish and a nativity trail in the local park.
- Two confirmation services with Bishop David, one in January and one in December.
- An Ordinand joined us as his placement church during his training for ordained ministry.
- Before lockdown we hosted our first 'Newcomers Lunch' as a way of welcoming in new people
- We maintained our payments to the Diocese and charities in spite of the pandemic.

Churchwardens' Report

Who remembers doing the Hokey Cokey dance? In out, in out, shake it all about. "In out" sounds a bit like our Church in 2020 and the "shake it all about" probably applies to all of us as we have been "shaken" during these last months due to the pandemic. However, we have to remember that we have a God who always takes care of us and has protected and is still protecting us, His congregation, here at St Mary's.

The year started well with a confirmation service in January, a welcome lunch in March, home groups were still meeting in person and there were two services on Sundays. Then suddenly, in March, the word ZOOM became the buzz word of the year! PCC meetings have been on Zoom during 2020 along with many other meetings of various sorts.

Fortunately, the summer was good and despite the numbers of people being restricted, lots of home group meetings took place in gardens.

23rd August saw the church building reopened so we were able to have a service at 9.30am with seats booked online and numbers limited due to Covid restrictions. We had a Zoom evening service in October. Our APCM took place on Zoom 18/10/2020 with all roles filled and our thanks go to those who have volunteered. The annual 'In Loving Memory' service was able to take place and we welcomed Bishop David for a Confirmation service in December. Over the Christmas period there were a range of online and in-church services which we trust enabled everyone to take part in worship during this important season. There were also special events including the nativity scene with carol singing being taken around the village on a truck and a nativity story trail using QR codes in Wythall Park.

We will all have our own memories, good or bad, of 2020 but we are still here and, with the vaccine being rolled out, 2021 should be the year when we can all meet and worship our loving God together again. What a celebration that will be!

Take care and stay safe.

Pam Carter & Andy Harris, Church wardens

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is St Mary's executive and decision-making committee. Members are elected onto the PCC at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and each serves for a period of 3 years. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the government requirements for social distancing no PCC meeting was held in March and the APCM, scheduled for April, was postponed until October. However despite the restrictions the PCC has met on eight occasions during 2020, with six of those meetings being held online via Zoom.

Key agenda items have included the following:

Easter and Christmas Services: The PCC spent time discussing, agreeing and evaluating the programme of services and activities held by St Mary's at Easter and at Christmas. The programmes were reviewed to ensure that the content included something for people of every age group and circumstance, and that they met both the needs and expectations of the church and the community.

St Mary's response to the coronavirus pandemic: The PCC has spent a great deal of time this year discussing and agreeing how to move the church forward during the pandemic: How to ensure we meet the government restrictions and Church of England guidelines at all times, how to ensure we meet the needs of our congregation across all age groups and circumstances, how to ensure we have a defined presence in meeting the specific needs of the community at this time, how to ensure we work in tandem with the Coppice School when considering access to the building and how to ensure our leaders, musicians, technical and administrative personnel have the support and resources they need. In many ways it has been a rollercoaster ride, with situations changing all the time but our online services have been well received and have opened up many opportunities to reach out to our community and beyond, opportunities we will not want to lose when restrictions cease.

Church Finances: The PCC was reassured to receive positive reports from the Treasurer regarding the church finances, especially as many churches are currently suffering a drop in income due to the pandemic, and it was pleased to formally agree the church accounts at the APCM in October. The PCC also agreed the proposals submitted from the Mission Committee regarding the allocation of the church tithe.

Safeguarding: The PCC, in line with our safeguarding policy, receives a report from the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator at each PCC meeting. During the year the PCC has discussed and agreed our responses to issues arising from the action plan generated by Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard, and was pleased to formally agree the revised Parish Safeguarding Policy at its meeting in May.

Reflect and Pray: During 2020 the PCC has been encouraged during this time of lockdown and social distancing to reflect and pray on how the church should move forward when lockdown is finally removed. The PCC was asked to pray with an open mind and with a spirit of creativity towards possible areas of change.

PCC members for 2020 included: Rev A Featherstone, P Carter, A Harris, P Miller, J Clark, J Emery, A Spencer, L Cotterell, V Farmer, V Harris, G Yeo, B Lee, E Bridgens, P Branford, L Rogers, Ria Taylor (Non - Voting), Marcus Pagnam (Non-voting) and C Walters (Non – Voting).

Jenny Clark , PCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

This year has been a tribute to the faithfulness of God and of His people at St Mary's. Unlike many other churches in this diocese and nationwide we have seen only a very small drop in income, and this has been more than compensated for by a reduction in expenditure. Our end of year finances are in a very healthy state and will enable us to pay all our requested Common Fund in 2021. Diocesan finances will struggle because so many other churches will not be able to pay their way so it is good that we can play our part.

My thanks to everyone who has continued to give faithfully, especially those who use the envelope scheme and have found ways to get their envelopes to me through the various lockdowns. Few of us seem to have lost our jobs and so have been able to maintain the same level of giving. While we thank God for that we must not lose sight of the needs of those who have not fared so well.

I am very grateful to Dave Walters who continues to provide advice and support in all things financial and is again preparing our Annual Financial Report. The table below shows our main 2020 income and expenditure in round numbers for those who can't wait for Dave's presentation at the AGM - or, like me, struggle to understand all those figures!

Pam Miller, Treasurer

Income	£
Giving	113300
Tax refund	27000
Dividends/interest	900
Curate's house rental	10500
Letting income	3000
Fees (net)	1740
Recycling (box in foyer)	82

Noah's Ark, JAM, Create Space and the ECG are largely self-funding, when running.

Expenditure	£
Common Fund	60000
Clergy expenses	815
Service costs - hall hire, wine/wafers, door servicing	3760
Admin	2800
Salaries	32200
Charitable giving	14500
Youth/children	1050
Houses - mortgage - insurance/repairs etc	5160
Cleaning	570
Training/outreach	600

Buildings and Facilities Report

Unfortunately due to the Covid 19 Pandemic most of the services this year have been 'online'. As the need for online services continued some extra equipment was purchased to help with their preparation.

During the middle of the year, when some socially distanced services were allowed in the building, a water leak from the underfloor heating system caused the wooden floor to expand and a large section of the floor bulged. The whole of the floor had to be lifted and reinstalled, including sanding and varnishing. Hopefully the cost will be covered by the building insurance.

A number of maintenance jobs were carried out at the youth workers house including replacing the broken wardrobe doors in the main bedroom, replacing hinges on some of the windows and upgrading door locks.

Most of the fencing in the back garden was replaced and the large trees in the front garden were cut down. In December I removed an old cupboard from the kitchen and repaired the walls. Ria then purchased a new fridge freezer and redecorated the kitchen

The tenants have renewed their contract for the 'Curate's' house. Unfortunately Storm Ciara damaged most of the old fencing around the back garden so this had to be replaced. The locks in the external doors were upgraded in December.

