



# 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.

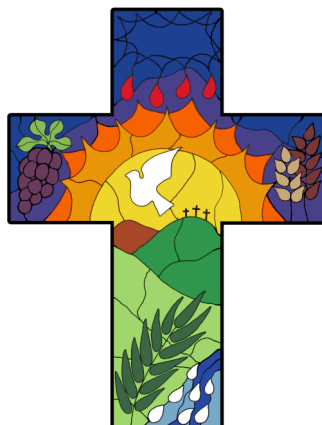
Overarching these specific activities we designated 2024 as a year of Prayer and Praise with the aim of being focussed on the Lord, worshipping him and crying out to him for all that is happening now and all that he will do going forward.

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
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>217,582</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>217,582</b>	<b>201,702</b>
EXPENDITURE					
Church activities	3(a)	176,966	0	176,966	207,917
Raising funds	3(b)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>176,966</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>176,966</b>	<b>207,917</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure before</b>		<b>40,616</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,616</b>	<b>(6,215)</b>
Net gains on investments		3,293	0	3,293	9,605
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>		<b>43,909</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,909</b>	<b>3,390</b>
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>43,909</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,909</b>	<b>3,390</b>
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
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets (including 5, The Willows and 247 Alcester Road)	6	806,654	826,102
Investments	7	165,554	129,638
<b>Current assets</b>			
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
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,977)	(3,090)
<b>Net current assets</b>		131,381	103,940
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,103,589</b>	1,059,680
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted: General		258,940	251,204
Unrestricted: Designated		839,649	803,476
Restricted (For young people in Wythall & Hollywood)	10	5,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,103,589</b>	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					
<b>Voluntary income</b>		<b>177,921</b>		<b>177,921</b>	<b>164,408</b>
2(b) Activities for generating funds					
Hall lettings		690		690	1,151
Property rental / Diocesan contribution		15,759		15,759	16,655
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		<b>16,449</b>		<b>16,449</b>	<b>17,806</b>
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
<b>Income from investments</b>		<b>6,588</b>		<b>6,588</b>	<b>5,641</b>
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
<b>Income from church activities</b>		<b>16,624</b>		<b>16,624</b>	<b>13,847</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>217,582</b>		<b>217,582</b>	<b>201,702</b>

### 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
<b>Net book value at 31/12/2024</b>	<b>281,638</b>	<b>55,704</b>	<b>205,711</b>	<b>263,601</b>	<b>806,654</b>
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
<b>Net book value carried forward</b>	<b>165,554</b>	<b>129,638</b>

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	
<b>Voluntary income</b>	<b>177,921</b>		<b>177,921</b>	<b>164,408</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>164,408</b>
Hall lettings		690	690		1,151	1,151
Property rental / Diocesan contribution		15,759	15,759		16,655	16,655
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		<b>16,449</b>	<b>16,449</b>		<b>17,806</b>	<b>17,806</b>
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
<b>Income from investments</b>	<b>3,115</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>6,588</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>5,641</b>
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
<b>Income from church activities</b>	<b>16,624</b>		<b>16,624</b>	<b>13,847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,847</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>197,660</b>	<b>19,922</b>	<b>217,582</b>	<b>180,856</b>	<b>20,846</b>	<b>201,702</b>

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
<b>Church activities</b>	<b>160,670</b>	<b>16,296</b>	<b>176,966</b>	<b>171,387</b>	<b>36,530</b>	<b>207,917</b>

## 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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>197,660</b>	<b>19,922</b>	<b>217,582</b>	<b>180,857</b>	<b>20,846</b>	<b>201,702</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Church activities	(160,670)	(16,296)	(176,966)	(171,387)	(36,530)	(207,917)
Raising funds						
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(160,670)</b>	<b>(16,296)</b>	<b>(176,966)</b>	<b>(171,387)</b>	<b>(36,530)</b>	<b>(207,917)</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure before investment gains</b>	<b>36,990</b>	<b>3,626</b>	<b>40,616</b>	<b>9,470</b>	<b>(15,685)</b>	<b>(6,215)</b>
Net gains on investments	746	2,547	3,293	2,824	6,781	9,605
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>37,736</b>	<b>6,173</b>	<b>43,909</b>	<b>12,294</b>	<b>(8,904)</b>	<b>3,390</b>
Transfer between funds	(30,000)	30,000				
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>7,736</b>	<b>36,173</b>	<b>43,909</b>	<b>12,294</b>	<b>(8,904)</b>	<b>3,390</b>
Total funds brought forward	251,204	803,476	1,054,680	238,910	812,380	1,051,290
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>258,940</b>	<b>839,649</b>	<b>1,098,589</b>	<b>251,204</b>	<b>803,476</b>	<b>1,054,680</b>

### 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
	<b>258,940</b>	<b>839,649</b>	<b>1,098,589</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>1,103,589</b>

## 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](http://www.wythallchurch.net)



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Our YouTube channel is called  
**St Mary's Wythall**



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