Brian Lee, Facilities Manager

Youth, Children and Families Report

The year began like any other year with plenty going on, within church as well as out in the community.

JAM Club was running every Wednesday after school, teaching children about faith and the Bible through songs, games and stories. In February half term we hosted our biggest ever JAM Packed Holiday Club, involving 41 children and 25 leaders. We took the children on an adventure, finding clues about Jesus and how to follow him. We invited parents in, for the first time, on the last day, to allow the children to show and tell all that they had been learning.

SALT was the youth group meeting on Sunday evenings and youth home groups were being run for girls (SMG), lads, and younger youth (Pick n Mix). This provided space to hang out and build friendships, to delve into the Bible together and to encourage each other's faith.

Create Space was going from strength to strength seeing more members become regulars, bringing along their friends and family members too. One family that had got to know us through Starting Rite and had since joined Noah's Ark as regulars, had come to Create Space the Friday before and then come to the church all-age service with their 3 year old. They messaged afterwards to say they'd be coming to a service again soon! Create Space provides a space where friends can meet, get creative, feel welcome and looked after in church, and think about things they wouldn't ordinarily have the chance to think about, making first steps into faith and spirituality.

Noah's Ark met every Friday morning for stay and play for parents, carers and their babies and toddlers. It has been a wonderful space for people to build friendships that often last through primary school years. We have regularly seen Noah's Ark children and families reappear in JAM Club, Create Space, all-age services and Starting Rite.

At the end of March 2020, everything changed very abruptly. All of the groups meeting in homes or in the church needed to be cancelled. Without knowing how long it would last, we focussed on remaining connected with children and young people and learned as we went along what worked best.

In the early days of lockdown #1 I sent a video message to children who were still attending the Coppice School because their parents were key workers, as well as sending something in the post to some young people from St Mary's who also still needed to attend school.

I gathered permissions from parents to connect via Social Media, WhatsApp and video calls, and home groups tried out keeping in touch in creative ways (ask me about the wooden spoon video!!) and meeting online. I wrote some reflective blogs to help support them in processing what was happening and engage their life circumstances with their faith and Manda began sending Manda's Monday Message to keep in touch with some of the younger children. This later became 'Some Good News' (or SGN for short!) that Ria has sent out as an audio message to encourage the children in their faith during lockdowns.

Over time, the priority of encouraging 'Faith at Home' emerged. 'The church' couldn't gather together, but instead 'the church' were meeting in homes across Hollywood and Wythall and in fact the whole country. Each week I put together resources that were sent out to engage children and young people in the church

service, supporting families to watch church all together and help them to engage in an age appropriate way. By Pentecost I was able to design packs to send out to all the families of St Mary's to celebrate together but apart. These have caught on and been sent at the end of year celebration, harvest and advent as well, helping children and young people to read the Bible, pray and respond for themselves. It has been really profound to hand deliver each pack, physically being at each front door and praying for our wonderful church family.

August came along and we had a new focus of moving back into the building for Covid-safe services whilst continuing our online services as the main event. It is the first time I think we have done an all-age Bible study in such depth and I loved creating materials to engage children and young people in the book of Nehemiah. Whilst schools were on their holidays, some of our young people were making the leap from Primary to Secondary school. It was great to be able to support them in this by offering an 'It's Your Move' school leavers' session before they started High School and again just after.

As the summer came to an end, I wanted to hear from families to understand what was working best for them. I asked them to complete a survey, guiding us as to how best to engage families in church life while many were feeling disconnected and daunted at the prospect of a second wave. It was a confusing time, not knowing if we were coming out of lockdown, with schools going back, or preparing to go back into one for the winter season!

The church as a whole had a new focus on re-establishing small groups and so it was the season for risk assessments and training for new leaders. New groups were set up for 3 age groups; years 5-7, 8-10 and 11-13. We desperately wanted to meet in the church building, but with a new lockdown in November, all 3 groups moved online and continue to meet on Zoom each week.

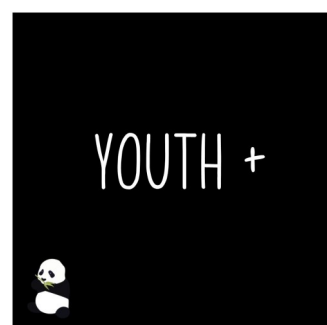
Another outcome of the survey was to do with engaging children and young people in the online services. So I now pop up each week in the service to set them a challenge for engaging with that week's Bible reading and offer to meet with them on Zoom after the service to share and talk together. We also try lots of ways of involving them in the service, delivering prayers, readings, drama and sung worship. I think they enjoy spotting each other and it brings such joy to others too!

As December approached, our focus turned to Christmas. This involved preparing online gatherings whilst being in national lockdown! But also enabled some creative responses! We saw Martha the puppet via Zoom, gave 50 FREE Christingle packs away in Coppice school to engage families in the service. Careful filming and voice recording brought together Coppice children with St Mary's families for a Nativity story in the style of a Haribo advert... I wouldn't have seen that coming a year ago!! It was a huge success, having 248 views, representing a likely 500 people. We created something the children, their families and the school all enjoyed and were blessed by.

So the year ended, like no other! It has been full of difficulties and challenges, for each of us personally, and for us as a church. What a privilege it is to see how God has moved throughout it all. Thank you to everyone who has embraced online church and got involved. And to Graeme Yeo, and his family(!) for enabling so many ideas to become reality online. I can't wait to see you all in person and give out some big HUGS!!

Stay safe, Ria

Ria Taylor, Youth, Children & Families Minister



Worship

1 Chronicles 16:23-25 states:

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

There is so much to give God praise and worship for and how we love to do this as the family of St Mary's. Like everything else the pandemic of 2020 impacted upon how we were able to worship, but our worship and our song of praise has not been halted.

We had 11 Wednesdays and Sundays at the beginning of the year with our known pattern of worship. We started the year with a brilliant sermon series through the book of Ephesians and our preachers, leaders, musicians and many others led us wonderfully.

When the first lockdown came and the Church of England deemed that all church buildings be closed we moved online. We are so grateful to Graeme Yeo and Cathy Walters for enabling such professionally produced services to be put online. We are also grateful to all those who have been willing to record themselves preaching, leading services, leading music, praying and reading the Bible and so many more contributions.

It has been wonderful to see how God has been using these services and we are aware of new people joining us locally, from elsewhere in the UK and from different parts of the world. It is all very exciting.

Worship has also been facilitated by written material for Holy Week and Easter, for Pentecost and for Advent. It has been important to remain mindful of those who haven't been able to connect online.

On Sunday 23rd August we re-opened our church building for services of said communion. Following the guidelines produced, it was necessary to maintain social distancing which put a limit on numbers, and we also wore face coverings and were not able to sing. It was wonderful to see one another and to gather around the Lord's table together.

Alongside all the positives however, we need to also express the pain, sadness and frustration of not being able to meet together in large numbers to worship the Lord. We are created for relationship with God and with one another and our gathered worship is a beautiful expression of this and we miss gathering so very much.

One step toward gathering has been to have some evening services on Zoom. These have been wonderful in terms of being able to see one another, albeit on a screen. It gave a real sense of people being together in the same space and being able to engage in sung worship.

Not being able to gather for worship the way we did in the past gives us opportunity to think and reflect. We can ask the big overarching question of 'what is worship and how do we do it?' We can consider for ourselves how we worship daily (as the verses above from 1 Chronicles state) and, individually and together, we will need to look at what God has been teaching us from this period to inform our gathered worship in the future.

The Lord is worthy of praise and the praises of His people continue and will do so eternally.

Rev Amanda Featherstone, Vicar



Safeguarding Report

Throughout this challenging year, the Safeguarding team at St Mary's has ensured that our safeguarding policy, procedures and practices are up to date and continue to reflect those specified by the Church of England and the Church of England Birmingham. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable this year to hold our annual in-house Safeguarding Training Session. This is when we welcome our new volunteers and introduce them to the Parish Safeguarding Policy and guidelines for good practice and update our existing volunteers to any additions and changes. We plan to hold that postponed in-house session as soon as restrictions are lifted and we can meet together. In the meantime however, we are pleased to report that all our volunteers are up-to-date with their Diocesan Safeguarding Training, which is currently undertaken online.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard is an electronic programme which provides a safeguarding checklist to which each church is required to respond. This checklist involves questions relating to the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and asks each church to confirm whether or not they have achieved the standard specified for each question. In response to this inputted data the dashboard automatically produces an action plan for St Mary's which is agreed and actioned by the PCC. We are pleased to report that St Mary's has now reached level 3 which is the highest level and is making good progress in meeting the requirements of this level. The Safeguarding Dashboard is an ongoing self-evaluation tool with many of the items requiring regular review and new ones being added as new policy and practices dictate. To that end it remains a continuous process.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy underwent its required annual review this year and some additions were made. The revised policy was agreed by the PCC at its meeting in May. A copy of St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Policy is available on our church website and a copy can be found in the folder rack in the church foyer. As safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of our church family, please do find time to familiarise yourself with its content.

I am also happy to report that **the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the Church of England House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as required by Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016)**

Your current St Mary's Safeguarding Team is as follows:

Rev Amanda Featherstone (Incumbent)
Miss Jenny Clark (Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator)
Mrs Cathy Walters (Parish Safeguarding Verifier)
Mrs Ria Taylor (Safeguarding Advocate Children)
Mrs Linda Yates (Safeguarding Advocate Vulnerable Adults)

Jenny Clark, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator



Prayer

Psalms 17 verse 6 states:

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

I wonder what your personal prayer life looked like in 2020? Were there any significant changes? For some people the challenges of the year combined with extra time meant more opportunity to come before God in prayer. For others the difficulties of the year and a greater intensity of work combined with home schooling squeezed out some of the time previously set aside for prayer.

The prayer life of the church in 2020 has been rich and like other aspects has had to respond to the issues created by the pandemic.

Prayer for us as St Mary's takes place individually, in our small groups and in our services. There are also specific times set aside for prayer – two weekly gatherings take place on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. These continued for the first quarter of the year and then when lockdown came these gatherings became WhatsApp groups where prayer pointers were shared. Later the Thursday prayer gathering started meeting on Zoom on the third Thursday of the month which has been a real blessing to all.

We continued our pattern of specific prayer gatherings at the beginning of the year, during the period between Ascension and Pentecost (Thy Kingdom Come) and at the beginning of the academic year. Our 24 hours of prayer during Thy Kingdom Come was a very special time.

The other wonderful aspect of prayer at St Mary's is the Prayer Chain. People commit to pray for specific requests for 48 hours. We have seen some wonderful answers to prayer as well as being able to support people through our prayers in difficult and troubling times. When someone shares a particular burden with you, whether they're a member of St Mary's or not, do consider suggesting that people on the church prayer chain pray for them.

Let us continue to encourage each other by sharing answers to prayer and celebrating the work of God among us.

Rev Amanda Featherstone, Vicar

Community Report

God's teaching is very clear that we should love one another, and 'Love our neighbour as ourselves' I also love this verse from 1 Thessalonians 3:12

And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you.

Once the pandemic hit and lockdown came we saw the most wonderful outpouring of neighbourliness and community spirit across the whole country. It has been great to hear how members of St Mary's have been part of this. There has been shopping done for others, many people are now part of street WhatsApp groups and many would assert that they know their neighbours better now than ever before. May God lead us to continue to be part of this and where he prompts us may we be instigators of it.

Due to the pandemic many of the usual community events that St Mary's had previously been part of did not take place. However, in planning Christmas we were clear to aim to 'go out in the community' where it was deemed safe to do so. We had three wonderful joint events with Hollywood Christian Life Centre – a colouring competition in the Primary Schools, a truck with Mary and Joseph and carol singing around the streets and a Nativity Trail in Wythall Park.

During the meetings of the Christmas planning team there was comment that what we do early in 2021 is very important. Thus by the end of the year we had felt God's guiding to a vision / strapline of 'Hope in the Community 2021' and we are excited to see how God opens doors and leads us forward in this.

As your vicar I love connecting with the community. One of the things I invested in as lockdown eased last summer, was taking a couple of hours one afternoon a week to walk around the area in a dog collar and to sit outside a coffee shop. God opened up many opportunities both to bump into and chat to members of our church but also to have conversations with strangers or with people in the community I know. I would appreciate your prayers for me as I seek ways of including this part of my ministry in my week as we move forward.

Rev Amanda Featherstone, Vicar

Small Groups and Discipleship

In the gospels we read this:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:17-18)

We see these first disciples becoming followers of Jesus and as his disciples now in 21st century Britain we want to follow him and encourage one another in doing so.

One of the ways we are helped in our discipleship is through being part of a small group (a homegroup or discipleship group). We have groups that meet on different days and at different times. When lockdown came, groups had to respond. Some have met on Zoom, some (when it was allowed) met in gardens, some haven't met but have kept in contact through phone conversations. These groups not only help us grow as followers of Jesus they also provide amazing places of fellowship and care. I heard one person say that their small group had been their 'lifeline' during the pandemic and lockdowns.

On seeing the impact of the pandemic, in terms of restrictions of gathering in larger numbers, I put an emphasis on small groups. I have always advocated small groups as a place of discipleship but in this pandemic was aware that their function in terms of fellowship, care and communication became even more key. All small group leaders were contacted and asked if they wanted to continue in their roles, I was so pleased that all of them did. This point helped to re-focus groups. It also enabled us to look at small groups across the whole church ie children, young people and adults and you can read more of this in Ria's report.

I was delighted that by the end of 2020 we had two new small groups established for adults – praise God for that.

Another aspect of our small group discipleship is running Alpha so that people have the opportunity to explore the Christian faith and ask their questions about life and the universe. We offered Alpha online in July 2020 but sadly no-one wanted to join a group at that point.

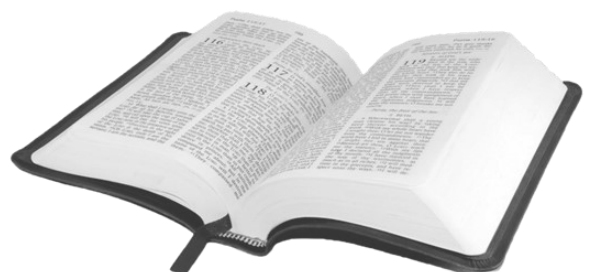
Previous Alpha members from 2019 transitioned to what St Mary's call 'The Green Course' (because the course book is green!) which is The Navigators Course 'Growing in Christ'. This proved a great group for people to continue their exploration and discipleship.

Discipleship is of course not confined to small groups, we grow as followers of Jesus through our own reading and study and time with the Lord. I also see the teaching of the church as part of our discipleship. As well as periods of the year following the lectionary (the set readings for the church) on Sundays we have had sermon series including those on Ephesians and Nehemiah, and 'But God ...' and on Wednesdays Paul's Prayers, Fruits of the Spirit and Characters around the Cradle. These have all been great ways to dwell in God's word and grow as disciples of Jesus.

I would like to express a big thank you to all who help and encourage us in our discipleship especially all our small group leaders and those who teach and preach.

I'd love you, having read this report, to reflect on yourself as a follower of Jesus. Would you like to join a small group? Is Alpha or 'The Green Course' for you? I'd love to hear from you if your answer to either of these is a yes (or even a maybe).

Rev Amanda Featherstone , Vicar



Elderly Care Group (ECG) Report

Sadly the activities we had planned and were very much looking forward to offering were cut short by the Covid virus. We were able to hold an Epiphany charity coffee morning where people brought in their unwanted Christmas presents for sale and had an afternoon in February watching Downton Abbey with tea afterwards.

Phoenix Assurance, who have very kindly supported ECG activities for some years now, paid for the ECG team to deliver cream teas from Bean 47 to those who would normally have gone to Holiday at Home and later in the year donated masks which we delivered to some of our older church members. It was good to have a chance to keep in touch.

ECG funds supplemented the Christmas pack from church with jam or chutney as a small present from the ECG team.

We miss you all and can't wait to get back to planning the next season's fun, whenever that may be.

Chris Turner



The Friendship Club – Dennis Potter Court with St. Mary's Church

In my last report I spoke of the lovely forthcoming events we had planned for Members of the Court throughout 2020. All this, of course, because of the pandemic had to be put on hold, however not before we had done another requested 40's event in February 2020, entitled "Those Were the Days". We showed a DVD of Britain in the 1940s (a different one from our previous 40s DVD in 2016), which everyone enjoyed and you could hear lots of "oh, ah, yes that is just how I remember it". We followed this with a frugal, yet scrumptious afternoon tea. We again had forties food: spam, jam, salmon paste, and cheese & carrot sandwiches. Cakes made with eggs, 40s favourite Victoria sandwiches with homemade jam in, cakes without eggs, cakes made with beetroot, apples, and carrots as grown in a wartime allotment, of course! Some of us dressed in hair rollers, headscarves, shawls, knitted jumpers, and again one member of the team (saying no names) came as 40s posh, wearing pearls, and a mink stole! We then had a lovely sing-a-long with songs from the era such as "I'll Be Seeing You", "Keep The Home Fires Burning", "White Cliffs of Dover", "There'll Always Be An England", "Rule Britannia", and "When You're Smiling". By the end of the afternoon all the residents were smiling, as we had provided an afternoon which I hope has stayed in their memories until we can safely see them all again.

Grateful thanks go again to Rev. Amanda for the Services in 2019, to John (the Voice) Clements for his help in our singing throughout 2019. We shall all miss our John so much. It will never be the same without his input! John was fond of singing two of his own favourites, which brought tears to the eyes, "Love Me Tender" and "How Great Thou Art". Thank you again to our lovely cake ladies, Lynne, Llinos, Jean, and of course the DPC Team, Julia, Linda, Chris and Pat.

A special thank you goes to Marilyn and Louise, Court Managers, and to those residents who very kindly set up the chairs etc. and help us each time we go, and to all the other Residents for their warm welcome and supporting us in all we do!

God bless each of you.

Tricia Horton

Mission Committee Report

The Mission Committee has hardly been able to meet this year to pray and discuss, because of Covid restrictions, but much can be accomplished by email. We had one mission speaker: Caroline Bell was able to update us on her work in Uganda, and was later able to join us for a Zoom prayer meeting when Covid delayed her return to Africa. We have maintained contact with our mission partners through email and passed on information via the newssheet.

The Mission Committee also prayerfully recommends to the PCC how the tithe of the church's income should be distributed. In 2020 we had a total of £13450 to share amongst charities and mission partners and the following gifts were approved by PCC:

Just Caring £1000

Tear Fund £1000 for hygiene kits for Rohingya refugees

Bham Diocesan Bolivian Task Group £1000 to help with urgent food shortages in some of the dioceses

Barnabas Fund £1000

Tear Fund £240 to 'twin' the church taps

Christian Aid £500 in lieu of a door to door collection

A Rocha £250

Caroline Bell £500

Church Mission Society £1000 to support a new mission partner, 'Joshua'

BCM £1000 in lieu of harvest gifts and Christmas toys

Amigos £500 - for student sponsorship in 2021

Betel £1000

Phil Jackman £500

Send a Cow £500

J&B Spencer £500

Scripture Union £250

Link to Hope (E Europe) £170 via Jo and Josiah

Total: £10910 - the remaining £2540 will be prayerfully used early in 2021

If you would like more information about any of these people/organisations, please have a word with one of the committee.

During Advent we collected non-perishable groceries through a 'reverse Advent calendar' project for local food banks. We again sponsored a student at Kira Farm, this year a young man named David. However, the students were sent home after only a couple of months because of lockdown in Uganda. The Farm staff remained in touch with the students and sent an update on David after visiting him.

It has been good to be able to support charities financially but we look forward to a resumption of more extensive activities as soon as the situation allows.

Jenny Clark, Elizabeth Lee and Pam Miller are the Mission Committee members. We always welcome from the congregation both suggestions for Christian charities to support and requests for more information.

Pam Miller



Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery Synod

The Shirley, Kings Norton and Moseley Deaneries met all together in November 2019 and voted with a firm majority for the three single deaneries to be merged into one deanery. Since that decision the new deanery has not met due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic. The next stage in the development of this new deanery is the appointment of a full time Area Dean. Until now Area Deans have been experienced clergy with responsibility for a parish as well as fulfilling the role of Area Dean, so for us to have a full time Area Dean with no parish responsibilities will be a very positive change. However, the appointment of our Area Dean has met with delay for various reasons, not least the constraints of COVID-19, and we have at present a part-time Area Dean who has an overseeing role supported by three Associate Area Deans with responsibility for their respective areas. This situation is expected to be in place until August 2021.

St Mary's currently has four members representing the church on the Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery Synod they are: Rev Amanda Featherstone, Jenny Clark, Pam Carter and Lynda Rogers.

Jenny Clark

Birmingham Diocesan Synod

The Birmingham Diocesan Synod has met twice during 2020, on both occasions via video conferencing. Due to the government introduction of lockdown brought on by the coronavirus pandemic the March meeting of the Synod was cancelled.

The key agenda items were as follows:

People and Places: A progress report regarding this diocesan restructuring initiative was received at both of the meetings. Progress was being made with all the 6 new deaneries now formally established and with full time Area Deans appointed to most of these deaneries. However, the coronavirus pandemic has inevitably caused delays in some areas and many churches are struggling financially and are unable to pay their Common Fund contribution in full and this will inevitably have a detrimental affect on the roll out of the People and Places plan.

Diocesan Finances: At the July meeting, the Synod received and approved the annual accounts of the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance for the year ending 31st December 2019. The Interim Director of Finance was keen to point out that the accounts were better than had been expected with income showing ups and downs but overall holding steady. However, the strain was beginning to show with a reduced parochial fees and Common Fund income compared with 2018. With regard to expenditure this was slightly down on the previous year, so efforts to control expenditure have been bearing fruit and are a good basis for going forward. At the November meeting of the Synod, we agreed the Diocesan Budget for 2021.

Mission and Ministry: This has featured as a key item at both meetings and the Synod received reports from both Bishop Anne and Liz Dumain who explained how the Diocesan Parish Mission Support initiative had been a lifeline to many parishes during these very challenging times. People from around 50 parishes have made use of three Zoom drop-in sessions each week, on general mission, children, families, and young people and responding to the ever-changing landscape of church life.

The Way of Discipleship and the Way of Servant Leadership: The Revd Guy Donegan-Cross gave a presentation regarding the priority of disciple making and the new way of discipleship, with the launch of two pathways designed to form confident Christians who can grow into discipling and leading others. These two pathways, which build on the 3D course, are entitled The Way of Discipleship and The Way of Servant Leadership. Each pathway involves 4 modules and will be run by the Diocese initially on Zoom commencing October 2020.

Jenny Clark Member of the Diocesan Synod representing Kings Norton, Moseley & Shirley Deanery

Charitable Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document: Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

1. Regular Public Worship open to all

Details of our Sunday and Wednesday services have been given in this report. For parts of 2020 we were not able to hold services in the building; however from the start of the first lockdown onwards we produced online services twice a week which were available to anyone.

2. Teaching of Christianity

This is done through sermons at our services and sometimes through small groups and occasional courses on mid-week evenings. During 2020 much of this was online. Children and Young people are taught about Christianity through our young people's groups and with weekly activity suggestions from our Youth, Children & Families' Minister.

3. Taking of Religious Assemblies in Schools

During 2020 virtual assemblies were recorded termly for the Coppice Primary School.

4. The provision of a youth club with a Christian Ethos

This moved to an online chat group in 2020

Activities 1-4 above are public benefits relating to the advancement of religion

5. Pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved

This work was more limited in 2020 but our Clergy and Licensed Readers continued to take funerals and to be in contact with the bereaved. Contact with those who are housebound was made by written letters and phone calls.

6. Promoting the whole mission of the church through the provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers, children and others.

More information about these activities is given in on pages 7, 8 and 13.

Items 5 and 6 help 'the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age or ill health or other disadvantage'

7. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas

In 2020 we supported: A Rocha, Send a Cow, Narthex, Barnabas Fund, Tear Fund, Diocesan Bolivia Connection, Just Caring Midlands, Church Mission Society, Amigos International, Birmingham City Mission, Paul Jackman, Betel of Britain, J&B Spencer, Scripture Union, Christian Aid, Link to Hope and Caroline Bell.

We have considered the guidance given by the Charity Commission about public benefit of our charity's activities.

Charitable information and Trustees

Full Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall

Other names the charity is known by: St Mary's Wythall PCC

Registered charity number: 1132792

Charity's principal address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
REV AMANDA FEATHERSTONE	Vicar		N/A
JENNIFER CLARK	Deanery Synod rep PCC Secretary		Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
PAMELA CARTER	Church Warden Deanery Synod rep from 18/10/2020		as above
ANDREW HARRIS	Church Warden		as above
JUDITH EMERY	Reader Deanery Synod rep until 18/10/2020		N/A
VALERIE HARRIS	Reader		Those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall
PAMELA MILLER	Treasurer		as above
LYNDA ROGERS	Deanery Synod Rep	From 18/10/2020	as above
PATRICIA BRANFORD		Until 20/8/2020	as above
ELIZABETH BRIDGENS			as above
LLINOS COTTERELL			as above
VAL FARMER			as above
BRIAN LEE			as above
ALISON SPENCER			as above
GRAEME YEO			as above

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document - EXCEPTED

How the charity is constituted - The PCC is a body corporate

Trustee selection methods - Trustees are PCC members – these are the current Vicar, Curate, the Readers, and other members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of St. Mary's Wythall at the Annual Meeting. Additional members may also be co-opted to join the PCC.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves - We have a designated reserves fund. Some is invested with the CBF Church of England Funds and most is now represented by the 50 year lease on our new building and our Youth, Children and Family Minister's and Curate's houses. At 31/12/20 the total of the reserves fund was £ 866,207

Details of any funds materially in deficit - None

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report on 15th April 2021

Pamela Carter & Andrew Harris, Church Wardens

Accounts

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities FRSSE SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

The general funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the application of the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are only available for use for the purpose for which the funds have been raised. During 2015, the PCC decided that the Building Fund be renamed the Reserve fund and balances therein are available as reserves. The remaining balance on the Restoration fund was also transferred into the Reserve fund. The Restoration fund is restricted and the balances therein are reported within these financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is also recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount is quantifiable and the ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for when they accrue.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share ("quota" or "common fund") is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided in these accounts as a constructive (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Property

Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold property is depreciated over an estimated useful life of 50 years. The new church building is depreciated over 50 years to nil residual value.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used by the church for services and office equipment is capitalised and depreciated to its residual value (usually nil) over its estimated useful life from the date of commissioning. Estimated useful lives range from 3 years (for computers and software), 8 years for furniture and 15 years for the sound / vision equipment in the new Church.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets / liabilities

Current assets, including estimated income tax recoverable, are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers and recorded at transaction price.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Mortgage debt

Mortgage debt is initially recorded at proceeds less transaction costs. Interest is charged based on contractual interest arrangements. At the period end, the mortgage is shown at its settlement value.

Incoming and Outgoing Resources - General Fund

	2020 £	2019 £
Income given under gift aid	105,872	100,658
Income tax recovered / recoverable (Note 2)	26,430	27,239
Non-gift aid giving	3,495	5,272
Collections	1,736	4,468
Donations	2,299	421
Deposit interest	26	46
Income from investments	911	868
Fees to PCC and Diocese	3,676	1,706
Children's society	288	650
Sundry Income (Note 4)	2,344	12,449
Total incoming resources	147,076	153,778
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	818	1,130
Upkeep of services (hall rental, church repairs)	1,677	5,622
Sunday school and youth	1,003	1,445
Administration expenses (church office)	2,842	2,892
Parish quota to Diocese (Common Fund)	60,000	63,900
Diocese share of wedding & funeral fees	2,296	1,320
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	14,460	11,963
Children's society	288	650
Salaries of church staff (administrator, children, youth & families minister)	32,255	33,010
Depreciation (Note 6)	792	1,199
Growth	376	166
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	4,509	11,919
Total outgoing resources	121,316	135,216
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	25,760	18,562
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources (Note 3)	25,760	18,562
(Losses) / Gains on investments	1,903	4,347
Net movement in funds	27,663	22,909

Balance sheet at 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	867,176	891,698
Investments	7	122,885	113,894
Current assets			
Debtors - principally amounts due from Inland Revenue	2	27,054	28,995
CBF deposits		21,690	21,598
Cash at bank and in hand		29,294	22,929
		78,038	73,522
Current liabilities			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-2,263	-2,192
Net current assets		75,775	71,330
Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year	9	-63,631	-86,307
Net assets		1,002,205	990,615
Funds			
General		135,998	108,335
Designated		866,207	882,280
Total		1,002,205	990,615

Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund at 31 December 2020

	General	Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
Represented by:			
Fixed assets	13,681	853,495	867,176
Debtors	26,584	470	27,054
Liabilities due within 1 year	-2,263	-	-2,263
Bank account	62,399	-33,105	29,294
CBF Deposits	6,133	15,557	21,690
CBF Investment Fund	29,464	38,615	68,079
CBF Fixed Interest	-	54,806	54,806
Mortgage	-	-63,631	-63,631
	135,998	866,207	1,002,205

The total market of value of all bank balances, deposits and investments at 31 December 2020 was £173,870 (2019 £158,420).

Analysis of funds movements for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
General Fund		
Brought forward	108,335	85,426
Net incoming / (Outgoing) resources	25,760	18,562
(Losses) / gains on investments	1,903	4,347
Carried forward	135,998	108,335
 Reserve Fund (previously Building Fund)		
Brought forward	882,280	892,942
Dividends/Interest	2,892	3,138
Income from Diocesan Board of Finance - curate accommodation	0	4,375
Income from hiring accommodation	10,516	2,994
Income from church facilities hiring	470	1,903
Other income	-	0
Mortgage Interest	-2,325	-2,771
Other expenses	-	0
Repairs / maintenance	-7,448	-2,307
Depreciation	-24,440	-24,440
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	-20,355	-17,108
Transfers from restoration fund / general fund	0	0
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	-20,355	-17,108
(Losses) / Gains on investments	4,262	6,446
Carried forward	866,207	882,280
 TOTAL		
Brought forward - 1 January	990,615	978,369
 Carried forward - 31 December	1,002,205	990,615

Notes to the accounts

1. The accounting policies adopted in these accounts are shown in the statement of Accounting Policies.
2. Income tax of £26,584 is yet to be recovered on income received under gift aid (2019 £27,162) and is included within debtors.
3. The general fund surplus for 2020 is £27,663. In 2019, the general fund surplus was £22,909.

The reserve fund balance includes £963 which is held in the restoration fund.

4. Sundry Income and Expenses may be analysed as follows:

	2020 Income £	2020 Expenses £	2019 Income £	2019 Expenses £
Coffee	25	116	125	645
Soul Survivor	-	-	3,458	1,777
Socials / Outreach	6	242	68	328
Licensing	-	-	-	283
Course books / visiting speakers	-	20	128	286
Maintenance	-	364	-	468
Youth related income	-	-	284	-
Sundry	130	242	259	441
Contribution to bike rack	-	-	-	866
Discretionary income / expenses	300	381	600	-
JAM	759	614	1,670	1,274
Advent	-	357	-	-
Elderly	143	35	335	622
Gifts	-	800	667	1,166
Vicarage Redecoration Fund	-	-	-	500
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon	120	-	-	-
Create Space	300	66	565	479
Cleaning	-	837	-	1,053
Specific charity collections	10	-	2,493	-
Noah's Ark	551	435	1,798	1,732
	2,344	4,509	12,449	11,919

5. The PCC has a target to give 10% of income to charity. Charitable giving also includes Malawi and other appeals

6. Fixed assets for use by the PCC	New building £	Church equipment £	5, The Willows £	Curate's House £	Total £
Cost brought forward at 1/1/2020	482,631	33,860	253,765	292,351	1,062,607
Additions	-	710	-	-	710
Cost carried forward at 31/12/2020	482,631	34,570	253,765	292,351	1,063,317
Depreciation brought forward at 1/1/2020	102,519	20,097	34,543	13,750	170,909
Charge for the year	18,738	792	2,702	3,000	25,232
Depreciation carried forward at 31/12/2020	121,256	20,889	37,246	16,750	196,141
Net book value at 31/12/2020	361,375	13,681	216,519	275,601	867,176
Net book value at 31/12/2019	380,112	13,763	219,222	278,601	891,698

Notes to the accounts, continued

No fixed assets are carried at a valuation.

The new building has been accounted for within the building fund with the exception of the stained glass window, which cost £15,000 where funds were raised from the congregation within the general fund. The Curate's House is

7. Investment fixed assets

Movements during the year	2020	2019
	£	£
Net book value brought forward - 1 January	113,894	100,079
Additions	2,826	3,023
Disposals	-	-
Net (loss) / gain on revaluation	6,166	10,792
Net book value carried forward at 31 December	122,886	113,894

Holdings at 31/12/2020 included £54,806 (market value) in the Church of England fixed interest fund and £68,079 (market value) in the Church of England Investment fund.

8. Liabilities due within one year comprise:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,263	2,192
Deferred income	-	-
Total	2,263	2,192

9. Liabilities due after one year comprises:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Mortgage secured on the Curates House	63,631	86,307

Interest is charged on the debt at 2.90%. The term of the mortgage is 25 years. There is no minimum payment within 12 months although the PCC expects to pay about £10,000 which will reduce the outstanding liability by about £8,000.

Statement of Financial Activities

	General Fund	Reserve Fund	2020 Total	2019 Total
Income given under gift aid	105,872	-	105,872	100,658
Income tax recovered (Note 2)	26,430	-	26,430	27,239
Non-gift aid giving	3,495	-	3,495	5,272
Collections	1,736	-	1,736	4,468
Donations	2,299	-	2,299	421
Interest	26	2,892	2,918	3,183
Income from investments	911	-	911	868
PCC Property	-	470	470	1,903
Rental income on PCC property	-	10,516	10,516	7,369
Fees to PCC and Diocese	3,676	-	3,676	1,706
Children's society	288	-	288	650
Sundry Income (Note 4)	2,344	-	2,344	12,449
Total incoming resources	147,076	13,878	160,954	166,188
		-		
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	818	-	818	1,130
Upkeep of services (hall rental)	1,677	-	1,677	5,622
PCC property	-	7,448	7,448	2,307
Sunday school and youth	1,003	-	1,003	1,445
General Parish expenses (church office and repairs)	2,842	-	2,842	2,892
Quota	60,000	-	60,000	63,900
Diocese share of wedding and funeral fees	2,296	-	2,296	1,320
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	14,460	-	14,460	11,963
Children's society	288	-	288	650
Salaries of church staff	32,255	-	32,255	33,010
Depreciation (Note 6)	792	24,440	25,232	25,639
Growth	376	-	376	166
Mortgage interest	-	2,325	2,325	2,771
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	4,509	-	4,509	11,919
Total resources expended	121,316	34,213	155,529	164,734
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	25,760	-20,335	5,425	1,454
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources	25,760	-20,335	5,425	1,454
(Losses) / gains on investments (Note 7)	1,903	4,262	6,165	10,792
Fund brought forward	108,335	882,280	990,615	978,369
Fund carried forward	135,998	866,207	1,002,205	990,615

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Wythall, also known as St Mary's Wythall PCC, is a registered charity number: 1132792

Contact

Address: St Mary's Church, Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5JN
We are situated to the rear of the Coppice School site.

Vicar: Rev Amanda Featherstone 0121 413 3287 revamanda@wythallchurch.net

Wardens: Pam Carter 01564 822455
Andy Harris 07504 860313

Youth, Children & Families Minister: Ria Taylor 07966 847990 ria@wythallchurch.net

Seniors: Chris Turner 0121 430 8478

Church Office: Cathy Walters, Administrator churchoffice@wythallchurch.net 01564 823248



Services

Online services are published on our YouTube channel and website on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays.

Please see our website for details of our in-building services, when government restrictions for Corid-19 allow

St. Mary's online

Web



www.wythallchurch.net

facebook.com/StMarysWythall



[@stmaryswythall](https://twitter.com/stmaryswythall)



[@stmaryschurchwythall](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchwythall)



Our YouTube channel is called
St Mary's Wythall Tech



Copies of this report printed at St Mary's are on recycled paper. We have reduced our use of plastic by stapling, instead of binding, these printed copies and not having a plastic cover. This report is also available electronically from the church office.

Accounts

Wythall Parochial Church Council

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities FRSSE SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

The general funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for the application of the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are only available for use for the purpose for which the funds have been raised. During 2015, the PCC decided that the Building Fund be renamed the Reserve fund and balances therein are available as reserves. The remaining balance on the Restoration fund was also transferred into the Reserve fund. The Restoration fund is restricted and the balances therein are reported within these financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is also recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount is quantifiable and the ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for when they accrue.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share ("quota" or "common fund") is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided in these accounts as a constructive (though not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Property

Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold property is depreciated over an estimated useful life of 50 years. The new church building is depreciated over 50 years to nil residual value.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used by the church for services and office equipment is capitalised and depreciated to its residual value (usually nil) over its estimated useful life from the date of commissioning. Estimated useful lives range from 3 years (for computers and software), 8 years for furniture and 15 years for the sound / vision equipment in the new Church.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets / liabilities

Current assets, including estimated income tax recoverable, are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers and recorded at transaction price.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Mortgage debt

Mortgage debt is initially recorded at proceeds less transaction costs. Interest is charged based on contractual interest arrangements. At the period end, the mortgage is shown at its settlement value.

Incoming and Outgoing Resources - General Fund

	2020 £	2019 £
Income given under gift aid	105,872	100,658
Income tax recovered / recoverable (Note 2)	26,430	27,239
Non-gift aid giving	3,495	5,272
Collections	1,736	4,468
Donations	2,299	421
Deposit interest	26	46
Income from investments	911	868
Fees to PCC and Diocese	3,676	1,706
Children's society	288	650
Sundry Income (Note 4)	2,344	12,449
Total incoming resources	147,076	153,778
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	818	1,130
Upkeep of services (hall rental, church repairs)	1,677	5,622
Sunday school and youth	1,003	1,445
Administration expenses (church office)	2,842	2,892
Parish quota to Diocese (Common Fund)	60,000	63,900
Diocese share of wedding & funeral fees	2,296	1,320
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	14,460	11,963
Children's society	288	650
Salaries of church staff (administrator, children, youth & families minister)	32,255	33,010
Depreciation (Note 6)	792	1,199
Growth	376	166
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	4,509	11,919
Total outgoing resources	121,316	135,216
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	25,760	18,562
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources (Note 3)	25,760	18,562
(Losses) / Gains on investments	1,903	4,347
Net movement in funds	27,663	22,909

Balance sheet at 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	867,176	891,698
Investments	7	122,885	113,894
Current assets			
Debtors - principally amounts due from Inland Revenue	2	27,054	28,995
CBF deposits		21,690	21,598
Cash at bank and in hand		29,294	22,929
		78,038	73,522
Current liabilities			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-2,263	-2,192
Net current assets		75,775	71,330
Liabilities: Amounts falling due after one year	9	-63,631	-86,307
Net assets		1,002,205	990,615
Funds			
General		135,998	108,335
Designated		866,207	882,280
Total		1,002,205	990,615

Analysis of assets and liabilities by fund at 31 December 2020

	General	Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
Represented by:			
Fixed assets	13,681	853,495	867,176
Debtors	26,584	470	27,054
Liabilities due within 1 year	-2,263	-	-2,263
Bank account	62,399	-33,105	29,294
CBF Deposits	6,133	15,557	21,690
CBF Investment Fund	29,464	38,615	68,079
CBF Fixed Interest	-	54,806	54,806
Mortgage	-	-63,631	-63,631
	135,998	866,207	1,002,205

The total market of value of all bank balances, deposits and investments at 31 December 2020 was £173,870 (2019 £158,420).

Analysis of funds movements for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
General Fund		
Brought forward	108,335	85,426
Net incoming / (Outgoing) resources	25,760	18,562
(Losses) / gains on investments	1,903	4,347
Carried forward	135,998	108,335
 Reserve Fund (previously Building Fund)		
Brought forward	882,280	892,942
Dividends/Interest	2,892	3,138
Income from Diocesan Board of Finance - curate accommodation	0	4,375
Income from hiring accommodation	10,516	2,994
Income from church facilities hiring	470	1,903
Other income	-	0
Mortgage Interest	-2,325	-2,771
Other expenses	-	0
Repairs / maintenance	-7,448	-2,307
Depreciation	-24,440	-24,440
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	-20,355	-17,108
Transfers from restoration fund / general fund	0	0
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	-20,355	-17,108
(Losses) / Gains on investments	4,262	6,446
Carried forward	866,207	882,280
 TOTAL		
Brought forward - 1 January	990,615	978,369
 Carried forward - 31 December	1,002,205	990,615

Notes to the accounts

1. The accounting policies adopted in these accounts are shown in the statement of Accounting Policies.
2. Income tax of £26,584 is yet to be recovered on income received under gift aid (2019 £27,162) and is included within debtors.
3. The general fund surplus for 2020 is £27,663. In 2019, the general fund surplus was £22,909.

The reserve fund balance includes £963 which is held in the restoration fund.

4. Sundry Income and Expenses may be analysed as follows:

	2020 Income £	2020 Expenses £	2019 Income £	2019 Expenses £
Coffee	25	116	125	645
Soul Survivor	-	-	3,458	1,777
Socials / Outreach	6	242	68	328
Licensing	-	-	-	283
Course books / visiting speakers	-	20	128	286
Maintenance	-	364	-	468
Youth related income	-	-	284	-
Sundry	130	242	259	441
Contribution to bike rack	-	-	-	866
Discretionary income / expenses	300	381	600	-
JAM	759	614	1,670	1,274
Advent	-	357	-	-
Elderly	143	35	335	622
Gifts	-	800	667	1,166
Vicarage Redecoration Fund	-	-	-	500
Recycling / Easy fundraising / Amazon	120	-	-	-
Create Space	300	66	565	479
Cleaning	-	837	-	1,053
Specific charity collections	10	-	2,493	-
Noah's Ark	551	435	1,798	1,732
	2,344	4,509	12,449	11,919

5. The PCC has a target to give 10% of income to charity. Charitable giving also includes Malawi and other appeals

6. Fixed assets for use by the PCC	New building £	Church equipment £	5, The Willows £	Curate's House £	Total £
Cost brought forward at 1/1/2020	482,631	33,860	253,765	292,351	1,062,607
Additions	-	710	-	-	710
Cost carried forward at 31/12/2020	482,631	34,570	253,765	292,351	1,063,317
Depreciation brought forward at 1/1/2020	102,519	20,097	34,543	13,750	170,909
Charge for the year	18,738	792	2,702	3,000	25,232
Depreciation carried forward at 31/12/2020	121,256	20,889	37,246	16,750	196,141
Net book value at 31/12/2020	361,375	13,681	216,519	275,601	867,176
Net book value at 31/12/2019	380,112	13,763	219,222	278,601	891,698

Notes to the accounts, continued

No fixed assets are carried at a valuation.

The new building has been accounted for within the building fund with the exception of the stained glass window, which cost £15,000 where funds were raised from the congregation within the general fund. The Curate's House is

7. Investment fixed assets

Movements during the year	2020	2019
	£	£
Net book value brought forward - 1 January	113,894	100,079
Additions	2,826	3,023
Disposals	-	-
Net (loss) / gain on revaluation	6,166	10,792
Net book value carried forward at 31 December	122,886	113,894

Holdings at 31/12/2020 included £54,806 (market value) in the Church of England fixed interest fund and £68,079 (market value) in the Church of England Investment fund.

8. Liabilities due within one year comprise:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,263	2,192
Deferred income	-	-
Total	2,263	2,192

9. Liabilities due after one year comprises:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Mortgage secured on the Curates House	63,631	86,307

Interest is charged on the debt at 2.90%. The term of the mortgage is 25 years. There is no minimum payment within 12 months although the PCC expects to pay about £10,000 which will reduce the outstanding liability by about £8,000.

Statement of Financial Activities

	General Fund	Reserve Fund	2020 Total	2019 Total
Income given under gift aid	105,872	-	105,872	100,658
Income tax recovered (Note 2)	26,430	-	26,430	27,239
Non-gift aid giving	3,495	-	3,495	5,272
Collections	1,736	-	1,736	4,468
Donations	2,299	-	2,299	421
Interest	26	2,892	2,918	3,183
Income from investments	911	-	911	868
PCC Property	-	470	470	1,903
Rental income on PCC property	-	10,516	10,516	7,369
Fees to PCC and Diocese	3,676	-	3,676	1,706
Children's society	288	-	288	650
Sundry Income (Note 4)	2,344	-	2,344	12,449
Total incoming resources	147,076	13,878	160,954	166,188
		-		
Maintenance of the ministry (clergy expenses)	818	-	818	1,130
Upkeep of services (hall rental)	1,677	-	1,677	5,622
PCC property	-	7,448	7,448	2,307
Sunday school and youth	1,003	-	1,003	1,445
General Parish expenses (church office and repairs)	2,842	-	2,842	2,892
Quota	60,000	-	60,000	63,900
Diocese share of wedding and funeral fees	2,296	-	2,296	1,320
Missionary and charitable (Note 5)	14,460	-	14,460	11,963
Children's society	288	-	288	650
Salaries of church staff	32,255	-	32,255	33,010
Depreciation (Note 6)	792	24,440	25,232	25,639
Growth	376	-	376	166
Mortgage interest	-	2,325	2,325	2,771
Sundry expenses (Note 4)	4,509	-	4,509	11,919
Total resources expended	121,316	34,213	155,529	164,734
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfers	25,760	-20,335	5,425	1,454
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources	25,760	-20,335	5,425	1,454
(Losses) / gains on investments (Note 7)	1,903	4,262	6,165	10,792
Fund brought forward	108,335	882,280	990,615	978,369
Fund carried forward	135,998	866,207	1,002,205	990,615

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Mary's Wythall, Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on pages 1 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



DAVID REEMAN